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Facilities committee needs more time to complete its work

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Steve Shergalis, director of business services for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, and the point person for the school facilities committee, announced new dates for the committee's remaining public meetings. Two subcommittees—facilities options and financial assessment—are charged with creating options for the school board to consider and assessing

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OOPSALA wins spelling bee



Defending co-champion spellers, Beth Woodside, Lisa Boyko and Kathleen Collins, who made up the team OOPSALA (Orchestral Orthographers Publicly Support Annoyingly Lengthy Acronyms) came out on top again this year. They correctly spelled the word *trumeau* in the seventh round of the Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee. They beat out the other defending co-champions, Barratrous Orthographers, made up of Becky Bynum, Bonnie Bealer and John Lazzaretti, who misspelled the word *kipuka*, and Monticello/

Noble/Oxford spellers, Jackie Kerzner, Kathy Soltis and Ranelle Huber, who missed the word *procellous*. Twenty-five teams competed for the coveted Plastic Bee trophy in the auditorium of Cleveland Heights High School on Feb. 22.

Earlier in the evening, Susie Kaeser was recognized for her work on behalf of Heights public schools. Patrick Mullen, Reaching Heights executive director, presented her with the 2011 Friend of Public Education Award.

Cleveland Heights is tops in walkability

Mary Dunbar

A new neighborhood-quality metric is commanding the attention of home buyers, according to such influential publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and—*The Heights Observer*.

The news is that home buyers are paying more attention than ever to walkability. Fewer and fewer people in the market for a house want large lots in remote places, where little is going on. Several factors make walkable neighborhoods more attractive, including a desire to avoid traffic congestion, an aversion to having to drive everywhere, and rising oil prices. Walkable neighborhoods also tend to have vibrant street life and a friendly character.

The most popular way to measure walkability is to consult Walk Score at www.walkscore.com. Type in a street address and receive a score comparing homes in your city and information on how far your home is from amenities, such as restaurants, coffee shops, groceries, shopping, schools, parks, books, bars, entertainment, and banking.

Walk Score confirms what many have long known: Cleveland Heights is a great place for walkers. We have places

Cleveland Heights is one of Walk Score's top three most walkable cities in Ohio—tied with Athens for second, just behind Lakewood. It ranks in the top 10 percent nationally.



Kenji, 6, and his father, Ken Sakaie, walk to the Lee Road Library every Saturday to choose books to read in the coming week.

to go and interesting neighborhoods to see, and walking is a convenient way to get there.

Unlike many suburbs, Cleveland Heights has sidewalks, stop signs at intersections, flashing school speed limit displays on major roads, and crossing guards so that kids can benefit from safe exercise by walking to school. Programs to encourage more kids to walk or bike to school are under way. In addition, all public sidewalks are wheelchair accessible, and our community center has treadmills and an indoor track so residents can keep trekking during the winter months.

With snow melting and spring starting on March 20, it's time to put on your walking shoes and head for our

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Efforts continue to prevent closing of Huron trauma center

Marissa Williams

Last October it was announced that Cleveland Clinic would be closing the Level II trauma center at Huron Hospital, and trauma cases would be moved to a new facility at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights. This announcement came as a shock to many East Cleveland residents who view the trauma center as an important part of their community and its health and safety. The closing of the trauma center will have an effect on many other suburbs, including Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

At the time, the mayors of Cleveland and East Cleveland filed a lawsuit to keep the trauma center open. Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley stated, "Cleveland Heights is opposed to the closing of the trauma center and we were prepared to join in the lawsuit." However, the suit was dropped before Cleveland Heights could officially lend its support. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge met with Cleveland Clinic CEO Toby Cosgrove and other stakeholders on Nov. 1. At that meeting, an agreement was reached to keep the trauma center open for 90 days, while the Clinic agreed to further examine the impact that closing the Huron Hospital trauma center would have on emergency first-responders and on MetroHealth Medical Center.

Those 90 days have passed, and it is uncertain how long the trauma center will remain open.

Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) and others have made efforts to organize the citizens in East Cleveland to fight to keep the Huron Hospital trauma center open, and has held a series of community meetings.

At the NOAH meeting on Feb. 7, East Cleveland City Councilwoman Mildred Brewer expressed concern that they had not organized enough people, especially those outside of East Cleveland, to conduct a successful protest. She mentioned Cleveland Heights in particular as a community that would be affected and needed to be included in the efforts to negotiate with the Cleveland Clinic.

Two major points were raised by East Cleveland residents during that meeting. One was that East Cleveland has a high rate of traumas compared to the rest of Northeast Ohio. The second is that moving Level II trauma cases to Hillcrest would lengthen ambulance response time throughout the area. Cleveland Clinic officials have commented that even without the trauma center, the Huron Hospital emergency room will remain open, and that there are 17 emergency departments in Greater Cleveland that can stabilize patients.

Around 60 people attended a Feb. 14 rally held by NOAH and Black on Black Crime Inc., including represen-

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Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor
The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to:
www.heightsobserver.org/members or
e-mail: info@futureheights.org

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More ways than ever to use the Observer



OPENING UP THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

After three years, the regular operations of the *Heights Observer* newspaper are running as smoothly as you can expect for an all-volunteer publication. But news happens more than once a month.

So we've turned our attention to other ways of providing a full, flexible and timely platform for the discussion of issues that are important in University Heights and Cleveland Heights.

In January, we started posting news to the *Observer* website (www.heightsobserver.org) on a daily basis. Now you no longer have to wait until the beginning of the next month to find out what's been happening.

In mid-February, we launched the new *Observer Blogs* page, which is easily found in the left-hand menu bar of the *Observer* website. It features a growing collection of local bloggers who offer insights and opinions on a straightforward assignment: Life in the Heights.

Early blogs have ranged from commentary on squirrels, to ideas for dealing with the imbalance of students and facilities in the public schools, to insights about the proposed development of the former Oakwood Club. We're actively looking for more voices. If you're interested, contact me directly (see the end of this column).

Finally, to help bring all of this information together and make it easy to find, we have reformatted the *Observer's* e-mail newsletter. The goals were to make it look better, to pack in more information, and to get it into people's hands more often. So if you're not in the habit of checking the *Heights Observer* website, you can get a digest every week of the most interesting and important articles from the website, the blogs, the forum and other sources.

Right now, about 3,500 people receive the newsletter weekly. If you're not among them, sign up via the subscription link in the left-hand menu of the *Observer* home page.

All of this is part of a project to make the *Observer* a vital source of information, discussion and engagement around issues that are important to the Heights community.

As always, I think it's worth reiterating the following:

The *Observer* is a nonprofit entity published by FutureHeights (www.futureheights.org), meaning that all advertising revenue goes to covering expenses and, eventually, funding community programming.

The *Observer* does not express editorial opinions; every opinion carried by the *Observer* is that of the individual contributor.

The *Observer* exists for you—to read and to use as a place to communicate information and ideas you may have about goings-on in the Heights.

Now, there are more ways to do that.

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

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

Observer online exclusives

Only some of the information that the *Observer* collects makes it into the printed edition.

If you haven't been online lately, here's some of what's waiting for you:

From our new blogs:
(blogs.heightsobserver.org):

South Euclid's elected wrecking crew
Insights into revenue lost to CH-UH schools when South Euclid bought and razed the now-vacant Cedar Center North.

Diamonds in our midst
A fresh view of John Carroll as a place where even non-students can find inspiration, or, as Richard Andrews puts it, a Cain Park for the mind.

Is closing CH-UH buildings the only solution?
Some alternatives to simply closing school buildings, from one member of the CH-UH district's Facilities Review Committee.

Groupon's ad fiasco Is a lesson learned
How Groupon's Super Bowl advertising campaign shed light on the high cost of businesses that help drive local merchants to the bottom.

On the forum:
(www.heightsobserver.org/deck):

What is regionalism really?
Opinions on the need for a grander view of regionalism, beyond the obvious things, such as joint bidding for street paving.

Winter walkability
Comments on sidewalks that don't get shoveled when it snows.

There's lots more exclusive content about your community online. Go explore at www.heightsobserver.org.

Correction: Heights Floral Shoppe

The street address and web address for the Heights Floral Shoppe were incorrect in the February issue.

The street address is 3451 Fairmount Boulevard and the web address is: www.heightsfloralshoppe.com.

Innovations we'd like to see



Feeling lucky? Try your hand at Cleveland Heights' new slot-machine parking meters. Guaranteed to make parking more fun.

Cleveland Heights resident, artist/writer Ralph Solonitz, was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany, the son of Holocaust survivors. He began doodling very early on, first in German and then later in English. His father gave him motivational advice: "Stop your doodling, you are wasting time and will amount to nothing." Fast forward 55 years, thousands of dollars for therapy, and he still can't stop doodling.



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Myths about the Oakwood Club

Fran Mentch

Myths regarding the future of the Oakwood Club abound. Here are some of them.

Myth: It's too late to do anything about turning Oakwood into a park.

Only the South Euclid portion has been sold to a prospective developer, First Interstate Properties Ltd., and the entire property, in both South Euclid and Cleveland Heights, is zoned for single-family residential use. Any commercial, retail or high-density residential development would require rezoning in at least one of the cities before it could be built.

Myth: It's too late to do anything, because South Euclid City Council will vote for the development, as proposed.

If the city council votes to rezone, there would still be an opportunity to put the question to a referendum. There

are some indications that South Euclid residents would not approve a zoning amendment for Oakwood.

Myth: Citizens for Oakwood waited too long to do anything.

Citizens for Oakwood started trying to buy the property when it went on the market a year ago. We held a public meeting in February 2010, formed a steering committee, and asked the Trust for Public Land to help us buy the property. The trust purchased a 90-day option on the property, but could not raise enough money to buy it within that time. The option lapsed in October, after which the citizens group launched a new effort to buy Oakwood and turn it into a park.

Myth: The prospective developer is generous to offer the City of South Euclid 21 acres of greenspace from the Oakwood property, for the price of one dollar.

This is a ploy. If the land is rezoned as

commercial, its value will increase. If the developer sells the land to South Euclid for a dollar, it can then write off the value of the land at its new, higher value. The company will never pay taxes on the greenspace and will not have to pay to maintain it. This is comparable to donating your front yard to the city so you would no longer have to pay taxes on it or maintain it and then claiming your donation as a contribution to the city's greenspace. Additionally, the area designated for greenspace is unsuitable for development because of access limitations and other problems.

Myth: The retail stores and restaurants (per the initial proposal) will provide 400 full-time equivalent jobs and an annualized overall payroll of \$12 million.

To generate this much money, those 400 jobs would have to pay an average annual salary of \$30,000 a year. Most restaurant

and retail jobs pay at a lower rate, but, even if these figures turned out to be accurate, the most South Euclid would be likely to collect in added income taxes would be \$240,000 per year. Keep in mind that a single new traffic signal can cost approximately \$100,000, and the cost of providing police and other city services to a 41-acre retail complex would be substantial.

South Euclid needs the money that a development like this could bring. Like most other municipalities, the city is experiencing difficult times financially, but while development may be needed, it should be the right kind in the right place. How will starting a competing development at Oakwood, within a short distance of the cleared Cedar Center site, help clear the obstacles to Cedar Center's redevelopment? Permitting development in the largest greenspace left in the inner ring suburbs is not the financial solution for South Euclid.

Residents of South Euclid should ask their city government to insist on

continued on page 4

LETTERS

CH should encourage sustainable housing

Editor:

Recently a number of articles have come out protesting the teardown of the James H. Foster residence in Ambler Heights.

I know the property because I lived in Ambler Heights, and pass it nearly every day. It is one of the largest mansions in the neighborhood of historic homes.

I had the opportunity to tour the Foster home shortly after it sold. As I walked the three floors and basement, I wondered who would willingly take on the extraordinary repair and maintenance costs necessary to make it livable. The house has 8,500 square feet with little insulation and dozens of single-pane windows. The boiler generates one million BTU/hour. In worse shape are the servants' quarters and basement, which are falling apart. The house leaks and the floors sag. While some of the rooms have a faded elegance, in my opinion the 1910 home is undistinguished compared to the architectural masterpieces Walker and Weeks later went on to create.

I know the people who bought the property. I considered it a point of pride when they chose my community as the place to live. They are thoughtful people whose commitment to community and environmental values would put most of us to shame. The new owners are working with Habitat for Humanity to salvage the original floors, woodwork, bathroom fixtures, radiators, kitchen appliances and cupboards so that homeowners throughout the region can use them.

According to conventional wisdom, the greenest house is the one that is already built. Sometimes conventional wisdom collides with common sense. Who can argue that the skeletal remains of this once lavish mansion are more sustainable than its highly energy-efficient replacement?

I find it ironic that we launch a Sustainable Heights movement and yet single out for criticism the pioneers who will build our community's first passive solar energy home. The artists, architects

and engineers involved in the project are creating a family dwelling of the future. The heating requirements will be 10,000 BTU/hour maximum, the equivalent of two hair dryers. The proposed dwelling will serve as a model for future housing with its miniscule energy needs.

Do we really want to drive away homeowners who bring new energy and new ideas to Cleveland Heights? Do we want solutions or do we just want to complain about our energy problem? Instead of recruiting families to live in Cleveland Heights, we risk leaving unoccupied an ossified housing stock that is little more than a museum to the way rich people used to live 100 years ago.

Within a block of this property are three beautiful contemporary homes, two designed by Cleveland architect Peter van Dijk. I asked one homeowner what she thought of the controversy about the teardown of the Foster home. "Who is going to come up with the million dollars it would take to restore that house?" she asked, then added, "In another 50 years, the new house will be considered a historic home."

Jessica Schreiber
Shelburne Road
Cleveland Heights

There won't be a better deal for Oakwood

Editor:

As property owners living within 200 feet of the Oakwood development, we would like to weigh in with our opinion regarding the development of Oakwood Commons.

Obviously, we would love to have the entire Oakwood Country Club property turned over to parkland. However, we believe that is not a realistic option. The First Interstate deal, before the communities of South Euclid and Cleveland Heights, will turn over nearly half of the property to our communities as permanent green space. We believe that it is in the best interest of both cities to take the proposal because there is never going to be a better deal on the table.

We don't believe there will ever be enough private donations to compete with private developers. In addition, if this deal fails, another big-box developer may "scorch and burn" the entire property, similar to the proposed Wal-Mart proposal in the 1990s. Similarly, a housing developer may patiently wait for the current housing slump to rebound and propose a housing development over the entirety of the property, with no rezoning required.

We, too, have concerns (increased traffic on Warrensville, traffic cutting through the residential streets of the Bexley Park neighborhood, how to access the park), and do not believe this area needs another big-box development. However, the developer obviously believes that the project will be successful at that location, and has made some interesting proposals to make it an innovative and forward-thinking center. We believe that our efforts should be collectively focused on ensuring that First Interstate fulfills its pledges and make this the best development possible. Most important is the promise to create new parkland on property that can be used by all of us.

As South Euclid homeowners, whose property will be greatly affected by the Cleveland Heights portion of the development, we urge our Heights neighbors to work with South Euclid to guarantee that First Interstate fulfills its environmental proposals and to make Oakwood Commons the best development possible.

Marc and Peggy Hull
Harwood Road, South Euclid
(*Marc Hull is a member of the South Euclid Architectural Review Board*)

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

JANUARY 18, 2011

Council Member Bonita W. Caplan was absent.

Bicycle-friendly city

Resident Nicholas Matthew, representing the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition, thanked council for taking steps to make the city bicycle-friendly and spoke in support of a proposed grant application to be voted on later in the meeting. (See "Transportation studies" below.)

Street resurfacing bids

Council authorized the issuance of joint bid specifications with Shaker Heights, and possibly with University Heights, for street resurfacing. Mayor Kelley said he expects that this agreement will help deliver services better and save money.

Cleveland Heights Boulevard property

Council authorized the sale of city-owned property at 1163 Cleveland Heights Blvd., which was rehabilitated with Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds, and also authorized down-payment assistance funding for the purchaser. The proceeds from the sale will be returned to the NSP fund and used to renovate the next property in the program.

Transportation studies

In conjunction with the City of Cleveland and

University Circle Inc., council approved the submission of two grant applications to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for transportation studies and program execution to be funded under the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Planning Grant Program. The first, which was also in conjunction with the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition, will focus on improving bicycle travel between University Circle and Cleveland Heights. The second, which was in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, will focus on improving mass transit travel and pedestrian connections between University Circle and Cleveland Heights. Council Member Tumeo commented that, from a financial standpoint, the connection with University Circle is part of the broad vision aimed at building an economic future for Cleveland Heights.

State of the City

Mayor Kelley spoke briefly about the state of the city, mentioning the availability of indoor swimming at Cleveland Heights High School, work on development of the strategic plan, green zoning, the contract with the Regional Income Tax Agency, the recreational soccer program and improvements to Denison Park, transportation studies, and the Kensington apartment building. He mentioned the Oakwood Country Club space and pointed out that Cleveland Heights has 135



acres of parkland providing active and passive recreation, which are owned and operated by the city. Mayor Kelley thanked the council and city staff for being proactive and the media, including the Sun Newspapers and the League of Women Voters, for their coverage.

LWV observers: Blanche Valancy & Katherine Solender.

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

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

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

OAKWOOD continued from page 3

a community benefits agreement to ensure that any Oakwood development will help them financially, and for more than just a few years.

Fran Mentch is president of Citizens for Oakwood, a project of the Severance Neighborhood Organization. For more information visit www.heightssno.org.



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HURON continued from page 1

tatives from Senator Sherrod Brown's office, County Council Representative Julian Rogers, and Mike Smedley of the East Cleveland mayor's office. East Cleveland resident Hazel Hicks said of the rally, "We accomplished our main goal. We want to keep the focus and attention in the public eye, so they know

what's going on with Huron Hospital."

The Clinic continues to say that the trauma center will eventually close, perhaps soon.

Marissa Williams is a graduate student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and an intern at FutureHeights.

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



JANUARY 18, 2011

All council members were present.

State of the City address

In her State of the City address, Mayor Infeld stated that although there are still financial setbacks, the city ended 2010 with an \$800,000 surplus, \$500,000 more than was budgeted, due to higher tax collections from R.I.T.A. (Regional Income Tax Agency) and the settlement of a large estate. Also, the mayor had reduced personnel, increased efficiencies, reduced costs for supplies and printing, and eliminated erroneous billing from the Illuminating Company.

Mayor Infeld said she is meeting with mayors of neighboring communities to identify ways to share resources and lower costs.

New service director

Resident Sheila Hubman praised the assistant service director for handling the job of interim service director seamlessly. Rob Jamieson was appointed as the new service director.

Senior services manager

Walter Stinson was reappointed as senior services manager. Councilman Phil Ertel praised Stinson for the quality and range of programs he organized at the University Heights Library. There were suggestions to promote these programs through the phone notification system and to have them videotaped by Heights High students and posted on the city's website.

TIF repayment plan

Virginia Benjamin of Calfee, Halter & Griswold reported on the negotiation for payment of monies owed from TIF (Tax Increment Financing) for University Square. One-fourth of the two million dollars has been repaid thus far. Rollback payments have not been made and monies are owed to the school district. The initial amounts owed are offset by reduced property taxes, primarily at University Square Center. The mayor's budget will include \$60,000 per year for the next seven years to pay off the rollback funds.

Board of Zoning Appeals case

Robert Weizman appeared before council with his attorney and contractor to seek approval to maintain his front setback variance and be allowed to complete the project. Council voted to give Weizman one more month to complete the work, with fines to be incurred if the deadline is not met. Councilman Sims cast the one dissenting vote due to his doubts that the project would be completed.

Political signs

There was a first reading of several ordinances concerning political signs. They included repeal of the durational time limit of political signs, permission of signs in certain residential districts, exclusion from the permit application procedure and from the temporary sign requirements.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Councilman Kevin Patrick Murphy was excused.

McDonald's traffic study

Mayor Infeld stated that although the data has been collected for the McDonald's traffic study, the study has not been completed because the information has not yet been presented to the council or to McDonald's. Council passed a motion to hire URS to complete the study, including the establishment of an escrow account with the city. McDonald's will deposit approximately \$23,000 into the escrow account to pay for the study.

Wiley School parking area

Council approved the school district's proposal for changes in the driveway and parking area behind Wiley Middle School. The district plans to add a third lane and a net gain of six parking spaces to reduce congestion. Also, the plans would screen off the service area with evergreens, create a new kitchen delivery area, and relocate bike racks. These changes would enhance the entryway.

Kollel proposal

Fred Bolotin of Kollel Yad Chaim Mordechai, 2203 and 2207 South Green Road, presented a proposal to connect the two houses together for more space. They are requesting a special-use permit to use the second house for programming.

Lee Friedman and David Leavitt of Friedman Leavitt Accounting Firm, which is in the commercial strip adjacent to Kollel, oppose this project. They noted that although Kollel has arranged for parking spaces at Heinens and also at the former Temple Emanu El, people attending Kollel programs prefer to park in the adjacent strip lot, making spaces unavailable for the employees and customers of the businesses in the strip. The plan does include additional parking spaces behind the second house. The planning commission recommended approval of this project.

Road asphalt

Council approved a joint bid with Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights for road asphalt. Shaker Heights will lead contract negotiations. Also, five streets will be paved in conjunction with the Cleveland Water Department when they replace water lines.

Senior transportation

Council authorized Mayor Infeld to request a six-month contract with Senior Transportation Connection, limited to 80 rides per month with unlimited destinations, and limiting individual riders to two rides per week. The contract currently costs \$50,000 per year and is used by only 26-27 residents on a regular basis.

Increase in revenues

David Menn, building commissioner, reported a revenue gain of \$43,000 over that of 2009, primarily due to increases in home remodeling and contractor registrations.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

Death by Delay



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

It is a puzzle. It appears that a new slogan may be added to the legislative lexicon when it comes to describing the decision-making process of the University Heights City Council: Death by Delay.

Most issues that come before this legislative body are routine; but some are not. The old adage—"Salesmanship begins when the customer says no"—is also true for legislators. Their ability, inclination and statesmanship are revealed when issues have voters supporting opposite outcomes.

Complex issues before council in 2008 are still with us in 2011. One of the most pressing is the need to update zoning ordinances. In 2008, then-Mayor Beryl Rothschild urged council to approve a proposal by planning and development consultants, D. B. Hartt Inc., to perform a zoning code update. This first appeared on council's agenda on January 20, 2009.

Lack of comprehensive zoning updates hinders economic development and pits neighbor against neighbor. When zoning issues are unclear, applicants file for variances. Recent conflicts include the Waterway Car Wash on Warrensville Center Road.; a McDonald's application for the same space; an application to operate a pizza shop in a house of worship; the conversion of residential housing stock into houses of worship on less than the legal minimum of three acres; and an application by John Carroll University for an ROTC office on E. Carroll Boulevard.

While an immediate yes-or-no vote by council is not always possible, applicants and neighbors deserve a timely resolution. Delays foment divisiveness among neighbors, and are costly to local businesses. Delaying simple votes makes people question council's attitude toward business, which can be detrimental to our city's economic development.

Council's delay and the imposition of questionable conditions on JCU before granting the university approval for the ROTC office resulted in JCU filing a lawsuit against city council in federal court.

How much will UH spend defending the city in court for a position we are unlikely to win? How much will this delay cost our city? The D. B. Hartt proposal to study zoning updates now looks like a bargain at \$7,000.

Council has already purchased other studies, totaling more than \$83,000. Why are these also in the Death by Delay mode?

Garbage Should we keep backyard pick-up or go to curbside? Should we

keep our own trucks and department or outsource or merge with another city? In order to make sound choices, council hired and paid GT Environmental \$10,000 in 2009 for a solid waste collection analysis. The study was delivered October of that year—17 months ago. How much longer will council delay its review?

Outsourcing city services Are we better off keeping our own city services or should we outsource or merge with another city's department? Another complicated issue, and one worthy of study. This time council paid Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office (NEOSO) \$25,000 for an exception analysis, which was to study who should provide services to UH residents. Dave Akers, president and CEO of NEOSO, presented his recommendations in January 2010 in a 47-slide show, without an accompanying written narrative. Akers tried his best to explain how he obtained the information, what the slides meant, and how he calculated dollar amounts for the savings UH might gain by following his recommendations. Council may have understood the slide show, but taxpayers in the audience are still scratching their heads trying to decipher the \$25,000 presentation.

Now, after a 14-month delay in reviewing this study, it has been suggested slide #39 may be a topic for council's daylong retreat on March 15. Slide #39 recommends outsourcing or merging "opportunities" of our fire department, emergency rescue, trash and snow removal, jail, and other services to private businesses or other cities.

City Hall complex Do we need to update our municipal buildings? This item has languished on council's agenda since 2008, when council members paid architects Herman Gibans Fodor \$10,486 for a needs assessment study. The recommended complex will take "five to seven years to complete." On Dec. 21, 2009, then-Mayor Rothschild urged council, again, to evaluate this study. Why this delay?

Master Plan In municipal government, long-range plans and wish lists are called master plans. In 2003, council paid Hunter Morrison & Associates \$38,000 to produce a master plan for University Heights. This may also be a topic for council's upcoming retreat, and not a moment too soon. Master plans have a shelf life of about 10 years. Delaying longer will require a new plan.

The problems the studies are intended to ameliorate are still with us. Council approved \$2,000 for its March 15 retreat. Let's hope it includes a plan to review \$83,000 worth of studies and put an end to Death by Delay.

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

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French government honors local man

Jewel Moulthrop

If John Ewing's smile seems a little broader these days, it is probably because he's been knighted by the French government. He is Sir John now. In a ceremony on Feb. 3 at the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA), Ewing officially became a Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters of the Republic of France, an honor he shares with T.S. Eliot, Rudolf Nureyev, Robert Redford and David Bowie, among others.

As director of the Cinematheque and associate director of film at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), Ewing has brought more than 8,500 films—many of them from France—to Cleveland audiences for more than two decades.

In accepting the honor, Ewing said that this recognition is especially meaningful because France has been at the forefront of filmmaking for more than a century. "France is where movies were first exhibited publicly in 1895." His remarks were greeted with several standing ovations from an enthusiastic crowd, an estimated 600 ardent fans and supporters.

Three years ago, colleagues at CIA and CMA nominated John Ewing for the award, citing his significant contributions to the arts. Last summer, he received a letter from the French government indicating that he had been selected to receive the Chevalier medal. The medal was to have been presented by Marie-Anne Toledano, cultural attaché for the French Consulate in Chicago. The storm that hit the Midwest that week left both Toledano and the medal stranded in Chicago.

Josh Knerly, honorary French consul in Cleveland, stepped in to present the award, noting that "we are in an art school." A replica of the medal had been



Josh Knerly, the honorary French consul in Cleveland, pins a replica medal on John Ewing.

quickly created on Thursday, and pinned on Ewing—right on schedule.

Billed as a "Night for a Knight," CIA and CMA cohosted the event, with catering provided by L'Albatros. The evening ended with a screening of a French film, titled "Le ciel est a vous" (The Sky is Yours). Made in 1944, during the Nazi occupation of France, the film celebrates the strength and courage of ordinary French citizens.

On the following Saturday night, as Ewing approached the stage to introduce that evening's movie at the Cinematheque, the audience erupted in spontaneous applause. With characteristic modesty, Ewing held up his hand, saying, "No, no, that was Thursday night." It's clear that the Heights considers him a local treasure.

For information about the film schedule at the Cinematheque, go to www.cia.edu/cinematheque. For the film program at the Cleveland Museum of Art, go to www.clevelandart.org; go to "calendar" and click on "films."

Jewel Moulthrop is a resident of Cleveland Heights, cinephile, and an occasional contributor to the Heights Observer.

Heights League of Women Voters chapter meets with new county representatives

Maryann Barnes and Carol Gibson

Braving a nasty winter storm on Feb. 2, members and guests of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters, Cuyahoga Area, gathered to chat with the new Cuyahoga County Council members representing Cleveland Heights and University Heights: Julian Rogers (District 10, Cleveland Heights) and Sunny Simon (District 11, University Heights). The evening's format contained no speeches—only questions and answers. Some of the issues covered included:

New council

The new county council comprises 11 hardworking and focused members. Council seats are part-time positions with salaries of \$45,000. However, facing the task of forming a new government from scratch, current council members are averaging 40-hour weeks. Some are juggling other jobs, but most are working full-time as county representatives.

Both Simon and Rogers expressed positive feelings about their fellow council members, describing a group that is bonding well as they tackle the enormous task of building a new governmental structure. The charter, a mere 25 pages, provides only a basic skeleton for county governance.

Challenges

Simon remarked that she discovered, and is studying, a book describing the more than 50 countywide agencies and commissions. Grappling with these bodies will be a major challenge for the new county council.

The new charter prominently features the importance of economic development. The council has formed a council committee for economic development, but the charter also requires formation of a nine-member off-council economic development commission and specifies selection of its membership. One member, which council must select, is to represent nonprofits and educational institutions involved in economic development. Both Simon and Rogers noted that defining this

latter position is a complex task for the council. It may ultimately fall to the charter review committee to provide an improved definition.

Issues for charter review

One looming issue for charter review is the overlap of some of the council representatives' terms and the redrawing of district lines, which will take place as a result of the 2010 census. For example, Simon was elected to a four-year term for District 11, but the lines will be redrawn in the middle of her term. The change could separate her from the communities and voters she was elected to represent.

Accomplishments

The council is taking steps to handle a backlog of three to five thousand pending real estate property appraisal cases. It effectively countered pressure from both the county executive and the media to fire, regardless of qualifications, all those who had been previously seated on the Board of Revisions. While the Board of Revisions clearly has had problems, the council decided that such an approach would not be fair to those on the prior board who were, in fact, qualified.

Future for municipalities

Both representatives expressed optimism about how the new government was developing and its promises for the region. Citing an example of improved communication between municipalities and county governance, Rogers noted that in monitoring his district, he became aware of the sustainability study commissioned by the Cleveland Heights City Council. The study impressed him and he believes that other municipalities and the county, as a whole, could and should take this approach. The previous county government, he felt, did not have the infrastructure to facilitate this level of awareness between the county and the cities. Both he and Simon believe that the new governance structure will foster regional solutions and cooperative efforts among the municipalities.

Maryann Barnes and Carol Gibson are co-chairs of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters, Cuyahoga Area.

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Home Remodeling Fair

Rebecca Stager

One way that Home Repair Resource Center serves the



Heights community is through its annual Community Home Remodeling Fair. This year's fair—HRRC's 16th—will be held on Saturday, April 9 at Cleveland Heights City Hall. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m., with presentations from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Each year, the fair incorporates new features to benefit owners of the older homes that characterize our community. A new format this year will combine talks on specific topics with an expanded array of "advice tables," where professionals from a variety of specialties will be available for one-on-one consultations concerning such topics as roof replacement, furnaces and boilers, insulation, electrical and plumbing work, basement waterproofing, concrete, asphalt, masonry, exterior painting, and replacement doors and windows.

Representatives from the City of Cleveland Heights, the Cuyahoga County Health Department, and area banks will also be available to advise homeowners on such matters as researching the history of a house, assessing the threat of lead-based paint contamination, and learning what loans and grants are available to help with the cost of a remodeling project.

Again this year, residents can schedule a free 45-minute consultation with an architect to help prepare for a remodeling project. One of the fair's most popular features, time slots for Ask an Architect, can be reserved by calling 216-381-6100 after March 21.

This free event, held in cooperation with the City of Cleveland Heights, is open to residents of all communities. To view a complete fair schedule, visit www.hrhc-ch.org.

Rebecca Stager is the repair education coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center, a local nonprofit that has served Cleveland Heights since 1971.

Heritage Home Program offers low-interest loans for home improvement

Jamie Bertram

The Heritage Home Program is a joint initiative of the City of Cleveland Heights and the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS), offering low-interest home repair and renovation loans for homeowners of properties built before 1961. Kelli Cone, a local realtor with Keller Williams, knows firsthand how beneficial the program can be.

Relocating here from Oklahoma, Cone fell in love with the convenient location, mature landscape and historic charm of Cleveland Heights. Because Cone specializes in older homes, it was natural that she and her husband Randy bought a historic home on Fairmount Boulevard.

Although the Cones were initially leery of the deferred maintenance that they would have to address, they recognized the home's great potential.

After hearing about the Heritage Home Program from other local residents and through the city's website, they contacted CRS to finance their kitchen remodel. Cone found the CRS tech staff easy to work with, commenting that CRS "took a very personal approach to the process."

Another word of advice from the Cones following their home renovation project: check out the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore. You can find great salvaged materials that are inexpensive and keep with the historic styling of many local homes.

CRS's Heritage Home Program currently has a fixed interest rate of 3.5 percent or lower for 5–10 years, and is financed through KeyBank. Homeowners can use this program to fund a variety of home maintenance and improvement projects including: interior remodels, weatherization, exterior maintenance,

mechanical systems, new roofs and much more. Since this is a preservation-based program, the house should retain the majority of its original exterior materials.

CRS also offers free technical assistance to residents throughout the City of Cleveland Heights. Heritage staff provides in-depth assistance to homeowners in the form of site visits, historic color consultations and information resources.

There are no out-of-pocket costs for the loan, no closing costs, no points, and no income restrictions, and interest from the loan is tax-deductible. For more information about the Heritage Home Program, or to see if your house qualifies, contact CRS at 216-426-1000 or www.clevelandrestoration.org.

Jamie Bertram is a historic preservation specialist with the Cleveland Restoration Society.

Heights-area students take the lead in musical theater production

Laura Dorr

Three Cleveland Heights youths will star in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," produced by the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Drama Dreamers theater program. Heights High seniors Gwen Donley and Zena Levan and Hathaway Brown senior Lydia Simon landed lead roles in the musical.

Drama Dreamers is a unique theater program that is entirely student run. Youths in grades 6–12 make up the cast, band and tech crew, and serve as director, set designer, stage manager and choreographer. It is a special opportunity for students to get experience in all aspects of theater, while exploring productions that encourage them to develop personally and spiritually through religious dramatic material. Although the program is run through St. Paul's, it is open to young people of

all backgrounds.

"I love that Drama Dreamers is very friendly and accepting," said Donley, who plays the lead role of Joseph, and grew up in the St. Paul's parish. "This is my seventh year in the program, and I love that you don't have to worry about intense competition or other stress you get with a typical youth theater program, because this one is all-inclusive."

Now in its 14th year, the program produces an annual spring musical as well as an Advent dessert theater, featuring short plays, monologues and student-written works. Donley, Levan and Simon have been core members of the group since middle school, participating in as many of the shows as their busy schedules allow.

Donley and Levan are involved in Model U.N. at Heights High, as well as other student organizations. They also participate in summer theater camps and have been spotlighted in various orchestral and musical groups. Simon and Donley both sing in the St. Paul's choir, and Simon has starred in numerous productions at Hathaway Brown.

With such busy schedules, it is a true testament to the Drama Dreamers program that these students stay involved.

"I love the environment of the program," explained Simon, who stars in the production as the Narrator. "We are able to produce great shows with great people."

Levan, who plays Jacob/Potiphar, agrees with Simon. "My friends had been involved for a long time and they got me interested in the program. I love being a part of something where I can see my friends from different schools, and then have a fun, finished product to show for it."

Based on a story from the book of Genesis, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" tells the tale of Joseph, a favored son and prophetic dreamer. Jealous of the preferential treatment Joseph receives, his brothers sell him into slavery. The story promotes



Zena Levan, Lydia Simon and Gwen Donley.

themes of forgiveness and reconciliation, as the brothers eventually end up groveling for forgiveness at the feet of Joseph, who has risen to a high post in Egypt. With an engaging hodgepodge of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale is an infectious, feel-good, comedic production.

Directed by Shaker Heights High School senior Emily Paetz, the show opens on Friday, March 11 at 7 p.m., with additional shows on Saturday, March 12 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 2747 Fairmount Blvd., on the corner of Fairmount Boulevard and Coventry Road, in Cleveland Heights. Free parking is available in the St. Paul's parking lot, on the corner of North St. James Parkway and Fairmount Boulevard.

Tickets are \$7; free for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 216-932-5815. Preorders are encouraged, as seats are limited. All ticket profits support the programs of the Youth Stewardship Outreach Board.

Laura Dorr is a journalist and artistic consultant for the Drama Dreamers theater program in Cleveland Heights.

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Heights families host St. Baldrick's Day to fight childhood cancer

Sarah Routh

This Saint Patrick's day, hundreds of Clevelanders will lose their hair. At least that's what two Heights families hope. For the ninth consecutive year, Cathy Richer, her husband Peter, and sister-in-law Cari Ross are spearheading the Cleveland version of St. Baldrick's Day, the annual head-shaving fundraiser benefiting childhood cancer research.

The St. Baldrick's Foundation, founded in 2000, funds more childhood cancer research grants than any other private organization. In just one decade, the organization has shaved nearly 150,000 heads worldwide, earning in excess of \$90.6 million. The Cleveland event is consistently in the foundation's top ten percent of fundraisers.

Despite this success, childhood cancer research remains one of the least-supported areas of cancer research.

This year's St. Baldrick's Day celebration (named for the combination of bald and St. Patrick) will be held on March 17 at A. J. Rocco's in downtown Cleveland, beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to go bald. Participants shave their heads to demonstrate their support for childhood cancer patients who often lose their own hair during treatment.

"We have shaved men, women, children, spouses and families. The youngest participant to date, was six and the oldest was well into his seventies," said Richer. While a clean shave is certainly



Father and son get the spirit of St. Baldrick's Day.

part of the fun, it's not the only way to help, donations are always welcome.

The Richers and Ross held the first Cleveland St. Baldrick's day in 2003. That year they shaved 25 heads and raised \$47,000. Since then, they've shaved more than 700 heads and raised more than \$1 million. This year, they're planning to shave more than 150 heads and are hoping to raise \$150,000. Both Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and Case Western Reserve University have benefited from these efforts as recipients of multiple St. Baldrick's grant monies.

The Richers have a personal connection to childhood cancer. Their son battled and beat a particularly rare brain cancer as a toddler. All of his treatment took place at Rainbow. After their own experience, the Richers felt a responsibility to help fund world-class research and treatment for other families and children fighting childhood cancer.

For more information about St. Baldrick's Day, visit www.St.Baldrick's.org and look for the Cleveland / A.J. Rocco's link.

Sarah Routh is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident.

Disciples Christian Church participates in 2011 Homeless Stand Down

Ronald Werman

For the fourth straight year, Disciples Christian Church provided a lunch as part of the Homeless Stand Down at the Masonic Auditorium downtown. Organized by InterAct Cleveland, the Homeless Stand Down provides boots, coats, mini checkups, podiatry services, haircuts and professional quality portraits to the needy of Greater Cleveland over three days.

On Sunday, Jan. 30, around 53 members of Disciples Christian Church travelled to the Masonic Auditorium to prepare and serve lunch for those in attendance. Preparing for an estimated 700 people, members of the church donated chili and brownies, with other food—sandwiches and salad—provided by the Cleveland Foodbank. Bonnie Goldner, outreach cochair, organized the volunteers and food delivery for the event.

Because the event coincided with Sunday services, Reverend Kristine Eggert invited the congregants at the contemporary service, at 9 a.m., to participate in the Homeless Stand Down. Following the service, many people car-



Patrick Reed cuts brownies at the Homeless Stand Down on Jan. 30.

pooled downtown to help serve lunch. The traditional service, at 11 a.m. ran smoothly with the help of the elders.

Disciples Christian Church continues its long standing tradition of community service and ministries. For more information about Disciples Christian Church, call 216-382-5344 or visit the church's website, www.discipleschristian.org.

Ronald Werman is an elder at Disciples Christian Church.

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CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights



JANUARY 24, 2011
All board members were present.

Noble Neighborhood Library manager Jo Ann Vicarel retires

Jo Ann Vicarel retired as of Dec. 31, 2010. At the December meeting the board issued a resolution in her honor, which included reference to her work with *Library Journal* as both a reviewer and the author of a monthly column, her book *The Reader's Guide to the Police Procedural*, her blog on mysteries that is followed worldwide, and her establishment of the Noble Knitter's Circle, which makes items for local charities.

Donations to the library

The board accepted gifts given to the library in the last quarter of 2010. A total of \$3,000 was given anonymously to the Teen Writing Program with an additional \$500 contributed by Reaching Heights. Chester Gordon donated \$500 for books and materials for the Coventry Library.

Personnel changes

Steve Haynie, young adult services coordinator, has accepted the position of South Euclid branch manager in the Cuyahoga County Public Library System.

Dean Schnurr, marketing and public relations manager, resigned to take a position with Bowling Green State University.

Friends of the Library

Friends president Adaora Schmiedl spoke about the group's annual meeting presentation with Jo Ann Vicarel and Richard Montanari. The ongoing book sale will move to the café area near

the second floor walkway with the projection of monthly sales rising from \$1,700 to \$2,500. Donated furniture could enhance browsing.

E-book readers to circulate

Nooks and Kindles are now available for use outside the building, and an iPad is available in the computer gallery for two-hour periods. The library will offer a class, The Library@Home, to help readers use the new technology. The first class is scheduled for Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

Drop in state funding

The Ohio Library Council has identified a number of areas in which Ohio's biennium budget may affect libraries and believes that libraries should prepare for a 15 percent reduction in state funding in 2011.

Public service plans for 2011 include:

- "Art to Go" children's programs in every branch
- Continuation of the Local Authors series
- ACT/SAT test preparation classes
- The grand reopening of the Noble Neighborhood Library
- Writing and reading clubs in the schools
- An anime festival
- A new, weekend story hour for working parents

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Author Series: Paul (P.L.) Gauss discusses his Amish mysteries

Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Author Series: Paula McClain discusses *The Paris Wife*

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Tuesdays in March, 6 p.m.

International Film Festival: Our Neighbors to the North

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m.

Resumes that Get Results. Registration required.

Wednesday, March 9, 5 p.m.

Coaching hours for Resume Results. Registration required.

Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.

Developing Your Job Search Plan. Registration required.

Wednesday, March 23, 5 p.m.

Coaching hours for Developing Your Job Search Plan. Registration required.

Sunday, March 27, 2 p.m.

4th Annual Lee Road Library Crossword Competition

Wednesday, March 30 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Spring Break Writers' Camp

Senior gatherings at the University Heights Public Library

Sherri Wisnieski

March 3, 2 p.m.

Dr. Oz says, "improve health, reduce stress, stay young," with Tai Chi by certified instructor Linda Sylte of University Heights.

March 10, 2 p.m.

Sunny Simon, vice president, newly formed Cuyahoga County Council, its mission and objectives for development.

March 17, 2 p.m.

Elizabeth Sullivan, *The Plain Dealer* editorial page editor, sparks conversations to build and extend Cleveland's successes.

March 24, 2 p.m.

Celebrate the 125th anniversary of John Carroll University with Dora Pruce, director of community and government relations.

March 31, 2 p.m.

"Connect, Collaborate, Commit" Teaching Cleveland Institute with UH resident Greg Deegan of Beachwood High School.

For more information call 216-397-0336.

Sherri Wisnieski is the administrative assistant to Mayor Susan Infeld of the City of University Heights.

Spring Break Writers' Camp to groom budding authors

Nancy Levin

Local writers and educators Amy Rosenbluth and Cynthia Larsen have a dream. They want to encourage young authors from the Heights to pursue creative writing excellence. Both have worked with the public schools, homeschoolers and the library in many capacities, but always progressing toward their goal.

This year they formed Lake Erie Ink, a nonprofit organization that encourages creative writing by young people. They hope to one day have a storefront creative writing center, but for now they are content to partner with the library. They founded two clubs for children and teen authors, which meet at the various library branches. A Monticello Middle School group will start meeting on March 17 and will relocate to the Noble Neighborhood Library when it reopens in May.

"The kids write crazy stories,

creative nonfiction and powerful poetry," Rosenbluth said. They also create graphic novels, songs, and fiction.

Larsen added that each quarter the clubs publish collections of their work. "These clubs are for kids who have a lot to say and no place to say it all," she said.

In addition to the regular clubs, Lake Erie Ink is hosting a one-day camp for 4th through 8th graders during spring break on Wednesday, March 30 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The students will write poetry, fiction, combine words with art, and create a comic strip. Lunch will be provided. It is free and open to the first 20 students who register with the library by calling 216-932-3600. For more information, e-mail clarsen@lakeerieink.org.

Nancy Levin is the director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

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JUDITH EUGENE

Watercolor class at the Cleveland Heights senior center.

Programs and activities for area seniors

Judith Eugene

Cleveland Heights and University Heights are great places for senior citizens. Our local governments provide a variety of interesting classes and beneficial programs for people of retirement age. For example, the Senior Activity Center (SAC) in Cleveland Heights provides programs to roughly 1,900 seniors annually.

The center is located at the corner of Mayfield Road and Monticello Boulevard. With bright, open rooms and a helpful, knowledgeable staff, the center comprises a "great and friendly group of people," said Amy Jenkins, social and recreation coordinator for the center, and director of the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging.

Membership in SAC is free for residents of Cleveland Heights, ages 60 and older. The center offers many free classes, hobby groups, and clubs. Some classes require a small fee. The center offers free computer access to members, as well as helpful computer classes.

Senior members have access to the community center's indoor track three days a week, as well as membership in a free walking club. Van transportation to and from the center is available for 50 cents each way.

An exciting new program at the center spotlights popular American singers. On March 23, the life and music of Nat King Cole will be discussed.

The center also hosts local professionals speaking on subjects of particular interest to seniors, such as legal issues, tax preparation, and medication management.

The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging, located at SAC, employs two social workers. "We answer questions and keep track of the resources that are available, so that we can properly refer our seniors," said social worker Cathy Katz. Help is available on a variety of subjects, such as housing, home health care, and family relations.

The office assists with legal and Medicare issues, and helps seniors apply for economic and health care assistance programs. The office operates a low-cost

transportation service, and a meal delivery service through Meals on Wheels. The delivery service also serves as a safety check. If a senior does not answer the door for a scheduled delivery, said Jenkins, "We follow up to make sure he or she is alright."

University Heights also offers several helpful programs for area seniors. The Senior Adult Network organizes a free weekly program, called Senior Citizen Gatherings, which meet on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library, at the corner of Cedar and Fenwick roads. (See schedule on page 9.)

Speakers from a wide range of professions and specialties present topics of current interest. Recent subjects have included climate change, regional development, and public radio and television.

University Heights also has a Meals on Wheels program for its seniors. Like the Cleveland Heights program, it provides two meals a day and serves as a safety check to ensure the recipient is safe and healthy.

Other senior programs provided by the City of University Heights include assistance with income tax filing, annual flu shots, help with Golden Buckeye and health insurance forms, and help applying for the federal Home Energy Assistance Program for home heating costs.

Transportation to all University Heights events for seniors is available through the Cuyahoga County Senior Transportation Connection at a very low cost.

Area seniors are encouraged to take advantage of these programs. For more information on the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center or the Office on Aging, contact Amy Jenkins at 216-691-7379. For more information on University Heights senior programs, contact the University Heights City Hall at 216-932-7800.

Judith Eugene is a Cleveland Heights native who provides services to senior adults and those with mobility challenges through www.LovingHandsGroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or Judith@LovingHandsGroup.com.

FACILITIES continued from page 1

the costs and financing possibilities. "They need more time to complete their work," Shergalis said.

The new dates are Wednesday, April 27; Thursday, May 12; Tuesday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 28. The two subcommittees will present their recommendations to the committee of the whole on April 27 at 7 p.m. at Monticello Middle School, six weeks later than originally scheduled. The public will be invited to comment on their recommendations on May 12, at the high school.

The committee of the whole will meet again on June 2 at Boulevard Elementary School, and will formally present its recommendations to the school board on June 28 at the board of education building.

The options subcommittee is studying data from a survey of residents, completed in February. Many committee members said they found the survey results inconclusive and not very helpful.

"The survey asked a number of questions that I would think most residents would have a hard time answering, that they wouldn't have enough knowledge or information to have formed a solid opinion," said one subcommittee member who wished to remain anonymous.

"A lot of the questions were premature," said Eric Silverman, a committee member and former school board member. "The survey did tell us something about the public opinion toward the schools, though, which is the lowest it has been in ten years."

Silverman also called into question some of the other data the subcommittee is working with, such as the state's contention that the district has excess capacity. "The State of Ohio doesn't like Monticello, for instance, because it has an auditorium, a dedicated cafeteria and three gyms. The state likes multipurpose rooms, a combination cafeteria/auditorium. I would like to see a square footage figure for classroom space. That is the relevant number."

Questions about the state's data, gaps in the public's knowledge, and the intricacies of public opinion demonstrate the complexity of the issue.

"I'm concerned that the district wants answers before the end of school year and I'm not sure we can do that. It's very complicated," said Jim Posch, cochair of the parent teacher association and a committee member.

"Doing a survey was a good idea,"

said Posch. "Many people in our community are uninformed. If we plan to make a major investment in our school facilities, we need to make sure the community knows why we need their money and how we are going to invest it."

"What is discouraging is that people think the buildings are better than they are. I felt this way until I really toured them and viewed them with a critical eye," said Silverman. "After touring Lakewood's renovated Emerson Elementary, I know what we can, and must, do."

Silverman views the facilities process as essential for the district to remain competitive with neighboring districts. Beachwood is doing a major renovation of its high school, he said. "We need to do something or we will be left behind. But we need to do the right thing. We need to build something that is quality and builds on the best of what we already have."

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. For more information about the committee and a full meeting schedule, visit www.chuh.org.

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

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From Assistant Executive Director Krista Hawthorne

Reaching Heights connects the community to our schools. It's fun to attend sold-out performances like "Beauty and the Beast" at Cleveland Heights High School or other award-winning sporting or music events. This newsletter highlights work going on in our classrooms that's just as engaging.

There's much to share. Major changes are transforming how teachers collaborate and use data to drive instruction and meet students where they are. We share articles that focus on the work of five elementary teachers who have become Science Specialists to help elementary teachers augment the depth and scope of science education. Five recent Heights High graduates, now collegians, share memories and advice. You can read more about each school in our neighborhood newsletters and at reachingheights.org.

Reaching Heights is an independent citizen organization that has worked for 21 years to support excellence in our public schools, work that's only possible thanks to our volunteer trustees, a part-time staff of three, many dedicated volunteers, and a large group of donors. We work to keep the community involved in public education with our Many Villages Tutoring Program, the annual Adult Community Spelling Bee, Community Connection Grants, and music events, including this year's Reaching Musical Heights on April 11 at Severance Hall! We work to improve student achievement through our School Team Grants, and increasing access to the highest levels of music education through our Heights Summer Music Camp and the Patti-Jackson Music Lesson Scholarships.

Thanks to the principals, teachers and students who welcomed Florence D'Emilia, freelance writer and parent, and me into their classrooms, to Joy Henderson of Heights High for her contribution, and to Temma Collins and Ruth D'Emilia for layout and production. We're energized and optimistic about the rich learning environments in each classroom, thoughtful teaching methods at all levels, and the individual attention given to every child.

AVID Helps Clear Path to College

"AVID is a college prep class," explains Heights High freshman Shailynn Strowder. "It helps me stay on track." Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), an elective class for credit, gives support to students with mid-range GPAs (2.0 – 3.5) to improve their academic record and prepare for college. Students sign a contract accepting responsibility for their learning by taking rigorous college prep courses, using a daily planner and maintaining a well-organized AVID binder.

Teachers Shawn Washington and Mark Sack work together to support their students. "Some students face daily challenges that distract them from their school work," explained Ms. Washington. "One student is frequently absent due to a chronic illness. Others just need extra support to work to their potential."

Classrooms are stocked with textbooks from most classes. On the blackboard are reminders of upcoming tests or project deadlines. Walls feature samples of student work and diagrams of interests, life goals, and plans for achieving them. "They have a lot to read each night, papers to write, and projects to do. If they get behind it's easy to get discouraged. We help them figure out how to make it all work," added Mr. Sack.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, AVID classes follow a curriculum of learning



AVID tutor Justin Ross-Walker works with freshmen James Walls and Robert Williams.

and study strategies, advanced reading and writing skills, higher level inquiry and thinking processes, collaboration, and time management skills. Tuesdays and Thursdays, AVID students work in small groups with tutors who are college graduates. On Fridays, students do service projects, listen to speakers, or tour college campuses.

College is continuously discussed. A student recently explained that her parents thought a college degree in fashion would not lead to a good job. Her tutor, who minored in fashion merchandising, discussed the realities of building a career

in the fashion industry. "Don't think you'll graduate, jump into a job with a major designer and go to New York and Paris," she cautioned. "It takes a lot of time drawing, sewing, and doing basic work before you get a good job."

One hundred students are enrolled in AVID at the high school and grades 7 and 8 at Roxboro Middle. In its fourth year at Heights High, AVID will have its first 11 graduates in June 2011, and all are headed to college. AVID will expand next year to include more students from the high school and students at all of the three middle schools. ■

Engineering Students Visit Lab

Three Heights High seniors in the Engineering Technology course visited MAGNET, a business incubator and consulting firm. Alex Fiala, Morgan Clement and David Schellenberg were paired with engineering groups that work in their specific interest area.

Alex and David were in the software and mechanical engineering group writing software and experimenting with a computer program. This computer program generated a model which was then used to make a prototype plastic tool. "The engineers designed the piece and I inputted the data and the 3D printer made the tool," said Alex.

They also saw designs for machines that make desert goggles, lawn chairs, and water slides, as well as machines that make protective plating for military tanks. "Engineers are problem solvers," said David. "We got to see the process and the end result."

Morgan is interested in industrial design. She talked to engineers who were designing a

multi use tool, using a tablet drawing monitor. "It was interesting to see the creative side of engineering in industry."

All three echoed a similar sentiment about the class. "Our class is hands on; we see theory in action," said David. "In physics we learn about circuits but here we build circuits."

Last year, the students placed second in a cardboard canoe race and are designing a new boat for this year's competition. "We figure that if we can build a cardboard canoe that holds two people and nearly wins first place, we can do anything," said David.

Next year these students will attend college – Alex and David have applied to several top engineering schools and Morgan will attend an art institute.

Engineering Technology instructor Yvonne Schiffer worked for 20 years in Product Development and Powertrain Engineering at Ford Motor Company. "There



Alex Fiala, Morgan Clement and David Schellenberg visited MAGNET, a business incubator and consulting firm as part of their Engineering Technology course.

are many aspects to engineering and in this class students get exposure to several areas and can focus on their interests," she said. Students can also earn 12 college credits.

Next year, Mrs. Schiffer will teach a new Intro to Engineering Tech class for 9th and 10th grade students. ■

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES



Wael ElHalaby
Oxford '01
Monticello '04
Heights High '08
Junior at Kent State University

What's your major?

I am majoring in nursing with a minor in music.

What do you hope to do in the future?

I see myself running a business, working a steady job, being a personal trainer, maintaining a great family and making time to play my violin for gigs here and there.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from elementary school?

I remember a really fun field day with competitions against other schools. I took first in the running competition.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared

you for college?

I learned how to prevail in a stressful environment with a hectic work load. Between AP classes, music and sports, my life was busy. But those long hours set me up to handle a busy college schedule.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?

I enjoyed the out-of-state trips I went on with orchestra and singers. Running track was amazing. I didn't start running until my 10th grade year and I became Heights' fastest sprinter. My greatest memory of all was when I starred as the fiddler in Fiddler On The Roof in 2007.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?

Don't be ashamed that you are different. People want to see uniqueness. I learned how to stand out in an already diverse environment by just accepting my true self, flaws and all and just letting it shine. I played violin, ran track, sang, graduated with a 3.86, took care of my sister and still had time to maintain a steady girlfriend for four years. Anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Believe that you can do it and it will happen.



Susan Wherley
Coventry '99
Heights High '06
Graduate of Harvard University.

What's your degree?

I graduated with a degree in African Studies and Health Policy.

What would be your dream job after graduation?

I interned with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. It would be a dream to work there with the Biorisk Reduction for Dangerous Pathogens team on diseases like hemorrhagic fevers and poxes.

What are you plans for the next couple of years?

I'm planning on getting degrees in medicine and public health after working in health policy for a year or two.

Do you have a favorite memory from elementary school?

My kindergarten class at Coventry school sat on the hill singing "I'll Be Working on the Playground" while our

parents built that beautiful playground. The friends I made in elementary school are still some of my best friends today.

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

My teachers at Heights High were wonderful mentors to me. They made classes fun, interesting and challenging. The close relationships I developed with them gave me the confidence to approach my college professors to ask for help with a difficult concept or advice for the future.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?

So much! I loved my AP classes, the instrumental music program, field hockey, Model UN, AFS Club and two trips to France with the French Club.

What advice would you give current Heights students?

It's easy to just coexist at high school. Make an effort to get to know the people around you and you'll learn something new every day. Most importantly, take advantage of all the opportunities that being a student at Heights affords you.

Division (Into Groups) Multiplies Learning

Understanding fractions is useful in keeping track of Malik Daniel's first grade math class at Roxboro Elementary School, with students divided into many small groups and lessons divided into many activities.

The district's elementary math framework devotes 90 minutes to math each day, divided into segments, including whole-class and small group instruction, plus time for partner and individual activities. Thoughtful lesson planning allows teachers to differentiate activities to meet a range of student proficiency levels.

On a recent afternoon, Mr. Daniels's first graders sit on the carpet for the day's whole group lesson on numbers, which calls for lots of thinking, chanting and gestures. One student uses the Smart Board to add a sunny day to the weather graph. After counting the yellow suns, everyone spreads-out to do five jumping jacks. The students count by twos, snapping fingers and clapping when they called out 10 and 20.

Students complete a worksheet on counting pennies as Mr. Daniels moves into small-group instruction. Something similar is happen-



Roxboro Elementary First Grade Teacher Malik Daniels uses words and movements to teach a lesson on numbers to his students Camryn Koonce, Tyonna Lindsey, Ramiah Mitchell and Jaila Woods.

ing in Melissa Garcar's fifth grade classroom.

Whole-class instruction is over and students break into small groups, based on the previous week's short cycle assessment, which allowed Mrs. Garcar to identify strengths and weaknesses that are common among the children. Every fifteen minutes students move to a different station and quickly settle into a new activity. Some students play math games with a partner.

Mrs. Garcar works with groups of four students on rounding fractions to the nearest one-half. Others practice math facts using a small electronic Flashmaster that times them and gives immediate feedback on accuracy. A special education aide helps four students with exercises in their math workbooks. Activities reinforce and extend what has been taught in previous lessons so that each student's specific needs are met.

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REACHING HEIGHTS

5th Graders Make Sense of the Solar System

Making sense of the world around them can be tough for kids, but a recent exercise in science class helped fifth graders at Canterbury understand the scale of the universe.

Using an inquiry-based approach, fifth-grade science teacher Janice Kurtz elicited information that the students had learned in an introductory lesson. Students eagerly offered facts: The planets orbit the sun. The inner planets are closer to the sun. The asteroid belt is located between the inner and outer planets. The outer planets are much farther from the sun. Then Mrs. Kurtz asked the students to look at a beautiful, glossy poster of the solar system and tell her what was wrong with it. She helped the students articulate that the poster did not accurately depict the distances between planets and the sun.

The inexactness of the poster offered an opportunity to learn. Ms. Kurtz clearly stated the learning intention for the class: "We are going to make a diagram that shows the proportional distance between the planets." Through a series of questions, she helped them to create accurate representations of the solar system on long narrow sheets of paper. With their rulers and a chart filled with information about planets, students drew a large sun at the left hand edge of their papers, and then began to measure and mark them. As they carefully drew the location of Mercury, Venus,



Fifth grade science teacher Janice Kurtz helps a fifth grader create a scale drawing of the sun and planets.

Earth, and Mars, students noticed how close these planets were to one another—a mere centimeter separated the four inner planets. Drawing the furthest outer planet a full 30 centimeters from the sun helped the students understand the enormity of our solar system.

Celebrating History Through Drama at Noble

As fifth graders head for the cafeteria at Noble Elementary, several girls take a different route. They eat lunch at large tables in Nancy Eisenberg's Art Room. The girls, members of the Young Ladies of Noble, have given up their lunch hour to rehearse a play that they will perform at the school's celebration of Black History Month. After cleaning away crumbs and pushing tables aside, they retrieve scripts in brightly colored folders and get their pencils ready to make notations.

The catalyst for all this activity is David Hansen, father of Noble second grader Zelda Thayer-Hansen. The playwright and theater educator has written "The Lady," a 10-minute play that merges personal narrative with history. In telling the story of Michelle Obama's family history, Mr. Hansen has transformed daily life into myth.

As Mr. Hansen runs through the play, the audience is drawn into a series of vignettes that present historic moments. The girls portray an enslaved woman and her young son at the moment of emancipation, a railroad porter who notes the differences that exist between the North and the South during the early decades of the 20th century, and a working couple from Chicago who marvel that their children are studying at Princeton University.



Noble fifth grader, Jayla Blackmon rehearses for a performance celebrating Black History Month.

One lucky girl plays First Lady Michelle Obama.

"I wanted to write an educational play that celebrates the Black middle class," said the playwright. "The progress of one African American family over the history of the United States provided an excellent blueprint for achievement."

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES



Ashley Guy
Noble '01
Monticello '04
Heights High '08
Junior at The Ohio State University

What's your major or degree?
Double major in International Relations & Diplomacy and African Studies, minors in Spanish and Arabic.

What would be your dream job after graduation?
I'd like to be a diplomat or ambassador to the United Nations. I would love a job that allowed me to see the world and experience foreign cultures.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from elementary school?
My favorite memory from elementary school would have to be the fifth grade "Mars-ville" at Noble Elementary. We constructed planets and giant plastic bubbles that we could go in and out of while learning about the solar system.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
At Heights High, I learned how to work effectively with diverse groups of people. Heights High also prepared me academically for rigorous college courses.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
I enjoyed the supportive and enthusiastic teachers at Heights. Heights High offers numerous classes and electives so I made sure to take advantage of classes like Symphony and advanced Spanish. I participated in and absolutely loved field hockey, lacrosse, AFS Club, and East Asian Club.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
I would advise every Heights student to stay focused and take advantage of the tools Heights High has to prepare its students for their endeavors after graduation. It is up to each student to utilize these tools and have good relationships with teachers and other students. Enjoy your high school experience and continue being successful so you can have a good time in college and beyond!



Miles Walker
Boulevard '02
Heights High '09
Miles is a sophomore at The Ohio State University.

What's your major or degree?
My major is electrical engineering.

What would be your dream job after graduation?
My dream job would be working for Google or Nintendo.

Do you have a favorite memory from elementary school?
My favorite memory is of the Boulevard Blast, more specifically the "Magnet Mile." Now that I think back I'm pretty sure a lap around the school is not a mile but it seemed like that and I would go out on a full sprint only to get burned out near the finish line and come in third or fourth place.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
I learned quite a few things at Heights High. I learned how to handle large workloads and how to effectively complete my work on time. Also I learned that Heights is a fairly diverse school and it prepared me to interact with different types of people.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
The teacher I enjoyed the most would have to be Ms. Bradshaw. After completing her chemistry class in the tenth grade, I thought I would never need to use that information again. but during my freshman year her voice was in the back of my head telling me how to use "sig figs" and unit conversions.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Don't be afraid to challenge yourself or try something new. I joined the AFS Club when I was a Junior and then spent 6 weeks in Japan as an AFS exchange student.

Want to Know How Engaged Students Are? Ask Them!

As the morning lesson ended, Oxford first graders anonymously placed pieces of laminated colored paper in a box. Students were rating their level of engagement in the morning’s learning activity.

Many chose green chips representing “Authentic Engagement,” indicating genuine enthusiasm for their work. Others chose “Ritual Engagement,” which meant that while the work did not excite them, they understood the value of doing it well. Of the five choices, no one chose Rebellion — refusing to work because the task was too hard, too easy or of no interest. “Asking students to rate their level of engagement is a concrete way for us to ask students to take ownership of learning,” said first grade teacher Betty Miller.

Student engagement is tied to student achievement,” said Denise Leddy, Oxford’s new principal. “As instructors, we want to be more aware of the degree of student engagement and how that relates to a lesson’s design elements.”

As a classroom teacher Mrs. Leddy, used a student engagement model developed by educational researcher Paul Schlechty. Now she helps Oxford teachers implement it. Teachers devote part of their Professional Learning Community (PLC) time to exploring student engagement in learning. Recently, she and the first grade team met and shared information about students, lessons, and how monitoring the class’s engagement guides instruction. Karen Rego said she’s more conscious of incorporating choice into lessons as she noticed that students rate themselves with a higher level of engagement when lessons include choice.

On a typical day, students learn as a class, in small groups, and independently. Classroom routines and clear expectations for behavior support students in each situation. Asking students to rate their level of engagement helps them become more aware and better at engaging themselves in learning.

“Increasing student engagement will have a tremendous impact on student achievement,” said Linda Smith.



Oxford Elementary first grader, Brooklynn Johnson rates her level of engagement with a piece of colored paper in a plastic bin.

Volunteer Enriches Learning at Fairfax



Volunteer Sam Wolfe works with Fairfax science students.

The gym at Fairfax Elementary School buzzed with excitement on picture day. Mrs. Schmidt’s third graders lined up and took their places on the risers. Last to step into the picture was octogenarian Sam Wolfe, the oldest member of the class, a volunteer for six years.

After retiring from 30 years of teaching science at West Technical High School in Cleveland, he had time to use his ham radio, manage an electronics stockroom at Case Western Reserve University, and complete an eight-month walk across the United States to promote global disarmament. Fairfax physical education teacher Alice Stratton met Sam at the Ohio City Bicycle Co-op and recruited him as a volunteer.

Three years ago he began sharing his Community Garden plot with the class. It is one of many spectacular gardens located on school property and is visible from Lee Road. On a recent fall morning, Mr. Wolfe took a few minutes to show the class a plant from his garden. As students watched intently, he crushed some berries and made a purple ink from the juice.

Mrs. Stratton and Mrs. Schmidt developed hands-on science lessons around the garden. In the classroom, students tested seeds for germination and planted the ones with the highest germination rate in the garden. When they harvested the early maturing radishes and lettuces, Mr. Wolfe and the students celebrated with a harvest party.

Literacy Framework Engages Learning at All Levels

Our teachers work with children who struggle to become proficient readers and children who excel years beyond grade level. The district’s new literacy framework creates a structure to meet those varied needs.

Elementary students spend two hours and 15 minutes on literacy daily, including about an hour on writing. This provides a balanced daily diet of skills — vocabulary, comprehension, reading and writing. “Literacy components are interconnected, but they don’t all develop at the same rate,” explained Kelly Stukus, the district’s Literacy Coordinator. “Requiring practice of each skill daily encourages growth in all areas.”

In Sue Miracle’s fourth grade classroom at Roxboro, the English Language Arts lesson starts with a whole group lesson, so all students have a meaningful grade level experience. Then, some children work with partners reading novels and answering analytical questions while others read or work independently. A volunteer tutor records fluency, timing students reading aloud. Small groups are challenged with prepared activities at learning centers or the Smart Board. As groups work with Ms. Miracle, she keeps track of time and announces when to move to another learning center. Students focus on assigned activities, using every minute.

Meanwhile, amid a quiet hum of activity in Mary Windham’s second grade classroom, she works with a small group of struggling readers. They read silently and jot down words they don’t know. Then, to build fluency, they imitate Ms. Windham as she reads the story aloud. Finally, students work on main idea packets on their own and then review them together.

Students are curious and enthusiastic. One student flips though a book and comments, “I can’t wait for this story, it looks really good.” As the lesson ends, another student asks, “Can we come back after lunch?”

Community Member Connects As Reading Tutor

Sitting at a small round table, Marian Morton uses flashcards to drill a kindergarten student on vowel sounds. Trained in the letter sound recognition protocol, she says a-a-a for the “a” sound as she mimes eating an apple and uh-uh-uh for the “u” sound while she gestures opening an umbrella.

Helping a five-year-old with pre-reading skills is a radical change for the retired John Carroll University history professor, and a valuable one. Data collected shows significant growth in the reading skills of students participating in

the Many Villages tutoring program.

In addition to parents, the volunteers are recruited from religious congregations, colleges and universities, businesses and civic groups. Volunteers work individually with kindergartners to review letter shapes and sounds for 10 minutes, 4 times a week for 6-8 weeks. This letter sound recognition protocol was designed by Beth Rae, CH-UH Title I Teacher, and draws from the work of Jonathan Graham.

“Tutors don’t always recognize the impact they have on students’ lives,” according to Belinda Farrow, kindergarten teacher at Boulevard Elementary. She



Retired John Carroll University history professor Marian Morton tutors Boulevard kindergarten student Cam’Ron Holloway.

notices tremendous academic growth and improved behavior. “Once students gain confidence in reading, that confidence seems to spill over into other subjects.”

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES

Amirah Saafir
Canterbury '01
Wiley '04
Heights High '08
Amirah is a junior at Howard University

What’s your major?
Psychology.

What are your plans for the future?
After graduating from Howard University, I plan to go on to graduate school to get my doctorate degree in developmental psychology and then become a school psychologist.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from elementary school?
One of my favorite memories from Canterbury Elementary School was watching the letter people in Mrs. Slater’s kindergarten class. I remember dressing up as Ms. A for the Letter People parade. I had handkerchiefs pinned all over my clothes. She made learning fun!

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
I believe my entire Heights experience helped prepare me for college. Two things that stand out to me are developing an effective study technique and learning how to balance academics and extra-curricular activities.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
While at Heights I was extremely active so it’s difficult to pick the one thing. I definitely enjoyed being a part of the volleyball team, the gospel choir, and the Minority Student Achievement Network.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Take advantage of all Heights has to offer. Having been involved in a wide variety of activities, I was able to explore my likes and dislikes as well as cultivate my leadership skills, shaping the types of organizations I’m involved in at Howard University as well as giving me the skills necessary to obtain leadership roles within these organizations. I would also advise students to take academics seriously; building good study habits in high school will help develop the discipline necessary to excel in college.

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Outdoor Learning Thrives At Gearity

Thanks to collaboration among parents, teachers, college students and neighbors, pre-schoolers through fifth graders at Gearity Professional Development School are learning about the environment in tangible and exciting ways. When environmental educator and parent Josh Hunter brought his first child to Gearity, he recognized that the extensive grounds offered the potential for many outdoor learning experiences. Two years ago he helped to organize parents and neighborhood volunteers in creating several raised learning gardens where students sow, care for and harvest vegetables.

Two seasons later, the program has expanded dramatically, thanks in part to a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's Companies Inc. In the fall, Hiram College students joined forces with the Gearity community and neighbors to build additional raised gardens. A split rail fence and arch have defined the space that will include several dwarf fruit trees. A barn-like shed stores child-sized tools. On the other side of the school building, shrubs have been planted



Parents and community volunteers built the Gearity Learning Gardens, split rail fence and mini barn that stores child-sized tools.

and bird and animal feeders are visible from second and third grade windows. In the spring, volunteers will build benches and a small building for observing wildlife.

Teachers also use Gearity's extensive property for outdoor learning. In addition to incorporating the gardens into lessons, teachers use the instruments of an outdoor weather station. In the fall, students from Hiram College joined Gearity teachers and 50 fourth graders for a walk in the woods on the Gearity campus. Together, they identified tree and fungus species, observed deer and other wildlife, and practiced good stewardship by collecting trash. 🌱

More Time Means More Learning

"Last year I was teaching a 60-minute curriculum in 42 minutes," says John Powaski, seventh grade math teacher at Roxboro Middle School. "There was no time for review or practice." Not any more. Every middle school student in our district now receives 84-minute blocks of language arts and math each day. "More time together means more learning," Mr. Powaski says.

Each class includes a mini-review to assess students' readiness to learn the next math concept. Then he adjusts his lesson plan to make sure he is teaching what they are ready to learn. After he has fully explained the day's new concepts, he has students complete a few practice problems together.

Powaski strongly supports block scheduling. "It gives time for students to move through the inevitable 'uncomfortable zone' of learning a new math idea to get to a couple of 'a-ha' moments each day."

In Lia Radke's eighth grade English/Language Arts class, block scheduling allows time for meaningful group work.

Class begins with a mini-lesson about a specific literary concept. Then the class reads a piece of writing aloud that gives a good example of that concept.

Every middle school student in our district now receives 84-minute blocks of language arts and math each day.

As in a writer's workshop, students break into groups to review their own writing with the new concept in mind and to edit classmates' writing. Students work on specific skills in collaboration stations. Ms. Radke, who floats from group to group or meets with individual students, appreciates the 84-minute block. "Students learn so much more by hearing from me and then working together and teaching each other. And I feel like I have time to meet with students one-on-one when they need that kind of support." 🌱

Service Learning is Part of Life at Wiley

Wiley Middle School was recognized earlier this year by the Ohio Middle Level Association for its extensive service learning program. Service learning builds self-esteem and teaches the concept of good citizenship with active learning. "Students benefit tremendously from helping others," explained Karen DiLillo, Health Teacher and Student Council Advisor.

The annual Leaf Raking, Thanksgiving Food Drive, and the Angel Tree Project were highlighted in the award application. Each project takes detailed planning, publicity, fundraising, and completion of the service by a dedicated group of students and staff. Student Council and the National Junior Honor Society members take a lead role but each project is a school-wide event. "This process makes school a more interesting place to be," said Melanie Lesar, Wiley Guidance Counselor.

Residents of the school's University Heights neighborhood benefitted from the leaf raking day on November 10, when 29 students worked from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm. Neighbors called to express appreciation and one offered to buy pizza for the students. "We thanked her but refused the gift. We want students to learn to do service without expecting a reward," explained Heather Higham, Wiley Guidance Counselor. "We suggested she consider making a donation to our Thanksgiving Food Drive as a way to show her gratitude."

Dr. Octavia Reed, Wiley's principal, was amazed by the school community's response to the Angel Tree Project. Each year, a Wiley staff member selects six to eight "angels" with names of foster children from the Salvation Army's holiday tree display at the Cleveland Playhouse.



Wiley Middle School students provided more than 40 holiday gifts to needy children.

Homeroom classes and staff are invited to select an angel and raise money to buy a

fun gift and a practical gift for that child. This year the first eight "angels" were selected quickly. "I went down three more times to take more 'angels' from the tree as interest grew and the donations kept coming in," said DiLillo. Dr. Reid was clearly moved by the generosity of her students and staff. "When I heard that we raised enough money to buy gifts for 40 'angels' I was overwhelmed and so proud. Some of our students don't have much for themselves yet they were happy to give what they could to make someone else's holiday happier." 🌱

Mighty Males Pursue Excellence



Mighty Males Jonathan Jackson and Miles Hawkins flank former NBA player Brad Sellers after Sellers spoke to the Mighty Males of Monticello about earning respect by working hard.

Teens seldom treasure neckties, but the Mighty Males of Monticello are an exception. Each new member receives a simple black tie with the golden M3 at an induction pinning ceremony. This year, one third of the male students at Monticello

Middle School are proud members of this organization, started in 2003, to encourage excellence in academics, civility, and service.

"We want all of our male students to apply and participate," said Brian Williams,

Assistant Principal and one of the Mighty Males' advisors. Strong academics are an essential prerequisite to attending events. New members are eligible to apply each quarter if they are earning A's and B's in all classes. "Once a Mighty Male, always a Mighty Male, but students whose grades drop below our minimum cannot take part in our next quarter's activities," Williams explained. "When grades come out we have students rushing up to us excited to say 'I'm active again!'" said Mr. Nobles, health teacher and advisor of Mighty Males.

In December, Mr. Brad Sellers, retired NBA player who graduated from Warrensville Heights High and Ohio State University, spoke to the Mighty Males about the importance of their education and the respect that one receives when they give their best effort.

The Mighty Males will mentor fifth graders at Noble, Oxford and Boulevard elementary schools once a month in February, March, April and May. This service project has a dual purpose: to boost achievement among the fifth graders, and to encourage them to join Mighty Males when they attend Monticello next year. "I enjoy being a Mighty Male because I am respected by my friends and teachers. I also understand that I am a leader and that much is expected of me," said Jamarius Davis, Monticello eighth grader. 🌱

Be a Tutor: Change a Life

Many Villages is the in-school tutoring program from Reaching Heights, which provides cohesive support to teachers, one-on-one tutoring, and valuable volunteer feedback. We welcome the community to share in the work and success. It's true! It really does take a village to raise a child, so please call 216.932.5110, talk to Lisa, and become a part of ours!

MANY VILLAGES
Volunteer Tutoring
A REACHING HEIGHTS Program

Leveraging federal dollars for local impact



THE COMMON GOOD

By Susie Kaeser

Federal programs are not faraway abstractions; they affect people we know and places we care about, like Cleveland Heights. They empower people, alleviate problems, generate jobs and strengthen communities. These benefits could disappear way too soon as Congress, in the name of deficit reduction, prepares to decimate domestic spending.

If cost-cutters have their way, one especially effective federal resource, the Community Development Block Grant program that gives local communities flexible resources to address their priority concerns, could face extinction. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

I'm fully aware that being antigovernment is in vogue. But it's a bad idea. Save a buck, shred the fabric of a community? What is good about that?

Here is just one example of what is at stake:

I am on the board of the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), a 40-year-old Cleveland Heights nonprofit that works hand-in-hand with city government and homeowners to keep our wonderful old housing stock in good repair. Because housing quality and housing values define the stability of a community, it is in the best interest of the public to make sure homeowners are able to respond when the roof leaks or the furnace fails. That's where HRRC

comes into the picture.

Thanks to federal block grant funds that the city awards to HRRC, we have a staff that can help stressed homeowners who need to repair a major system that has failed in their house but for whom a \$5,000 repair can be prohibitive. Failure to fix the roof or furnace is even more costly. Fortunately, a relatively small amount of financial assistance can solve the problem.

HRRC uses block grant funds to pay up to \$1,500 of the repair cost, and then helps the owner secure a loan for the remainder by guaranteeing their loan with privately raised funds. This partnership keeps the homeowner responsible and in charge, helps them use their own resources, fixes the house, and adds value to the whole street.

During the last 40 years, more than 1,000 households have been helped—nearly a tenth of the houses in our community. In nearly every case, creative problem solving and less than \$2,000 have made the difference. The patient and up-close approach that is the hallmark of HRRC involvement really works.

There is no backup solution if the federal funds are lost. Sadly, when we leave people out on a limb without support, we all lose.

Why have our policymakers forgotten a national value—support for the common good?

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.

CH-UH Schools receive Race to the Top money

Angee Shaker

Race to the Top, part of President Obama's economic stimulus plan, rewards states for making ambitious changes to improve schools. Ohio received \$400 million dollars, half of which will be directly distributed to the 538 districts and charter schools who pledged their support. Cleveland Heights-University Heights is one of those districts. Over the next four years, the CH-UH School district is expected to receive \$1.2 million—\$195,000 in the first year, \$362,000 in year two, \$439,000 in year 3, and \$283,000 in year 4.

"These resources will allow us to accelerate the implementation of the district's vision of Preparing all Student for Success in a Global Economy (PAS-SAGE), while meeting the requirements of a new generation of academic standards," Superintendent Douglas Heuer said. "We are truly grateful to have been selected, especially now that we have to anticipate 15-20 percent in state funding cuts."

According to Dr. Joseph Micheller, director of special programs and compliance, by 2014 the district will have completed the foundational work that will provide generations of students with a world class, 21st-century education.

Year 1 is primarily a preparation time, building the foundation for years 2, 3 and 4. The major activities for the first year are:

- Purchase and implement an assessment management system that will provide all classroom teachers with

diagnostic information. State, district and classroom assessments will be integrated into one system.

- Design a training program, to be implemented in 2011-12, for teachers to be able to use the new assessment management system effectively.
- Curriculum teams will become familiar with the new state and national standards in English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies; will analyze the curriculum to determine what must be changed to align instruction to the new standards; and will design professional development guidelines to assist teachers in understanding the new standards.

Angee Shaker is director of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights

JANUARY 18, 2011



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

All board members were present.

Background of small schools

The improved school performance has leveled off. Freshman performance has declined and 20 to 25 percent of students are not successfully completing freshman year. One-third of students take courses outside their small school.

Legacy School Principal Marc Engoglia credits four elements with improving student grades: freshman seminar; upperclassmen who, as "link leaders," orient and mentor freshmen; standards-based grading and recording where teachers reteach what students have not learned; and team teaching and looping.

Mosaic School Principal Nicholas Petty reported that Mosaic's curriculum highlights creative and performing arts, technology, links to the community, and distance learning. There is an effort for uniformity from one teacher to the next.

R.E.A.L. School Principal Marc Aiden reported that R.E.A.L. School has changed from a business model to service learning and community involvement. R.E.A.L. School students can participate in the AVID program.

Renaissance School Principal James Reed described Renaissance as providing a liberal arts education focusing on Socratic seminars, dialogue, and the sharing of ideas that replicates how adults work in the real world. There is a move to an international focus with emphasis on languages, economics, and comparative government.

Freshman experience

P.R.I.D.E. Principal Joseph Nohra will lead the design for the high school's new "freshman experience," which will address the difficulties of transition. Freshmen will spend half of each day in freshman experience taking core subjects, and the other half in their small schools taking electives. A more flexible schedule will facilitate mentoring, support, and stronger student/teacher relationships. Freshman teachers will teach only freshmen and teams will have a common planning time. Freshman experience will be housed in one area of the high school.

Improvement of freshman performance

Allison Byrd, coordinator of secondary curriculum, described other plans to improve freshman performance, including more contact with the middle school, doubled instructional time in math and language arts, and changes in summer programming. Jeffrey Johnston, director of student services, noted that the extra support and eased transition would also help students with special needs.

School time

Two proposals are being considered to maximize the time gained by the new 3:34 dismissal:

An alternating day block schedule with four ninety-minute periods a day would allow students to take eight courses. Teachers would teach fewer classes each day, and fewer class changes would save time.

Forty-seven-minute periods with flexibility to combine two periods for a longer class would also allow students to take eight classes a day. Lunch would be 30 minutes.

Support for changes

Board Member Karen Gorman-Jones asked for

more quantitative data supporting the proposed changes and for an explanation of how the plan addresses the current unevenness of racial diversity among the small schools. The administrators pointed out that students will receive more information and be better able to make an informed choice. Furthermore, there is already a move toward more uniform assessment and thus more consistent outcomes among the small schools.

Board Member Kal Zucker asked about financial implications. Superintendent Heuer said that, depending on how many teachers retire, the move to four small schools could save \$1.5 million annually.

LWV observer: Nancy Dietrich.

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

All board members were present.

Race to the Top money

Superintendent Heuer presented and the board approved the Race to the Top grant for \$1.2 million over four years. He said the grant is a one-time award but that the district's administration had a plan in place to ensure the jobs created with this money would not be lost after the funding ends.

Master teacher committee

Ari Klein, a Heights High math teacher and chairman of the master teacher committee, summarized the committee's progress. A master teacher is defined by the Ohio Department of Education as one who "demonstrates excellence inside and outside the classroom... and strives for distinguished teaching and professional growth." Numerous opportunities exist for those who become master teachers, such as leadership positions, advanced licensure, personal and professional growth, and credits toward professional development for re-licensure.

The no-cost application includes 12 pages of narrative providing evidence that the applicant meets the five criteria that define a master teacher. So far 35 teachers have started the application process. The committee is holding support sessions to ensure the applicants know what constitutes good evidence. Klein reviewed the scoring process and said those who achieved the designation would be announced in early June.

Heights High Barbershoppers

Vice President Ron Register announced that the Heights High Barbershoppers was one of two high school groups to compete against 16 professional barbershop groups in the Barbershop Harmony Society's National Mid-winter Convention in Las Vegas, Jan.25-30. They came in eighth and received a standing ovation from the judges.

LWV observer: Cassandra Talerico.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

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Roxboro Middle School holds first spelling bee

Beth Woodside

On Feb. 9, 22 students competed in Roxboro Middle School's first spelling bee.

Sixth grader Isabella Jaffery won after 11 rounds with the word *espionage*.

Prizes included a subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica online and gift certificates to local merchants, such as Game Stop, On the Rise and Big Fun.

After a tiebreaker round, 7th grader Arianna Murray came in second place, spelling correctly *Caribbean*. Eighth grader Kyla Washington-Ross was the 3rd place winner. The final word she spelled correctly *alphanumeric*, was in the 9th round.



Isabella Jaffery is spelling bee champ.

Sixth grader Anya Chew, who likes spelling, participated in the bee. "Maybe it's because I'm pretty good at it," she said. "Maybe it's because I like to flip to a random page in the dictionary and look at an interesting word. Maybe it's because I love the way the letters look grouped in a certain way and I can't help but wonder about our writing system. Whatever the reason, I like spelling."

Because the *Plain Dealer* Cuyahoga County Bee requires that each enrolled school send only one 7th or 8th grader, Arianna Murray will be representing Roxboro Middle School this year. The county bee takes place at Tri-C's Metro Campus Auditorium at 9 a.m.

on March 5.

The school registered the event with the Scripps National Spelling Bee program. The winner of the county bee will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be held June 1-2 in Washington D.C.

More than 30 bee supporters worked on the event. They hope to make it an annual one.

Beth Woodside, bee coordinator, is a spelling enthusiast, Roxboro mom and a violinist in the Cleveland Orchestra. Of all the wild words she has studied over the years, her favorite by far is agathokakological, which means "composed of both good and evil."

Laptops for learning

Joy Henderson

Classroom instruction is changing at Cleveland Heights High School. It is moving from a place where teachers deliver information to students, and then have students give it back at test time, to a model where students are more active participants in the work.

Dell Latitude Netbook laptop computers were distributed to all Heights High students last November to support this approach. "The laptops are another tool for students and teachers," said PRIDE English teacher Jessica Tayse. "Students can use it to write more, access resources, collaborate on projects, and have meaningful discussion about ideas."

"We are all learning to use the laptops—and I mean both the students and the teachers," Tayse continued. Her students are often the best teachers because they were born into the digital age and have no history of doing things "old school."

Many teachers at Heights High are using the laptops as an instructional tool. For example, last November, Jessica Tayse's English 4 students participated in a writing event—National Novel Writing Month—on the NaNoWriMo website. Much of the writing was done on student laptops, in and out of class.

As part of her media literacy lesson, Tayse has students post current event articles on Moodle, an education website, and respond to peer posts. "Some

Three CH-UH choirs make it to Fox 8 Glee competition



The singing and performance groups of Cleveland Heights High School have been bringing their talents to venues throughout the country. Their latest command performance was closer to home. The Cleveland Heights Gospel Choir, Heights High Barbershoppers, and Heights Singers appeared in the Fox 8 "Glee" competition during the Cleveland Auto Show at the I-X Center on Feb. 26. The Barbershoppers recently returned from the Barbershop Harmony Society Midwinter Convention in Las Vegas, where they finished in the top ten. They competed in the youth division against other groups with members who were much older, they were the only group with all high school members.

CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

students respond more freely in writing than they do verbally in class," she said. This also helps her students learn to write short, concise pieces.

Students in Patrick Gleba's sign language course use the laptop webcam to create short videos of themselves signing words or phrases, creating individual sign language dictionaries. "Learning the signs is more efficient with the laptop webcam," said Gleba. During the course, students are expected to learn more than 600 signs. If students need help, they can refer to Gleba's dictionary, a Wiki he created as a resource for his students.

English teacher Lisa Lefstein-Berusch's freshman honors students are part of an international network of classrooms that watched a documentary about Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof's work in Africa. Students in 23 classrooms around the world responded to questions about the movie and to one another. The students were brimming with opinions about the questions of

ethics raised by the film. They wanted their voices to be heard, and were curious to hear the views of students in other places.

As both staff and students learn to use the laptops to engage, teach and learn, some challenges exist. While the tool may be new, the habits of humans are not. Students sometimes forget to bring the computers to class, forget to charge them, and sometimes, a wireless connection is not accessible.

With any human undertaking, flexibility is helpful. "When you work with kids, you have to be flexible, even before laptops," said Tayse.

The advantages of offering laptops to all students are significant. The computers enable students to access more resources in class, at the library and at home. When everyone has a laptop, integrating it into instruction becomes the norm.

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

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Smart boards accelerate technology use in the classroom

Susie Kaeser

"I've been a teacher for a long time, and I am comfortable with chalk. When I found the whiteboard in my room this fall, I wasn't sure I was going to like it," said Belinda Farrow, a kindergarten teacher at Boulevard Elementary School.

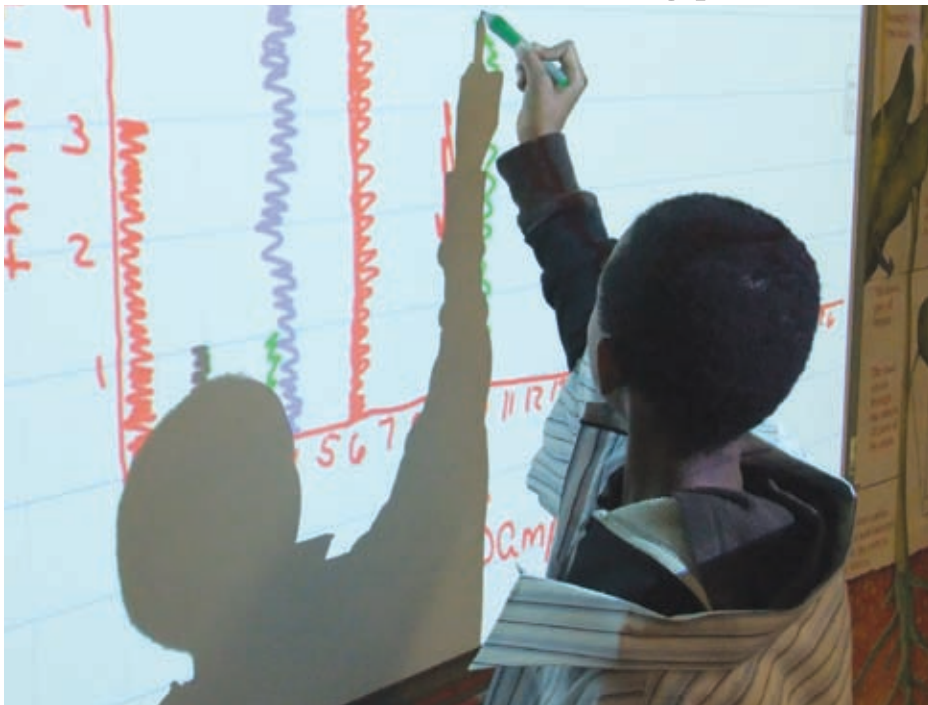
"Now I can't imagine how I got along without it," beamed the excited teacher.

This has been a learning year for the Boulevard staff as they've explored the ins and outs of using an interactive white board. The new technology is one more demand on scarce time, but one that Principal Larry Swoope thinks the staff has found valuable. As he put it, "Boulevard has embraced Smart Boards." Peak into any classroom and you are likely to see them in use. His explanation: teacher-to-teacher support.

Smart Board is the brand name for equipment that links a large 6-foot wide by 5-foot tall white board with a computer and an LCD projector. The combination creates a portal—the entry point—by which a teacher can bring the information and educational activities found in cyberspace into the classroom for everyone to see on the big white "window." This includes teacher-made materials and a wealth of Web-based resources that are making blackboards and movie projectors obsolete. The soft-coated surface is sensitive to touch and allows for interaction with the contents projected on the surface. This makes the board especially inviting to students who can manipulate information with the simple touch of the finger.

Farrow uses her Smart Board an average of 15–20 times a day to take attendance, introduce major concepts, model class work, reinforce ideas or skills and as a center for independent student work. She uses it to create her own games and instructional materials and to access a broad range of lessons that teachers throughout the world share on instructional websites. It's good for every part of the curriculum and the interactive dimension is exciting.

Technology can be intimidating and its introduction can be a turn-off. What is easy to the experienced user can leave new learners confused. For technology to become a useful instructional resource, teachers must know how it works, what it can do and how



A Boulevard fourth grade scientist reviews data using the Smart Board.

to incorporate it into their classroom routines. All this requires time and creativity. Without the right support, and evidence that it is worth their personal investment, it can be a nonstarter.

Teachers have been the key to Farrow's conversion from resister to advocate. The turning point came in the fall when Lisa Evans, her counterpart at Gearity School, volunteered to help Boulevard's kindergarten team. They left the session with a disk full of Evans's favorite Smart Board resources. "This made me feel brave enough to start to find my own," said Farrow.

Consistent guidance and interaction with her colleagues in the primary wing—Tina Reynolds, Christine Snowden and Lauren Eaton—has shortened Farrow's learning curve and kept her motivated. The four teachers frequently collaborate, looking to each other for teaching strategies, advice, feedback and encouragement. Their proximity makes it easy to get quick solutions to a pressing detail, share excitement about a new resource or discuss effective strategies.

Time is critical. It takes a lot of it to sift through the vast possibilities that are just a click away—if you know where to look. It takes an even greater investment to transform this potential into a fluid and effective extension of a teacher's routine. Like so much of teaching, effective use of technology to advance instructional goals will take shape over time. Farrow is over the first hurdle—she has discovered the Smart Board's value and is starting to make it hers.

of teachers.

As the CH-UH school district integrates up-to-date technology into the classroom, teachers will determine if the tool reaches its potential. If Boulevard's experience holds up across the district, it will be teacher collaboration that will help teachers embrace the technology and make it an effective resource for their teaching. As Farrow sees it, "by working as teams and partners, we can overcome our reservations and achieve comfort and even confidence."

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.



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Middle school students represent CH-UH at Jr. Model U.N.



Students from the Middle School Scholars Program (MSSP) at Monticello, Roxboro, and Wiley were delegates at the Jr. Model U.N. Simulation at John Carroll University on Jan. 11 and 12. More than 200 students from eight area middle schools represented 39 countries. Delegates attended committee sessions, discussed real world issues, and ultimately developed resolutions that expressed their collected ideas, opinions and solutions to the problems confronting world leaders today. The Cleveland Council on World Affairs sponsored the event.

Three new businesses to open in Cedar Fairmount district

Kaye Lowe

Luna Bakery & Cafe

John Emerman and Tatyana Rehn, of The Stone Oven Bakery & Cafe, have partnered with local pastry chef Bridget Cavanaugh Thibeault of Flour Girl to bring specialty bakery and café-style dining to the Cedar Fairmount district. Luna Bakery & Café will open this spring at 2482 Fairmount Blvd. in the Heights Medical Building. The shop will be in the former Gwynby Antiques space.

The cafe is the result of the owners' shared commitment to locally produced foods and locally owned businesses. All items in the bakery and café will be

made fresh daily on the premises. Luna patrons will be able to buy and eat baked goods and light fare in a relaxed and cozy atmosphere. Staff will be available for weddings, catering and event consultations. The café will seat approximately 15, with additional patio seating in the summer. For more details, call Emerman at the Stone Oven, 216-932-3003, or visit cedarfairmount.org.

Isabella & Company, CPAs

Raymond Isabella announced that Isabella & Co., an accounting firm, is opening its third location, in the Heights Center Building on Cedar Road. With more than 30 years of experience in

accounting, information technologies, and operational and business management, Raymond G. Isabella, CPA, MT leads an accomplished team of professionals as the founder and principal of the firm. Other locations are in Avon and Oberlin.

Isabella & Co. offers individual and business tax planning and financial management services, with additional focus on growth management. The main goal, Isabella said, is to expand the capabilities of clients so that they may reach higher levels of achievement.

Isabella & Co. will offer local companies a free review of their accounting systems and previous tax

returns, which also includes a creative consultation. To take advantage of this opportunity, call 440-934-5100 or e-mail ray.isabella@isabellaco.com.

North Star Acupuncture

North Star Acupuncture is opening an office in Suite 324 of the Heights Medical Building at 2460 Fairmount Boulevard. Professionals Ed Dee M.A.C., L.A.C. and Joie Hill, M.A.C., L.A.C. will be available by appointment. They also contract with the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.

Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Nationwide survey shows buy-local campaigns pay off

Megan Johnson

For the fourth consecutive year, a national survey has found that independent businesses in communities with active Buy Independent/Buy Local (BIBL) campaigns experienced markedly stronger sales growth compared to those without similar campaigns.

That information is here. The Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA) was founded to initiate such a campaign in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The survey, by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), gathered data from 2,768 independent businesses, including retailers, service providers, restaurants and others. It found that

those in places with a "buy local" initiative reported average revenue growth of 5.6 percent in 2010, compared to 2.1 percent for those without.

The benefit was greatest among retailers. Those in communities with alliances like HIBA reported an average 5.2 percent increase in holiday sales, while retailers without reported an average gain of just 0.8 percent.

Educational campaigns run by independent business alliances and local first groups are underway in about 140 cities nationwide. Nearly two-thirds of respondents said that public awareness of the benefits of supporting locally-owned businesses had increased in the last year.

Business owners in cities with ac-

tive BIBL campaigns reported a wide range of positive effects on their business. Almost half said the campaign had brought in new customers, and 55 percent said it had increased existing customer loyalty. More than two-thirds said local media coverage of independent businesses had increased and 51 percent said local government officials were now more aware and supportive of the needs of independent businesses.

Complete results may be downloaded at www.newrules.org/sites/newrules.org/files/2011-ind-business-survey.pdf

Similar surveys over the last three years found that independent businesses in cities with active BIBL campaigns reported stronger sales each year.

"This survey adds to the growing body of evidence that people are increasingly seeking out independent businesses and that shift is having a tangible impact on the bottom line," said Stacy Mitchell, senior researcher with ILSR, a nonprofit research and educational organization working in partnership with national and local business organizations.

"This survey offers further proof that, with sustained efforts, communities can indeed raise local consciousness and build a culture of support for local entrepreneurs," said Jennifer Rockne, executive director of the American Independent Business Alliance, of which HIBA is a member. "Remarkably, most of the campaigns operated by indepen-

dent business alliances are funded by businesses paying \$20 or less per month in dues. They're getting quite a return on their investment."

HIBA was launched in October 2010 with the mission of building a vital local economy based on independent, locally-owned businesses and helping local entrepreneurs to thrive by uniting and educating the public about the benefits of keeping their money recycling in their own community. Currently, HIBA has about 40 members with annual dues of \$100 per member.

"One of the things we seem to have lost in our modern, wired world is our sense of local community," said Les Proctor, business owner, member and organizing board member of HIBA. "And that's the main reason I'm so excited about the Heights Independent Business Alliance: because we, as independent business owners and Heights residents, have the power to build our community, improve our local economy, and increase the value of our homes. We have everything we need right here."

Visit www.shophiba.org for more information about buy-local initiatives in the community, to learn about volunteer opportunities, and to enroll as a local business, nonprofit or citizen member.

Megan Johnson is the interim executive director of the Heights Independent Business Alliance.

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Parking struggles prompt merchants at Cedar Taylor to begin organizing

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The intersection of Cedar and Taylor roads straddles the border of two cities, and the two sides of the street could not be more different. The west side of Taylor—in University Heights—features a retail plaza anchored by Sherwin Williams and Rite-Aid and with parking in the front, and a drive-through fast-food establishment recently vacated by KFC.

The east side, in Cleveland Heights, contains early 20th-century storefronts that come up to the sidewalk. Built in an era when businesses served the immediate neighborhood and more people arrived on foot, what little parking there is exists behind the buildings, in side lots or in metered spaces on the street.

When Melt Bar & Grilled opened its doors last year, more people discovered the district, and its popularity has created traffic jams and parking hassles for customers and employees of other merchants.

Cedar Taylor merchants met with officials from both cities in January and again in February to discuss parking and other issues, such as crime and vacant storefronts. They also discussed opportunities, such as redevelopment of the former KFC, the community garden fostered by the City of University Heights near Taylor Road School, and creating a cohesive identity for the district.

The mayors of both cities attended the meetings and pledged their sup-

port for working with merchants. This spring Cleveland Heights will install 15-minute-free parking meters in front of Melt, for take-out customers. The city also will address lighting in the parking lot behind Melt, installing new bulbs and adding lights where needed. The Cleveland Heights Police Department agreed to look into putting a beat officer on the street, and pledged to work together with the University Heights police in the district.

Howard Thompson, economic development director for the City of Cleveland Heights, said that addressing the parking issue in its entirety would require long-term planning.

Merchants expressed their desire to spruce up the district with flowers, signage and art, much like the commercial districts at Coventry, Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Lee. This would likely require them to form a merchants association, create a plan and raise funds.

"There are a lot of improvements that we can tackle that can make a very visual impact here," said Alex Quintana, co-owner of Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa. "With a little help, engagement and volunteerism, we'll create an identity for Cedar Taylor. It's long overdue."

The merchants plan to meet again in March. For more information, contact Howard Thompson at 216-291-4878 or hthompson@clvhts.com.

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

Two new businesses open in Coventry Village

Steve Presser

On Feb. 19, **Big Dog Theater** officially opened its doors in the historic Centrum Theater, located at 2781 Euclid Heights Boulevard. 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. The theater will house a training center, offering a challenging selection of classes and workshops. Taught by some of the best instructors in the area and nationally, classes will focus on the novice and the professional performer. All classes and workshops will be held in the Big Dog Studio on the first floor.

Don Mitri, Big Dog Theater founder, is a local actor with extensive performance experience. He was a member of Something Dada Improvisational Theater Co. and played Tony in Cleveland's longest running show "Tony n' Tina's Wedding" at Playhouse Square. Mitri founded and operated the Cleveland Improv Institute and has taught improvisation for more than 10 years.

Go to the theatre's website, www.bigdogtheatre.com, for online reservations or call 216-472-3636.

Mint Café is back, reincarnated as **High Thai'd**. Around the first of the year, owner Matt Kanegkasikorn shut the doors of his popular Coventry Road Thai restaurant. His other restaurant,



MARISSA WILLIAMS

Peppermint Thai, was keeping him extremely busy.

On Jan. 19, Mint Cafe reopened under different management. The business had been sold to longtime employee Tony Chaichana, a Thai native who recently had earned an MBA from Baldwin-Wallace College. "Everything is pretty much the same," Chaichana told me. "Same people, same cooks, same menu."

What is new is Monday service—the restaurant is now open seven days a week. The name High Thai'd recalls Marcia Polevoi's longtime shop High Tide (Rock Bottom), an integral part of Coventry Village for 32 years.

High Thai'd is located at 1791 Coventry Road. Call 216-321-5000 for reservations.

The merchants and community welcome these two new businesses to the Coventry Village neighborhood.

Steve Presser is the marketing director for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District.

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New restaurant on Lee offers something for the sober crowd



Mike Waddy mixes up a "Waddy Style Smoothie" at Club Sober.

Audrey Wynne

Club Sober Juice Bar & Grille, 2214 Lee Road, is a new, alcohol-free and family-oriented restaurant. Owner Mike Waddy opened the Lee Road spot three months ago on the former site of Chuck's Diner. "I'm glad for the opportunity to be located in Cleveland Heights," said Waddy. "My favorite part of doing business here is the friendly people I get to meet every day."

Waddy and members of his family developed Club Sober's diner-style menu. Along with breakfast, which is served all day, the reasonably priced

menu features a variety of hearty items such as the "Waddy World" burger, Philly steak sandwiches and fried chicken. Several types of juices and real fruit "Waddy-Style Smoothies" also complement the menu.

While some may wonder why someone would open a new business in this difficult economy, Mike says the economy helped create the restaurant. "Being laid off from my full-time job gave me the opportunity to expand on my love of cooking and open the restaurant."

Club Sober opens daily at 8 a.m., is open until 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, until midnight on Friday and Saturday, and closes at 5 p.m. on Sundays.

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

Club Sober

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 11 p.m.
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Sun. 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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HIBA offers social media workshop for small businesses

Megan Johnson

Small-business owners who don't know how or why to use online marketing—especially social media—have a chance to learn the basics in a fast, easy workshop hosted by the new Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA).

Small Business Seminar: Social Media 101 is designed to clarify and simplify how Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and other social media websites can become low-cost marketing partners in business.

The seminar will be led by Dawn Hanson and Julie D'Aloiso of The Fairmount Group, an award-winning communications and marketing firm—and HIBA member—located in Cleveland Heights. Content includes a walk-through of the basics of Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn; case studies on how the use of social media has helped local small businesses increase their visibility and improve sales; help in setting up accounts; and sharing of online resources for additional guidance and tips.

The workshop will be held Monday,

March 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Meeting Room A at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. Registration is required.

The event is free to HIBA members and \$35 for nonmembers. Online registration is available at www.shophiba.org. All proceeds support HIBA.

The Heights Independent Business Alliance was launched in October 2010 with the mission of building a vital local economy, based on independent, locally-owned businesses and helping local entrepreneurs to thrive by uniting and educating the public about the benefits of keeping their money recycling within the community. Currently, HIBA boasts a membership of about 40 independent locally-owned businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. The fee for business memberships is \$100 annually. Seminars are available to members at no charge. For more information, visit www.shophiba.org.

Megan Johnson lives in University Heights. She is executive director of The Karen Foundation for MS and is the interim executive director of Heights Independent Business Alliance.

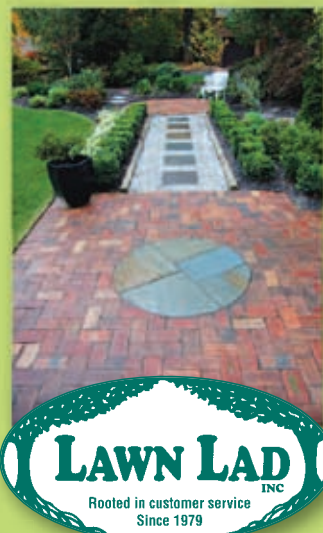
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CIFF to screen film at Cedar Lee Theatre

Debby Samples

For the sixth consecutive year, the Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF) will hold a special screening at its original home, the Cedar Lee Theatre in Cleveland Heights. The film “With Love, From the Age of Reason” screens on Thursday, March 31 at 7:15 p.m. For the third year in a row, this special night is presented in memory Rick Whitbeck, one of the CIFF’s founders.

French director Yann Samuel’s film stars Sophie Marceau as Margaret, the hard-charging businesswoman, who on her 40th birthday, begins receiving bundles of letters she wrote to herself when she was seven. These messages from the past lead Margaret on a journey of rediscovery of herself and of the dreams for herself she had as a little girl.

The Rick Whitbeck Evening at the Cedar Lee Theatre is preceded by a prefilm reception at Nighttown, from 5–6:30 p.m. and will be followed by special dinner offers at Nighttown from 9:30 p.m. to midnight.

Tickets go on sale to CIFF members on Friday, March 4 and to the general public on Friday, March 11. Not a member? Become one at www.clevelandfilm.org or by calling 216-623-



Margaret opens letters she sent to herself when she was seven years old in “With Love, from the Age of Reason.”

3456 x10. Ticket prices for most films are \$10 for CIFF members and \$12 for nonmembers. Tickets are available online at www.clevelandfilm.org, by telephone (1-877-304-FILM), at the Ulmer

& Berne Film Festival Box Office in the lobby of Tower City Cinemas, or by mail using the Program Guide order form. Program Guides will be available throughout the Heights, courtesy of the

Heights Observer, beginning March 1.

Debby Samples is the marketing and membership director for the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Local art plus business equals community

By Megan Johnson and Phillip Hewitt

Heights Arts, under the direction of Peggy Spaeth, has been the advocate for art, artists and community collaboration in our region for more than a decade.

Recognizing that her longtime home is a region brimming with artistic and creative talent, Spaeth knew the importance of connecting these resources with the collective population, and with the unique businesses that make up the distinctive character of the Heights.

A visual artist in her own right, and a strong believer in the importance of art in education, Spaeth became a champion for bringing the arts into the classroom and the community. Working with the PTA, she initiated both the inclusion of certified art teachers in the city’s schools and collaborations with artists to develop creative playgrounds for students. Later, weekly gatherings throughout the summers, known as Party in the Heights, became a precursor to widely attended events, such as the Coventry Street Arts Fair and the Music and Movie series.

It became evident to Spaeth and others that this city of “cultural omnivores” hungered for opportunities to interact with art on all levels, and Heights Arts was conceived with the mission to enrich the quality of life in the Heights through art.

Heights Arts, a nonprofit organization, is responsible for organizing the special touches around the Heights that draw interest and reinforce our community as a destination for visitors and shoppers. Through public art projects, including murals and outdoor sculpture,



neighborhood gatherings, and its own storefront gallery, Heights Arts succeeds at infusing art into every aspect of life, creating a synergy between the arts and the business community.

“Good public art and design can help create a sense of place,” said Spaeth. “That’s how you build community—you find a common vision and you work together to build relationships.”

Currently, Heights Arts is working with property owners to beautify and unify our business districts with window banners in empty storefronts. “These banners fill a void by creating an attractive, inviting environment, and will hopefully increase the value for potential merchants to establish their businesses in our community,” Spaeth added.

To learn more about Heights Arts and its programs, sign up for its e-mail newsletter at www.heightsarts.org and become involved.

Megan Johnson is the interim executive director of the Heights Independent Business Alliance. Phillip Hewitt is a student at John Carroll University and an intern with HIBA.

Heights Arts is a charter member of the Heights Independent Business Alliance. HIBA launched in October 2010 with the mission of building a vital local economy based on independent, locally-owned businesses and helping local entrepreneurs to thrive by uniting and educating the public about the benefits of keeping their money recycling within their own community. To learn more, go to www.shophiba.org.

CityMusic Cleveland to present Dylana Jenson

Katherine Bulava

CityMusic Cleveland will present critically acclaimed but reclusive violinist Dylana Jenson in its March 16–20 concert series. The Cleveland Heights performance is Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m., at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Boulevard.

Joel Smirnoff will conduct Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s “Violin Concerto in D, Op.35” and Georges Bizet’s “Symphony in C.”

Reservations are required for free childcare services. Call 216-321-5800.

Dylana Jenson was the first woman and, at 17, the youngest to win the Silver Medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition, thereby breaking gender barriers on the international classical music scene.

Jenson’s is a story of struggle against prejudice and triumph through the beauty of music. When she chose to

marry at 21, her wealthy benefactor demanded his instrument back believing a married woman could not be serious about her art. After a long struggle to reclaim her voice, Jenson has reemerged on the classical music scene at 49, capturing all the sadness and longing of her struggle in the magnificence of her music.

Conductor Joel Smirnoff received a lifetime achievement award at this year’s Grammy’s. He is a recurring CityMusic Cleveland conductor and has appeared nationally and internationally as a conductor.

Keeping its commitment to exposing new audiences to the finest quality music, CityMusic Cleveland is proud to add Jenson’s artistry to its upcoming performance series.

Katherine Bulava is the president of Hatha Communications.

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WALKABILITY continued from page 1

coffee shops, parks, and other amenities. If you are looking for new sights, the history/architecture section of the City of Cleveland Heights website, www.clevelandheights.com/historyarch.asp, includes a new walking tour of Grant Deming’s Forest Hill Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. If you need motivation, consider getting a dog and joining your neighborhood dog owners in trips around the block—just remember to keep your dog on a leash and pick up the poop. If you prefer human companionship, follow a time-honored tradition and form a walking group in your neighborhood.

The walkability of Cleveland Heights should pay off in the long term. Increasing numbers of real-estate agents are mentioning walkability to prospective home buyers. Furthermore, a recent

study shows that higher Walk Scores correlate with higher home values and lower foreclosure rates. In other words, it’s really using your head to use your feet!

Mary Dunbar is a cofounder of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.

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Western Reserve Chorale to perform Michael Haydn’s Requiem

Joanne Poderis

The Western Reserve Chorale, under the leadership of artistic director J. D. Goddard, will perform Johann Michael Haydn’s “Requiem in C Minor” in its concert on Sunday, March 13, at 7 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church, 13001 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights.

Johann Michael Haydn (1737–1806) was the younger brother of the more famous composer, Franz Joseph Haydn. In 1762, the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, Count Sigismund Schrattenbach, appointed Michael Haydn court composer and concertmaster. Michael Haydn was a working musician and composer at the same time as Leopold Mozart and as the young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was coming of age.

The period of 1771 to 1772 was a difficult one for Michael Haydn. First, his only child, Aloysia, died just before her first birthday and in December, Archbishop Sigismund passed away. The passion contained in the Requiem is most likely the result of these combined



Western Reserve Chorale performs at Grace Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights.

losses. All of the members of the court ensemble, including Wolfgang and Leopold Mozart, would have performed at the Requiem’s premiere in January 1772.

This piece must have had a profound effect on the younger Mozart, because Mozart scholar H. C. Robbins Louden states that this Requiem is “indisput-

ably the direct model for Mozart’s own Requiem written 20 years later.”

The chorus will also perform Handel’s “Zadok the Priest,” Mendelssohn’s “How lovely are the messengers” and Vaughan-Williams’s “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing.”

The Western Reserve Chorale Orchestra will join with the chorus, as will guest soloists soprano Amanda Joyce Abbott, alto Joanne Uniatowski, tenor Timothy Culver and baritone Brian Keith Johnson. Guest organist will be Daniel Hathaway.

The concert is free to the general public, and all attendees are invited to a reception following the concert. Parking is free and there is handicapped accessibility.

For more information, call 216-791-0061 or visit the WRC website at www.westernreservechorale.org.

Joanne Poderis is the executive director of and the accompanist for the Western Reserve Chorale. She has lived in Cleveland Heights for more than 40 years.

Heights Youth Theatre presents ‘The Wiz’



Heights-area students practice their roles for Heights Youth Theatre’s production of ‘The Wiz.’

Mary Patton

Winged monkeys, tornadoes, silver slippers, green sunglasses, witches, Winkies, Munchkins, little dogs, flower children, and a mice squad—OH MY! From the story of Dorothy and her friends to a set and costumes made of recycled materials, Heights Youth Theatre (HYT) presents “The Wiz,” directed by Treva Offutt.

Set in the present, Dorothy is forced outside of her comfort zone and into the land of Oz where she, the Tinman, Scarecrow and Lion must look within to find their way back to themselves. With puppets, musical genres ranging from gospel and disco to R&B and rock; and dance styles from modern to hip-hop, African dance and beyond, this soulful musical promises to have you oiling up your joints, finding your courage, trusting your instincts, and feeling the love.

The cast features 115 local students in grades 1 through 12 and six professional musicians playing the energetic score. The leading players are Sydney Fieseler (Dorothy), Christina Ciofani (Addaperle), Brycen Z. Hunt (Scarecrow), Kaleigh Wilkie-Smith (Tinman), Malcolm White (Lion), Kayla Hodge (Wiz), Lauryn Hobbs (Evillene), Victoria McGregor (Glinda), Abbey Fox (Aunt Em) and Gus Mahoney (Uncle Henry).

Show dates and times are Friday, March 4, 11 and 18, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 12 and 19, at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m. All shows are at Wiley Auditorium, 2181 Miramar Blvd. Tickets are \$9 for general admission, and \$8 for seniors and children under 6. For details, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

Mary Patton is a public relations consultant and University Heights resident.

Growing up Baroque

Margi Griebing-Haigh

Veronika Skuplik, an early music expert and violinist from Germany, will guest conduct Apollo’s Fire in “Mysteries, Sacred and Profane: 17th Century German Chamber Music,” on March 4 and 5. The concerts are at 8 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Boulevard.

Conceived in 1992, Apollo’s Fire has grown under the creative and single-minded guidance of conductor Jeanette Sorrell. In every way, Sorrell is the mother of the Cleveland Baroque orchestra, Apollo’s Fire, which has grown from a small, but gifted, regional troupe to one whose recordings are broadcast to audiences throughout the world.

Like any ambitious mother of talented offspring, Sorrell was eager to take her growing “child” on its first European tour, which she did last November. Apollo’s Fire delighted audiences, received standing ovations in Spain and the Netherlands, and amazed a capacity crowd at London’s famed Wigmore Hall.

Of dozens of recent reviews, London’s *Classical Music* magazine opined, “Apollo’s Fire is one of the brightest lights of period-instrument playing in the United States . . . arguably the most distinctive in sound, and memorable in style. Its trademark qualities: expressive subtlety, exuberance and passion.”

Now in its 19th year, so confident is Sorrell in the musical reliability of Apollo’s Fire that she is entrusting its next set of concerts to a foreign woman she met on the Internet. This is not as risky as it sounds: Sorrell and Veronika Skuplik met in person and worked well together last season.

Skuplik, who stole hearts in her performances here last season, will return on March 4 to lead the Mysteries program of intimate and soulful music with compelling guest baritone soloist, Jeffrey Strauss, and an ensemble of string quartet, theorbo (a long-necked



Veronika Skuplik Jeffrey Strauss

lute), and organ.

Skuplik sees no difference between European and American audiences, characterizing both as “interested people I love to play for.” Calling the Apollo’s Fire musicians “open minded,” she does not feel that she must repeat someone else’s musical interpretation, being free instead to find her own colors and expressions.

And what expressive music this is! The works of German and Austrian Baroque composers Biber, Tunder, Bruhns, and Schmelzer are dripping with pathos, as are those of Johann Christoph Bach, whom Skuplik calls one of the most expressive composers to ever write in the Baroque style.

This repertoire gives the musicians freedom to express rhetoric and gestures, “like singers or actors.” The Mysteries program, aptly presented during the emotional season of Lent, supplies plenty of virtuosity in deeply passionate works, which include sighing laments, penitential psalms, and connections to life, hope, and salvation.

Tickets start at \$21. Discounted student, senior, and young adult tickets are available for purchase in select seating sections. Call 800-314-2535 or purchase them online at www.apollofire.org. Karina Fox, violist, will present a preconcert talk one hour before each performance of Mysteries.

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

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SUMMER CAMPS AT THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT...



Music Builders



Piano Camp

Mom & Dad,

The Music Settlement is offering some great camps this summer!

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Chamber Music Camp II	7/11 - 7/15
Brass & Wind Camp	7/18 - 7/22
Musical Theatre Camp	7/18 - 7/29
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

P.S. If we register before April 1, 2011, we'll receive a 10% discount!

Register before April 1, 2011 and receive a 10% discount

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UPCOMING FREE EVENTS AT THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT

March 6, Arts for Us: featuring 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.
April 9, Suzuki Recital, 2 p.m.
April 10, Vocal Performance Class, 2 p.m.

April 14, Student Recital, 7 p.m.
April 17, Sonata/Sonatina Fest, 3 p.m.
April 25, Bobby Jackson: The Jazz Mind, 7 p.m.
April 29, Suzuki Recital, 6 p.m.
April 30, Student Recital, 2 p.m.

Programs are generously funded by:



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The Rainforest Car Wash, in Cleveland Heights, is now open. Located on the corner of Mayfield and Middlehurst (enter from Middlehurst), this state of the art car wash is open to the public. Featuring a rain forest theme both inside and out, The Rainforest Car Wash will be the best car wash you've ever had.

