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Another new historic district for CH

Kara Hamley O'Donnell

Beginning more than a century ago, Cleveland Heights developed piecemeal as Cleveland burst its bounds. Developers acquired tracts of land, laid out streets, installed sewers and utilities, set standards for homes and sold lots. Reflecting those beginnings, the city is gradually becoming a patchwork of historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Cleveland Heights is poised for the addition of its tenth historic district, to be known as Shaker Farm Historic District.

Shaker Farm comprises the farmland that belonged to the Shakers north of Doan Brook, Lower Lake and Horseshoe Lake. Facilitated by a streetcar system running along the median strip on Fairmount Boulevard, about 60 percent of the homes in the district were built between 1910 and 1919. Many will become century homes in this decade.

The Shaker Farm district is where the Van Sweringen brothers had their first genuine success in real estate. It was here that they created the formula that led to their success in developing the rest of the Shaker farmland, mostly in the 1920s, which became the City of



JACK SULAK

English Colonial Revival homes, such as this one designed by architects Walker & Weeks, are the most common style in the new historic district.

Shaker Heights. The Van Sweringens' Shaker Farm experience also set the stage for their other real estate developments and for establishing a railroad empire.

A public meeting about the new district and what historic district designation means will be held at the Lee Road Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

The meeting will feature a presentation by a representative from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. In addition,

Mary Dunbar, who submitted the nomination for the district, will explain its scope, as well as its architectural and historic merits. Among those assisting in the nomination process were Jack Sulak, Marjorie Kitchell, Bill Collins, Kara Hamley O'Donnell, Ken Goldberg, Leslie Marting and Diane Christ.

Cleveland Heights's other historic districts, and the year they were listed in the National Register, are:

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Cleveland Heights passes revised zoning rule for adaptive reuse in neighborhoods

Lewis Pollis

At a public meeting on Aug. 15, Cleveland Heights City Council voted unanimously to pass an ordinance that amended the zoning code "to adopt regulations for adaptive reuse of existing institutional and other nonresidential buildings in residential districts."

Dennis Wilcox, chair of the planning and development committee, introduced the ordinance, which passed with a 4-0 vote (three council members were absent) on its second read. The legislation was amended after citizens made "quite a few comments about this piece of legislation," Wilcox said.

The new rule allows for vacant nonresidential buildings in residential districts to be adapted for reuse by nonretail for-profit corporations. Allow-

able uses include multi-family housing, offices, industrial design, research and development, and education and recreation classes, so long as there are no physical modifications or "externalities" of the businesses that negatively impact the residents or the character of the neighborhood.

Based on comments from the public and the planning commission, the new law includes an additional clause emphasizing that any businesses participating in the adaptive reuse will be "compatible with the residential nature of the neighborhoods with strict controls to avoid negative impact upon neighboring properties."

An emergency clause that would have caused the legislation to take effect immediately (instead of in 30 days) was

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FutureHeights and League of Women Voters to host Oct. 6 candidate forum

Deanna Bremer Fisher

FutureHeights and the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area will host a forum on Oct. 6 to introduce the candidates for local elections who will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. The forum, which will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, will feature candidates for the Cleveland Heights and University Heights city councils, the CH-UH Board of Education and municipal judge.

Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights, will moderate the forum. The evening will follow the traditional League of Women Voters procedures for nonpartisan forums. Each candidate will give a brief statement, followed by a question-and-answer session with written questions from the audience. Questions will be screened by a league committee for relevance and to avoid duplication. For more information, visit www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org.

FutureHeights and the League of Women Voters will publish a voters guide in the October print edition of the *Heights Observer*, which is available at the city halls, schools, libraries, reli-

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CH council members list qualities they seek in new candidates

Lewis Pollis

With Kenneth Montlack's decision not to seek reelection to the Cleveland Heights City Council, there will be at least one new face on council in 2012—and two council members who are not up for reelection this year have some ideas about what they're looking for in a new teammate.

Council Member Cheryl Stephens, who was elected in 2009, said "attention to the needs of our community" is the most important quality for a council member to possess. "That means that

when other people go home, you're still willing to listen and talk to people," she explained. "You've got to make time for everyone in Cleveland Heights."

Meanwhile, fifth-term council member, Bonita Caplan, said a fresh face was an important quality in and of itself. "People who are new usually do come with some new perspective, a new way of looking at things, and new energy," she said.

Caplan said another important quality is open-mindedness, both in dealing with council and with citizens. A rigid view of the world doesn't work, accord-

ing to Caplan. "I don't want somebody like that and I would never vote for [that person]," she said.

In addition, Caplan said council members must be realistic in their plans for the city. She dislikes the "pie-in-the-sky promises" she said candidates sometimes make, and added that what people think are simple problems are actually much harder than they look, noting, "If they weren't complicated, they would be taken care of."

Caplan believes teamwork skills are also vital, as is having the courage to

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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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What's wrong with the police blotter



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

Here's the answer to a question that, to my knowledge, nobody has asked: Why doesn't the *Heights Observer* run police blotter items?

The police blotter is a series of one- or two-sentence media reports on arrests and other activities by local police. When reported in the news, a blotter item looks like this:

Theft: An Elm Street man reported his 2001 Chrysler broken into sometime between 6 p.m., Aug. 20, and 8 a.m., Aug. 21. His iPod and connector were taken along with his wallet containing, among other things, his driver's license and a debit card. The man had left his car unlocked.

Police reports are public documents and publishing them has been standard practice by the media for decades. I'm aware of three sources that publish police blotter items from our community: *The Sun Press*, *The Plain Dealer* (which reprints selected *Sun Press* items), and sporadically, *Patch.com*.

The *Heights Observer* aspires to be more than a source of news. It's not

for profit and community owned, and is intended to be a community-building tool. It exists to enable local people and institutions to share their thoughts and ideas for the community in an open forum. It aspires to help one hand know what the other is doing—with the possibility that they may choose to work together.

Blotter items don't serve this purpose. **They don't provide an accurate picture.** Published blotter reports do not list every police action that takes place. Instead, they are selective, providing a sample of what a reporter finds to be of interest, often highlighting the worst and the weirdest.

They don't tell the whole story. Blotter items don't follow a case through to provide the outcome or context. Here's how Jesus' resurrection would be covered in the police blotter:

Flash mob: A man rode a donkey into the city today, creating a disturbance as people put coats and tree branches in his path. Centurions dispersed the crowd and told him to move on.

They are misleading and demoralizing. If blotter reports were comprehensive, contained follow-through, and were accompanied by meaningful data on the location and nature of all

police activity, they would provide a meaningful public service.

Instead, blotter items treat all police calls equally. They highlight incidents that make us feel bad about the community, and give the wrong impression to people outside our boundaries.

This doesn't mean public safety information isn't important. If there's a crime wave at Cain Park, or if a resident is brutally assaulted in front of his home, people need to know about it. There may be ways to provide more meaningful information about the work our police force does day after day.

I recently attended a meeting involving Cleveland Heights residents and city officials in which this very issue was discussed. The day we figure it out, the *Observer* will gladly pass along the information.

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 newspaper.

Excerpts from recent post at blogs.heightsobserver.org Before the city council elections, let's define 'excellent'

The excerpts in this blog post represents the opinion of Bob Rosenbaum, as posted on the blog site. It does not represent the opinion of the Heights Observer or FutureHeights. To comment on this post, go to blogs.heightsobserver.org. To express your own opinion, send a letter to the editor: info@futureheights.org.

"If you want to get a rise out of a Cleveland Heights City Council member, float the suggestion that our city government is just OK.

For example, several weeks ago—in the aftermath of the Coventry flash mob and an unrelated violent assault near Lee Road—I sent a note to the entire council suggesting that the job of public safety director could be taken more seriously.

The position—which exists by virtue of the city charter—has been handled for years as just one of many responsibilities of the city manager.

I wondered if, in these challenging times, the job may deserve somebody's undivided attention—preferably that of someone with a history of innovation in the field of public safety and law enforcement.

Most council members never responded. One responded thoughtfully. And one wrote the following (I'm choosing not to reveal who, in recognition that all of us are occasionally subject to not-so-great moments at the keyboard):

You have taken disjointed pieces of information, with little bits of truth, and bits of untruths, and with no solid information and have made judgements that first of all are off base, and second of all sort of treat all of us as tho we have our heads in the sand."

"When it comes to handling the day-to-day issues of their constituents, our council members are attentive and often

effective. If you bring a specific complaint or problem to any one of them, you can generally count on prompt follow-up from an appropriate city hall staff member.

But these things are the workaday basics of the job, just as being able to hit and catch are basics of baseball. But the fact that these things get done doesn't make our government excellent any more than being able to hit and catch a baseball makes somebody a Major League prospect.

Excellence would result in serious discussion about innovations in public safety that are fresher than the broken-window theory. Excellence would lead to newer ideas for working with other communities to reduce costs and increase our region's economic well-being.

Excellence would be demonstrated

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All
Ages

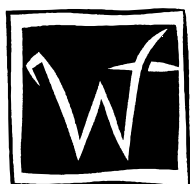
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Fencepiration lifts spirits

To the Editor:

Driving on Cedar Road near Warrensville, we notice the progress being made in turning a utilitarian steel fence into a piece of public art. It brings a note of peace and hope to our community. This program, sponsored by Heights Arts in collaboration with the Heights Youth Club and the Artsworks program of Young Audiences of Cleveland, has given young people of the area a positive and creative outlet.

Congratulations to Andrea Joki, program director of Heights Arts; artists Debbie Apple-Presser and Carol Hummel; Whole Foods, which provided food and a place to cool off; and artists of all ages. Fencepiration has given us a real lift to our spirits!

Marilyn Meadows
Cleveland Heights

Natural gas fracking is focus of eye-opening film

Catherine Podojil

On Aug. 18, a group of about 30 people sat at the Lee Road Library, mostly in stunned silence, watching the film "Gasland," a screening sponsored by the Burning River Anti-Fracking Network. Written and directed by Josh Fox, the movie records his journey across the country to view the effects of hydraulic fracturing. Also known as "fracking," the process is the gas and oil industry's latest attempt to extract more money from the earth.

The problem, as Fox learned, is that despite the industry's claim that fracking is the way to a safe and clean energy future, the process destroys the land, water and air wherever it is used. It involves forcing water filled with more than 500 chemicals, many of them toxic, both vertically and horizontally into a shale formation. The process loosens the natural gas that resides there, and poisons the earth and water below and above the surface.

In some cases, fracking is used to coax more gas out of existing wells; in others, new wells are drilled. Thanks to former Halliburton exec and vice president, Dick Cheney, the fracking industry is exempt from regulations of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

Residents in the states where fracking is common show Fox how their tap water catches fire; how their wells—which had run clear for decades—run brown and black; how their farm animals and household pets are losing their hair; and how their local streams and rivers are so toxic that dead animals line their banks. In addition, people are ill with neurological conditions and cancer, or just plain unending poor health.

Wherever it has operated, the fracking industry has denied all culpability in the destruction of land, river systems, water wells, livestock and human families.

Its trail of deceit is coming to Ohio. According to Ben Shapiro, a grassroots anti-fracking activist, the oil and gas industry is spending millions to get a foot in the door in Geauga County, which has the second largest number of existing gas wells in the state, all potentially frackable. Some Ohio

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Passive house construction is an opportunity for Cleveland Heights

Chuck Miller

This house is nothing short of amazing! It's a game-changer! I don't know any other way to describe the combination of "passive" features, such as sun-harvesting triple-pane windows and a super insulated and sealed building shell with "active" advanced low-energy consuming electric heating and cooling equipment, resulting in a state-of-the-art performance package that can't be beat. This is the approach used when designing a house to meet the high certification standards established by the Passive House Institute US.

Passive solar house design and construction began in the United States in the 1970s and evolved in Europe. More than a decade ago, a detailed construction evaluation system was developed and is administered by the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt, Germany. Today there are more than 10,000 European Passive House buildings, including offices and schools. The resulting structures have an energy requirement of nearly 90 percent less than that needed by more conventionally constructed buildings.

The PNC SmartHome Cleveland is the first Passive House open to the public in the United States and is on display at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History through early October. It is part of the new climate change exhibit that will be at the museum through the end of the year.

The SmartHome will live on after October, when it will be moved to a permanent site on Wade Park Avenue and offered for sale to a private owner. The new owner will not only own an important part of modern Cleveland history, but also will enjoy low energy bills, a draft-free home, a quiet interior environment and a general level of quality not found in conventional homes today. These "must have" features will represent the biggest change in home construction since the introduction of air-conditioning in the 1950s. Green building has grown up and is here to stay.

A major goal of the PNC SmartHome exhibit is to introduce Passive House building concepts and innovative construction details, materials and technology to Ohio and the Great Lakes region. What are the prospects for bringing this building concept to Cleveland Heights? There seem to be many opportunities.

Already, a new home based on Passive House technology is planned for the Ambler Heights neighborhood. However, more modest applications of this energy-saving building technique can be applied to home preservation and rehab projects, such as those being considered by the Home Repair Resource Center and homeowners throughout the Heights community. New infill single- and multi-family housing designs can incorporate super-insulated and sealed walls, roofs and foundations. Highly efficient heat pump systems, with energy recovery ventilation systems, can be used instead of conventional furnaces. Triple



PHOTO: BIDOTY & MILLER ARCHITECTS

Interior of the PNC SmartHome at the Cleveland Natural History Museum.

glass windows, often too expensive for a replacement option, are more easily fit into new construction budgets.

Beyond residential projects, this new design and construction method could apply to commercial and mixed-use buildings at such sites as the undeveloped parcels at Meadowbrook and Lee roads, and at the intersection of Cedar Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. These construction methods result in buildings that retain much more long-term value and durability, with predicted life spans of up to 300 years.

I look forward to the next decade when this will become the new way we

build toward sustainability and significant energy conservation.

The design and construction team for the PNC SmartHome included David Beach, director of the Green City Blue Lake Institute at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Bill Doty and Kevin Cieszykowski of Doty & Miller Architects; Mark Hoberecht of HarvestBuild; Chris Kontur of CPK Construction; Mike McAndrews of Knight & Stolar Landscape Architects; and Jeff Walters of Panzica Construction.

Chuck Miller is the architect for the PNC SmartHome.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

JULY 18, 2011

All council members were present.

Citizen comments about curfew law

Several citizens, including renters, homeowners, building owners, and representatives of Imperial Women, Youth of Coventry, and Youth Empowerment (a summer jobs program), spoke about the recently imposed youth curfew, including concerns about youth commuting home from work through the affected business districts. Other speakers thanked the police for their sensitive and appropriate interventions. The city will send a letter to all addresses in the city explaining the curfew and its exceptions. Council will be talking with the city's representative on Cuyahoga County Council about a regional approach to the flash mob problem, which is not unique to Cleveland Heights.

Taylor Road reconstruction

A resident of Taylor Road complained about the planning process for the Taylor Road reconstruction that will begin in August. Council members responded that a public meeting on the project would be scheduled soon.

Community Development Block Grants

Council allocated Community Development Block Grant funding for the period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012. These include the provision of:

- \$27,000 for the Center for Families and Children's Pinpoint Program at the RapArt Center, a program targeting middle school youth suspended from Cleveland Heights schools

- \$14,000 to the Heights Community Congress for assistance with its programs to promote integration and fair housing
- \$7,800 for operating expenses for the Heights Emergency Food Center, which serves Cleveland Heights, Lyndhurst, South Euclid and University Heights, and provides needy families with a three-day supply of food once a month
- \$30,000 to the Heights Youth Club for its Project Learn: The Educational Enhancement Program, which will serve 439 youths with a minimum of 51 percent of the youth coming from low-and moderate-income households
- \$6,000 to the 40-member Noble Nela Merchants Association for assistance with the administrative costs of streetscape management and marketing of the district

2012 tax budget

Council adopted the 2012 tax budget. Council Member Dennis Wilcox commented that this is the first shot at the 2012 budget, which is \$800,000 less than the 2011 budget. Wilcox and Mayor Edward Kelley criticized the Republican-controlled state legislature for balancing the state budget on the backs of local governments, including cities, schools and libraries. Elimination of the estate tax will make matters worse for 2013.

Tax Incentive Review Council

Council approved the appointments of council members Cheryl L. Stephens and Dennis R. Wilcox to the Tax Incentive Review Council, which is set up by the county and reviews any exemptions from taxation.

LWV observer: Blanche Valancy.

AUGUST 1, 2011

Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans was absent.

Hampshire Road apartment parking

Council Member Dennis Wilcox introduced, on first reading, legislation to authorize an agreement with SP Hampshire, the owner of an apartment building at 2749 Hampshire Road, for the creation of five parking spaces to be located partially on SP Hampshire's land and partially on City Lot #3. These will be constructed by the owner, maintained by the city, and available only to residents of the apartment building. The city will sell the five permits to the owner for the price of two permits and this will help with parking congestion on Hampshire.

Ken Montlack announces retirement

Council Member Ken Montlack announced that he will leave council at the end of his current term, December 31, 2011. He said his 24 years on council had been challenging, interesting, usually enjoyable, and personally rewarding. He said fresh eyes and perspectives will benefit Cleveland Heights, but he will miss the daily interaction with staff and his council colleagues. During the remaining five months he will work earnestly and continue raising his voice. Mayor Kelley commented on the length and depth of Montlack's time on council, and stated that it seems he has served longer than anyone other than Mayor Cain. Kelley will have more to say about Montlack as the end of his service approaches.

Citizen appointments

Council approved the appointments of Benjamin Hoen of the Millikin neighborhood and Ivy Washington Marshall of Oxford to the Community



Advisory Council to fill unexpired one-year terms ending December 31, 2011, and also the appointments of Clarenica Allen and Jody Taslitz to the committee on aging, for two-year terms, September 2011 to September 2013.

Recreation regulations and rates

Council approved use regulations and rates for admission and other services for the community center and parks for the 2011-12 fall/winter season. There are no major changes. Some nonresident fees have gone down and some hockey and speed skating fees have gone up by small amounts.

LWV observer: Blanche Valancy.

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 "lww-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.

CHPD's 'Meet Your Police' gives a voice to resident's frustrations

James Helmsworth

Since March, the Cleveland Heights Police Department has been giving residents an opportunity to meet with officers through its Meet Your Police program. Every Thursday night, from 6 to 8 p.m., the department hosts an open meeting in the basement of city hall, where community members can discuss their concerns.

Despite the diversity of disturbances to which officers regularly respond, one topic has dominated recent sessions: unruly youth. Investigator Falisa Barry, the department representative at the Aug. 11 meeting, said "the chief complaints right now are juvenile complaints."

Although raised by residents throughout Cleveland Heights, the complaints are startlingly similar—concerning large groups of teenage boys, whom residents say are roaming the streets, making noise, trespassing and harassing people.

Tensions between youths and adults have been rising since the Coventry Street Fair disturbance in late June. Toward the end of that event, youths from all over the Cleveland Metro area converged on Coventry Road, where they started fighting and creating commotion. Forty police officers were dispatched to the scene, and nine arrests were made.

In response to the mayhem, a six o'clock curfew was instituted in the city.

While some have balked at the severity of this measure, those present at recent Meet Your Police meetings seemed largely disappointed in the ineffectiveness of this measure, informing the police that the youths in their neighborhoods seem rowdier than ever.

Some Heights residents are taking matters into their own hands. One attendee of the Aug. 11 meeting asked Barry about the legality of installing cameras on his property, hoping that the devices would deter youths from trespassing on it. Investigator Barry informed him that if the cameras covered only his property, it was legal.

The Heights's problem with unruly youth may run deeper than simply minor disturbances. Anton Billings, in attendance at the Aug. 18 meeting, runs Rent-a-Dad, an intervention program for delinquent teens. He claims that there is a gang problem in the area about which local residents are "in denial," and hopes to start working with police to bring order back to the community.

Meanwhile, Barry and her colleagues will continue enforcing the curfew. There is a \$50 fine for the parents or guardians of children apprehended after 6 p.m. in the Coventry Village and Cedar Lee business districts.

James Helmsworth is a student at Oberlin College and a Heights Observer intern.

NEW CANDIDATES continued from page 1

speak one's mind. The latter usually isn't an issue, she said, explaining, "If you're running for council, you have to have a certain level of guts to begin with."

Stephens believes that having been part of diverse groups (in terms not only of race, but also of working style and backgrounds) is a helpful prerequisite, but no single experience can prepare a candidate to serve on council. She said she would appreciate having another "numbers nerd" to work with. Having knowledge of specific areas, however, is less important for council members than being "willing to learn if they don't know."

Caplan, meanwhile, wants someone with financial experience because no current member has that. Being on council involves "a lot of on-the-job training," she said, but added that candidates will be fine "as long as they understand money and how things work."

Beyond that, Caplan said she wants someone whose background is different from those of the current council members. Someone with experience in retail, engineering, or art, she said, would bring a different perspective.

Stephens said the hardest part about being on council, which the candidates might not expect, is the time commitment. In addition to regular meetings, council members represent the city at commission meetings and

community events. Stephens noted that sometimes her council duties keep her busy four nights a week. "That takes a willingness to invest a lot of personal and family time," she said.

In addition to the amount of time the job takes, Caplan said it is frustrating when she cannot help solve a citizen's problem, either because of monetary constraints or something else. "We all want to please everybody all the time, and it's really hard when you can't," she said.

Despite the challenges, both Stephens and Caplan believe that whichever candidates win, they will be pleasantly surprised by how fulfilling it is to serve on council.

"City council is one of the best things I've done with my time," Stephens said. "I know what I do makes a difference, and I encourage other people who think that their contribution will help make Cleveland Heights a better place . . . to run for office."

"You can help make people's lives better," Caplan said. "You really can, and it's really great to do that."

"I feel like I've been going to school for 18 years," she added, "I've learned a ton, and I've loved it."

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and sophomore at Brown University.

HISTORIC DISTRICT continued from page 1

- Overlook Road Carriage House District, 1974;
- Fairmount Boulevard District, 1976;
- Shaker Village District, 1984 (mostly present-day Shaker Heights, but includes some of North Park Boulevard);
- Forest Hill Historic District, 1986 (extends into East Cleveland);
- Fairhill Road Village District, 1990;
- Ambler Heights Historic District, 2002;
- Euclid Golf Historic District, 2002;
- Inglewood Historic District, 2009;
- Grant Deming's Forest Hill Allotment,

2010.

For more information, contact Kara Hamley O'Donnell at 216-291-4885 or by e-mail at kodonnell@clvhts.com. For a map of the district boundaries, go to www.heightsobserver.org/read/2011/08/19/another-new-historic-district-for-cleveland-heights. For answers to frequently asked questions about historic districts, go to www.cr.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm.

Kara Hamley O'Donnell is the historic preservation planner for the city of Cleveland Heights.

Jeff Coryell for Cleveland Heights City Council

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Kenneth Montlack will not seek reelection; other incumbents running again

Lewis Pollis

Kenneth Montlack, a sixth-term member of the Cleveland Heights City Council has announced that he will not run for reelection this November. "A person with new perspectives, new different ways of looking at things . . . would be helpful for the city," said Montlack, whose term expires Dec. 31.

Montlack is currently the chair of the public safety and health committee, but he has chaired all six council committees in his 24 years on council. "If you live long enough, these things happen," he said.

Dennis Wilcox and Phyllis Evans, the other two council members whose terms expire at the end of the year, are

running to keep their seats. Wilcox officially announced his intentions in June, while Evans said she plans to have an official kick-off in September.

Council Member Jason Stein, who was appointed to replace Mark Tumeo after he accepted a position in Florida, is running unopposed in a separate category to keep his seat for the remaining two years of Tumeo's term. The terms of Mayor Edward Kelley and council members Bonita Caplan and Cheryl Stephens also expire in December 2013.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and sophomore at Brown University.

Meet the non-incumbent CH council candidates

Lewis Pollis

There will be at least one new face on council in January 2012. Although the four nonincumbents running agree on some things, each would bring a different perspective to council.

Mary Dunbar is running for council again, after losing her 2009 bid by 219 votes. A 41-year resident of Cleveland Heights who spent 22 years working in investor relations, she believes her knowledge of the community, as well as her financial and communications expertise would make her an effective council member. "I'm used to managing projects and having them come in on budget," she said.

As cofounder of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition, Dunbar wants to make Cleveland Heights a more bicycle-friendly community, which she said is what "people are wanting now." She also served as president of the Fairfax Elementary Parent-Teacher Association and has helped in the effort to add the Shaker Farm neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places.

She considers attracting more residents and businesses to Cleveland Heights to be the most important issue the city faces, and says that city government needs to work more closely with the school district, nearby cities, and residents to make this happen.

Keba Sylla also ran unsuccessfully for council in 2009. A 15-year resident of Cleveland Heights and an officer on the Citizen Advisory Committee, he has a Ph.D. in public administration and an M.B.A. in criminal justice studies. He believes his experience in these fields would help him "bring a new leadership" to city council.

Sylla said safety and security would be his top priorities, and that he would focus not only on responding to crimes but also on preventing them. He also said government transparency was an important issue and pledged to hold regular meetings for the purpose of hearing from residents about their concerns, as well as informing them of council's actions.

Making all CH residents feel included economically, socially, and culturally is important. "I would like to make sure

people understand . . . I'm here to fight for them and for the City of Cleveland Heights," he said.

Jeff Coryell is running for council for the first time. He is a 17-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a lawyer. He served as an assistant attorney general and provided legal counsel to AIDS patients and the homeless, pro bono, before giving up his legal career to become an artist. The former president of the Cleveland Heights Democrats, he worked on the presidential campaigns of both John Kerry and Barack Obama.

Coryell believes the city needs a strategic vision for development and sustainability. He listed public safety, becoming more environmentally friendly, external marketing, improving and promoting public schools, and "work[ing] harder to aggressively pursue citizen engagement" as among his top priorities.

In addition, Coryell said his experience as an artist gives him a perspective that is different from those of the other council members. He sees himself as "a liaison to the arts community," someone who could help "promote Cleveland Heights as a true home to the arts."

Mike Gaynier has lived in Cleveland Heights for only four years, but said he "really loved" the community since he first moved to the region in 2001. He has been the board chair of the Home Repair Resource Center for three years. Anticipating the coming budget cuts to Community Block Development Grants, he helped the organization transition to a private funding model.

Gaynier said he thinks his big-picture mentality would be helpful on council, as well as his skill at facilitating collaboration. "I have an ability to help people, bring them together to find innovative solutions to challenging problems," he said.

In addition to supporting public schools and encouraging regional collaboration, he sees maintaining the vitality of successful business districts while encouraging the development of others (particularly along Taylor Road) as key to the city's future success.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and sophomore at Brown University.

ZONING continued from page 1

removed after citizens had expressed concern about the propriety of its inclusion. Council had announced the change at an Aug. 8 public hearing on the legislation. "We are responding to you by walking in this evening and saying, 'Yes, you got it right, we didn't,'" Council Member Cheryl Stephens said at the hearing.

At the hearing, many residents expressed concerns that the zoning code changes would be a springboard for development of the Cleveland Heights

portion of the Oakwood property. While the new ordinance affects every applicable building in the city, Council Member Bonita Caplan said at the time that the proposal was directed not toward Oakwood but toward the former Coventry Elementary School building.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and sophomore at Brown University.

Coit Road Farmer's Market gets makeover



Coit Road Farmer's Market in East Cleveland, a nonprofit with an 80-year history, was chosen as the recipient of the annual Neubert Painting Charity Paint Giveaway. The market now boasts a barn-red hue that is as fresh as the produce sold within. More than 60 employees from Neubert Painting volunteered their time to apply the more than 100 gallons of paint donated by Sherwin-Williams.



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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

AUGUST 10, 2011

Councilwoman Susan D. Pardee and Councilman Steven Sims were excused.

Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District
Council approved legislation to participate in the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District. As its first action, the city installed a solar-powered exterior light illuminating a portion of city hall.

New windows, air conditioning

Council approved an agreement with Craft-house Properties to provide and install new windows in city buildings. A portion of the grant from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council provided the \$81,301. Council also approved an agreement with Lake Ridge Refrigeration for the purchase and installation of a roof-top air conditioning unit for council chambers at a cost of \$11,000, also from Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council grant.

North Park Boulevard name change

Council heard a first reading of a request by John Carroll University to change the name of North Park Boulevard to John Carroll Boulevard before its 125th anniversary on Sept. 6. Council asked the university to also present its request

to the City of Shaker Heights, because the street lies within both communities.

Pool repainting

Council authorized Rob Jamieson, service director, to obtain quotes to repaint the pool this autumn.

Internet auctions

Council authorized the city to sell, through public Internet auctions, items that are no longer needed or are unfit for public use. Rob Jamieson said that there are government-based auction sites that can reach a wider audience. Some police cars and service department equipment are available for auction.

Solid waste transfer and disposal

Council authorized the city to renew its participation in a consortium to invite bids for solid waste transfer and disposal services. The city currently pays \$39.40 per ton, and the consortium includes an opt-out clause.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

League observers needed!

The League of Women Voters is looking for people who would be interested in joining the League and becoming a member of its observer corps. We especially need people to cover the meetings of the University Heights City Council, but could also use observers for Cleveland Heights City Council, and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school and library boards. If you are interested and want to learn more about observer responsibilities and meeting times, please contact Maryann Barnes (mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or by phone at 216-321-7525).

League membership is \$60 per year. When you join the League of Women Voters you are supporting active participation in government, better-informed voters and responsible political campaigns. Membership is open to all citizens 18 years of age or older. We welcome all levels of commitment.

For more information on our local League of Women Voters-Cuyahoga Area and a membership form go to: www.lwvcuyahogaarea.org/about/join.html

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS continued from page 1
gious institutions and local businesses. An online version will be available at www.heightsobserver.org.

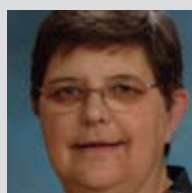
Maps and information about voting locations, wards and precincts are available on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website, www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us, or by calling 216-443-3298. Voter registration deadline for the Nov. 8 election is Oct. 11.

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

BEST OF BLOGS continued from page 2

by other communities showing interest in the work of our government and eagerly observing the impact of its best ideas—as they did in the '70s and '80s. Excellence would result in Cleveland Heights being cited as an example of leadership and progress in the region, and in a general influx of residents and business—particularly in comparison with surrounding communities.”

-Bob Rosenbaum



POINT OF VIEW

Winifred Weizer

I enjoy reading the *Observer* blogs from time to time. I find them to be entertaining, informative and on occasion challenging. In August, Bob Rosenbaum posted one titled “Before the city council elections, let’s define ‘excellent.’” His concern relates to what makes an “excellent” government.

In University Heights, government includes not only city council and the mayor, but also residents and our vision for the city. Therefore, it is important to define what we mean by excellent government before we can question candidates on their ability to achieve it. Four council seats are up for election in University Heights this November, and there may be anywhere from 8 to 11 candidates vying for those seats.

We have a representative form of government, which means that we elect our councilmen and women to represent us (and our views) when de-

cisions are made. To do so, those representatives need to stay in tune with us. How often have you heard from your councilmen or councilwomen after they were elected? How often have they solicited your opinion on major issues that confront our community?

Too often the answer to those questions is “Not once have I heard from them,” and “No, they have never held a meeting to find out what I think.” That situation can lead to a mindset in which elected officials begin to believe that they already have the answers. You, the constituent they represent, is then just told how things will be. Rosenbaum’s blog post gives us an idea of what kind of responses we can expect from those who have crossed that line. Elections, therefore, are important if we want representatives who share our vision for the city.

I’ve had opportunities to speak with many UH residents, and I am always impressed at how serious they are about the city and the services they want. They also are realistic and understand that the services we want, and the quality of life we expect, come

with a price. What we tend to forget, though, is that a portion of our funding comes from the state and federal levels of government.

The deficit reduction work being done in Washington will result in less funding for both states and cities. As state funding is reduced, there will be additional cuts by the state to our cities, which puts pressure on maintaining our vision with less funding.

It certainly sounds good when a politician promises lower taxes. In fact, Ohio tax rates have been cut. As state revenue decreased, cuts were made across the board. This led to the loss of state funding to cities and to our school districts. Unfortunately, those cuts far exceed the total of the small tax savings that each of us received from the state. The only way for a city and a school district to make up those losses to their budgets is either to cut services or to ask residents for more funds to maintain them.

Rosenbaum is right. We really need to think about our priorities and, as the campaign begins, we need to ask the candidates meaningful ques-

tions. Candidates who just say they are going to cut our taxes need to articulate exactly which services will have to change, and to what level they must be reduced.

We also need to be mindful of what hasn’t been said by those who currently sit on council. For example, when the grant for the new pump fire truck came before council, both councilmen running for reelection noted that they were hesitant to accept the grant. However, they never made it clear just why they were hesitant.

The grant saved UH taxpayers \$275,000 and enabled the city to replace a fire truck that had to be replaced. Did they hesitate because maintaining a fire department was a city service they wanted to consolidate with another city? Or did they hesitate because they felt we really didn’t need a new pump truck? These are the types of questions we need to ask to learn if their views truly coincide with ours.

Winifred Weizer, a former councilwoman and longtime resident of University Heights, is filling in for Anita Kazarian.



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Find out who's the Best of the Heights on Oct. 4

Deanna Bremer Fisher

From May through August, Heights residents voted for their favorite Heights businesses in 22 categories, including best new business. Each year FutureHeights—a nonprofit dedicated to promoting civic engagement in the Heights through information, education, and advocacy, and the publisher of the *Heights Observer* community news—conducts the Best of the Heights survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally-owned businesses in the Heights, and their contributions to the local economy.

"Heights residents recognize how lucky they are to have such an amazing diversity of independent businesses in our community and want to show their appreciation," said Lloyd Bell, board president of FutureHeights.

Find out who came out on top at the Best of the Heights awards ceremony on Oct. 4 at Rockefeller's restaurant, 3099 Mayfield Road. Call 216-320-1423 or visit www.futureheights.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

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

Churches for Middle East Peace lead events in Greater Cleveland

Mary Ann Kerr

This is a crucial time for Middle East peace efforts. Not only does this September mark the 10th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11/01, but also Palestinians plan to go to the United Nations to request recognition as an independent state within the 1967 borders. There could not be a more opportune moment for a visit from Warren Clark, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP; www.cmepe.org). Clark will be speaking to several audiences in the Cleveland area Sept. 15–18. His theme is "Ending Conflict in the Middle East and What You Can Do to Help."

Ambassador Clark is a retired career U. S. Foreign Service officer with extensive experience negotiating in the Middle East. He also served in Europe, Canada, Africa, and at the United Nations.

The following events, titled "Conflict in the Holy Land: Why Ending It is Hard and What You Can Do to Help," are free and open to the public:

- Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m., West Shore Unitarian Church, Rocky River;
- Sunday, Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m., Church of the Saviour (Methodist), Cleveland Heights;
- Sunday, Sept. 18, 12:15 p.m., Plymouth Church UCC, Shaker Heights.

Clark will also lead an advocacy workshop on Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., at Trinity Cathedral (Episcopal) in downtown Cleveland. The workshop will include continental breakfast, information, training and networking with the goal of developing a strong

presence for CMEP in Northeast Ohio. Details and online registration for the workshop are at www.cmepe.org/content/our-work, or call 216-360-0359 for more information.

Trinity Cathedral is co-sponsoring the advocacy workshop with Canaan Fair Trade, Cleveland Peace Action, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Interfaith Peace Builders, Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East, Presbytery of the Western Reserve, the Global, Witness and Justice Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ, and United Protestant Campus Ministries.

Churches for Middle East Peace is a coalition of 24 national denominations and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions. The mission of the coalition is to encourage U. S. policies that actively promote a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all the people of the region. CMEP church leaders recently urged President Obama to work with the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and others to develop "a comprehensive statement . . . that addresses all final status issues, including . . . Jerusalem . . . [as] the shared capital of both states, a just resolution to the issue of all refugees, and assured access for all faiths to their holy places."

Mary Ann Kerr is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and a member of the leadership council of Churches for Middle East Peace. She can be reached at maryannkerr@aol.com or 216-371-1855.

David Jones is a world-class instructor at Heights Youth Club

Kimberly Morgan

David Jones, the Tai Shin Doh instructor at the Heights Youth Club, recently received a fifth-degree certificate of promotion (for achieving five of ten degrees of skill). He is now one of 22 masters worldwide who hold this certificate. Jones received his first degree black belt at age 15 and his second before college. He has traveled to five continents to acquire the third and fourth degrees. He remarked, "I guess you could say this took 45 years to obtain." When one of his students responded, "That stinks," he replied (with a twinkle in his eye), "No, it shows dedication."

This certificate of promotion was initiated at an annual meeting of the masters, where it was stamp-signed by those present. The certificate was then shipped around the world to the remaining masters, for 21 stamps in all. Jones has had the honor of meeting only two of the other masters in person.

The certificate records the stories of the art and of the masters who trained the awardee. By tradition, these stories are passed orally from person to person with meticulous accuracy. The certificate is like a historical instruction map, telling the masters' stories of achievement. Now Jones is preparing to create his own unique stamp signifying his place in the art of Tai Shin Doh.

One of Jones's students asked if his cheeks were hurting from smiling about his achievement. "No," he replied, "I'm more thrilled today," and motioned to his students sitting around the table. In turn, two of his students—Simone, age 9 and Tabitha, age 11—explained why they were so excited about class. Saying, "It's fun," and, "We have Mr. Jones to teach us."

How did such a rare Tai Shin Doh master end up at Heights Youth Club? "I am a farmer; that's the simple truth. These are the seeds," said Jones, smiling at the children. Pointing to the area where the class takes place, he continued, "There is my field. My job is to water and tend the seeds. Kids

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Tai Shin Doh master David Jones.

learn martial arts and adults learn self-defense. I like to teach the art, the way of the heart and the mind, to children." He gestured toward the exercise mats: Shall we start to grow?"

To find out more about Master Jones and Tai Shin Doh, the way of the heart and mind or the Heights Youth Club call 216-321-CLUB.

Kimberly Morgan is the board administrator for the Heights Youth Club.

Heights Observer travels to Africa



A moment before zip lining over the Zambezi River from Zambia to Zimbabwe, Annalena Weissman, an 8th grader at Ruffing Montessori School, paused to catch up on the news back home.



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Jaylen Harris and Jaden Settles picking corn

Kids learn joy of gardening at Noble Road Presbyterian Church

Robin Koslen

Two summers ago, Audrey Miller of Noble Road Presbyterian Church and Tonya Butler, director of Discovery Preschool (located in the church) created a vegetable garden to involve the school-age kids attending the summer program at the preschool.

Miller recruited Karen Reinke, who does most of the gardening at the church, and Renke got Carolyn Sugiuchi and Joanne Westin to help. Later that summer, Westin called on Kathy Ellis, a fellow gardener and experienced elementary school teacher, for additional assistance. Supported by Discovery staff members, Rosemary Sanderfer, Annette Butts and Angela Outlaw, the first summer was both fun and successful.

The kids grew, harvested, ate and enjoyed lettuce, broccoli, beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, beets, swiss chard and peas. They made place mats illustrating the food pyramid, wind chimes from old silverware, as well as flower pots and scarecrows.

Sometimes, things were a little chaotic. Kids who were inside working on a craft project found their way outside for more gardening. Westin described it as "herding kittens."

The second year, the program added carrots, eggplant, and Brussels sprouts, and two more volunteers, Ann Curuoso

and Margy Weinberg. The real difference, though, was the commitment to minimize the chaos of the year before. The first thing the kids did was to make a large felt drawstring bags to hold the supplies they would need for any activity. Each child was assigned to one of six teams, each with a specific shirt color. Each team had its own garden, in which the kids decided what to plant, did the harvesting, and prepared food from what they grew.

Gardening sessions always began with an introductory lesson. Then, half the kids went inside, and half outside. Outside, one group might start with gardening, another with crafts, another with cleaning out the hummingbird feeders. Inside, the kids might listen to a story and then work on their journals, the class mural or another activity. The groups switched after one hour. By the color of their T-shirts, the adults always knew where a child should be.

As for the young gardeners, they will quickly tell you what they think. Corn is the group favorite, followed closely by carrots, tomatoes and beets. Vegetables taste good and gardening is fun.

America's First Gardener, Michelle Obama, would be impressed.

Robin Koslen grew up in the Heights, raised her kids in the Heights, and now enjoys being a grandma in the Heights.

SHN hosts carbon cleanse in October

Sarah Wean

The Sustainable Heights Network (SHN) and the No Impact Project will host a one-week carbon cleanse Oct. 16-23. During No Impact Week, individuals will have the chance to participate on their own, or create a team of neighbors and friends, to take on fun and interesting challenges, such as eating locally, lowering their energy use, and meeting more neighbors.

During the event, participants will ponder such questions as:

- How well can I live without modern conveniences?
- Which expenditures actually make me happy, and improve my family's quality of life? Which ones just eat away at my time and money?
- What does my carbon footprint really look like?

The No Impact Project was conceived by Colin Beavan, following the success of his blog, book, and film, "No Impact Man." He chronicled his family's yearlong experiment in zero-waste living in New York City, and created



a weeklong experiment based on his experiences.

Now, Heights citizens are invited to participate as part of a community-wide, and global, experiment. The week's activities are free, and open to all. Educators are encouraged to register their students.

Learn more at www.NoImpactProject.org/experiment and www.SustainableHeightsNetwork.blogspot.com.

Sarah Wean will be signing up her Coventry Village neighbors for No Impact Week.

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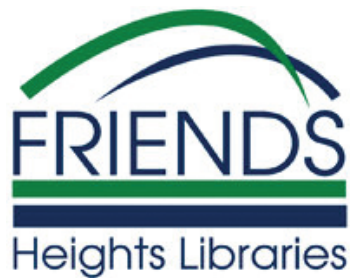
Community art contest offers \$150 prize

Kirsten Radivoyevitch

Five years ago, the Heights Libraries celebrated the grand opening of a bridge spanning Lee Road. This year, it celebrates the opening of the Harvey & Friends Bookshop/Cafe located near the bridge on the library side. To commemorate both of these events, the Friends of Heights Libraries invites residents to participate in a community art contest.

Contestants, aged 18 years and older, may submit one piece of original artwork, in any medium, created on the theme "Books are the Bridge to the World."

Artwork must be two-dimensional, and measure 2' x 3' or smaller. Only 30 submissions will be accepted, therefore contact the Friends early to register your intent to participate. The deadline for registration is Friday, Sept. 30. The art



will be exhibited in the bookshop/café through the month of October.

Anyone who views the exhibit can participate in judging which piece is the best in the show. During the month of October, library visitors will be given one voting ballot for each dollar spent in the bookshop/café. Multiple votes are encouraged. The winner will be announced at a special event in early November, and will receive a cash prize of \$150. The Friends reserve the right to sell the winning piece.

For more details or to register, e-mail friends@heightslibraries.org or call 216-932-3600 ext. 299. All proceeds benefit the libraries' facilities, resources, services and programs.

Kirsten Radivoyevitch, a Heights resident, off and on, for many years, is the Friends of Heights Libraries events coordinator.

FutureHeights speaker series presents Douglas Heuer, superintendent for the CH-UH schools

Kevin Smith

FutureNow, the young professionals' committee of FutureHeights, will host its second speaker series event on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Myxx, 12459 Cedar Road. The featured speaker is Douglas Heuer, superintendent of Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools.

Heuer will explain current and future initiatives and the upcoming school levy. The event will conclude with a question-and-answer session.

The event is free and open to the public. However, seating is limited on a first-come/first-served basis. RSVP by sending an e-mail to info@futureheights.org or by calling 216-320-1423.

The FutureHeights speaker series hosts members of the community, including politicians, activists, business owners and residents. The goal of the series is to foster a dialogue between the city, business owners and residents to discuss the challenges and issues facing the Heights community.

For more information, e-mail Kevin Smith at smithkp@gmail.com.

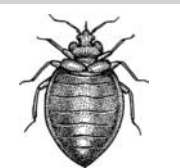
Kevin Smith is chair of FutureNow, the young professionals' group of FutureHeights.



Douglas Heuer

CH/UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bedbugs



BUG OF THE MONTH

Barry Zucker

The word *bug* comes from the Welsh word *bwg* meaning "ghost"—thus the word *bugaboo*. Got bedbugs? Don't panic. They do not transmit disease and can be controlled without toxic chemicals.

The Greek philosopher Democritus advocated hanging a dead deer at the foot of the bed. If a dead deer is neither handy nor desirable, an immediate remedy is to smear petroleum jelly around the legs of the bed so the bugs can't crawl up. Or place each bed leg in a container of water.

The bugs' flat shape enables them to hide in narrow cracks of baseboards, seams of mattresses and crevices be-

hind wallpaper, baseboards and picture frames. To prevent this, you may want to caulk, replaster or paint. Eliminate clutter, encase mattresses and box springs, launder sheets and clothing, and vacuum, vacuum, vacuum.

If you still have a problem, try steam treatments on upholstery and carpeting. If you do it yourself, be sure to use low moisture or dry steam with low pressure, otherwise the bugs will be blown around the room. You can also hire an experienced professional who has special equipment that will kill bedbugs by heating your house to 130 degrees. Do not try this yourself. Keep in mind that spraying pesticides for bedbugs is hazardous to one's health and also generally ineffective, because the bugs have developed a resistance to the chemicals.

For more information go to www.beyondpesticides.org/bedbugs/index.htm.

For any bug problems contact Barry Zucker, executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio, at bzucker@beyondpesticidesohio.org

FRACKING continued from page 3

municipalities—Canton, North Canton, Yellow Springs, Hartville Village and Munroe Falls among them—have enacted fracking bans (as have Pittsburgh and Detroit), which may face court challenges from state government as well as from corporations. Governor John Kasich favors fracking, as does President Obama. Permit applications for drilling are rarely denied by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Plans are underway in Cleveland Heights to present a ban to city council. There are gas wells on the former Oakwood Club property, on land owned by the Shaker Heights schools, and potentially at

other sites in the Heights. Anti-fracking activists foresee legal battles ahead to protect both public and private lands.

The film is broadcast on HBO, and is available at the library. The website www.gaslandthemovie.com describes fracking and what's happening in Ohio and other states. To get involved, "like" Burning River Anti-fracking Network on Facebook, or e-mail burningriverantifracking@gmail.com.

Josh Fox was offered \$100,000 for the rights to drill for gas on his land. After he finished the film, he turned it down.

Catherine Podobil is a writer and editor who lives in Cleveland Heights.

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Thursday, October 6

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cleveland Heights Community Center
1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights

Gain insight and make an informed choice on election day, Tuesday, November 8.

The Forum is sponsored by the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area and FutureHeights.

Neither the League of Women Voters nor FutureHeights endorse candidates. The forum will be strictly non-partisan. No campaign literature will be permitted in the forum room. A table will be available in the hallway for literature.

A community grows on Taylor Road

Kim Sergio Inglis

A new garden is growing near the intersection of Cedar and Taylor roads, where University Heights and Cleveland Heights meet. The Taylor Road Learning Garden represents the intersection of these two cities, and is evolving through the efforts of residents in both communities.

Cindy Oser is among the University Heights residents who came together last fall to organize a community garden on a long-vacant plot of land adjacent to the Taylor Academy building. "Mayor Infeld had talked about community gardens during her campaign, formed a volunteer planning committee, and it took off from there," she recalled.

With the support of Infeld and the city, four rows of sod were cleared last spring, and gardeners planted the first plots in this still-expanding garden.

Meanwhile, Steve Warner, a teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, founded a student environmental club during the 2010-11 school year. "This is a grassroots student movement that the administration supports," said Warner. "The kids have an overwhelming number of ideas."

Among their ideas for greening the community, and the district's schools in particular, is to plant a rain garden at the former Taylor Academy. With that project still in the planning stages, Warner looked into getting the club involved with the UH community garden, and they were welcomed by the city.

"I can't stress how great the city [UH] has been. There's a strong partnership between the garden and the city, and now the school," observed Warner. "There's lots of teamwork, so if something needs to happen, it gets done. With 30 kids, we have a good work force."

Oser and Warner cite Infeld as a key supporter of the garden. She even has a plot there herself, and Warner noted, "The garden gives the kids a chance to



Heights High School Environmental Club members tend their plot at the Taylor Road learning garden.

work side by side with the mayor of University Heights."

This year, the school administration approved a one-period service-learning class, which includes hands-on activities, such as building the community garden. Warner says the class will reach across disciplines, and envisions garden planning and other green initiatives being developed in the class, and then implemented by the environmental club.

"I'll be meeting with English and science teachers to develop the curriculum," Warner said. "It's really made me excited about the coming school year. I've been with the school for 14 years, and am chomping at the bit to get started this fall. Even this summer, I meet with kids three days a week, to work on the garden or clear garbage from the site and the street."

Just as the class curriculum will draw from diverse courses of study, members of the club represent a cross section of students. "They are all different, with different interests," said Warner, "but in the club they all get along."

Once gardening season ends this fall, Warner's students will focus on planning the rain garden, and other future projects. As for the community gardeners, Oser said, "We had lots of brand new gardeners this year, so we'll use the end of the season to recap and

plan ahead. The focus this year was to get the gardeners going. Next year, we plan outreach to nearby businesses."

Both Oser and Warner laud the garden's community-building aspect. Oser noted, "I moved here in 2009, and I work from home, so it can be hard to meet people. I've met people through the garden." She added, "I no longer have school-age children, so I like knowing what is happening in the schools. There is a connection, through the garden, between the school and the community."

Warner observed, "There's no way we could have done a community garden ourselves. We have certain resources, the city has certain resources, and it all came together. It's been a very encouraging thing, to watch it grow, to develop out of nothing. As we proceed, we look forward to more of a bond between the students and the community."

The Taylor Road Learning Garden is accepting applications for plots next year. A \$20 plot fee for the season helps cover the cost of water. All levels of gardeners are welcome. For information, contact University Heights City Hall at 216-932-7800.

Kim Sergio Inglis is an avid gardener who, two years ago, went from a roof garden in Brooklyn, NY to a backyard garden in Cleveland Heights.

Church of the Redeemer emphasizes community and youth outreach

Jeanette Sloan

Church of the Redeemer, a United Methodist congregation, views acceptance, diversity and inclusiveness as central aspects of the church. This also means that "Open Minds, Open Doors, Open Hearts" is not just a slogan, but a way of life. At Church of the Redeemer, everyone is welcome at God's table.

Reverend Karen Graham and Kate Klaber, church secretary, like to talk about community and youth involvement and their outreach programs. Graham has been pastor of Church of the Redeemer since 2005. Klaber has served as secretary since 2004, but has been a member of the congregation for 31 years. They believe it is essential for a church to be involved in the community and have programs that reach all ages.

Graham and Klaber recently discussed ways in which Church of the Redeemer engages young people in the community. Youth groups and classes for 7th-12th graders meet weekly. The activities for young people include discussions, service projects, and spiritual development.

"I believe it's important for youth to feel needed, and I think the church can help provide that sense of belonging and acceptance. We held a yearlong class on bullying this past school year, which was well received by our youth," said Graham.

Church of the Redeemer is always interested in finding new ways to engage the community, and seeks others who have an interest in being part of this effort. Graham said, "I would be very open to finding more ways for our church to engage youth—providing, for example, a safe space for youth to gather, getting youth involved in some hands-on mission work, giving youth a forum to speak on the issues that matter to them."

To learn more about Church of the Redeemer and its community outreach programs, call 216-932-2065 or visit the church's website, <http://cleredeemer.org/>.

Jeanette Sloan, an environmental studies major at Cleveland State University, is an intern at FutureHeights.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



JULY 18, 2011

Board President Audrey Cole was absent.

Library hosts youth issues discussion

Nancy Levin, director of the Heights Libraries, and Kasey Greer, director of Heights Community Congress, led a community meeting at the Lee Road Library on July 13. All three meeting rooms were used, but there was still an overflow in the hall. Every media outlet in the city was there to hear the discussion of community issues arising from the large number of youths that have appeared at community events, including the Coventry street fair. City council enacted an emergency curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on unaccompanied minors in both the Coventry and Cedar Lee commercial areas. Attendance at both the Coventry Village and Lee Road libraries is an exception to the curfew, and there has not been a change in attendance.

Ohio public library funding

The statewide Public Library Fund (PLF) distribu-

tion of \$38,400,446 for July 2011 is 19.66 percent higher than that for July 2010. The 2011 year-to-date distribution is 12.45 percent higher than last year's.

Human resources policy manual

The board approved amendments to the manual, which will be posted to the library's website. One change is the deletion of the requirement that eligibility for hiring a librarian is certification by the Ohio Library Council's Public Librarian Certification program. The library will continue to support this certification, but recognizes that it is an informal certification, not state licensure.

June public service report highlights

- Clayworks artist Elizabeth Emery presented a program for children at the Coventry Village Library. The project was making heroes, and the children created super-heroes, a mom and some friends.
- Adult services staff began a class on using

CLEVNET's new BiblioCommons online catalog. In addition to covering searches and reserves, the class looks at the social media aspects that allow users to create lists and write their own reviews.

- A welcome booklet is being designed for distribution with new library cards.
- The University Heights Library, in conjunction with Whole Foods, continued the "Healthy in the Heights" school-age story time. Green Tara Yoga of Cleveland Heights presented a yoga mini-session.
- The University Heights Library manager, Aurora Martinez, received help with the preparation and planting of the front flowerbeds from two members of the UH City Beautiful Commission.
- Walter Stinson, senior services coordinator for University Heights, holds weekly Senior Network lectures at the University Heights Library.

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.

University Heights Library announces book discussion series for seniors at Whole Foods Cedar Center

Sheryl Banks

Senior book enthusiasts are in luck: the University Heights Library will once again hold a book discussion series at Whole Foods Cedar Center as part of its regular Senior Spot. The events will take place on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Whole Foods, located at 13998 Cedar Road in University Heights.

"The Cleveland Heights-University Heights community is filled with enthusiastic readers," said Aurora Martinez, University Heights Library manager. "That's why we added the book discussion series to our special Senior Spot programming."

The University Heights Library partners with Whole Foods to host the series so that participants can enjoy snacks and a brief health talk in addition to the book discussion.

Here's the fall lineup:

Sept. 21:

King of the Holly Hop by Les Roberts

Oct. 19:

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Nov. 16:

Clouds Without Rain: an Ohio Amish



The University Heights Library, 13866 Cedar Road.

Mystery by P. L. Gaus

Other Senior Spot programs this fall will include learning about the Hulu website, exploring the work of photographer Charley Harper, and candle and greeting card making.

Check www.heightslibrary.org for more information.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Heights Libraries.

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Sheryl Banks

September is here, and parents are shopping for school supplies. One of the most important school supplies is free library card.

Getting a library card is easy and free to anyone who lives, works, owns property or goes to school in Ohio. All that is required is the completion of a short application form and a picture I.D. with proof of residency. A driver's license is preferred, but a passport or other picture I.D., along with a personal check or letter that includes a valid address, is also acceptable.

Applications can be made at any of the four Heights Libraries: Lee Road, Coventry Village, Noble Neighbor-

hood and University Heights. A library card will be issued immediately upon completion of the application. Children aged 16 and under need a signature from a parent or guardian.

Heights library cardholders have free access to books and computers, homework help, computer classes, programs for all ages, CDs, DVDs and much more.

Children with a library card not only have a terrific resource for schoolwork, they also have a passport to a special place that encourages and nurtures a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Call 216-932-3600 or visit www.heightslibrary.org for more information and library locations.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Heights Libraries.

What's going on at your library?

Fall is almost here, with loads of great programming for children, teens and adults at Heights Libraries. Here's just a sample. Check the Libraries' website—www.heightslibrary.org—for the full calendar of events.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Weds., Sept. 7, 7 p.m.

Cedar-Coventry Author Series presents Mary Doria Russell. (Registration required.)

Thurs., Sept. 8, 7 p.m.

Step Out of Time Series: Ruth Thayer presents Energy Work

Thurs., Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m.

The name of this mystery night event for kids in grades K-5 is a well-kept secret.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Tues., Sept. 6, 7 p.m.

Happy 5th Birthday, Bridge! Kids can celebrate the bridge's 5th birthday by building one of their own. (Registration required.)

Sat., Sept. 10, 1 p.m.

Anime Convention for teens. (Registration required.)

Tues., Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Third Tuesday Book Club: Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Weds., Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m.

Storytime en Español with Lindsey Walsh. It's fun for the whole family.

Weds.-Fri., Sept. 21-23, 4 p.m.

Babysitting Clinic for teens. (Registration required.)

Tues., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Noble Great Books discussion: The Idiot by Fyodor Dostoevsky

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Thurs., Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Stories, snacks, and crafts to celebrate fall at Whole Foods Market on Cedar Road.

Weds., Sept. 7, 12:30 p.m.

Senior Spot: The Cleveland Memory Project

Weds., Sept. 21, 12:30 p.m.

Senior Spot book discussion at Whole Foods Market: King of the Holly Hop by Les Roberts

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CH-UH schools maintain rating of Continuous Improvement

State test scores show areas for improvement; district pledges strong growth this year

Angee Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District continued to build momentum as it retained its rating of Continuous Improvement for last school year.

"In 2009, we had one school rated Effective. This year we have three Effective and one Excellent with Distinction. We always want to improve, and according to the state test results, that's exactly what our schools have

done," said Superintendent Douglas Heuer. "We've instituted programs and initiatives in recent years that are producing results at every level. We've added additional instructional reading and mathematics time at the elementary and middle school levels. This year we're changing how we're doing instruction, and working with staff on how to best teach in double block classes."

"These are consequential changes that are producing real improvements," continued Heuer. "Wiley Middle School

went from the lowest achieving middle school to the highest after we moved to block scheduling. Roxboro and Monticello middle schools are going into their second year of double block scheduling, so we are expecting to see significant improvement in both buildings next year. Districtwide, teachers are better connecting with students and integrating the use of technology for better quality learning."

Some of the notable results from this year's scores include:

Two buildings met AYP (adequate yearly progress) and achieved better than expected growth in their value added rating, and were increased a rating: Wiley Middle School is now rated Effective and Roxboro Elementary is now Excellent with Distinction.

Cleveland Heights High School moved from Continuous Improvement to Effective.

With the new definition of value added ratings, most other buildings are now in the Met Expected Growth category, except Oxford Elementary, which received a Below Expected Growth rating.

Monticello Middle School received a Met Expected Growth rating and did

not drop go to Academic Emergency.

"The district will continue to press for improved student learning at all levels and will continue to provide the support necessary to allow that improvement to occur," said Heuer. "Roxboro Elementary is our pioneer; their work clearly shows that all of our buildings are capable of being designated as excellent."

The district and building ratings for the CH-UH school district are:

District: Continuous Improvement
Boulevard: Continuous Improvement
Canterbury: Academic Watch
Fairfax: Continuous Improvement
Gearity: Continuous Improvement
Noble: Effective
Oxford: Continuous Improvement
Roxboro Elementary: Excellent with Distinction
Monticello: Academic Watch
Roxboro Middle: Continuous Improvement
Wiley: Effective
Cleveland Heights High School: Effective

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

Bringing student stories to film

Joy Henderson

When 2011 graduate Joseph Young began the two-year interactive media program at Heights High, "I had more stories than technique," he said. With solid instruction, access to sophisticated editing programs, and assistance from talented peers, he wrote and acted in a short movie, "Friend Zone," which was produced by the school's interactive media department. It is available on the Reaching Heights website. The organization gave a \$1,500 grant to fund the Script to Film after-school club.

That's where Young began writing the script for his movie. "I knew that the setting should be a location that would be easy and cheap to actually produce," he said. That location was the high school. The story revolves around two students, a boy and a girl, who have different views of the world. She's optimistic, he's pessimistic, and he would like to be more than friends with her.

Taking a student's story from idea to a finished film requires time. To help with the writing process, Jeff Glass, interactive media teacher, used part of the grant funds to hire professional writer Bill Kramer. "Mr. Kramer was really great at working with me to get good dialogue and realistic scenes," said Young. Kramer also played the role of director, making sure that the filming process moved along. This was especially helpful when the crew went off-campus to film at Phoenix Coffee on



2011 Heights High graduate Joseph Young (l) took part in the school's interactive media program and wrote the script for the film "Friend Zone." Jorge Morena (r) was the cinematographer.

Lee Road and on a few city streets.

Another vital crewmember was Jorge Morena, an exchange student from Costa Rica. He was the camera person, editor and cinematographer. "Jorge's skill was a major asset to this film and for many other projects this year," Glass said.

Young describes his experience on the project as "fantastic and amazing." He will attend Tri-C this fall to study media arts, and he plans to eventually transfer to School of the Arts Institute of Chicago.

Glass's goal for this year's interactive media program at Heights High is to guide more students through the writing and technical aspect of the script-to-film process—bringing more student stories to film.

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

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights



AUGUST 2, 2011

Board Member Karen Jones was absent.

District of Distinction

Board President Eric Coble and Superintendent Douglas Heuer received a "District of Distinction" award from Pennies for Patients, a service learning program and fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, in acknowledgement of the efforts of the district's students. They raised more than \$9,000, making Cleveland Heights-University Heights one of the highest fundraising districts in our region.

Environmental Club

The Environmental Club and advisor Steve Warner were recognized for the club's contribution to the greening of district property. A student club member, Ellona Eke, gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the club's activities.

Race to the Top (RtT) report

Dr. Joseph Micheller, director of special programs and compliance, reported that, as part of RtT, the district received money for professional staff development. In partnership with John Carroll

University, the district developed a teacher-leader endorsement program. Twenty-four teachers began coursework on Aug. 1, which consists of ten postgraduate semester hours. Eligible teachers are either already at the master's level, working toward Master Teacher status, or are already Master Teachers. The Master Teacher credential is based on the national program for board certification. This year 15 of 20 participants achieved Master Teacher status, and 13 are in the program.

Levy resolution

The board approved the finance reports and the levy resolution presented by Treasurer Scott Gainer. The exact ballot language is determined by the district, reviewed by the district's legal counsel, and then taken to the county board of elections.

LWV observer: Cassandra Talerico-Kaplin.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.



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Heights students have fun at Chinese summer camp

Jacalyn Elfvin

This summer, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District hosted two Chinese camps under the direction of Grace Chen. It was an exciting adventure—for the program’s teachers, and for the more than 50 campers who explored and learned about Chinese language and culture. Both camps were hosted at Boulevard Elementary School.

The summer camps focused on immersing students in the Chinese language and culture in a variety of ways. “My nine-year-old daughter, Ava, participated in a CH-UH Chinese camp this week, and it was phenomenal,” said Jennie Collyer, a Fairfax parent. “Ava was not looking forward to the camp because it sounded too much like school, but after the first day, she was completely won over.”

Campers went on a field trip to Asia Plaza, where they visited a Chinese



Teacher Grace Chen and campers visit a local Chinese supermarket.

supermarket, had lunch at a Chinese restaurant, and browsed through Chinese gift shops. “We were so impressed by

the way the teachers interacted with the students, and we were amazed by how much they had learned in a week,” said Collyer. Throughout the week, campers also prepared for a special performance for family and friends. Afterwards, students shared a Chinese meal with their

guests.

“My older daughter, Katy, and I attended the end-of-the-week performance,” Collyer said. “It was really wonderful to share in the excitement and enthusiasm of the students, their families and friends, and the teachers. All of the students seemed very engaged and invested in the experience. I honestly can’t believe this was free!”

The Chinese summer camp is an example of the CH-UH schools’ commitment to providing students with programming that addresses the district’s vision of P.A.S.S.A.G.E.—Preparing All Students for Success in a Global Economy. A \$400,000 grant from the federal foreign language assistance program enabled the district to initiate Chinese studies at Roxboro Elementary School in 2009. Chinese language instruction will expand to Fairfax Elementary and Roxboro Middle schools for the 2011-12 school year.

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

CH-UH district, CFO earn financial reporting award

Angee Shaker

Scott Gainer, chief financial officer for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

Gainer earned the award for the district’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2010 fiscal year. This marks the 10th consecutive time Gainer has received the award. In addition, Ohio named Gainer the Outstanding Treasurer/CFO of the Year for 2010.

The GFOA considers the Certificate of Achievement its highest honor for governmental accounting and



Scott Gainer

financial reporting. It recognizes thorough and detailed presentation of a district’s financial condition, activities and balances for the fiscal year.

“We are pleased to have earned this award again,” Gainer said. “It demonstrates our commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting. We take our fiduciary responsibility for taxpayer dollars very seriously and view this additional financial reporting as a way to keep our community informed.”

Angee Shaker is the Director of Communications for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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New salon to offer simplified beauty

Lita Gonzalez

It's a small space—700 square feet—long, narrow and tall. When my eyes wandered up from the freshly painted walls towards the ceiling, it was immediately apparent that this will be an elegant space. Two vintage chandeliers hang sparkling from the ceiling in the soon-to-open Shawn Paul Salon.

Shawn Paul Gustafson showed me around the salon that will bear his name. Nestled between the Stone Oven and Kobalt on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, the salon boasts rich but subtle jewel-toned walls and silver accents. Gustafson explained that he is hoping to create a different type of boutique salon—exceptionally quaint, very individualized and all about simplified beauty. Shawn Paul Salon will provide clients with the option of private appointments on Sundays.

"My salon is all about the community and my clientele," he said. The Surface line of products that the salon will carry, are vegan friendly, and are free of paraben, gluten and sulfates. Even the



Shawn Paul Salon
216-862-6029

2265 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights
M-Th 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
F 1-5 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday by appointment
www.shawnpaulsalon.com

wants the services he provides to be nurturing and without pretention. "I want to create beauty that is more Main Street than runway."

Gustafson is invested in the Heights community. He recently moved back to the Heights to live near the salon, and will be featuring community art in the salon space.

"I'm opening my salon with three goals in mind: to create simplified beauty for everyone, to support the Cedar Lee district, and to give back to the community. Wanting to embed myself deeper into the community that I love made the decision to open my own salon here easy," he said.

With only two chairs and one sink, the salon will be intimate and offer highly personalized services. Because beauty involves more than just hair care, Gustafson hopes to eventually add alternative wellness services. Right now he is focused on all that still needs to be done in order to open in September.

Lita Gonzalez is a longtime Heights resident and community volunteer.

reading material will be geared to his clients' interests. Gustafson said that he

wants clients who come into the salon to feel comfortable and pampered, and

Cleveland Heights bookseller to attend book show

Brian Meggitt

Larry Rakow's lifelong love affair with books has taken him from reader to librarian and from collector to bookseller. Specializing in children's literature,

Rakow now operates an independent venture, Wonderland Books, from his home in Cleveland Heights. He will soon be showing his wares at the Cleveland Antiquarian Book and Paper Show, Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Cleveland Skating



Cleveland Heights bookseller, Larry Rakow, stands beside some of his rare and vintage children's books.

a parent buying books for his children to a collector of vintage children's literature, and eventually into a dealer specializing in the same field. "It started with simply looking to sell off duplicate copies from my collection, but eventually took on a life of its own," Rakow explained. "While the Web—Amazon and eBay specifically—radically changed the retail market, it has also enabled people like me to be successful selling within a specialty field." Rakow sells his books through various means: at his home to interested collectors, via the Web through eBay and Abe Books (formerly the Advanced Book Exchange) and at book fairs.

Book fairs are so important to booksellers and collectors that Rakow, as president of the nonprofit Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society (NOBS), has helped resurrect the tradition of a Cleveland book fair. "NOBS used to hold annual book fairs at the Grays Armory downtown and still sponsors the annual fair in Akron, but it has been a while since the organization has had a show in Cleveland. We've been looking for the right place to hold a Cleveland area show and feel we've found it with the Cleveland Skating Club," Rakow said.

The Oct. 2 show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the club, 2500 Kemper Road, Shaker Heights. Conveniently located near Shaker Square and the Larchmere neighborhood, the show will feature more than 25 dealers with rare and out-of-print books in a variety of genres, including children's literature, mysteries, cookbooks, science, history, science fiction and first editions, as well as paper ephemera like vintage posters and postcards. More information on the Cleveland Antiquarian Book and Paper Show is available at www.nobsweb.org.

Brian Meggitt is the executive coordinator for the Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society.

Club in Shaker Heights. Book fairs remain one of the most important ways for independent sellers to connect with customers, find new stock, and keep a foothold in the changing market.

"Publishing and book selling have experienced tremendous change and tumult since the advent of the Internet," Rakow said, "and this continues to transform an industry that had previously been stable and conservative for hundreds of years." Large retail stores like Borders and Joseph-Beth have either gone bankrupt or removed themselves from the Cleveland metropolitan area, while independent brick-and-mortar stores and online specialists continue to navigate the choppy waters of the e-book era. For local booksellers success is closely tied to providing excellent customer service and paying special attention to the reading and collecting tastes of their customers.

It was Rakow's passion for pop-up books that slowly transformed him from

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High gas prices lead to fuel innovation

Robin Koslen

When gas prices rose to more than four dollars a gallon, Josh Barrett, owner of Heights Tile and Stone, decided to pursue a chemistry project which, for a few months, turned him into something of a mad scientist.

He got rid of his antiquated gas-guzzler, bought a diesel truck, and taught himself how to make biodiesel fuel. The internet sources he used for guidance made it seem simple. Get used cooking oil; add lye and methanol; heat, mix and wash and—ta da—you've got biodiesel.

The reality was not so fast, or easy. Barrett began the project in April and his truck finally began running on biodiesel in July. Sometimes tubes clogged, oil overheated, or the wrong ratio of lye and methanol created some terrific soap. Each new setback demanded an increasingly creative solution.

Barrett solved one problem by taking advantage of this summer's excruciating heat wave. The oil needs to

be heated, washed and finally cleared of the water used in the washing phase. Using the sun's heat instead of an electric hot water heater made the heating and evaporation process more economical and better for the environment.

Another hurdle was finding a steady source of oil. Barrett sought help from the community, and Tommy Fello, owner of Tommy's Restaurant in Coventry Village, came to his aid. For those who want to create biodiesel fuel, Fello has made it easy by reserving and making available the used oil from his restaurant.

When you see a white truck with a "Praise the Lard" bumper sticker around Cleveland Heights, know that the guy behind the wheel had the tenacity to overcome months of challenges in order to make his business—and our community—a little bit cleaner.

For more information, contact Barrett at josh@heights-tile-stone.com.

Robin Koslen grew up in the Heights, raised her kids in the Heights, and now enjoys being a grandma in the Heights.



Josh Barrett, owner of Heights Tile and Stone, figured out how to run his truck on biodiesel.

ROBIN KOSLEN

Jimmy O'Neill's, an alternative to the ubiquitous sports bar

Jason Floyd Williams

Sports bars specialize in the non-conversation, with eardrum-aching trendy music, and rows of TVs showing 21 flavors of assorted sports. These bars become the sad backdrops for whatever dull reality show currently shoplifts the collective consciousness.

Jimmy O'Neill's, by comparison, is a rare, Indiana Jones-smuggled find. Like long-gone gems Turkey Ridge and Knotty Pine, Jimmy's keeps the volume low on the TVs so that Monk, Miles, Ella, Louis and Blossom can rise to the top. Jimmy O'Neill's is such perfect can-kicking distance from the Cedar-Lee Theatre that the regular movie enthusiast can swing by before or after the flick for the best—believe it or not—beet cake in Northeast Ohio, and a mug of the cheapest Moosehead draft on Lee Road (\$2.50).

At Jimmy's, you'll find a business-owner who works his place. With his Dr. Moreau Hawaiian shirts, O'Neill is at his tavern nearly every night—a hard-working guy.

Christmas lights remain lit all year, and the wings are consistently great. I haven't sampled wings at every place in the city (though if I'm to reach 700 lbs. and get on an extreme-weight-loss show, I'd better hurry), so I can't say Jimmy's are the best, but they have to be in the top three.

The ol' lady and I have taken a couple handfuls of folks with us to Jimmy's over the past seven years, and our friends have tried a variety of dishes from the menu, all with positive compliments: mussels, grilled steak salads, burgers, roast duck, mozzarella sticks, vegetarian curry dinner. It's a terrific oscillation from American staples to more unusual entrees.

It's a great joy to find a place where you can interact with someone over a meal, and where you get to know the owner and staff. Like Cheers, everyone knows your name. You're not going to



Jimmy O'Neill

JASON FLOYD WILLIAMS

get familiar with Mr. Panini, Mrs. Hooters won't return your call, and Professor Winking Lizard won't have your favorite drinks ready when you walk in the door.

There aren't many unique places like this left. They're the passenger pigeons of this generation. These holdouts against fleeting trends. Turkey Ridge is gone; Knotty Pine is gone; Peking Gourmet is gone. Many folks allow places to

become blurs on the periphery. It happens. You can't notice every place. But this place is worth noticing.

Jason Floyd Williams, former Big Fun employee, owns and operates his own vintage toy store at the edge of Lake County called Spaceman Floyd's Cosmic Toys.

At press time, the Heights Observer learned that Jimmy O'Neill's has closed for business. No further details were available.



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Abstract brings Vegas style to the Heights

Amy Schneider

Cindy Jahn, owner of Abstract a Hair Salon, and Ryan Simons, lead stylist, attended The Gathering 2011 for Paul Mitchell in Las Vegas in July.

There, at the annual event for stylists and salon owners from all over the world, they learned some of Paul Mitchell's current and most creative cutting and coloring techniques.

"We came back energized and excited about ourselves and our abilities," said Simons. "Meeting John Paul DeJorgia, owner and cofounder of John Paul Mitchell Systems, was a highlight," she said, "as was the White Party, where the hairdressers, who always wear black, finally got to wear white and let their



Ryan Simons and Cindy Jahn at the White Party in Las Vegas.

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Wednesday - 10 am - 7 pm
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www.abstractahairsalon.com

hair down."

Abstract, located on the mezzanine level of the Heights Medical Building at Cedar Fairmount, has been a Cleveland Heights staple for more than 20 years. Jahn said that continuing education helps keep her and her staff on the cutting edge. "Tinsel and feathers," she noted, "are in every fashion magazine, and we offer a wide variety of both."

Jahn said she is happy to have gotten so much from her five-day stay in Las Vegas, and Simons, commenting on how much she learned at the convention, joked, "Not everything that happens in Vegas should stay there."

Amy Schneider is an Oberlin and CWRU alumna, an avid knitter, and Harry Potter fan. She owns Hang it Up! framing in Cedar Fairmount.

Local musician battles recession with ukulele

James Helmsworth

Tom Olson still remembers his first guitar. "It was the worst thing you've ever seen in your life," he said with a broad smile. "We all start with these awful things."

As a child, he didn't see the shortcomings of a particular instrument. Instead he saw a world of possibilities. Dozens of guitars and a few decades later, Olson's enthusiasm is still there.

Currently, Olson balances a career as a performing musician (making frequent appearances in pit orchestras and at private parties) with a position as the titular instructor at Olson Guitar Studios, which he started in 1987, after graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

For the last 13 years, his business has

been based out of his home in Cleveland Heights.

"Cleveland Heights is a great place to have a home business," he said. "They're very liberal about it here."

Throughout his time teaching, Olson has seen innumerable changes occur to both guitar pedagogy and the tastes of his students. These include the adoption of CD players, which make learning guitar licks easier, due to the format's precision timing, and the popularity of the classic rock radio format. Said Olson, "Now kids are coming in and they want to learn all the songs I learned when I was a kid."

Though easygoing and quick to laugh, Olson's tone turns serious when discussing certain changes in music education, specifically, its recent downturn due to the recession. Apparently, fewer

and fewer parents are willing to pay for music lessons for their children.

Olson sighed. "Kids really need music," he said. "They need formal music lessons as part of their education." Indeed, recent research has linked musical training with achievement on standardized tests such as the SAT and the ACT.

Surprisingly flexible and business-savvy for a self-described "classical guitar virtuoso," Olson's response to the economic slump is simple: offer a wider range of instruction. This year, he is adding the ukulele to the list of instruments that he teaches, where it joins the ranks of guitar (classical, jazz, and rock), banjo (tenor and five-string), bass guitar and piano.

The ukulele's addition to Olson's repertoire comes in response to a spike in popularity of the instrument. According to Olson, ukulele's are so popular that, "music stores can't keep them in stock." Indeed, the ukulele is more present in popular culture than ever. Eddie Vedder, lead singer of the group Pearl Jam, just released a solo album of songs featuring ukulele. Some of YouTube's most-viewed videos also feature the

ukulele, such as those of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and those of Julia Nunes. Nunes, a young woman from New York, has launched a career based on the popularity of her YouTube videos, in which she plays pop and rock songs on ukulele.

As responsive as he is changes in popular culture, Olson is uncompromising when it comes to the discipline of his students. He warns prospective students that becoming a master of any instrument is far harder than they think. "You need to be ready to be in it for the long haul," he said.

He for one is—Olson tries to understand the psyche of every one of his students. "Teaching guitar, like anything else, is about getting into the mind of the students, finding out how they think musically, and changing it." Olson laughed, adding, "Cause they wouldn't be a student unless they needed something to be changed."

Tom Olson can be reached at guitar-gadfly@yahoo.com. He teaches Monday through Thursday.

James Helmsworth is a student at Oberlin College and a Heights Observer intern.





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The story of a lifetime—writing your personal legacy

Judith Eugene

Everyone has a valuable story to tell. The experiences, accomplishments and lessons we have learned throughout our lives are unique. Recording your life story is a way for your loved ones to learn more about who you are and what is important to you. It is also therapeutic to reflect on your life's progress, and to analyze what you have accomplished and what you would still like to accomplish.

Whether you decide to write as a gift to others, or simply as an exercise in personal reflection, there are many ways to record your personal legacy. Autobiographies, family histories, ethical wills, and memoirs are four common formats your story can take. Deciding on a format is a matter of personal preference, and depends on how much material you want to include, how much time you have to write, and your desired deadline for finishing.

Autobiographies are overviews of your entire life written in chronological order, beginning with your earliest memory and concluding with the present. Family histories are similar to autobiographies, and include autobiographies of other family members as well as yours. Ethical wills are descriptions of your beliefs, ethics, values and insights. They describe why you are who you are, and are illustrated with stories from your life. Memoirs are a blend of autobiographies and ethical wills. They combine factual accounts with thoughts and feelings. Unlike autobiographies, when writing ethical wills or memoirs you can decide which parts of your life you want to include and which parts you want to omit.

Many people are hesitant to write their personal legacies because they are not experienced writers. In truth, anyone can write a legacy. Unlike professional publications that take certain formats and engage the reader in certain ways, legacies can take any format you wish and be written in whatever style suits you. The best format is one that follows your natural speaking style, because then it is truly an expression of yourself.

Before you begin to write your legacy, you need to gather your ideas. Make a list of the people, events, or thoughts you want to include. This can take place over several weeks to several

months. Keep a notebook or a journal with you so that you can record an idea whenever it occurs. When you have finished gathering your ideas, group them into logical chapter titles. Then organize your chapter titles into a logical sequence, or outline.

Once you begin to write, you don't need to write your chapters in order. Start with whichever chapter naturally calls to you. You may choose to write by hand, type on the computer, or write by hand and have someone else type it for you. Another option is computer software that automatically types when you speak into a microphone. Whatever

format you choose, you may also wish to include photos, letters, newspaper articles, or family trees to help illustrate your story.

When you are finished writing it is a good idea to have a professional writer, editor, or a friend who is good at writing look over your work. It is often hard to detach from what you are writing and see it from an unbiased point of view. Your editor can verify whether your organization makes sense and whether you have gotten your ideas across clearly. He or she can also help with grammar and spelling, if you need it.

There are several options for publishing your legacy once it is finished.

You can make simple stapled photocopies, take it to an office supply store and have it bound, or make professional-looking hardcover books online. Whatever format your legacy takes, it will be a unique gift to share with friends and family, and will surely be treasured for years to come.

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

Heights Chamber Orchestra begins fall season

Anton Hilfreich

Heights Chamber Orchestra (HCO) starts its 29th season with a new concertmistress, Emily Cornelius, a player with an impressive record as soloist and a large teaching studio at the Fairmont School of the Performing Arts. She replaces Gino Raffaelli, who, on his retirement after 28 years of service, was named Concertmaster for Life.

In those 28 years, Raffaelli appeared 16 times as soloist with the orchestra, performing, among other works, concertos by Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Lalo, Mendelssohn and the American composer Samuel Barber. "Mr. Raffaelli's generous sharing of his professional expertise and his superb musicianship has been a true blessing," said principal violist Luane Lasky, "and we're happy that his positive influence will continue as he takes on a new post as board member."

Anthony Addison, a leader in Cleveland opera during the 1960s and 70s, and recently appointed HCO's music director, will conduct four concerts. Melisse Brunet, currently completing advanced studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music, will lead a concert of French music.

HCO comprises 45 professional and amateur musicians who reside predominantly in Cleveland Heights and the eastern suburbs of Cleveland. Every new season brings new members to revitalize the group. No auditions are held, but interested players are welcomed to rehearsals to see how well they fit with the group.



Luane Lesky, principal viola and Cleveland Heights resident.

In addition to Raffaelli, there are a handful of players who have also

been with the group for many years. Toni Miller, a 25-year member, said, "The great variety of music that HCO explores is good both for us in the orchestra and for our audience."

The 2011-12 season will start Oct. 23 at Grace Lutheran Church, on Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. The Nov. 20 concert will be held at First Baptist Church in Shaker Heights; the Feb. 19, 2012, concert will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, and the final program will take place on April 1. Concerts are presented in area churches, free of charge.

Learn more at www.heightschamber-orchestra.com.

Anton Hilfreich is a longstanding musician and former Heights resident.



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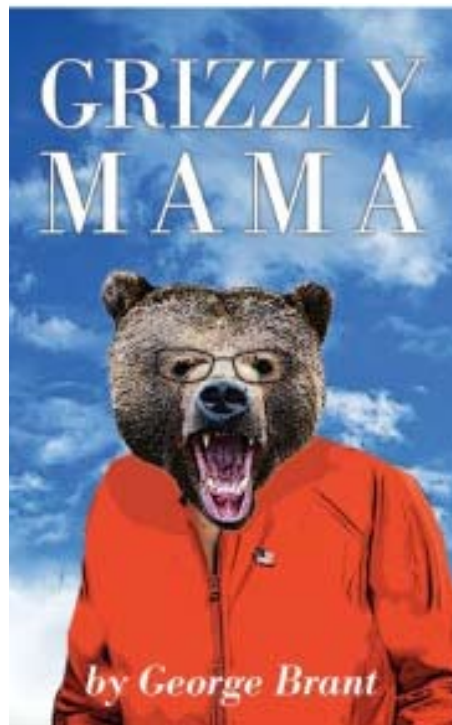
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'Grizzly Mama' opens 2011-12 Dobama season

Dianne Boduszek

To begin its 52nd season, Dobama Theatre is presenting the world premiere production of "Grizzly Mama" by George Brant. The play opens on Sept. 9 and runs through Oct. 2, with preview performances on Sept. 6 and 8.

Dobama, which typically commissions a play every year or two, is committed to featuring the work of local playwrights. Impressed by the work of George Brant, who moved to Cleveland Heights last year, the company asked him to write a play about Sarah Palin for its 2011-12 season. The resulting dark comedy is about murder, motherhood, and moose. It features Deb, a divorced suburban mom who reimagines herself as the righteous avenger of the death of her own activist mother.



Deb's daughter, Hannah, is a typical teenager, until she learns the truth about why mom moved them next door to a certain presidential candidate from Alaska. Although the play examines some current political issues, it ends up on a more universal theme: mother-daughter relationships.

Brant's plays have been produced at the Cleveland Play House and abroad. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the David Cohen National Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center, the Keene Prize for Literature, and writing fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Blue Mountain Center, and the Djerassi Resident Artists program.

Laura Kepley directs Dobama's "Grizzly Mama." She recently directed the acclaimed production of "My Name

is Asher Lev" at the Cleveland Play House, where she serves as associate artistic director.

Tickets for preview performances and for students are \$10; Friday and Saturday nights \$26 for regular admission and \$24 for seniors; Thursday and Sunday are \$21 and \$19. Rush tickets, available to patrons 21 and younger, are \$5. A limited quantity will be sold no earlier than five minutes before curtain time, based on availability.

In an effort to remove economic barriers and make Dobama productions accessible to everyone, the theatre is offering "pay-as-you-can" performances on the first Sunday of the production's run.

For more information about Dobama's 2011-12 season, call 216-932-3396 or visit www.dobama.org.

Dianne Boduszek is managing director of Dobama Theatre, and an occasional actor on its stage.

Heights music alumni to return for November reunion

Margaret Walker

All Heights High band and orchestra alumni are invited to return and make music together at a November concert in the high school's auditorium. The concert will be part of a weekend reunion of Heights instrumental music department alumni from 1949 to 1964, who will gather from all over the country to honor John F. Farinacci, former director of the instrumental music department.

Brett Baker and Dan Heim, cur-

rent departmen directors, have invited the alumni to participate in their fall concert on Saturday, Nov. 12. The alumni band will be conducted by Lois Latnik ('58) and the orchestra by John Landis ('59).

For information, contact Dick Rose ('59) at rarose@rose-vintage-instruments.com or 614-861-3312, or visit www.FarinacciAtHeights.org.

Margaret Walker, who graduated from Heights High in 1960, is cochair of reunion planning for the Farinacci Years Reunion.

More stories online at www.heightsobserver.org

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HeightsWrites

Poem for September 2011

Sometimes a pickup truck, especially if survives long past the warranty, seems to take on the personality of its owner.

—Meredith Holmes

Pa's Truck

By Lynn Porcello

was faded black and red with rust.

He had it since the war.

Ma waited for him,

and they got hitched after World War II.

They used that truck for all the chores
and everything else—

hauling, moving, and helping others.

Pa even lived in it one time

after he got out of the Army.

Behind the wheel he was at ease,

drove sensible. Ma insisted on that,

and Pa listened to her most of the time.

All us kids learned to drive Pa's truck
on the mosey-on-down roads near our farm.

Pa got mad when Uncle Salvatore
ran it into a ditch after drinking too much
home brew. Pa kept it running like a clock.

Got good gas mileage, too.

Ma keeps Pa's truck in the barn.

I can still picture Pa driving it out Route 42
to Mary's diner for coffee and doughnuts.

Lynn Porcello is a resident of Cleveland Heights and a grandmother of eight. She is inspired by other poets, including Anna Akhmatova, Maya Angelou and Robert Frost.



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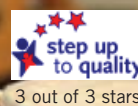
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