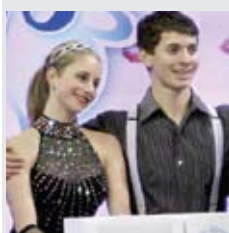


INSIDE



17
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Club skaters
place at
nationals



22
Nathan Motta
is new Dobama
artistic director



23
Workshops
highlight
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Cain Park officially goes dog-friendly

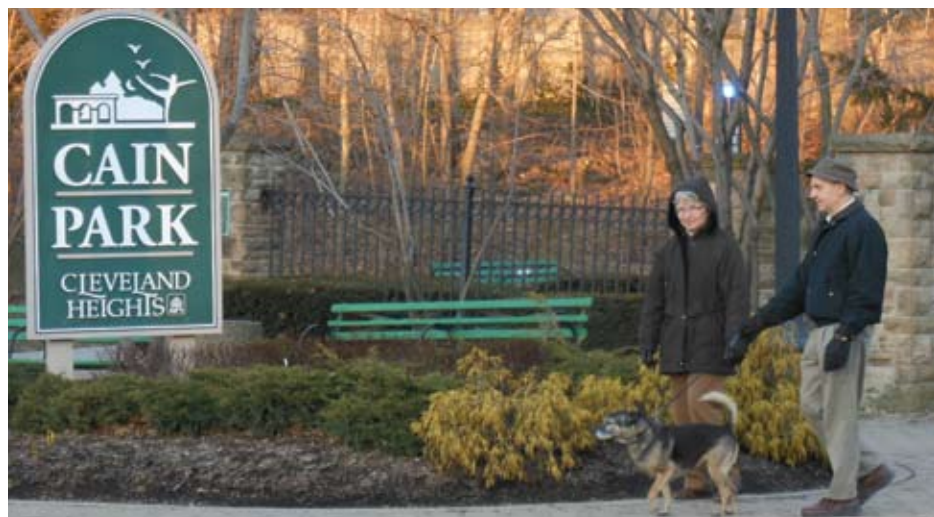
Elisabeth Farrer

Since 1973, Cleveland Heights dog owners have had to settle for walks around the block or drive to other cities to find dog-friendly parks. For some, proximity to a park that welcomes dogs is a factor in choosing where to live, and that hasn't been a selling point for Cleveland Heights—until now.

Starting April 15, a six-month pilot program for Cain Park, driven by the Cain Park Neighborhood Association's Dog Project initiative, will allow residents and their dogs to enjoy one of Cleveland Heights parks together.

Cleveland Heights City Council passed new legislation on Feb. 19 stating that, for a six-month trial period, April 15 through Oct. 15, leashed-dog walking will be allowed in Cain Park. Resolution 18-2013 stipulates that:

- Any dog must be on a leash that is extended no farther than six feet and must wear a collar or harness of proper size and strength for the particular dog.
- Any dog must be under the control of a



Heights residents and visitors to Cain Park will be able to walk their leashed dogs on paved pathways in the park beginning April 15.

person who possesses physical strength and experience sufficient to exercise reasonable restraint and control of the dog.

- Any person bringing a dog into a public park shall promptly clean up waste from the dog and place it in provided receptacles.
- Any person bringing a dog into a public park shall confine the dog to paved

pathways.

- Dog-walking shall be suspended during the Cain Park Arts Festival and other widely attended events as determined by the city manager.

The pilot program will be evaluated at the end of the trial period. At that time, council will consider the option of

continued on page 5

University Heights City Council appoints Mark N. Wiseman to vacant council seat

Kim Sergio Inglis

Mark N. Wiseman, a 25-year resident of University Heights, was sworn in as the city's newest councilman at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, at University Heights City Hall.

In a press release from the City of University Heights dated Feb. 14, and received by the *Heights Observer* the morning of Feb. 15, Frankie Goldberg, vice mayor, announced the appointment of Wiseman to fill the council seat left vacant by the death of Councilman Thomas A. Cozens on Jan. 17.

Wiseman, a lawyer, applied for the position on Jan. 27. He has held several public service positions, including director of the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure



UH Mayor Susan Infeld swears in new UH Councilman Mark Wiseman.

Prevention Program, Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Section and member of the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council.

Currently, Wiseman is the principal of Wiseman Consulting, LLC, which has Cleveland's Neighborhood Progress Inc.

continued on page 2

Montford Community Garden Association wins national grant

The Montford Community Garden is one of ten projects throughout the United States and Canada selected by Fiskars Brands for a 2013 Project Orange Thumb[®], grant.

The Montford Community Garden Association plans to create a community garden on a vacant lot at the corner of Montford and Windsor roads in Cleveland Heights. The group worked with FutureHeights, a nonprofit dedicated to building community through civic engagement, to apply for the grant in late 2012.

"I am thrilled!" said Patrick Bryne, a resident of Englewood Road and president of the association, "This award should really keep the ball rolling, and should be enough to start the basics. I am excited to see this infusion put to work."

Fiskars, a company that produces lawn, garden and crafting products, is headquartered in Madison, Wis. Through Project Orange Thumb[®], Fiskars awards cash, garden tools and materials to help support community garden goals across North America.

"The 2013 cycle brought us some of the best and most detailed applications yet," said Ally Spaight, marketing specialist for Fiskars Brands Inc., in an e-mail to grant recipients. "We were particularly impressed with the way [Montford] presented the need for a garden within [its] community, and [its] highly detailed garden plan."

Grant recipients will receive a \$3,500 gift card to spend on goods for their gardens and a \$1,500 Fiskars tool-kit.

continued on page 3

Controversy over proposed UH-SH fire department merger

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Feb. 1, the cities of University Heights and Shaker Heights issued a joint press release stating that the two cities would create a Council of Governments (COG) with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which would lay the groundwork for an agreement to consolidate the cities' fire and EMS departments. The press release gave several dates when a completed agreement would be presented to the councils of both cities for public comment and ap-

proval, but it turns out that the timeline in the release was wishful thinking.

Soon after the release was issued, John Novosielski, president of University Heights Firefighters Local 974, lashed out at University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld and Shaker Heights Mayor Earl Leiken, accusing them of having already made the decision to merge departments without union or public input. "It appears that the decision to 'merge' departments had already been made by the mayors, and that everything else was a dog and pony show," said Novosielski

in a press release.

Mayor Infeld disagrees. "The MOU is the beginning of the process, not the end," said Infeld. "This is not final and could change a lot."

Infeld said that the MOU is a non-binding agreement that formalizes the conversations the two cities have had for two years. "Members of council have been aware of the conversations I have had with Mayor Leiken and are familiar with the MOU," she said. "I believe that the presentation of the

continued on page 8

Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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A truer narrative of who we are



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Too many times, I've heard people complain about how the Heights is portrayed in the media. It's the bad things that get all the press—a string of break-ins occurs in our neighborhoods, a violent “flash mob” erupts during a street festival, a dog is shot in our park. Are these the things that define us?

I'm happy to say that they do not, and that our residents are taking it upon themselves to weave a different narrative—one that speaks of all the good things that happen here every day.

Peter Block, a resident of Cincinnati and author of several books on community building, said recently at a seminar I attended, “Our job is to reconstruct the narrative of who we are as a community. Don't hold anyone

else responsible for who we are.”

The *Heights Observer* uses a citizen-journalism model to publish stories that come from, and are written by, the community. It is published by FutureHeights, a nonprofit that seeks to build a vibrant and sustainable Heights community through civic engagement. What you see in these pages is what residents send us. It's what the community wants to write about.

In this issue, you'll read about residents who seek to make the Heights more dog-friendly, two local playwrights, championship spellers, entrepreneurs who have started unique businesses here, hockey players, figure skaters and swimmers, neighbors who will break ground on a new community garden on a vacant lot this spring, and much more.

None of it is breaking news, but together the stories, told by many different voices, affirm what many of us know to be true. We live in an interesting place, with creative and resourceful people, who are actively involved in making it even better.

These are the stories we want to hear. This is a truer narrative of who we are.

The first issue of the *Heights Observer* published on April 10, 2008, and next month we will celebrate its fifth anniversary. When we started, we had many goals and aspirations, and being the voice of the community was among them. We do this, not through constant reminders of our faults, nor by editorializing about what should be, but rather by amplifying the strengths that are already here.

Help us celebrate five years on April 18, when we bring to town Peter Pula of Axiom News, a Canadian-based news agency that uses the power of appreciative inquiry to “look for stories that have the capacity to give the community life instead of focusing on its woundedness.” And, in the meantime, keep sending us your stories.

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

Highlights from Observer blogs Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Cool people I know: Daniel Stashower
 Daniel Stashower, author of *The Hour of Peril*, was in town this weekend on a publicity tour scheduled tighter than

the subject of his new book: Lincoln's perilous 1861 train trip from Springfield, Ill. to his inauguration in Washington.

Stashower grew up in Cleveland Heights and it was a crowd filled with friends—so many of them, in fact that his father, retired ad man David Stashower, was relegated to standing near the door in the back. I whispered to him: “So who DO you have to know to get a seat?”

Also claiming a small foothold against the back wall was another celebrated Cleveland Heights writer, food man Michael Ruhlman.

—Bob Rosenbaum

From afar, a musical musing

There is always one person up front who thinks they are at a Phish or Grateful Dead concert, and I thank God they are there. They are the first ones, often the only one, to start swaying to the beats and rhythm of the song. This past weekend I sat behind the free spirit and loved it.

This audience member is the token free spirit who does not care in the least about the hundred or so people behind them or near them, that are not dancing, but secretly wish they were.

—Tiffany Laufer

WISEMAN continued from page 1

and Neighborhood Housing Services as its clients. He also served on the 2008 Charter Review Committee for the City of University Heights.

According to Kelly Thomas, University Heights clerk of council, 19

residents applied for the open council seat by the Feb. 1 deadline. Members of city council selected seven finalists to interview, one of whom removed himself from consideration before being interviewed.

A second, ceremonial swearing-in for Wiseman was administered at the next regularly scheduled University Heights City Council meeting, on Feb. 19.

A special remembrance for Councilman Cozzens was observed during the same city council meeting.

According to the University Heights City Charter, the city council is required to fill a council vacancy within 30 days. If council does not fill the vacancy within that time frame, the mayor instead makes the appointment.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

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UH firefighters union urges residents to ask questions about proposed merger of departments

John Novosielski

On Feb. 1, the University Heights Firefighters Local 974 president was handed a packet by Mayor Infeld with no additional information given about it. It was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Mayor Infeld of University Heights and Mayor Leiken of Shaker Heights, outlining their plan and timeline to eliminate the University Heights Fire Department.

The MOU states that a council of governments (COG) will be formed and controlled solely by Infeld and Leiken, taking power from the city council, the representatives of the people. [A Feb. 1 press release posted on both the Shaker Heights and University Heights city websites outlines the “next step” in the preparation of an agreement to create a joint fire department.]

On Jan. 10, a town hall meeting was held to allow residents of University Heights the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns about the study and the prospect of “merging” fire departments. A subsequent Jan. 16 *Sun Press* article [by Ed Wittenberg] stated, “Infeld said the next step is for her and council to reflect on the comments they have heard from the public meetings, and from residents outside the meetings, and make a decision.”

Comments were not all that were heard at the meeting. In fact, a multitude of questions and serious concerns were offered by the audience and the vast majority were met with resounding silence . . . no answers were given. This points to a legitimate question: Were the town hall meetings and requests for input from residents really just a deception?

Examination of the MOU reveals

it was signed by Mayor Infeld the very next day after the town hall meeting. A closer look at the language reveals that it was drafted prior to October 2012. A façade of open-mindedness was continued in a Jan. 18 *Sun Press* article [by Ed Wittenberg] when Mayor Infeld said, “The two departments still operating separately have not combined, and are deep into exploring a consolidation model of operation.” It appears that the decision to “merge” departments had already been made by the mayors, and that everything else was a dog and pony show. Have the council members even been informed of the decision and plan developed by the mayors?

The residents of University Heights deserve to have forthright, accurate and timely information given to them about considerations to alter or eliminate a department that serves to protect and save their lives and their property. The University Heights Firefighters Local 974 has tried to be actively included in the study and conversation about a potential merger, but without success.

We ask that you call your council representatives and start asking questions. Also, please attend the upcoming council meetings where this plan is speedily coming before council for a vote. Keep asking until you receive the definitive, clear answers that you deserve. Local 974 members will be doing their best to get answers to the residents and their own members and ensure that the outstanding and professional EMS and fire services provided in University Heights are rightfully held as a top priority.

John Novosielski is president of University Heights Firefighters Local 974.

GARDEN continued from page 1

Like many cities in Northeast Ohio, Cleveland Heights has been hit hard by foreclosures and vacant homes. Many of the homes are in serious disrepair and therefore subject to demolition by the Cuyahoga Land Bank or by the city. The house that formerly occupied the proposed garden site at Montford and Windsor roads was torn down by the land bank early last year. Title to the lot was later transferred to the city.

“This is great news,” said Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley, “The city will be supportive in whatever ways we can. This project sets the stage for similar projects in other areas of town. Community gardens are a good use of vacant lots, and once we get some up and running people will see them and realize their benefits.”

“The garden will be wonderful for the city and the neighborhood,” said Susanna Niermann O’Neil, acting city manager for the city of Cleveland Heights. “It’s a collaborative effort and a great start for community gardening in the city.”

Montford Community Garden Association has also applied for a \$400 start-up grant from the OSU Extension Suburban Community Garden Program, and it hopes to obtain donations from merchants and contributions from civic-minded residents who support the community garden movement. For more information about the project, contact Patrick Byrne at pbyrne@kent.



Proposed site of Montford Community Garden at Windsor and Montford roads.

edu or 330-612-3823.

Other 2013 recipients of the Fiskars grant are Morton Street Community Garden in Noblesville, Ind.; Franklin’s Corner Garden in Bend, Ore.; Paul Revere School Community Garden in Revere, Mass.; Emma Park Neighborhood Garden in Butte, Mont.; Grow Your Brain State Road School Garden in LaCrosse, Wis.; M.A.G.I.C.A.L. Garden in Albemarle, N.C.; New Roots Community Garden in Syracuse, N.Y.; Garden of Hope in Lakewood, N.J.; and Milky Way Garden in Toronto, Ont. To learn more about the 2013 Project Orange Thumb Grant recipients, visit www2.fiskars.com.

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

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This is not a merger, and not regionalization

Anita Kazarian

On Thursday, Feb. 7, University Heights resident Anita Kazarian interviewed John Novosielski, president of Local 974 of the International Association of Fire Fighters. Kazarian's questions and Novosielski's responses follow.

Q: One hundred percent of University Heights (UH) firefighters are trained as paramedics or emergency medical services. Is this true of Shaker Heights firefighters?

A: No. University Heights is 1.9 square miles and covered by two advanced life support ambulances, with everyone in the department trained to provide a high level of service. Shaker Heights is 6.3 square miles and covered by three ambulances, with only 53 percent of the department [trained] as paramedics. Currently, UH residents have a quick response time—under four minutes. Shaker's response time is under five minutes. Most calls are heart attacks or strokes where brain damage can occur in four to six minutes. One minute can make a life or death difference.

Q: The emergency response time [in the feasibility study conducted last fall] for Shaker was changed from the original presentation in Oct. 2012, why?

A: The original presentation showed UH had a significantly faster response time—4:21 minutes vs. Shaker's 5 minutes. This did not look good for Shaker, so they were asked by the study group to eliminate nonemergency calls [no lights/sirens]. UH was not afforded that opportunity for the revised November presentation. If we were, our response time would have dropped

even more significantly. The study group decided to compare apples to oranges.

Q: Did Mayor Infeld request technical support/guidance from the UH Fire Department in understanding the study or drawing up the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) she wants council to pass?

A: No. Page 117 of the study says "nearly always, a key staff, councilor, or governing body member champions the concept garnering the support of the various affected groups [political, labor, members and community]." We have not had the mayor come to us to garner our support. We have not had two-way communication [also advised in the study] to this point. We were shut out of the process and had no say at all.

Q: Do you support regionalization efforts?

A: Yes, we definitely would. We have been working with state and national organizations that have knowledge of successful regionalization efforts. With just two cities involved, it is too small in scope to achieve any efficiency in providing service and/or cost savings—the reason for regionalization. This study should have included, at a minimum, all four neighboring cities to UH: Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid and Beachwood. With these five cities you would have legitimate cost savings and better service. This plan is just a takeover. Infeld is quoted saying "it just makes sense that the smaller entity be absorbed by the larger."

Q: Is this a merger as the mayor states?

A: No. This is a contract for service from the City of Shaker Heights. All employees will be Shaker Heights employees operating under the Shaker Heights Finance Department. UH will just have to cut a check to Shaker Heights.

Q: If this is a takeover and not a merger or regionalization, what do you think is the motive?

A: Infeld is on County Executive Fitzgerald's County Planning Commission. Fitzgerald wants regionalization. It may be politically beneficial to Infeld if University Heights is the first in the area to contract fire safety out to another city. But remember, this plan is not regionalization.

Q: All University Heights firefighters will be laid off as part of the deal. What about Shaker Heights firefighters?

A: No, they will not be laid off because this is not a merger. It is only the University Heights department that will be eliminated. We are not given any guarantee to a job, rank or seniority with Shaker under this MOU. There is even mention that previously laid off Shaker Heights staff (4) will be rehired before jobs are given to any laid off University Heights firefighters.

Q: Does that mean the University Heights firefighter with 26 years of seniority will enter the Shaker Heights system as a new hire? No seniority and entry level pay?

A: Yes, that is a distinct possibility.

Q: Have residents contacted you?

A: Yes, we have overwhelming citizen

and business support. They were dismayed at the fact the mayor is getting rid of their firefighters. The fact there will no longer be a University Heights Fire/EMS Department will have a negative effect on businesses and their insurance rates. We've provided top-notch service for 71 years and people don't understand why a change to less than the current level of service is being considered by city council.

Q: Which brings us to council, what do you expect from council?

A: They will either vote to accept or reject this proposal. Council gets the final say whether this goes forward or not.

Q: What do you hear from area fire departments?

A: Cleveland Heights and South Euclid firefighters have shown support for the retention of our University Heights Fire Department. Cleveland Heights City Council publicly stated they wanted to be part of the study, but were shut out. Shaker Heights firefighters fully oppose the plan as facts of the MOU became public over the past few weeks.

Q: Do you have any additional comments?

A: We encourage the community to keep informed of the facts. Contact all council members and ask them to maintain the high level of service with their own independent fire department.

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

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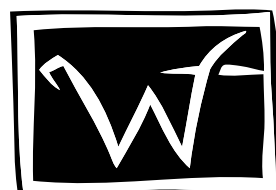
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DOG PROJECT continued from page 1

extending dog-friendly status to Forest Hill Park and/or Cumberland Park.

All six council members who attended the Feb. 19 council meeting voted in favor of the resolution. Janine Boyd was absent.

Jason Stein, a council member who supported the idea and introduced the legislation, is optimistic about the program: "This initiative is a direct result of citizen participation in the community and working with council to create something positive."

Both Mayor Ed Kelley and Vice Mayor Dennis Wilcox thanked the Dog Project volunteers, and reminded them that this pilot project will be looked at carefully. Wilcox said, "I hope that everything goes better than we all expect, and it probably will, but I just want to make sure that . . . if there are any issues or problems, that we address them."

Kelley challenged the Dog Project volunteers to "let us know what is going on." He urged them to keep council informed "in good times and in bad," adding, "hopefully, it will all be good."

Kerri Whitehouse, Dog Project spokesperson, commented, "From what we understand, this pilot program involving a partnership between council, city staff and volunteer citizens is the first of its kind in Cleveland Heights. What we've requested is a departure from current policy, and we appreciate council's willingness to revisit a law that might have made sense 40 years ago, but one that many Cleveland Heights residents feel isn't working today."

The Dog Project Committee's pilot program is among the Cain Park Neighborhood Association's strategies

to increase foot traffic and park use. The group aims to reduce crime by bringing more eyes and ears to Cain Park and the surrounding neighborhood, which has experienced an increased rate of criminal activity in recent years.

The citizen-driven Dog Project has recruited 20 volunteers who, on a rotating basis, will restock biodegradable waste bags in dispensers that will be installed throughout the park. Four volunteers have stepped forward to help maintain the group's website, which is still under construction, but is now live at www.clevelanddogproject.weebly.com. The website is intended to be a resource for creating awareness and educating people about responsible dog ownership.

The Dog Project Committee is in the early stages of planning activities for the weekend of April 20 and 21, to celebrate the start of the pilot program. The group intends to sponsor future events geared toward encouraging responsible dog care and ownership, and seeks volunteers interested in event planning.

For more information about the Dog Project or volunteering, visit www.clevelanddogproject.weebly.com or the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CHdogproject; e-mail the group at chdogproject@gmail.com; or call 440-478-6226.

Elisabeth Farrer is a recent graduate of Case Western Reserve University where she received a B.A. in English. She is interested in writing about Greater Cleveland so everyone will come to love this city as much as she does.



Mayor Susan Infeld presents Mary Ann Cozzens and two of her children, Kathleen and Patrick, with a plaque in memory of UH Councilman Thomas Cozzens.

Thomas Cozzens remembered at Feb. 19 University Heights City Council meeting

Simone Quartell

The City of University Heights honored Councilman Thomas Cozzens at its Feb. 19 city council meeting.

Cozzens, who died on Jan. 17 after a brief battle with cancer, was elected to council in November 2011, and sworn in on Jan. 3, 2012.

At the Feb. 19 remembrance, University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld presented Cozzens' wife, Mary Ann, daughter Kathleen and son Patrick, with a memorial plaque. Another identical plaque will be installed at city hall.

Infeld also presented the family with Cozzens' council nameplate, and condolence letters from University Heights residents that had been sent to city hall.

She read a letter of condolence

from the Ohio State Senate that was signed by Senate President Keith Faber and District 21 Senator Shirley Smith, that described Cozzens as "a spirited individual who contributed to the lives of those around him."

Cozzens "lent a lot to council," said Infeld. "Tonight isn't easy for any of us. He had a brilliant mind, and we all thought highly of him. His absence is keenly felt."

As councilman, Cozzens chaired the finance committee. He also was a 13-year member of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

A resident of Belvoir Boulevard, Cozzens is survived by his wife, daughter, three sons and six grandchildren.

Simone Quartell, a Heights High graduate, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.



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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

JANUARY 22, 2013

Councilman Thomas A. Cozzens

Councilman Thomas A. Cozzens died on Jan. 17 after a brief illness. A white rose was placed on his desk. Cozzens had served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for 13 years, and was elected to council one year ago. Mayor Infeld spoke of his remarkable commitment, attending two meetings in January despite his illness, thus ensuring that the budget proposal for 2013 was completed.

Council must appoint someone within 30 days to serve out the remainder of this year. This November there will be an election to fill the remaining two years of Cozzens's term. Letters of interest and résumés for consideration of appointment should be submitted to Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas by 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.

Tennis courts

Council authorized advertisement for bids for crack sealing, patching, and surface sealing the tennis courts, which was last done in 2006. Separate pricing to replace six of the poles that hold the nets will also be requested in the bids. The bids should not exceed \$70,000.

2013 budget

Council adopted the 2013 budget with one amendment. The budget line for the juvenile diversion program was changed from \$3,500 to \$9,500. There is a backlog of cases from 2012 needing follow-up along with new cases for 2013. The juvenile diversion program is for young offenders whose crimes do not warrant criminal sentencing but who are starting down a path of crime.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Councilman Steven Sims was absent.

Citizen comments

Three residents commented on the proposed merger of the University Heights and Shaker Heights fire departments. All were opposed, arguing that fire-fighters would be laid off and questioning whether a merger would generate efficiencies. Resident Winifred Weiser wanted a vote from constituents on the merger.

Mayor Infeld assured the audience that currently there is only a memorandum of understanding (MOU), with no decision. This has been a two-year process funded by the Cleveland Foundation, which had mapped out four models as guidelines. There is no rush to vote on the merger.

State of the City

The mayor reported the following major points in her speech:

- A \$2.2 million surplus, the largest in the history of the city, will be reinvested in items such as street paving, services, programming and equipment in order to benefit residents.
- The city is researching the possibility of establishing new green space where the former Fuchs Mizrahi school property sits. Also, there is new green space on Silsby Road near Allison Road.
- The city's planning and zoning code will be updated in 2013. It was last updated 60 years ago.
- Consolidation of fire services and a regional dispatch center for police services is being investigated.

- There is an ongoing dialogue with the school district to keep an elementary school within the city boundaries.
- Maintaining a strong relationship with John Carroll University, the city changed the name of North Park Boulevard to John Carroll Boulevard.
- The city has a new website and Twitter and Facebook presence.

Heritage Home Program

The Cleveland Restoration Society presented the Heritage Home Program to the council. For \$4,200, the city can enroll its residents in the Heritage Home Program. Under the program, a homeowner can obtain a home improvement loan at a rate as low as 1.4 percent for a minimum of \$3,000 to a maximum of \$200,000 for up to 12 years, as long as the home is at least 50 years old. The agency offers financial help as well as home repair consultations, on-site visits and contractor referrals. The basis for the loan is from the equity of the house, but it can be appraised after completion of the work. The cost is within the range that the mayor can approve without a council vote. However, at the request of the mayor, council voted and approved the program.

Senior Transportation Services

Council approved a one-year agreement with Senior Transportation Services for 80 riders per month. This was the same contract as last year. Flyers will be put in the mailboxes of current users and in apartments with elderly tenants.

State legislation on tax collection

Proposed legislation to turn collection of income taxes over to the state is up for debate in the Ohio



Senate. Mayor Infeld is travelling to Columbus next week for a mayors meeting and stated that all of the cities are against the issue and will voice their opinion.

UH Elementary School

Councilman Phillip Ertel was happy to announce that [an elementary school in University Heights] is included in all future configurations of the facilities plans for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. He feels it is important for the city to have an elementary school within its boundaries. Councilwoman Pamela Cameron is also on the committee.

LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

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.

Mayor Infeld delivers State of the City address

Kim Sergio Inglis

As she embarks on her fourth year as mayor of University Heights, Susan Infeld delivered her annual State of the City address at the Feb. 4 city council meeting.

Infeld highlighted events of the past year and reported on progress made toward some of the city's long-term goals, including improved fiscal responsibility, expansion of the city's green space, and participation in local and regional efforts to improve services.

She reported that the city ended the year with a \$2.2 million revenue surplus, which she noted was the largest in the city's history.

Plans for 2013 include updating University Heights's Planning and Zoning Code, which was last updated 60 years ago, according to the mayor.

Infeld characterized regionalism as "more than just a buzzword in University Heights," and discussed the possible

consolidation of fire services between University Heights and Shaker Heights, which she noted "has been under consideration for the past [two] years," but which remains "nonbinding." Infeld stated that "no action on this proposal will occur without the approval of the city councils of both communities."

Infeld also remarked on the efforts that she and members of city council have undertaken to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board, to ensure that an elementary school will remain in University Heights, as a new facilities plan is being formulated by the district.

Mayor Infeld's State of the City address, in its entirety, is published on the *Heights Observer* website, www.heightsobserver.org.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

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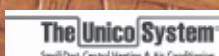


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Anatomy of a city manager search



STEIN'S WAY

Jason Stein

On April 13, 2012, City Manager Bob Downey resigned after more than 25 years of service. This triggered a process, which had not been initiated since 1985, to begin the search for a new city manager.

The Cleveland Heights city manager is the most important position within the city. The city manager serves as the city's chief administrative officer and public safety director, supervising 415 permanent full-time employees, 54 permanent part-time employees, 130 seasonal part-time employees, and a budget exceeding \$40 million. City council is charged with appointing, reviewing and, if necessary, replacing the city manager.

In June, a request for qualifications (RFQ) for an executive search firm was issued. The RFQ listed duties including developing a candidate profile; advertising the position; soliciting candidates; presenting a written report on background, strengths, accomplishments and a reference list; facilitating the interview process and other customary services. There were seven applicants from various states. City council chose to interview three of those applicants. After much discussion, City council agreed to hire Ohio-based Novak Consulting Group to head the search for Cleveland Heights's new city manager. Novak Consulting Group has had recent success in searches for managers in the city of Sandusky and village of Chevy Chase, Md.

With Novak's facilitation, council

has been working hard and spending many hours and days to find the best candidate. A council retreat (held on a Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in a conference room at the Cleveland Heights Community Center) concentrated on identifying council's priorities for the city over the next year, and setting goals and expectations for the city manager, staff and ourselves. This phase of the process has been very productive, as council has had an opportunity to focus on the priorities that we, as a whole, value.

Now begins the final phase of this selection process. Cleveland Heights has demonstrated that it remains an attractive and vibrant community, as we received 68 applications for the city manager position. Many of these applicants are highly qualified and most currently reside outside of Ohio. Novak Consulting Group prepared detailed recommendations for a finalist list. In the coming weeks, each finalist will visit with our city staff, receive a tour of the city, spend time getting a feel for the city, and have a lengthy interview with city council.

Council is likely to make a decision sometime in April. This important decision will mark the official end of the previous city manager's administration and the beginning of a new way of doing business. Change is, at times, uncomfortable, but it can be a good thing, and new leadership brings new opportunities. Whoever is selected to become the new city manager will need the support of our residents to do the job, which is to make Cleveland Heights even better.

Jason Stein is a member of Cleveland Heights City Council, a Heights High graduate and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. He can be reached at 440-253-9613 or jstein@clvhts.com.

Finalist field for city manager narrows as Niermann O'Neil withdraws

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley reported that Novak Consulting Group, the search firm hired by city council to conduct the search for a new city manager, received 68 applications for the position and selected five finalists for council to interview. Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager, was one of the five, but has withdrawn her application. Council has accepted her withdrawal.

In a letter to council dated Feb. 22, Niermann O'Neil said, "The recent selection process has made me aware that after our household mortgage was paid off in 2007 our real estate taxes became delinquent when they were no longer part of a mortgage payment. Although we have subsequently been current on our taxes, this past history is embarrassing to me and therefore not acceptable to me to continue as an applicant. I am also very aware that all things evolve and that it is time for City Council to bring in a new person as City Manager."

"It's somewhat sad," said Kelley, "but it is an opportunity to bring in new blood and fresh ideas."

Kelley said that Novak is finishing up the background-check process and that council would find out sometime in early March if the other four candidates will all move forward with their applications. "The process is ongoing, it is not closed. If someone else wanted to apply now, we would consider their application," he said. "Susanna has done a great job as acting city manager and will be part of the transition team."

Cleveland Heights City Council appointed Niermann O'Neil acting city manager in April 2012, when Bob Downey resigned as city manager after learning his contract would not be renewed. At the time of her appointment, Mayor Kelley stated that a national search would be conducted for a permanent city manager.

The city manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city and serves as the public safety director. The position description advertised by Novak Consulting states that candidates must have five years of senior-level management experience in local government and hold a bachelor's degree. Ideally, candidates would also have a master's degree in public administration.

Novak lists several characteristics that the ideal candidate would possess, including the ability to work with diverse groups and to view differences of opinion as a community strength. The description states, "The next city manager will see Cleveland Heights with fresh eyes and ears and consider the city with an open mind."

Salary for the position would be between \$130,000 and \$150,000, depending on the candidate's qualifications.

When asked if council planned to seek residents' input on the city manager candidates, Kelley responded, "City council has discussed that issue and has decided not to involve residents in the process."

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

CH economic development director resigns

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Feb. 6, Howard Thompson, Cleveland Heights economic development director, resigned from his position effective immediately. Thompson had held the position since December 2010.

"We were reorganizing the planning and development department and Howard resigned," said Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager, "These things happen."

The city had created the position in order to bring in Thompson. An assistant planning director position had been left unfilled for two and a half years prior to his appointment.

"Howard brought a tremendous amount of energy to the job," said Niermann O'Neil, "He has a creative mind. I enjoyed working with him and wish him the best."

Thompson would not comment on his resignation.

Mayor Ed Kelley said that because Thompson reported to the city manager it was Niermann O'Neil's decision to make. "It was a pleasure working with



Howard Thompson speaks at the FutureHeights speaker series in April 2011.

him. I'm sure he'll land on his feet, and I wish him the best," he said.

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



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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

JANUARY 22, 2013

Cheryl L. Stephens was absent.

Tower lease agreement

Council approved a five-year tower lease agreement with T-Mobile Central LLC for use of a portion of city property at 2951 Mayfield Road for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and improvement of an existing communications facility and the grant of associated easements. The agreement includes four five-year renewal options. Compensation will be \$1,850 per month for the first five years and will increase for each subsequent renewal.

Cedar-Fairmount bicycle improvements

Council authorized grant applications to help fund bicycle-related improvements in the Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Glen area. One application would be to the Bikes Belong Coalition to help fund the Streetscape Improvement Project. Another would be to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, under the Clean Ohio Trail Funds Program, to fund the Cedar Glen Parkway Multipurpose Trail portion of the Streetscape Improvement Project. Both measures would help achieve a \$375,000 match required by NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) to receive \$1.5 million in Transportation Enhancement Funds.

Loan for new restaurant

Council approved an agreement with David N. Waite and Frances A. Sarro for a \$50,000 loan,

under the Economic Development Loan Fund, for assistance with purchasing restaurant equipment for the proposed tenant of 2195-97 Lee Road, the former site of Jimmy O'Neill's Tavern, which has been vacant for 18 months. The proposed tenant will be Joey's, a restaurant that closed after a fire in its previous space in Chagrin Falls.

Heritage Home Loan Program

Council approved an annual renewal of an agreement with the Cleveland Restoration Society for historic preservation consulting services in connection with the Heritage Home Loan Program, in an amount not to exceed \$22,000. This agreement has been renewed annually since 2001. Highlights of the program for 2012 include 189 inquiries about loans, 82 instances of technical assistance, and 10 new loans totaling almost half a million dollars.

2091 Goodnor Road

An arson fire destroyed the house at 2091 Goodnor Road and, while the owners agree that the house must be demolished, there was no insurance at the time of the fire and therefore no funds to cover the work. Council declared the property to be a nuisance and funds for razing will come from the NSP (Neighborhood Stabilization Program) Phase I. The city will probably receive title to the land.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

All council members were present.

Citizen communications

Resident Kerri Whitehouse, representing the Dog Project Committee of the Cain Park Neighborhood Association, updated council on the leashed dog pilot project for Cain Park. Efforts are underway to recruit volunteers to restock bags in the waste stations. The group is also looking for help in maintaining the website it is developing. It will be similar to the Leashed Dogs in Lakewood Parks website (www.leasheddogsinklewoodparks.com) and used for creating public awareness about responsible dog ownership. Mayor Kelley suggested recruiting high school students who like dogs and are looking to fulfill community service hours.

Civil Service Commission opening

The resignation of Mildred Barnard has created an opening on the city's Civil Service Commission. The three members of the commission are responsible for preparing and administering tests for hiring and promoting civil service employees in the city's police and fire divisions. Acting City Manager Susanna O'Neil thanked Barnard for her many years of service. Council appointed Judith Miles to fill the vacancy. Miles, an assistant prosecutor for Cuyahoga County and a longtime and active Cleveland Heights resident, most recently served on the Financial Institution Advisory Commission. Before the vote, Council Member Cheryl Stephens spoke highly of Miles's personal and professional qualifications.



School district facilities committee

The CH-UH Schools district's Lay Facilities Committee, of which Vice Mayor Dennis Wilcox is a member, has been reviewing the school board's plans for renovation, rehabilitation and replacement of school buildings. The committee currently is considering six alternative scenarios formulated by a subcommittee. These will be discussed at the committee's next meeting on Feb. 13 at Roxboro Elementary School, and a survey conducted in February will gain community input. On March 6, at Canterbury Elementary School, the full committee will vote on whether to approve up to three of the subcommittee's proposed options. Wilcox recommended looking at the committee's website, www.chuhfacilities.org, for more information.

Cain Park dog walking

Council heard the first reading of an ordinance to establish a six-month pilot project, from April 15 to Oct. 15, to permit leashed-dog walking in Cain Park under specified conditions to ensure adequate control of the dog, cleanup of dog waste, confinement to paved walkways, restricted days and sections, and suspension during specified events, such as the Cain Park Arts Festival. The measure will be voted on at the next council meeting on Feb. 19.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.

MERGER continued from page 1

MOU gives Mayor Leiken and me an opportunity to be honest and transparent and show the level of detail of what we talked about. Besides talking about the big picture, we also talked about very specific things."

"In my postcard to University Heights residents about the Town Hall meeting, I advertised that the meeting was about a consolidation or merger," said Infeld. "State law considers it a consolidation, but I'm not sure that most people understand what that means. I wanted to make sure people understood the importance of this concept so that they would come to a public meeting to learn more."

State law also states that employees in a consolidated department could have only one public employer. "In the MOU we talked about the employees of the smaller entity being laid off and rehired by the larger one," said Infeld. "This is legal terminology and a technicality since those employees would be hired one minute later by the other city. I would not agree to a plan that laid off our firefighters. I want to assure our employees that they would be employed."

Infeld admits that a detailed timetable in the MOU may have alarmed people. "But we are off the timeline as it was presented," she said. "We have to do a lot more talking."

Infeld said that she has met with the executive board of local 974 several times since the process began in order to keep them informed and answer their questions. "My last meeting with the fire union was on Jan. 29. At that meeting, I repeated a request I made to them in our recent meetings: to provide me with a list of things they would like to see happen with a consolidation, focusing mainly on their work conditions." Infeld said she and members of city council spent time with the fire department, per the union's request, to learn more

about what they do prior to the Feb. 4 council meeting.

Novosielski claims that the Jan. 29 meeting was the first that he has had with the mayor. "I don't know what meetings she's referring to," he said. "She has answered questions for us. [That] was the first meeting she had with us, and it was just to reemphasize the city's position on the merger."

"We care about the city we provide service for," said Novosielski. "We've been functioning wonderfully well for over 71 years. Now there is this theory of a merger. In a life and death service, you don't want to play around. They have theories and we have facts. If you don't have the same amount of people you won't get the same amount of service."

University Heights has held four public meetings on the concept of consolidation. Two occurred before the final report was released—on May 15 and Oct. 15. The report was released on Oct. 29, and two more public meetings were held in University Heights on Dec. 4 and Jan. 10. Shaker Heights also held public meetings on the topic.

Infeld said she is open to more cities becoming involved if a successful consolidation between the two cities is completed. "We started talking with Shaker because we have two fire houses that are a mile apart from each other," said Infeld. "The Cleveland Foundation only agreed to fund this study because it was something different. The foundation had already funded two studies on the potential consolidation of services between multiple municipalities, but nothing came of them. There were too many people involved, and even with a smaller number of cities involved, this is really complicated. We thought that if we looked at it from the perspective of only two cities we might be able to figure it out. If we could actually accomplish a consolidation then it could be a successful model that could grow."

Ed Kelley, mayor of Cleveland Heights, said, "We would have liked to have been part of the study originally. Four years ago I ran on the position that four fire departments—Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights and South Euclid—should merge. If you put them on a map it makes sense for the four municipalities to be included. The savings would be a very high number. You would only need one chief, not four, and only one assistant chief. You could save at least three-quarters of a million dollars."

Now that the consolidation process is moving forward with only two cities, Kelley said that Cleveland Heights will see how it unfolds. "We stand willing and ready to be part of the discussion, and if it is successful and there is another opportunity for a regional approach, we would welcome it. If this works for our residents—if it saves money and service remains excellent or better—we would definitely want to be involved in the future."

Infeld said that the dates shown in the Feb. 1 press release were target dates for legislation, which would be known as a Council of Governments Agreement, to be presented to the city councils in both cities for their approval, but that there is no such legislation because the details are still being worked out. The dates in the release are council meeting dates, however, and those meetings will still occur and residents will have an opportunity at the beginning of the meeting to express concerns or ask questions.

"The bigger question is, is this the right move for University Heights," said Infeld, "and we don't know yet. It's not a done deal. I will not agree to anything that would harm our city or our employees."

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

Twenty-three apply for CH Youth Advisory Commission

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Jan. 7, Cleveland Heights City Council voted 6-1 in favor of establishing the Cleveland Heights Youth Advisory Commission, to enhance communication between government, youth and the community and to provide advice to council on youth issues.

Twenty-three young people applied for the job by the Feb. 8 deadline, and city council is currently reviewing the applications.

"I am hopeful that council can discuss and finalize the selections at its March 4 meeting," said Jason Stein, council member. "The applicant pool is impressive and really demonstrates that the youth of Cleveland Heights are intelligent, engaged and civic-minded. Each of the applicants is qualified and, in my opinion, would serve the city well."

There are ten positions for youths on the commission, which will also include three nonvoting adults. "Council will have to make some tough choices," said Stein. "The large number of applications received illustrates how important and needed this Youth Advisory Commission is to the youth of the city."

Council has selected James Moore, a Recreation Advisory Board member, to be a nonvoting member. Council will also select a Heights High teacher and a Cleveland Heights police officer to serve on the commission.

"Our youth want to be part of the solution," said Stein. "The Youth Advisory Commission will give them that opportunity in a way that was never previously available to them."

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

FutureHeights to host spring programs

Heights Observer Editor

FutureHeights, a nonprofit dedicated to building a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights through civic engagement, will host two community programs this spring.

The first is a panel discussion on community organizing. On Thursday, March 14, FutureHeights will host "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" at the Bottlehouse Brewing Company, 2050 Lee Road. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature panelists Pete Titas of Cain Park Neighborhood Association; Sarah Wean of the Grant Deming's Forest Hill Historic District in Coventry Village; Jason Stein, member of Cleveland Heights City Council; and Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. The event is free and open to the public; however, a courtesy RSVP is requested by going to www.bemyneighbor.eventbrite.com.

The second program is the FutureHeights annual meeting with guest speaker Peter Pula, founder and CEO of Axiom News, a Canadian-based community news agency that practices generative journalism, a new method of reporting and storytelling that builds on a community's strengths, rather than focusing on its weaknesses.

"We harness the power of appreciative inquiry to ask strength-based questions around what's working, lessons learned from high-point experiences and visions of a better future. The result is stories that produce meaning, hope



Peter Pula of Axiom News.

and inspire ways to act," said Pula.

Pula's talk coincides with the fifth anniversary of the *Heights Observer*, a community news project published by FutureHeights. "From the beginning, the *Heights Observer* was meant to build community through community participation," said Clare Taft, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors. "We seek to report news in a responsible way and to present a more accurate picture of our community. Because stories in the *Observer* are written by residents, it shows the many good things that happen here every day."

Pula will speak at the FutureHeights annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. For more information, visit www.futureheights.org or call 216-320-1423.

Local journalists fear for future of *Plain Dealer*

Simone Quartell

Peter Zicari, online news editor for the *Plain Dealer* and a Cleveland Heights resident, believes that approximately "one in three" *Plain Dealer* newsroom staff will be laid off in 2013. He said that he expects to be moved away from interactive graphics and instead work on "lower-impact, higher-volume activities." Zicari characterizes the switch as "very conservative . . . when risky experiments are needed," but said he does not anticipate a serious drop in circulation.

"Cleveland is very conservative in its habits," said Zicari, "and older people accustomed to the print experience will probably continue to buy the paper. Younger people aren't reading it in the first place."

Commenting on rumors that owners of the *Plain Dealer* likely will reduce the frequency of publication in the future, from seven days a week to just three, Gus Chan, a *Plain Dealer* photographer and also a Cleveland Heights resident, said that he sees the reduction as a mistake.

"A large portion of our readership doesn't have access to the Internet," said Chan. "I've seen a figure floating around that [estimates the] number of homes without Internet access is around 50 percent. We have a devoted readership who is elderly, who loves to read the daily newspaper. If you cut out a portion of the poor and elderly, a large portion of the population won't be informed. A large portion of the population will not get their news in a timely manner."

Chan sees the Internet and digital photography as the two major changes to affect print news since he began working in the industry. Now, as a 32-year news

industry veteran, Chan said he knows that layoffs are certain, and believes that in-depth and long-term reporting projects will suffer as a result.

Sue Hoffman of Solon has worked in the newspaper industry for 34 years. She believes more people will turn to the Internet for news, pointing out that even newspapers that print daily editions post updated or breaking stories online. The *Cleveland Jewish News*, a weekly paper, updates its website daily, she noted.

Peggy Turbett, the *Plain Dealer's* photo editor, said that while no specific plans for any changes in circulation have been announced, many readers tell her that they rely on a daily paper.

"The continuity and content of the daily paper, particularly one of the *Plain Dealer's* caliber, is an important aspect of keeping the public informed," said Turbett. "This is particularly true with investigative stories, government and business watchdog reports, and election analysis. The newer methods of news delivery, via computers, electronic notepads and cell phone applications, are a quicker way of delivering news. And the newspaper operation is expanding into these areas. But I know I spend more time with an extensive story, or read a story that I wasn't initially interested in, when I pick up the newspaper. The electronic news delivery is just quick hits for me."

Turbett also expressed concern about how readers will get news during a power outage, when Internet and television aren't available.

Simone Quartell, a Heights High graduate, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.



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Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope encourages resident engagement in community

Kendra Dean

Last year, the City of East Cleveland was placed in a state of fiscal emergency, and there has been a pattern of tension between city council members and East Cleveland Mayor Gary Norton Jr., especially in regard to city finances.

Recently, members of Northeast Alliance for Hope (NOAH)—an organization dedicated to promoting equity and social justice throughout Greater Cleveland by building strong relationships with public and private institutions and working alongside residents—have been working in East Cleveland to focus on the inequities that the community faces. NOAH has been addressing many issues, such as the large number of vacant and abandoned buildings, and most recently, the financial strain on the city.

In mid-January, NOAH filed a public records request with the City of East Cleveland, in order to evaluate its finances. The request was granted.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley commented recently on the importance of being aware of what is going on in communities adjacent to Cleveland Heights. “We definitely need to know what is going on in the cities surrounding us, whether it is Cleveland, East Cleveland, University Heights, Shaker Heights or Beachwood. It is important to work with the cities moving forward, rather than being reactive to the issues, to create a more positive relationship.”

“The financial strain that they [City

of East Cleveland] are going through is very dramatic, especially in the way that they deliver city services,” said Kelley. “The fact that they just laid off 20–25 percent of their law enforcement is definitely of concern to me.”

In evaluating East Cleveland’s finances, NOAH discovered that although the mayor and the city council projected the same revenues for 2013, council members claim the city is \$8 million in debt. Trevelle Harp, executive director of NOAH and resident of East Cleveland, said that NOAH’s analysis failed to confirm the existence of the debts that council cited as its reason for making plans to cut funding to the police department, the Helen S. Brown Senior Center, and the Martin Luther King Community Center for youth—all services that are important to city residents as the city attempts to revitalize and redevelop.

“Based on our analysis of the city’s financial condition,” said Harp, “we believe that council is putting city residents at risk by unjustified budget slashing. The evidence suggests that council is holding city safety hostage over its running political battles with the mayor.”

After NOAH completed its financial analysis, NOAH members decided to take a stand against the city’s proposed budget cuts by hosting a community forum to educate East Cleveland residents about the reality of the city’s financial issues. They also wanted to address the lack of cooperation between the mayor and city council members. The forum was scheduled for Jan. 29, and though both the mayor and city council members were invited, Mayor Norton was the only city government representative who showed up. Close to 100 others attended the forum, however, and these residents, together with NOAH members, decided their next step would be to attend the Feb. 5 city council meeting.

At that meeting, there was a substantial turnout of approximately 80 people. Residents listened to city council members and the mayor as they gave their explanations of the financial report, and then NOAH members stood up to report on their findings. NOAH called on members of city government to reevaluate the budget and



put personal differences aside. “People tend to respond emotionally to these types of issues, rather than strategically. It shows a lot of growth to see the residents informed on the issue coming together, fighting for stability in their own community,” Harp said.

Council members agreed to announce the new financial budget on Feb. 12, but subsequently cancelled the meeting, stating that there would be no changes to the budget. Harp said NOAH members and residents will “definitely be organizing around the issue,” in an attempt to persuade the mayor and city council members to face their community.

In February, NOAH held a community rally at New Covenant Lutheran Church and canvassed several East Cleveland neighborhoods to raise awareness and encourage residents to sign petitions demanding that pending cuts to the safety budget be reversed.

“NOAH members will continue to show up at council meetings, and we are considering other strategies to ensure that council is held accountable,” said Harp.

As members of NOAH continue to work with East Cleveland residents, they hope that others will see the benefits of creating connections between communities. As Harp said, “There is success in being connected as a county. You have to look at the big picture and realize that the failure of one city is going to affect the surrounding communities. It is important that we begin building relationships and engaging assets on all sides.”

On Oct. 9, 2012, State Auditor Dave Yost placed the city of East Cleveland in a state of fiscal emergency, citing the city’s failure to supply a feasible fiscal recovery plan after the state found deficit fund balances of more than \$5.87 million. The next meeting of the East Cleveland City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5.

Kendra Dean is a graduate student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and is currently an intern at FutureHeights.

Register now for spring HRRC classes for women

Rebecca Stager

Women who want to learn how to repair and maintain their homes are invited to register for HRRC’s Home How-to for Women course.

The first module in this year’s curriculum, Home Maintenance 101, runs April 6 through May 22. Classes will be held each Wednesday, 7–9 p.m., at HRRC’s Teaching Center, 2520 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights.

Home Maintenance 101 will cover the following topics:

- exterior and interior home systems
- scheduling home maintenance
- reducing energy consumption
- how to contract repairs
- introduction to hand tools and power tools

Future modules in the course will cover carpentry, electrical systems and plumbing repairs. Participants can sign up for modules sequentially, or register for them individually.

Class size is limited to encourage participation in small-group learning. Early registration is suggested. Tuition for each module is \$120 for Cleveland Heights residents and \$150 for nonresidents. Reduced-tuition scholarships are available to low-income Cleveland Heights residents.

For information, visit www.hrhc-ch.org, or call 216-381-6100, ext. 16

Rebecca Stager has been HRRC’s repair education programs coordinator since 1989.

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Lay Facilities Committee seeks to narrow options, requests community input

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Lay Facilities Committee (LFC) has produced a community survey and will hold three community meetings in March specifically to enable residents to comment on the school facilities process and ask questions of LFC members.

At the next LFC meeting, scheduled for March 6 at Canterbury Elementary School, the LFC is expected to consider public input from the survey and decide which of six scenarios to ask district consultants to cost out.

At the LFC's Feb. 13 meeting, the community subcommittee presented the final version of a community survey, which may be filled out online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/CHUH_Lay_Facilities_Survey_2013. The group will also distribute the survey in-person to district PTAs, and at private and parochial schools, religious institutions, libraries and other community venues. The survey both examines broad opinions about the public school buildings and asks for opinions about specific scenarios, such as whether the district should reduce the number of middle schools to one or two.

Surveys must be completed by the end of the day on Saturday, March 2, in order for the subcommittee to compile the data by the March 6 meeting.

While all LFC meetings are open to the public, the LFC plans to hold three community meetings in March with the specific aim of engaging Heights residents in the process. "We will share the survey results—broad trends, at least, to let people know what we've done so far and what decisions we've made and why. We'll present the scenarios and spend most of the time engaging people in conversation," said Krissy Dietrich-Gallagher, community subcommittee co-chair in an e-mail.

The meetings will be held Tuesday, March 12, at Wiley Middle School; Wednesday, March 13, at Roxboro Middle School; and Thursday, March 14, at Monticello Middle School. Each meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and last until 8:30 or 9 p.m., depending on the need.

"We haven't worked out details of any of this yet, but I think it's important for us to spend less time talking and more time listening," said Dietrich-Gallagher.

At the LFC's Jan. 29 meeting, Eric Silverman, co-chair of the buildings

subcommittee, presented six possible school facilities scenarios. Each included three recommendations: keep the current grade configuration, don't go "all-in" for the learning communities concept, and reduce the number of middle schools from three to no more than two.

At the Feb. 13 meeting, Silverman presented additional recommendations that applied to the elementary and middle schools in all scenarios: remove all postwar editions to prewar buildings and restore their façades to their original appearance, and make any new additions compatible with the historic architecture of the original structures. The group had no specific recommendations for Gearity and Wiley, which were built later, except to mention that the Wiley auditorium is a community asset. It recommended against the renovation of the 1970s footprint buildings.

The building subcommittee made several additional recommendations regarding renovations at the high school. The first was to remove the science wing and to make the view of the front façade pleasing from the street. "The high school is our showplace," said Silverman. "Thousands of people drive by it every day and they form an impression of the school, the district and the community by what they see."

The group recommended locating sports facilities on the west side of the building and areas with potential for community use on the east side. The south gym could be renovated and expanded to the west. Because the high school pool is the only indoor pool in the Heights, the group recommended rebuilding it, expanding the changing areas, and linking it to a public entrance in order to better serve the community. Facilities with community-use potential, such as the library, meeting rooms, a small auditorium, and a café to enable culinary students to interact with the public, were suggested. Administrative offices would be housed here as well in order to provide easier access to parents. "This would increase access," said Silverman, "while necessitating less of the building to have to be kept open during public use."

The building subcommittee recommended seeking historic preservation tax credits to facilitate the restoration of important interior features, such as the auditorium, and exterior features, such as the clock tower. The group also wanted to house all Career and

Technical Education programs on the high school site, rather than have them spread between the high school and the Delisle Center, as they are currently.

Overall, the group called for more renovation at the high school—rather than demolition and rebuilding—than was specified in Plan C, in order to save on construction costs and, potentially, to enable the district to house students onsite during renovation, rather than incurring swing-space costs. The group was more flexible about changes to spaces located at the rear of the building that couldn't be seen from Cedar Road.

On Feb. 13, Sam Bell, chair of the sustainability working group, presented three items his group would like the consultants to include in each of the school facilities options. The first is a comprehensive demolition and waste management plan, which would plan for recycling construction materials, up-cycling some materials from demolition and proper disposal of the rest.

The second is alternative source readiness construction—the concept that the building design should be flexible and plan for the potential use of alternate power sources if and when they become available and desirable. This would include evaluating the use of known alternative technologies, such as solar and geothermal, as well as creating empty conduits in walls to enable connections to new technologies, without the need for deconstructing those walls in the future.

The third recommendation is that the project set high goals for energy efficiency and other sustainable practices, not just LEED Silver, which is the state

minimum standard on new school construction.

Bell advocated that the district look into solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), a mechanism by which private investors will install and maintain solar panels with no cost to the district. These contracts would enable the district to lock in a fixed rate for energy costs or a floating rate. "There are similar PPAs for geothermal," he said.

He also urged the district to pursue historic tax credits. He pointed out that the Lakewood school district, which is in the middle of a comprehensive school renovation project, has received significant dollars towards the project by using the historic tax credit mechanism.

Bell noted that operating costs eventually overshadow construction costs. "Spending 2 to 4 percent more in design cost at the beginning of a project will pay for itself in 12 to 24 months," he said.

Bell's group has created several position papers that he will post online at <http://theciviccommons.com/conversations/ch-ub-school-facilities> for the committee and the public to review.

The next LFC meeting is scheduled for March 6 at Canterbury Elementary School, 2530 Canterbury Road. Principal Stacey Stuhldreher has confirmed that the Canterbury community room is ADA accessible through the gym entrance.

For more information about the LFC and the school facilities process, visit www.chuhfacilities.org.

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

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Heights Hockey takes first place at Niagara tournament



Back row: Stephen Lang, Dan Wakefield (coach), Kent Hadden, Patrick Richards, Jameel Gaskins, Bobby Edwards, James Purcell, Sam Meany, Kyle Soca, Mike Kieklak (coach); Front row: Logan Kieklak, Noah Weisblatt, Jimmy Hayden, Edwin Bluffington, Charlie Adams; In front: Trent Swain.

Michael Adams

The Cleveland Heights Hockey League's (CHHL) Bantam AA squad traveled to Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y. over the Presidents Day weekend, hoping to be competitive in the annual Niagara Jr. Purple Eagles (NJPE) 2013 Patriots Day Tournament.

And compete they did. Coached by Heights High graduate Dan Wakefield, and assisted by Ken Hadden, Mike Kieklak and Dave Keller, the team dominated the NJPE competition to bring home the first-place trophy.

"It's a great accomplishment for this group," said Wakefield, "Many have been CHHL teammates since they were five years old. We weren't expected to win but having every member of the team contribute made all the difference."

Standout performers included goaltender Trent Swain and second year Bantams Bobby Edwards, Jameel Gaskins, Logan Kieklak, Stephen Lang, Sam Meaney, James Purcell, Patrick Richards and Kyle Soca.

Charlie Adams, Edwin Buffington, Kent Hadden, Jimmy Hayden, Brandon Melnick and Noah Weisblatt round out the squad.

The team's season continues as it advances to the Cleveland Suburban Hockey League championship game on March 3 in Wooster, after its playoff victory over the previously undefeated Cleveland Skating Club on Feb. 24 in Canton.

Michael Adams is the owner of Rockefeller's restaurant and a member of the CHHL Advisory Board. His sons Charlie and David both participate in the league. Charlie is a Bantam; David is a Squirt.

CH-UH district welcomes new families at kindergarten information night

Angee Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District will host its annual Kindergarten Information Night on Tuesday, March 5, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Oxford Elementary School, 939 Quilliams Road in Cleveland Heights.

This informational evening will provide an opportunity for parents to meet CH-UH kindergarten teachers and ask questions about the kindergarten program and the school district.

Topics to be discussed include kindergarten readiness and curriculum. Parents also will learn more about the before/after-school programs, student services, food service and transportation.

According to Kevin Harrell, coordi-

nator of educational services, "Choosing a school that is the right fit for your child is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. This is an opportunity to learn more about your neighborhood school, meet the superintendent, teachers and other parents. We are very proud of our schools and look forward to showing how 21st-century teaching and learning is taking place in our classrooms."

Family Connections will provide child care during the open house on a limited basis, by reservation only. For more information, contact the Early Childhood Center at 216-371-7356.

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

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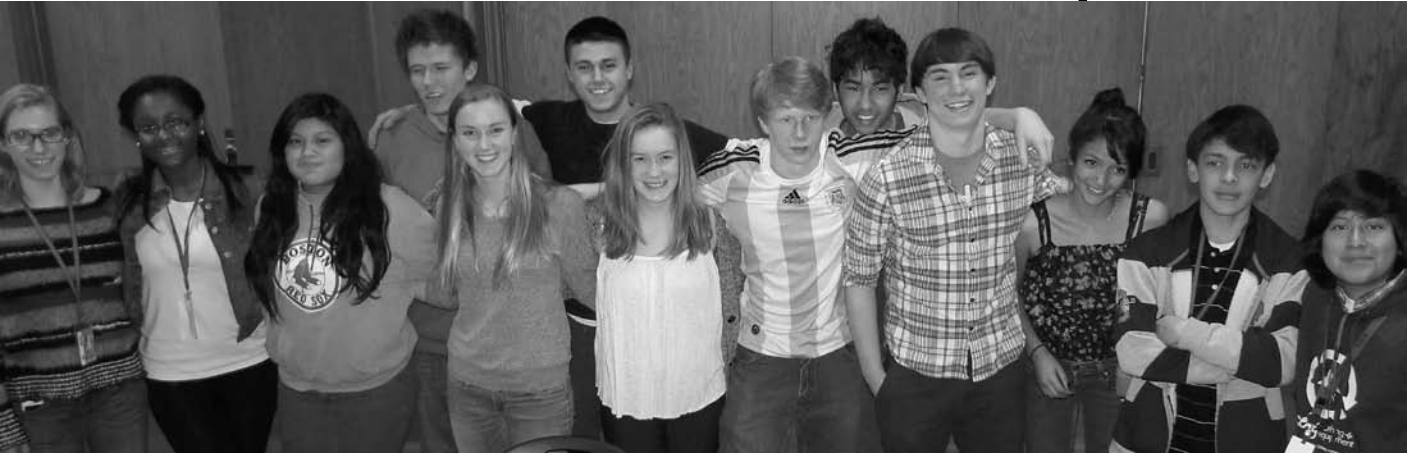
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Student ambassadors share experiences



Students from the Ambassador School for Global Leadership in Los Angeles visited Renaissance School for a short-term exchange. (l-r) Emma Schubert, Taylor Jones, Linda Davaios, Ian Teunissen, Sarah Lentz, Charles May, Emily Lang, Zander Perelman, Genaro Aiken, Kevin Lissemore, Jennifer Padilla, Malio and Julian Hernandez.

Joy Henderson

Four students and a teacher from the Ambassador School for Global Leadership (ASGL) in Los Angeles visited Heights High and the CH-UH community for four days in early February. The ASGL is a sister school to the Renaissance School—both are members of the International Studies Schools Network (ISSN). The 34-member network prepares students for work and civic roles

in a global environment.

The ASGL delegation arrived during a snowstorm—a first-time experience for the students, who declared it “beautiful!” Before attending Heights High for two days, the students met their host families, toured downtown Cleveland and Case Western Reserve University, visited the toboggan runs in the Cuyahoga Valley and spent two hours sledding in Cain Park on a snowy evening.

The ASGL students shadowed Renaissance students for two days while their teacher, Maria Hernandez, observed science teachers. The culminating project was a three-hour work session during which the ASGL students trained nine Heights High students and several staff to use a dialogue process called Council.

ASGL uses Council to encourage communication and build relationships. “When students feel free to talk about

the content and to bring their own experience to the table, the learning is deeper and more meaningful,” said Hernandez.

“We want everyone to feel safe to speak and to know that we value their ideas,” said Jen Padilla, one of the ASGL student leaders.

The ISSN reinforces Renaissance School’s Society pathway. “We want our students to investigate the world, recognize perspectives, communicate ideas and take action,” said James Reed, Renaissance principal. “While we eventually want to venture internationally, partnering with ASGL provides a very different lens to the world for our students.” The ASGL school is located in a predominately Latino and Korean community. The Renaissance School is exploring a spring exchange with ASGL.

The International Studies Schools Network is a project of the Asia Society, founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III to promote mutual understanding among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States.

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

Motivation theory and school reform



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

When teachers do their best, it is easier for their students to do the same. School reform that maximizes teacher engagement is a crucial ingredient of effective schools.

So what engages teachers and motivates them to excel?

I posed the question to Stephanie Myers, a great teacher—and now a doctoral student at Harvard University—who had hosted me for several years as a classroom volunteer. She directed me to *Drive*, a book by Daniel Pink. To my surprise, the book was about motivation, not education, but it had a lot to do with creating excellence in schools.

Because I’m so focused on the social purposes of education and the dynamics of the learning process, I forget that teaching is a job and that schools are workplaces as well as communities. *Drive* gave me a framework to think about teaching as work and about how educational workplace policy affects the work of teachers.

Teaching is a special kind of work: purposeful, creative, skilled and demanding. What can management theory tell us about motivating the professionals who do this work?

Traditional management practices are rooted in the assembly-line workplace of the industrial age. They were designed for work that was simple, repetitive and boring. In this tradition, extrinsic motivators—punishment and reward—are used to foster productivity.

Pink argues that modern management practices have failed to accommodate changes in the nature of work. They ignore groundbreaking research, such as that of University of Wisconsin

primatologist Harry Harlow (I grew up in Madison and often passed his primate lab), who established that some work has intrinsic value: accomplishing the task can be the motivation for completing the task.

The assembly line no longer dominates work life. A lot of work—including teaching—is complex, interesting and self-directed. Extrinsic motivators applied to creative work can be counterproductive. They can crush creativity, diminish performance, encourage cheating and foster short-term thinking—the opposite of what we need to make schools more productive.

A more effective approach to motivating performance when work is complex is to address some basic human needs. When you satisfy desires for competence, autonomy and relatedness, people are motivated, productive and happy. A congenial workplace, opportunities to pursue mastery and daily duties that relate to a larger purpose pave the way for excellence. When these elements are in place, Pink writes, “the best strategy is to provide a sense of urgency and significance and then get out of the talent’s way.”

Teaching is the opposite of assembly-line work. While there are routines, there is nothing routine about the work. Despite efforts to “teacher-proof” teaching, teachers still matter, because children are unique and unpredictable. It is complex work where intrinsic motivation powers daily effort.

If Pink is right, management practices built on rewards and sanctions are not going to move education forward. We already know that test-oriented teaching can undermine the quality of instruction and even lead to cheating. Public shaming, humiliation and threats to reconstitute failing schools cause disengagement, not excellence. In such circumstances, why would we expect performance pay to lead to dif-

ferent levels of performance?

I’d like to see our policy makers join the modern age. It’s time to dump the rewards and punishments of the 19th century and figure out how to support teachers’ internal drive for constant improvement. Policy makers should get out of the way and let

teachers use their talents to best serve the children they are teaching.

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, former director of Reaching Heights, and serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

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Holy Thursday, March 28

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Heights High small school has big ideas

Daniel Budin

The small schools at Heights High have distinct missions and learning styles. Legacy School claimed project-based learning (PBL) as its focus, but had not been entirely successful in its implementation. That changed this year with Legacy's adoption of the New Tech model and the unveiling of its new name, Legacy New Tech.

Founded in 1996, New Tech is a national program comprising more than 115 schools in 18 states. New Tech focuses on PBL while integrating technology into the classroom.

Wanting to implement a strong program that fulfilled the school's mission, Legacy teachers and administrators researched several programs and concluded that New Tech was the one they wanted to pursue.

They observed New Tech schools, attended training sessions, and wrote a grant proposal for Race to the Top funding. Legacy won the funding, and preparations for incorporating New Tech into the small school began.

"We were not doing [PBL] well... so we wanted a structure that would force us to do it across the board all the time, and New Tech has that," said teacher Karen Kastor. PBL is an approach in which students collaborate to solve a problem by using critical thinking to find solutions.

Another aspect of PBL is making real-world experiences available to students. Teachers invite community members who work in relevant fields—sometimes during the introductory phase



Corin Hall, Donni Hood, Keshawnda Thomas and D'Angelo Carter work on a project.

of a project, other times later in a project to offer feedback—so students see the real-world application of their studies.

"We want a two-way partnership between the community and us," said Crystal Maclin, principal of Legacy New Tech. "We are always looking for authentic experiences and people who can come in and provide expert advice."

"Legacy New Tech seeks to build a culture of Trust, Respect and Responsibility, said teacher Megan Lutz. "We're trying to instill those three values in our students."

One way in which students exemplify that culture is through their group contract. Each participant in a project collaboration signs a contract that outlines his or her role in the group, as well as strategies for how to hold one another accountable.

Science teacher Rob Nitzsche explained, "The biggest thing about what we do is that it shifts the onus to the student. It gives them the opportunity and the desire to take ownership of

what they're doing. It's not teacher-centered, it's student-centered. So we are not standing in the front of the room lecturing them all the time like [in] a traditional setting. The students are presented with a problem to solve and we provide them resources to solve that problem and we put them in a position where they come to us with questions. We drive them in the right direction."

Grant funding facilitated a renovation of a large portion of what was Legacy's area within the high school building. Students in Legacy New Tech now learn in high-tech labs and have access to science equipment, touch screens, Smart Boards and laptops. An open area called the Think Tank was built as a workspace for the students. If students are struggling, they can attend a spontaneous workshop there with a teacher.

"We have given up our classrooms and we share a space for collaboration. We have common planning time so all of our lessons and project ideas are bounced off of one another, with

the goal to improve what we originally planned," said Kastor.

Students use Echo, an online learning management system that houses all course and project materials and can be accessed by the students at any time. Echo also links New Tech students across the country, providing access to shared resources and larger collaborations.

"Everything that we do is digitally based. They're being prepared to learn how to collaborate and communicate in a digital environment," Nitzsche explained.

Legacy New Tech currently includes only students in 9th and 10th grades, but will expand by a grade level each of the next two years. Coaches from New Tech come to Heights once a month to observe the teachers and offer help in implementing the program.

All of the Legacy New Tech teachers had to go through extensive training in order to teach in the program. Furthermore, they must attend continuing education sessions and many will eventually become New Tech certified.

The teachers emphasize that although the word *tech* is in the school's name, the increased technology in the classroom is merely a tool for learning and not the primary focus of the educational plan. Rather, the driving forces behind Legacy New Tech are PBL and the culture of Trust, Respect and Responsibility.

Daniel Budin is a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights and a member of the Future-Heights Board of Directors. His wife teaches at Heights High.

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Roxboro Middle School crowns new spelling bee champion

Angee Shaker

On Feb. 6, 18 spellers participated in 19 rounds of competition in the annual Roxboro Middle School Spelling Bee. After nearly two hours of intense spelling, Isabella Jaffery (eighth grade) earned the title of 2013 Champion by spelling *luscious*. Beatrice Woodside, a sixth-grader, won second place by spelling *electrolysis*, and Anya Chew (eighth grade) won third place by spelling *oncologist*. Sylvie Crowell (sixth grade) came in fourth, and Jesse Hodges, a seventh-grader, finished in fifth place.

Jaffery will represent Roxboro Middle School at the Plain Dealer Cuyahoga County Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 2. This countywide competition will start at 9 a.m. and take place in the auditorium at Cuyahoga Community College’s Metro Campus. Because the *Plain Dealer* allows only seventh and eighth graders to participate, Anya Chew will be the alternate speller for the County Bee in the unlikely event that Jaffery is



Roxboro Middle School spelling bee contestants.

unable to attend.

The 18 spellers were Isabella Jaffery, Anya Chew, Ted Houser, Glennis Covault, Claudia Zhu, Sylvie Crowell, Lili Roosa, Chayla Edwards, Damaria

Williams, Benjamin Schuster, Georgie Jolivette, Jesse Hodges, Noah Weisblat, Markayla White, Mary Jane Reinhardt, Beatrice Woodside, Julia Lynn and Christine Roberts.

The words spelled in the final tie-breaker rounds were:

- Round 16: *electioneer*, *exfoliate*, *incarceration*
- Round 17: *thoracic*, *fibrillation*, *electrolysis*
- Round 18: *transmogrify*, *halitosis*
- Round 19: *oncologist*, *crocodilian*

Special thanks to the parents, community members and volunteers who helped make this year’s spelling bee a success. Beth Woodside, Roxboro Middle School parent, coordinated the event, and Big Fun owner Steve Presser was master of ceremonies. Angee Shaker, Cleveland Heights-University Heights communications director, was the pronouncer, and the judges were Donna Feldman and Megan Lutz, Heights High English teachers; Patrick Mullen, Reaching Heights executive director; and Patricia Gray, Coventry Village Library manager.

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

Teachers and students thrive in new learning space

Gia Parker

Sana Fatima, a sixth-grade student at Roxboro Middle School, is excited about her new learning space. “It is like an adventure,” she said. “The furniture moves so we can work in small or large groups. The new space gets us moving and thinking. I like it a lot.”

Roxboro’s new learning community area is filled with light and equipped with flexible space, moveable furniture, a modern lab area and updated technology. It accommodates students working in groups and teachers collaborating with one another. Teachers customize their instruction to the varied learners in the classroom.

“The teachers and students are adapting well to the new space,” said Patrick McNichols, Roxboro principal. “They schedule the area based on the needs of their lessons, and the children seem to enjoy the unique furniture, which allows them some movement while working collaboratively with peers. We now have the ability to combine classes when they are working on a project or work as independent groups when appropriate.”

“We work well together,” said Cait-

lin McGrath, an English and language arts teacher. “We face new challenges daily, but the sixth-grade team works together to troubleshoot and problem solve. Our constant focus is what works best for our students.”

“During our chapter on the paleolithic and neolithic eras, we combined all levels of humanities classes to recreate the Border Cave paintings,” McGrath said. “The open-learning environment was also utilized when we were researching various ancient landmarks, such as Easter Island and Lascaux Cave. Groups could be placed in one of four spaces to work collaboratively with their assigned groups.”

Math teacher Jennifer Hollender and science teacher Ashley Coccitto also collaborate by combining classes. During lessons, they are able to give individualized attention to students, as well as work with students in small groups to reinforce the content.

“We have worked on adapting our instructional practices to meet modern needs for some time now. I believe that our practice has changed enough that we are outgrowing our current learning environment,” McNichols said. “As with anything new, the team is learning how



Roxboro teachers and students working in the new space.

to best use the space to meet the needs of today’s student and will get better as they gain more experience in the environment.”

Gia Parker provides operations support in the communications and community engagement department of Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

All board members were present.

MLK contest winners

The Martin Luther King Jr. contest winners were recognized. The theme was Ways of Showing Courage. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District had 24 winners, and two Cleveland Heights High School students read their winning essays at the meeting. A list of all winners is on the district's website.

School Board Recognition Month

January was School Board Recognition Month and citations recognizing the board included ones from Ed Kelley, Cleveland Heights mayor (read by Jason Stein, Cleveland Heights City Council member), from Patrick Mullen representing Reaching Heights, and from Susan



Infeld, University Heights mayor (read by Ron Register, school board member).

Ed Wittenberg

Ed Wittenberg, a reporter for the *Sun Press* who covered board news for seven and a half years, was recognized. He is taking a new position at the *Cleveland Jewish News*.

Race to the Top

Joseph Micheller, director of special programs/compliance, reported on Race to the Top (RtT) Teachers are preparing for the new evaluation policy. Also, funding is available to provide three substitute teachers to elementary school buildings to allow teachers time to collaborate and plan activities during the school day.

Waiver days for professional development

Jeffrey Talbert, assistant superintendent, spoke about waiver day plans for staff development for 2013-14. The district will apply for four days, one of which will be Election Day. Three days will be used for in-service training in the district-wide security plan, development of strategies for K-3 teachers to help all students pass the 3rd-grade assessment, and the teachers' new evaluation. The fourth day's theme is not yet determined.

Expenditures and donations approved

The board approved advertising and receiving bids for school bus chassis and bodies. It approved quarterly contracts, the donations of autos and batteries to the auto technology program, a \$500 donation to the Cleveland Heights Holocaust program, and a \$308 donation to the Jason West Scholarship Fund.

Five-year budget forecast

The board approved total expense appropriations and a five-year budget forecast. The board discussed the governor's education plan, according to which no district was to lose money. Property values have affected school revenues.

New library board trustee

The board appointed Jeffrey Eummer to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.

Heights High to host annual Northeast Suburban College Fair on March 14

Jacalyn Elfvin

It's never too early to start planning for post-secondary education. Cleveland Heights High School will host the 19th annual Cleveland Northeast Suburban College Fair on Thursday, March 14, from 7-8:30 p.m. College admissions officers, guidance staff, and alumni representatives from more than 120 colleges, universities and technical schools will be at the fair. Students and their families are invited to attend, to learn about a wide variety of schools, their programs and majors, admissions, financial aid, and what life on campus is like for their students.

"The college fair gives students a chance to begin the very important task of planning their futures," said Michelle Phelps, career education coordinator. "The fair is an important planning tool and the perfect opportunity for students and parents to talk one-on-one with college representatives at one location. Students are given a list of suggested questions to ask representatives, to help jump-start the conversation and information gathering."

The fair is open to all local public, private and parochial students, and admission is free. Additional parking will be available in the municipal lot next to Wendy's, off Cedar Road, across from Heights High.



Representatives from more than 120 colleges, universities, and technical schools attended last year's fair.

The 2013 Cleveland Northeast Suburban College Fair is sponsored by the Tri-Heights Career Development Program of the Cleveland Heights-

University Heights City School District.

For additional information, contact Michelle Phelps at Cleveland Heights High School, at 216-371-7149.

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



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Heights High athletes commit to play at colleges and universities

Joy Henderson

Seven Cleveland Heights High School football players and one lacrosse player signed letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Kristin Hughes, athletic director, presided over the event, telling the audience of students, alumni, family and media, "It takes a village to sign a letter of intent." Many people helped these players get to this day.

Feb. 6 is National Signing Day in college football, the first day that Class of 2012 high school recruits can sign binding letters of intent with college programs.

The following students signed letters of intent:

- Kyra Schoonover, lacrosse, Marquette University
- Kyle Allamby, football, Glenville State College (W.Va.)
- Shelton Gibson, football, West Virginia University
- Dorien Hudson, football, Notre Dame College
- De'Niro Laster, football, University of Minnesota
- Marcus McShepherd, football, North-

western University

- Anthony Simmons, football, Morehouse College
- Bobby Upshaw, football, West Liberty University (W.Va.)

Both Terry Saylor, girls lacrosse head coach, and Jeff Rotsky, football coach, introduced their athletes.

Saylor recalled the lacrosse team's final-four appearance last season and talked about Kyra Schoonover's dedication to her team, the sport and her 4.1 GPA. "I am so excited to be playing at a Division I school," said Schoonover. "I really appreciate this opportunity."

Rotsky introduced each of the seven football players and spoke about their unique qualities as players, students and young men. "I thank God for each of these remarkable players," he said. "They have made amazing contributions to our team."

The players spoke briefly and recognized God, their families, coaches, teachers and teammates.

Rotsky addressed the players directly at the end of the ceremony. "You are not going away to college to play



Heights High athletes signed letters of intent Feb. 6. Back row (l-r): De'Niro Laster, Kyle Allamby, Dorien Hudson, Marcus McShepherd; Front row (l-r): Kyra Schoonover, Bobby Upshaw, Anthony Simmons, Shelton Gibson.

football," he said. "You are being sent. There is a difference. We send you with an obligation to return and share your experience with the players coming behind you." He reminded the players of the many alumni who have helped them, and invited the players to join that tradition.

Hughes echoed that sentiment in closing the event. "You will always be part of Tiger Nation," she said. "And we will always expect the best from you, and we will always be behind you."

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison at Cleveland Heights High School.

Local skaters compete at national championships

Simone Quartell

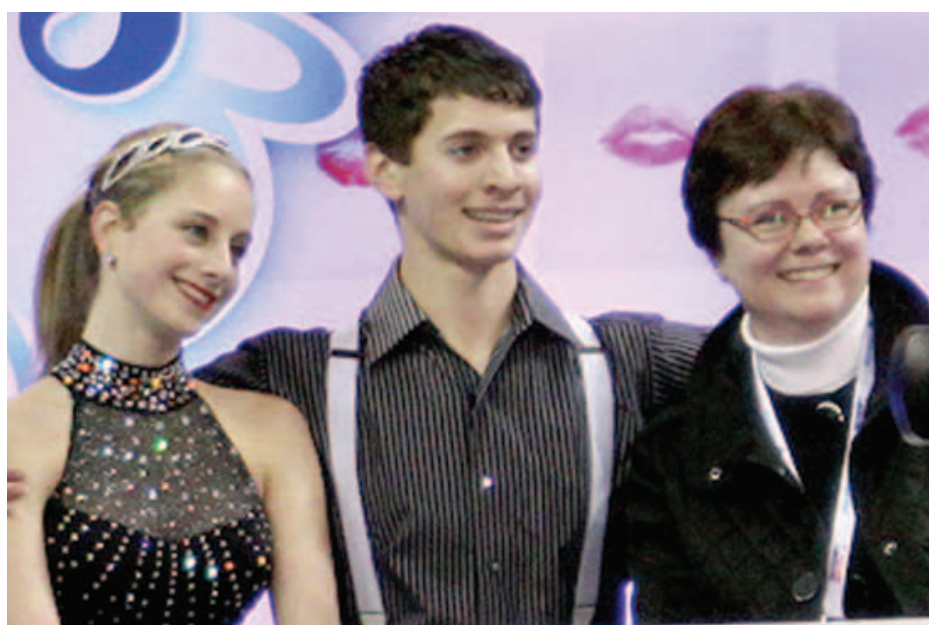
Four skaters who skate with the Pavilion Skating Club of Cleveland Heights competed at the United States Figure Skating Championships in Omaha, Neb.

Hannah Rosinski and Jacob Jaffe finished eighth in Junior Dance. Last year, they were third in Novice Dance. Rosinski and Jaffe have been skating together for two years. Prior to that they competed with other partners, as well as competing in singles and pairs. Their goal for this year's competition had been to place among the top eight.

Kimmie Berkovich and Micah Jaffe, who have been skating together for three and a half years, finished tenth in Novice Dance.

Jackie Miles, who coaches both pairs, was proud of her skaters' performance in Omaha. "It was great seeing them skate so well . . . they worked so hard," she said. "They skated as well as they could, and were so pleased."

The first step to qualifying for Nationals is competing at the Sectional Championships. The country is divided into three sections—West, Midwest and East. The top four finishers at



Kimmie Berkovich, Micah Jaffe and Coach Jackie Miles wait for their scores at the U.S. National Figure Skating Championships.

sectionals at each level qualify for the National Championships, and both teams from Pavilion were third in their respective levels. There are five levels at the National Championships—Juvenile, Intermediate, Novice, Junior and Senior. In past years, Juvenile and Intermediate skaters competed at a separate national championship, but starting in 2013, all five levels competed together.

Miles said it was nice for her skaters

to get to see internationally competitive skaters practice. In the past, her skaters attended a dance camp with 2011 World Ice Dance Champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, and Jacob Jaffe met Sarah Hughes, 2002 Olympic champion, at the 2012 National Championships.

In 2012, Miles coached Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber to the Novice Dance National title, with Rosinski and Jacob Jaffe finishing in third. Moore and Klaber

have since moved to Michigan to skate.

The Jaffe brothers reside in Cleveland Heights. Jacob is a 2012 graduate of Hawken School, where Micah is a junior. After Nationals, Jacob went to Israel to volunteer for five months, and in the fall he will join Brown University's Class of 2017.

Rosinski, of University Heights, is a senior at Beaumont School and is undecided about what she will do in the fall. Berkovich, a junior at Ohio Virtual Academy who lives in South Euclid, will be moving out of state.

All four skaters have been skating since they took group lessons through Pavilion's Learn-to-Skate program. Nationals was the last competition together for both pairs, but Micah Jaffe is looking for a new partner.

Miles, who was also a National competitor, believes the skaters who currently skate at Pavilion have a great future ahead of them. "We have a great group of young skaters at the Pavilion, and they're working so hard," she said. "They could make Nationals one day."

Simone Quartell, a Heights High graduate, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.

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Heights swim team is LEL runner-up; sends diver Posch to state meet

Simone Quartell

At the Lake Erie League championships on Jan. 27, the Heights High swim team finished second for both boys and girls—the highest finish in Coach Jim Miller's 11 years with the team, and one he characterized as a highlight of the team's season.

"It's a great accomplishment and says a lot about the team," he said. "This is one of the strongest teams I've had, and it has the most depth."

Junior diver Ellen Posch advanced to state-level competition for the first time, where she finished 18th of 24 in the one-meter dive at the state meet in Canton on Feb. 21. She was the first swimmer from Heights since 2003 to compete at the state meet.

"I absolutely love diving and wouldn't want to do any other sport," said Posch, who has been diving for Heights since her freshman year, and also swam for the team her freshman and sophomore years. Posch said the best part of competing at the state meet was the chance to compete with some of the best divers in the world. Three divers at the meet previously competed at the Olympic trials.

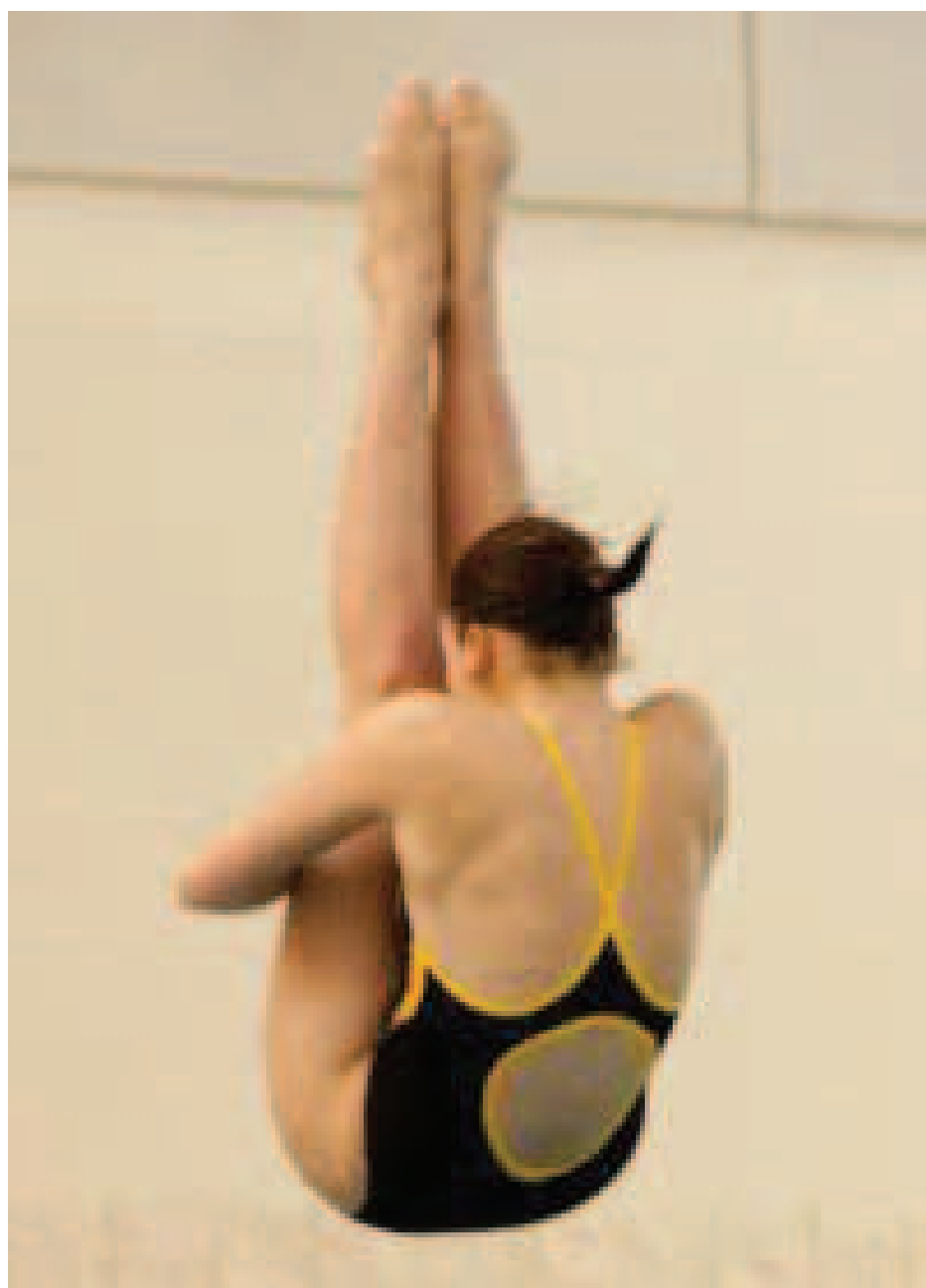
This year's swim team is one of the largest Miller has coached in his time at Heights. There are more than 50 swimmers from all grades at the high school.

Kristy Miller, girls swim coach, said that the most exciting meet this year was the dual meet against Madison. "Even though we lost, the swimmers showed a lot of spirit, and many of them improved their times," she said.

The third annual "Pink in the Pool" meet, held Feb. 1 against West Geauga, is a favorite among the swimmers. The meet raises money for breast cancer research and has raised almost \$1,600 in three years. The Heights team sold floating luminaries before the meet, and both teams also sold shirts in advance of the meet.

The Feb. 1 meet was also this year's Senior Night, where the team's 13 seniors were recognized. While there are a lot of graduating seniors, Kristy Miller said that there are a lot of strong swimmers, "ready to rise up and replace the seniors."

The girls team's best relay event



Ellen Posch finished 18th in the one-meter dive at the state meet in February.

is the 200-medley, with junior Lillie Hall (backstroke), junior Monica Chan (breststroke), junior Casandra Espenchied (butterfly) and sophomore Silvia Iammarino (freestyle). The coaches believe the boys are a threat in all three relay events. Hall and Espenchied are the captains of the girls team, while junior James Johnson and senior Luke Boyle lead the boys team.

At the sectional tournament in Geneva on Feb. 9, Posch was the sectional runner-up and qualified for the district meet, where her fifth place finish qualified her to move on to the state meet. While no other swimmers qualified, the top 16 finishers in each event earned points for their team.

The boys 200-medley relay team

finished seventh, freshman Alex Kellon was 15th in the 100 butterfly, the boys 200-freestyle relay team came in 10th, Boyle was 16th in the 100 breaststroke, the boys 400-freestyle relay team was eighth, the girls 200-medley relay team was 12th, Iammarino was 16th in the 200 freestyle, the girls 200-freestyle relay team was 13th, and the girls 400-freestyle relay team came in 12th, all earning points for Heights. The girls team finished 12th out of 16 teams and the boys were 10th in a field of 14. Many swimmers improved their individual times.

Simone Quartell, a Heights High graduate, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.

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Fire safety tips for senior adults



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

According to the office of the Ohio State Fire Marshall, a fire occurs in an Ohio residence every 30 minutes. The fire marshal's office reports that one-third of those who die in Ohio fires are age 60 and over.

Chief Dave Freeman of the Cleveland Heights Fire Department reports that the most common causes of house fires are overheating cooking oil or forgetting that something is on the stove, letting candles burn down to a flammable surface, falling asleep while smoking, using extension cords on a regular basis and overloading them, and forgetting to have the fireplace flue cleaned, or forgetting to open the damper when using the fireplace.

People of all ages should install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on all floors of the home and in each sleeping room. Batteries should be changed twice a year, when you change your clocks. Changing the batteries requires getting up on a ladder, so ask a family member, neighbor or friend to change the batteries for you. Special detectors are available for those who are hard of hearing.

The state fire marshal's office recommends having two escape routes from your house in case of fire, and to practice using them on a regular basis. Designate a meeting point outside, so family and friends will know where to find you.

Never stay inside a burning house to call for help. Go to a neighbor's house or use your cell phone once you

are safely outside. Get an inexpensive cell phone to use for emergencies.

If a fire occurs on the second floor and you are unable to get down the stairs, Freeman recommends closing the door to your bedroom, placing a wet towel in the crack under the door, calling the fire department, and then opening or breaking the window and yelling for help. You can also call attention to yourself by blowing a whistle or waving a brightly colored piece of clothing out the window.

Other fire safety recommendations include keeping a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, having your furnace serviced regularly, never smoking in bed or in an easy chair, setting a timer to remind you to check on your cooking, never leaving candles unattended, and keeping flammable items at least three feet away from space heaters. It is also a good idea to keep your eyeglasses, a flashlight, a whistle and your cell phone near your bed.

Make sure that your address is clearly marked on your home in numbers large enough for the fire department to see from the street.

In an emergency, always call 911. To learn more about fire safety, you can contact our local fire departments at the following nonemergency numbers: Cleveland Heights, 216-291-2673; University Heights, 216-932-7800, ext. 208. Those with Internet access can visit the National Fire Protection Association website at www.nfpa.org and click on the Safety Information tab.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or Judith@LovingHandsGroup.com.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings are sponsored by the City of University Heights. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. For information, and to suggest topics for future programs, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-397-0336.

March 7: Joe Eiben, benefits outreach counselor with the Cleveland Foodbank, will explain how to apply for various benefits, including supplemental nutrition, home energy, daycare assistance and more.

March 14: Whitney Lloyd, a member

of Case Western Reserve University's continuing education faculty, will discuss Barbara Tuchman's *March of Folly*, which examines critical turning points in history.

March 21: Sheela Das and Kevin Richards, lyricists for Roots of American Music, lead a unique workshop: Why not try your hand at songwriting?

March 28: Dan Ruminski, president of Martinson-Nicholls Inc. and a dedicated historian, will speak about Cleveland's great Millionaire's Row on Euclid Avenue, and the fortunes and tragedies of its residents.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights

JANUARY 28, 2013

All board members were present.

Organizational meeting

At this first meeting of the year, the new board officers assumed their roles, with James Roosa as president, James Posch as vice president and Ron Holland as secretary. The oath of office was administered to new trustee Jeffrey Eummer, and to Nancy Levin (director), Molly Pandelli (fiscal officer), and Julie Lehtinen (deputy fiscal officer), who were starting new terms as officers.

2012 expenditures

Pandelli's report indicated that in 2012 the library received \$8,899,587 in total revenue and spent \$7,649,397, which added \$1,250,190 to the total fund balance. Encumbrances in the amount of \$611,584.64 will be carried over into 2013.



Personnel perfect attendance

Four staff members had perfect attendance in 2012: Ardetha Carter, technology assistant; Wendy Gernsheimer, technology assistant; Gloria Woods, circulation assistant; and Jen Mihalik, adult services librarian.

Muslim Journeys Bookshelf award

This grant, awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association, will provide a collection of books, films and other resources that will introduce the American public to the history and culture of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

E-book circulation up

E-book circulation increased by slightly

more than 37 percent from February through December 2012.

Friends of the Library

Friends will sponsor an African American Read-In on Feb. 10 in the Harvey & Friends Bookshop, as part of national African American Read-In Month. Friends will also sponsor a film ["Far Out Isn't Far Enough," about illustrator Tomi Ungerer] at the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Public Service Report highlights for December

- A partnership with the Cleveland Play House featured a discussion with playwright Eric Coble and writer Les Roberts about the process Coble used to adapt Robert's novella, *A Carol for Christmas*, for a stage production at the Play House.
- At the University Heights Library a partnership with the Cleveland Foodbank covered the weekly Kids Café snack program on Dec. 3, 10 and 17.
- The Hobbit Quest program attracted 108

individuals of all ages.

- Ben Gulyas, Coventry Village librarian, continues to work with the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled at Cleveland Public Library to survey the public for ways to make libraries friendlier to the deaf population.
- At Noble Neighborhood Library, Rachelle Perry, teen associate, piloted a teen winter reading program, Chill Out with a Good Book, that had 15 teen participants.
- Pam Spangler, University Heights youth services librarian, and Sheen King, youth services associate, shared crafts and stories about mazes at the monthly family program at Whole Foods.

LWW Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.



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What's going on at your library?

Free tax assistance from AARP

Tax day is looming, and Heights Libraries is offering help. Throughout March, AARP volunteers will help you prepare your 2012 taxes at two Heights Library branches. Appointments are required. Call 216-932-3600 to make an appointment during the following sessions:

Lee Road Library:

Fridays, March 1 through April 12, beginning at 12 noon.

Saturdays, March 2 through April 13, beginning at 9 a.m.

Tuesdays, March 5 through April 9, beginning at 12 noon.

Thursdays, March 7 through April 11, beginning at 12 noon.

University Heights Library:

Thursdays, 12:30-6 p.m.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m.

Cedar-Coventry Author Series: Rust Belt Chic and the Renaissance of Cleveland Literature. Join in a lively discussion with

authors Anne Trubeck, Larry Smith and Bonnie Jacobson on the past and future of Cleveland literature. Registration begins Feb. 20 at www.heightslibrary.org.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Friday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Fun Family Film Friday: Join us for a showing of the movie "Brave." Registration begins March 1 at www.heightslibrary.org.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday through Friday, March 11-15, 3:30 p.m.

Teen Tech Week: Virtual Reality. Drop in and enjoy online gaming tournaments, a virtual scavenger hunt, crafts, and prizes.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Fridays, March 1-22, 11 a.m.

Job Search Workshop. In this four-part series, our tech trainers will help you create and polish your resume, search for jobs online, and prepare for a successful interview. Registration begins Feb. 15.

LENT AT FAIRMOUNT CHURCH

Lenten Dinners and Worship

with Lenten Labyrinth Walk

Wednesdays, March 6th, 13th and 20th

6:00 pm Dinner, 6:45 Worship

HOLY WEEK AT FAIRMOUNT

Maundy Thursday

March 28

Lord's Supper and
Tenebrae at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

March 31

Worship at 9:00
and 11:00 am
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Heights Libraries conducting community survey in March

Sheryl Banks

To ensure that it can give the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community the best possible services in the coming years, Heights Libraries will conduct a community survey from late February through March.

The library has contracted with the Community Research Institute at Baldwin Wallace University (BWU) to survey by phone residents of Cleveland Heights, University Heights, and select areas of surrounding communities.

Residents, library customers and noncustomers alike will be called at random, but residents who do not receive a call are encouraged to fill out the survey online at www.heightslibrary.org or in person at any of the four Heights Libraries branches.

The community survey is the follow-up to a large community study conducted by Heights Libraries in 2012. In April 2012, the library contracted with the Northern Ohio Data and Information Service (NODIS) at Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs to perform a comprehensive analysis of demographic and socioeconomic conditions, and the borrowing patterns of residents and patrons in our community.

The NODIS report uses the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District boundaries. Demo-

graphic and socioeconomic data were gathered from the 2010 Census and the Census Bureau's 2006-10 American Community Survey. Data on patrons and borrowing were obtained from CLEVNET records and cover the year 2011 and the first quarter of 2012.

Heights Libraries received the report in July 2012, and soon afterward the public service managers formed the NODIS Report Action Committee to analyze the data, find actionable items, and determine what further information could and should be gathered from a related community survey to be conducted by BWU.

Services provided by BWU include designing and conducting the survey, tabulating and analyzing the results, and writing a final report, which will be made available to the public.

The decision to collect and study this information was prompted by a desire to make data-driven decisions about programming, collections, services, outreach and marketing, thereby ensuring the system's resources are being used in the most efficient way possible to benefit the members of the community.

The timing of the study and survey coincides with the library's strategic planning process for 2014-15.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

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- Maureen McEnery

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Nathan Motta named artistic director of Dobama

Jewel Moulthrop

Dobama Theatre's Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Nathan Motta as its new artistic director, effective Feb. 15. Motta succeeds Joel Hammer, who will become artistic director emeritus.

Motta will be the fifth artistic leader in the theater's 54-year history, transitioning from associate artistic director there. Dianne Boduszek, Dobama's current associate artistic director, will remain on staff as artistic associate for production.

"We are delighted to have Nathan Motta step into this role," said Joel Hammer. "It is rare to find a new artistic director with such energy and credentials, as well as a commitment to Dobama's mission and the greater theater community."

Laura Anderson, board president, said of Motta, "Not only are Nathan's artistic abilities and leadership skills exemplary, his passion for Dobama is contagious. We are thrilled that Nathan will lead Dobama, its artists and its audiences into this next phase of the theatre's artistic mission."

"It's a great privilege to follow in the footsteps of people like Don Bianchi, Joyce Casey, Ron Newell and Joel Hammer," Motta said. "Dobama has a long history of producing Cleveland premieres of important new plays. The



Nathan Motta

work that has been done to bring professional productions of these new works to

the Greater Cleveland community is both exciting and vital to the arts cul-

ture in the city. I look forward to continuing this work, to helping to grow Dobama's theater community, and to advance this theater's essential mission."

Nathan Motta is a professional freelance director, conductor, and composer/lyricist who has worked with Cleveland Play House, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Mercury Opera Rochester (N.Y.), and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh).

He was named associate artistic director at Dobama in 2012, and directed "A Bright New Boise" last year.

He is the founding artistic director of Dobama's Emerging Actors program where he teaches acting and has directed productions of "Antigone," "The Tempest" and "Blood Wedding." He is also the producer of Dobama's Young Playwrights programs.

Motta holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University and a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music.

He will be directing Dobama Theatre's final show of the 2012-13 season—Nicky Silver's "The Lyons," which opens April 19.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee.

Western Reserve Chorale and Singers' Club of Cleveland perform

Gina Ventre

In commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the Western Reserve Chorale and the Singers' Club of Cleveland will present "Cry of Freedom, Plea for Peace—The Civil War" in Remembrance on Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10. The concert, under the direction of David Gilson, will take place March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Breen Center at St. Ignatius, and March 10 at 3 p.m. at Cedar Hill Baptist Church in Cleveland Heights.

While audiences are familiar with the more well-known melodies, the Civil War era produced an extensive catalogue of music with roots in religious and folk traditions. "Nearly 10,000 songs have been written about the war, songs richly varied in subject and theme," noted Gilson. The concert will include selections ranging from the patriotic "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Dixie," to the wishful "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and elegiac "Dear Sarah."

It will also feature Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Dona Nobis Pacem," with

soloists Marian Vogel and Brian Johnson. Written on the eve of World War II, this cantata, inspired by the Civil War, uses the poetry of Walt Whitman, Bible verses, and other texts to trace the unfolding of war—call to arms, death in battle, return home for burial—and appeal for mutual respect and peace.

Now in its 21st season, the Western Reserve Chorale is a nonprofit group of amateur and professional singers dedicated to bringing high-quality performances of choral music to Greater Cleveland. For more than 120 years, the Singers' Club of Cleveland has performed and commissioned choral works, and administered a scholarship program for local voice students. For more information, visit www.westernreservechorale.org or www.singersclub.org.

For the March concerts, tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students. To order, call the Singers' Club at 216-556-4405, or e-mail tickets@singersclub.org.

Gina Ventre is a University Heights resident and member of the Western Reserve Chorale.

Heights playwrights explore the funny side of Parkinson's



Andrew J. Pond stars in the one-man comedy-drama written by Heights residents Marc Jaffe and Eric Coble.

Kim Sergio Inglis

"Side Effects May Include" explores the idea that sometimes it's not the disease that changes us, but the side effects. Based on writer Marc Jaffe's own experiences with his wife Karen's early-onset Parkinson's disease, the play explores how their life together took an unexpected turn—in some ways for the better.

"When Karen was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease several years ago," said Eric Coble, the play's co-writer, "she and Marc went through a host of experiences—some awful, but some surprisingly hilarious. Marc approached me about turning these stories into a play, and we co-wrote the script as a one-man comedy-drama."

Before collaborating with Coble on "Side Effects," Jaffe had never written for the stage—only for television, stand-up comedy and film.

A former "Seinfeld" writer, Jaffe grew up in Shaker Heights, and his wife

graduated from Heights High in 1977. Coble came to Cleveland for an acting internship at the Cleveland Play House, and has now lived here for 20 years.

The play was workshopped at Cleveland Public Theater as part of its Big Box series, and is now touring regionally. "Side Effects" just ended its Chicago run, and will play for one weekend only at Dobama Theatre (2340 Lee Road), March 21-24.

MadKap Productions will donate 10 percent of ticket sales to Shaking with Laughter, an organization founded by Marc and Karen Jaffe in support of the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission, and performance times are: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21; 8 p.m., Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23; and 2:30 p.m., Sunday, March 24. To purchase tickets, visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/311950 or call 800-838-3009.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

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‘Under Mendelsohn’s Dome,’ March architecture program opens Park Synagogue to the public

Jenni Thomas

On March 9 and 10, Cleveland Heights’s Park Synagogue will present “Under Mendelsohn’s Dome: Visions of Park Synagogue.” This two-day celebration honors world-renowned German expressionist architect Eric Mendelsohn, who designed the synagogue—one of Greater Cleveland’s architecturally significant mid-century modern buildings.

The free program of events is open to the community, and will include:

- An exhibition featuring Mendelsohn’s original sketches, prints and photographs taken during and after construction, and other memorabilia. The exhibition will be open on Saturday, March 9, 12 noon to 3 p.m., and on Sunday, March 10, from 1:30–5 p.m.
- A March 9 sermon by Senior Rabbi Joshua Skoff on the relationship between architecture and religious observance. The Shabbat service begins at 9 a.m., and the sermon at approximately 10:45 a.m.
- A March 10, 1:30 p.m. screening of the award-winning documentary

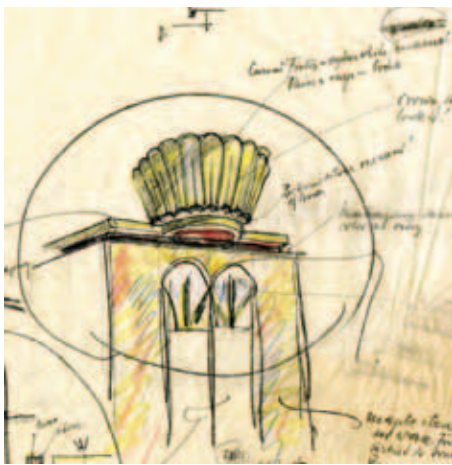


Park Synagogue’s majestic sanctuary under Mendelsohn’s dome.

“Incessant Visions,” a film about Mendelsohn’s life told through letters exchanged with his wife, Louise. Duki Dror, the film’s director, and Jay Geller, the Samuel Rosenthal Professor of Judaic Studies at Case Western

Reserve University (CWRU), will share their observations following the screening.

The exhibit will be open by appointment, to groups and individuals, from March 11–31.



The ark as envisioned by Eric Mendelsohn.

Park Synagogue is located at 3300 Mayfield Road. For more information visit www.parksyn.org or contact Ellen Petler, at 216-371-2244, ext. 122. Information about “Incessant Visions” can be found at www.architectmovie.com.

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s Cleveland Israel Arts Connection and CWRU are partners in this event.

Jenni Thomas is a Cleveland Heights resident and communications director for The Park Synagogue.

Learn to make pysanky—Ukrainian Easter eggs

Loretta Dahlstrom

Church of the Saviour welcomes Melissa Wargo-Geesen as she teaches the art of making Ukrainian Easter eggs in a hands-on workshop on Saturday, March 16.

A *pysanka* is a Ukrainian Easter egg decorated with traditional folk designs, which might include crosses, netting or animals. Traditionally, all symbols and color choices have meaning. This unique art form uses a hollowed-out egg which is decorated using a wax-resist (batik) method.

Two sessions are offered. The morning session runs 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and the afternoon session runs from 1:30–4:30 p.m. Registration is required, and each session is limited to 15 participants. Cost per session is \$20. Register and pay online at www.chsaviour.org or in person at the church office.

Melissa Wargo-Geesen is a music therapist who grew up in the Cleveland area and learned the Ukrainian technique for decorating eggs from a



Ukrainian Easter eggs.

neighbor when she was teenager. About 17 years ago, she started creating these eggs again and “couldn’t put it down.” She describes it as “a hobby that has gone haywire.” Since the mid-1990s, she has made close to 10,000 egg items, including eggshell jewelry. Her work has been featured in art shows and in local galleries.

Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, one block north of Fairmount Boulevard. The church is handicapped-accessible

and offers free parking.

Loretta Dahlstrom is the administrative assistant at Church of the Saviour.

Holy Week at the Covenant ... take a journey of faith

Palm Sunday

MARCH 24, 10 AM

Celebrate Jesus’ entry into Holy Week. Witness the majestic procession of palms led by children.

Holy Week Vespers

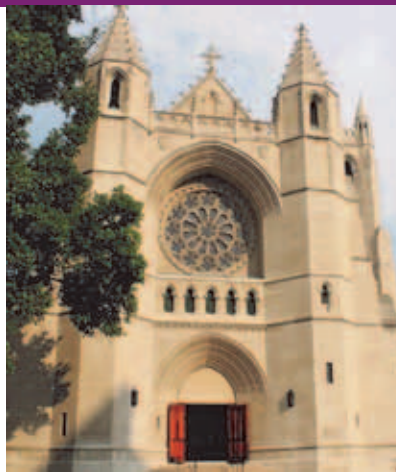
MARCH 24, 5 PM

Holy Week Vespers, featuring the BW Singers and orchestra from Baldwin Wallace University.

Maundy Thursday

MARCH 28, 7:30 PM

Communion and Service of Tenebrae
Experience Jesus’ journey from betrayal to crucifixion. Scripture readings, music, extinguishing of candles, tolling of the great bell.



Good Friday

MARCH 29, 12 NOON

Music and Readings for meditation on the Passion of Christ.

Easter Sunday

MARCH 31, 10 AM

Herald new life through Jesus’ resurrection, led by choir, organ, brass, and percussion.

Easter breakfast at 8:30 AM.
Easter egg hunt on the lawn following the service.

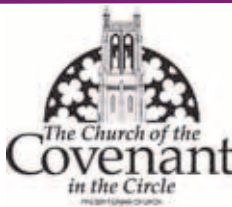


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Heights Youth Theatre presents ‘Disney’s Jungle Book’

Mary Patton

Dig that crazy beat, man! The elephants are marching and the jungle is jumping with jazz. Raised by wolves, Mowgli must decide between the jungle he has always known and the village just beyond. To be totally wild or civilized—that is the question. This zany adventure, directed by Treva Offutt, with music directed by Joanna Li, goes way beyond “The Bare Necessities,” to bring this crowd-pleasing musical to life for audiences of all ages.

“Disney’s Jungle Book” features a talented cast of 90 local students in grades 1 through 12, about 50 of whom are Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents. Professional musicians will play the familiar score.

Cast members include David Bays and Brandon Augustine (Baloo), Jack Novak (Mowgli), Lucia Pabon (Shere Khan), Mia Hart (Baby Elephant), Courtney Foerg (Bagheera), Corey Gruber (Colonel Hathi), James Berner (King Louis), Atticus Orbach (Old Monkey) and Madison Wayt (Shanti). The high-energy ensemble will play narrators, snakes, wolves, vultures, monkeys, elephants, bees, plants, trees, prickly pears and flowers.



Cast members of Heights Youth Theatre's production of “Disney's Jungle Book.”

Show dates are Friday, March 1, 8 and 15, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 2, 9 and 16, at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. All performances will be at Wiley Middle School Auditorium, 2181 Miramar Blvd. in University Heights.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$9 for seniors and children younger than six; cash or check only. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to each performance. Call Ellen at 216-780-2235 for tickets or group seating information.

For more details, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

Mary Patton of University Heights is a PR consultant and Heights Youth Theatre Advisory Board member.

Sale of Pearce-Bates prints to benefit Cedar Fairmount SID

Kaye Lowe

A generous donation of small, limited-edition prints from the husband and wife team of K.C. Pearce and Bob Bates has been given to the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID) by Grant and Ellen Kloppman of the former Vixseboxse Art Galleries.

These prints represent every phase of the Pearce-Bates handiwork. Each hand-cut or etched impression was inked and printed one-at-a-time. This exacting hand process left slight variations from print to print, an indication of value for print collectors.

Bob Bates and his wife, K.C. Pearce, were art students in 1930s America, and in some ways their art reflects that time. It is undemanding, honest and unglamorized.

Bates originally carved decoys for Abercrombie and Fitch. Both Bates and Pearce were involved in advertising, newspapers, magazines and related



A detail of one of the Pearce-Bates prints.

artistic fields. Their work is displayed in many private collections worldwide and in public institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Microsoft’s art collection.

The Pearce-Bates team chose subjects that reflected their interests and hobbies. The limited-edition prints offered are of animals, birds, flowers, sailing, flying, sports, a north woods camp, and natural landscapes. They were done in the ‘50s and ‘60s. Some are whimsical, others are realistic, and still others are very contemporary.

Jane Kessler, owner of Appletree Books, is making the Pearce-Bates prints available at reasonable prices. Proceeds will benefit the special projects of the Cedar Fairmount SID. For more information contact Appletree Books at 216-791-2665.

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



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Heights entrepreneur receives JumpStart funding

Michael Knoblauch

Cleveland Heights resident and entrepreneur Ron Cass, president and founder of Big River, has received a \$250,000 funding commitment from JumpStart, the Cleveland-based business accelerator.

Cass, a Chicago native, is a 1984 systems engineering graduate of Case Western Reserve University (CRWU). He founded Big River in 2011 following a career in IT focusing on artificial intelligence.

After a stint at LaunchHouse, the business incubator on Lee Road in Shaker Heights, Big River was one the first firms accepted into Bizdom, the business-accelerator program created and funded by Dan Gilbert, the owner of Quicken Loans and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Big River is a cloud-based software program designed, developed and implemented to improve fundraising activities of nonprofit organizations.



Ron Cass in front of the Cleveland Museum of Art, Big River’s largest client.

STEVE TOTH/TOOTH GRAPHICS

the better part of a year studying the market, he founded Big River.

The payoff of Big River is that it benefits both sides of the giving transaction. The “ask” is more intentional and unique. It can be made specific to the needs of the organization. The “gift” is more relevant and appropriate to the donor’s giving objectives and strategies.

Ultimately, the goal for Big River is to augment its clients’ existing fundraising system and invested capital, making the entire fundraising program more successful and sustainable.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of Big River’s clients. According to August Napoli, deputy director and chief advancement officer, “Our membership has gone up two-fold as a result of our going online with Big River.” Cass plans to use the JumpStart funds for personnel additions and product development. His goal for 2013 is to increase the customer base three- to four-fold.

Hessler on the Heights opens on Lee



Michelle Sokol with her tie-dye work at Hessler on the Heights.

SIMONE QUARTELL

Simone Quartell

The pop-up holiday store at 2174 Lee Road—Hessler on the Heights—is here to stay. The gift shop and gallery, which had its official opening on Feb. 10, sells the works of individual artists, including tie-dye, jewelry, teas and herbs, clothing, accessories, edibles, cards, journals, salsas, soaps, botanicals and wood products.

Among the artists whose work is included are Michelle Sokol (tie-dye), Faith McFluff (clothing), Marci Zabell, Beth Lewin (pottery), Joan Diouf (botanicals), Blaze Gourmet, Carol Van Diest (Krew Designs), Faustino Enriquez, Cecie Mack, Eve ‘n’ Stephen and Carl Jones. “There’s something here for everyone,” said Sokol, a longtime Heights resident.

When the holiday season ended, several of the artists represented at the store made the decision to stay open year-round. In addition to selling the work of local artisans, the shop will serve the community with meeting rooms and a wellness center at the back of the store. The wellness center will provide yoga, massages and counseling.

Sokol, whose main artistic interests are silk painting and tie-dye, has been involved in the arts for most of her life. She painted murals as a student at Mayfield High School and was an art major at Lake Erie College. She has been involved with the Hessler Street

Fair for more than 25 years, beginning as a vendor and becoming a committee organizer seven years ago.

More than 125 people showed up for the grand-opening celebration. It has a very “mixed crowd,” according to Sokol. People of all ages enjoyed live music, refreshments, sock puppetry and a drumming workshop.

Sokol said that many of the items at the store cannot be found anywhere else. There is repurposed clothing made by Faith McFluff, who has been voted Cleveland’s best recycled clothing designer. Eve and Stephen Morris sell green products, such as washable sandwich bags and drying racks. There are also handmade journals, cards and photo albums and an assortment of teas and herbs.

The Hessler artists also offer workshops—recent offering have covered juggling, sock puppetry and drumming. Yoga workshops are offered on Sundays, and all workshops are open to the public. For more information on upcoming events, visit the Hessler on the Heights Facebook page.

Hessler on the Heights is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 7:30 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

Simone Quartell, a Heights High graduate, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.

The customizable program enhances and strengthens connections between the organization and donors.

Cass has been involved with nonprofit organizations since his student days at CRWU. He has been a longtime staff member of WRUW-FM (91.1) the radio station at Case. Cass manages the station’s fundraising program, and over the years has developed software programs to assist the fundraising efforts of WRUW-FM and other nonprofit organizations.

Recognizing that a gap existed in how nonprofits ask for donations and how donors make contributions, he saw a business opportunity. After spending

Cass and his wife, Emily Tuzson, who works for Siemens Industries in Garfield Heights managing large-scale alternative energy projects, enjoy living in Cleveland Heights. They find Cleveland to be very approachable, and a place where business and social connections are readily made. To quote Ron: “It is easy to put down roots.” Go to www.gobigriver.com to learn more about this growing, local company.

Michael Knoblauch is a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors and owner of DVUV, LLC, a firm specializing in UV-cured powder coat finishing systems.

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Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt coming to Coventry

Kendra Dean

If all goes as planned, in mid-March the first all-organic frozen yogurt shop in Ohio, Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt, will open its doors at the site of the Grog Shop's first Coventry Village location, just south of Mayfield Road. Brothers Cosmin (Cos) and Adrian Bota, first-generation Americans, chose Coventry for its combination of pedestrian-friendly streets, vibrant storefronts and eclectic neighbors.

"I like the idea of people walking up to the business," said Adrian. "It reminds me of New York City. I like the diversity here. I said to my brother, 'let's do something where people are enjoying community and the arts—let's be part of urban renewal.'"

Piccadilly, a whimsical name with an international flair, will offer healthy, all-organic yogurt. The brothers have sourced all of the flavorings and toppings locally, but they had to go out of state, for now at least, for the yogurt itself. "Only two people in the U.S. are making organic [frozen] yogurt," said Adrian. "We will be the only one in Ohio to offer yogurt with no artificial flavoring, no dyes for coloring, and all natural ingredients."

Yogurt flavors will include double-Dutch chocolate, old-fashioned vanilla, and fruits, such as strawberry, mango, banana and pomegranate. Two vegan flavors, blueberry and creamy coconut, will round out the initial offerings. "All of the machines will also offer a swirl option—a mix of the two flavors," said Cos. "We'll bring in new flavors monthly and offer fresh, local, seasonal fruit such as strawberries and blueberries. We will also have an assortment of chocolates—dark, milk, chocolate bars—and nuts, cereals and candy. We'll also feature local artisan creations including chocolates and baked goods, such as croissants, red velvet cake, cupcakes and pies."

The commitment to local sources extends to the store furnishings. The Botas are working with students from the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA), and other companies, such as A Piece of Cleveland, to outfit the business with reclaimed wood from the Cleveland area. Pieces of a wooden roller coaster from Geauga Lake have become side tables. Doors left over from the original Grog Shop will become tables. CIA students have designed benches out of discarded wooden pallets.

The brothers plan to continue their partnership with CIA. "We'd like to have a space in the store where student works and goods made by local artists can be displayed and sold," said Adrian.



Cosmin and Adrian Bota, owners of Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt.

Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun and marketing manager for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District, said he was glad building owner Michael Montlack was patient and waited for the right business to fill the former Grog Shop space. "Adrian and Cos are a great fit for Coventry—repurposed furniture, vegan yogurt, locally owned and operated. I'm looking forward to having them here."

Piccadilly will be the first restaurant on Coventry to offer sidewalk seating.

The city granted a permit for 25 tables, but the brothers say they will likely start with 10 or 15.

Starting a new business can be a big risk, but it pales in comparison to the one the brothers' parents took when they brought the family to America. Cos and Adrian fled across the border of Communist Romania in the dead of night with their father and three younger siblings when they were eight and seven years old, respectively. A harrowing two-year journey through



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Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sun. 1-9 p.m.
www.PiccadillyArtisanYogurt.com

LAUREN BOTA

prison and refugee camps led them to Cleveland, where they reunited with their mother. They became citizens as soon as they were eligible.

"I'm very proud to be an American," said Cos. "If we don't succeed, it means we didn't try hard enough. When I think about being an entrepreneur, I think, 'you're in America. Why not?'"

Kendra Dean is a graduate student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and is currently an intern at FutureHeights.

Business groups launch March focus on small business in the Heights

Randy Carpenter

Small businesses employ more than half of the national work force and are crucial to our economy, as was frequently mentioned during last year's presidential election.

Our region's largest small business support organization, the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE), is working with the 14 local chamber of commerce partners in its COSE Affiliate Program to launch a year-long initiative called The Year of the Small Business.

Throughout 2013, COSE will work with each chamber partner to hold a month-long celebration in its community. COSE is launching the year-long program by teaming up with the Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce (HRCC) to focus on small businesses in the HRCC service area of Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid and Lyndhurst during the month of March.

The Year of the Small Business campaign will begin with a kick-off event on Thursday, March 7 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the A.M. McGregor Home, 14900 Private Drive in East Cleveland.

Titled "A Perfect Pairing," the event will feature wine and cheese from Whole Foods and Scoperta. Those attending can learn how the partnership between HRCC and COSE can support their businesses. City officials from areas covered by HRCC will be present and attendees will have the opportunity to win prizes.

"We are so proud to be the chamber partner on the launch of the Year of the Small Business campaign," said Angie Pohlman, HRCC executive director. "I think our members are going to be in for some surprises during March, and I encourage everyone to come out and participate in the events."

Other upcoming events include the Business Breakfast Series: Expo Pre-Show Breakfast on Tradeshow Networking, on March 14, and the Business Breakfast Series: Multiple Income Streams, on March 28. Both start at 8 a.m. at the 700 Beta Banquet and Conference Center in Mayfield Village.

Throughout March, "street teams" from COSE and HRCC will make surprise visits to local businesses in the Heights area to deliver resource bags containing fun and valuable resources for local business.

"COSE working with local chambers, such as HRCC, is so important to the success of our local small business community," said Steve Millard, president and executive director at COSE. "Our Year of the Small Business campaign gives us a great platform to collaborate with the local chambers in their communities."

A website for the Year of the Small Business campaign, www.yearofthesmallbiz.com, to launch in March, contains articles and resources to help small businesses. Site visitors who submit their individual goals as small business professionals will be entered in a drawing to win prizes, including \$500 and \$250 in cash; a first-class trip to COSE's Annual Small Business Convention; free admission to the annual small business day in Columbus, COSE Day at the Capitol; a free scholarship to a COSE Wellness Tracks class; and more.

For more information about the Year of the Small Business, contact COSE at 216-592-2222.

Randy Carpenter is the senior director of corporate communications and public relations at the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE).

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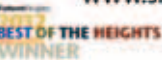


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An unlikely restaurateur creates a delicious spot north of Mayfield

Richard Stewart

Jim Barle is something of a serial entrepreneur. “I’ve never—quote, unquote—had a job in my life,” said the humble 43-year-old, with a smile, as he took a brief respite from a typically busy weekday.

The 1987 Cleveland Heights High School graduate owned a successful landscaping business for more than 20 years, which he later sold, and currently owns several local properties, including the iconic Rockefeller building. Even childhood classmates recall he had a penchant for business from a very early age. His most recent venture, Barle Soup & Sandwich, just north of Mayfield Road on Lee Boulevard, is a labor of love—love of the Heights, that is.

“We’re trying to revitalize down here because there’s not a lot down this way. Once Lonesome Dove left, there was no reason for anyone to come to the Rockefeller building,” said Barle, who operates the shop with his wife, Samantha Glickman. “Because I own the building, I sort of opened the sandwich shop to help the building and help the corner. I wanted to bring some life to the building, life to the area. Over time, the increase in the number of people we bring to the building will help me rent units.”

Barle’s, which opened last April, offers a selection of soups, artisan sandwiches, gourmet salads and fresh baked goods, and has already cultivated a loyal customer base in the short time



Jim Barle and his wife Samantha Glickman, owners of Barle Soup & Sandwich.

since it opened.

“One of the good things that I’ve seen . . . we have certain people that come in four times a week, three times a week, five times a week and twice a week, and, when we opened, our goal was just to become part of people’s routine because people are very habitual,” said Barle. “Once you become part of people’s routine, I think you can have a successful business.”

Barle, who grew up in the Noble-Monticello neighborhood of Cleveland Heights, had no prior background in

the restaurant business, but knew how to update a space. As a landlord, he had accumulated plenty of experience in that area. His landscaping background enabled him to build out a beautiful courtyard dining area, complete with water features, of which he’s justifiably proud.

But, what about the food? “The actual menu . . . our manager set all that up from scratch and she did a great job,” said Barle. (The manager he’s referring to, Erin Petre, has since moved on.) “Some soups come from Souper Market

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(a local soup store chain), and we’ve just started to make a few of our own, and it’s going over pretty well. We’ve taken away and added stuff on to the menu. It’s evolved.”

Barle’s recently reduced its operating hours and is now strictly a lunch restaurant, operating from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays and from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

“Right now we just want to be a good lunch place,” said Barle. “Because we’re open shorter hours, we [Barle and his wife] can be here the whole time we’re open so it kind of makes it more personal. We do a great lunch, we’re very busy and there are times when there’s nowhere to sit.”

Though Barle may be an unlikely restaurant owner, he’s enjoying some of the unforeseen pleasures that his new venture brings.

“I would never be around 22-year-olds or 23-year-olds for five, six hours a day if I didn’t have the business, and it just gives you a different perspective. It’s interesting,” he said.

Richard Stewart is a member of the Future-Heights Board of Directors and owner of Digizoom Media.



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