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Two local businesses reinvest in Cleveland Heights

Alastair Pearson

While two instances may not indicate a trend, two local businesses recently decided to consolidate their businesses in the Cedar Lee Business District. In June, Jonathon Forman, owner of Cleveland Cinemas and the Cedar Lee Theatre, moved his company from Solon to offices above the theater. Alan Israel, owner of Lee Silsby Compounding Pharmacy, has maintained his now 35-employee business in the city since 1985, despite pressure to move, and recently opted to expand in his current location.

In the 36 years since Forman founded Cleveland Cinemas and the Cleveland International Film Festival, the Cedar Lee Theatre has been vital to both organizations. He said his path to entrepreneurship was unplanned: “I don’t think I ever made a conscious decision [to start my own business]. Circumstances presented themselves to me—there seemed to be a void in the world with specialty art films.”

Cleveland Cinemas operates seven



Alan Israel, owner of the Lee Silsby Compounding Pharmacy, stands outside his store in the former Cleveland Heights Firehouse No. 3.

theaters, one in Pittsburgh and six in Greater Cleveland, for a total of 52 screens. Forman developed a bond with the cinephile community. “We are so aware of the passion people have about going to films,” he said, “the number of people who say ‘I only go to the Cedar Lee’ or—I love telling this story—the people who move from a place like New York or Chicago who say they move here because of the Cedar Lee Theatre.”

When it comes to business, For-

man thanked the community and the city’s planning commission. “We have a wonderful working relationship with the restaurants on Lee Road,” he said. “They help us, and we help them.” He noted that the city “did help me when I was a new business, but they also help me as an existing business.”

Forman believes the city facilitates investment through its commercial loan program, which assists businesses in

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Cleveland Heights has a new city manager

Camille Davis

The 14-month search for a new Cleveland Heights city manager is over. On June 14, the city announced the selection of Tanisha R. Briley, assistant city manager of Davenport, Iowa, and a Cleveland native.

“The city council is pleased to have found someone who can lead our city into the future,” said Mayor Edward J. Kelley in a press release.

Briley holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from The Ohio State University and a Master of Public Administration from Cleveland State University.

“It’s an honor to have been selected. Cleveland is home for me. I’m looking forward to joining the Cleveland Heights community,” Briley said.

In 2006 Briley moved to Davenport, and began her career as a management analyst.

“Tanisha Briley brings strong analytical and interpersonal skills to



Tanisha R. Briley

the position, as well as a commitment to diversity and quality of life issues. We are looking forward to working with her on new initiatives for our community,” said Kelley.

Briley has worked in budget development, sustainability programs and community outreach programs. She is a member of the International City/County Manager Association (ICMA) and has chaired several national com-

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Heuer resigns as CH-UH superintendent

Kim Sergio Inglis

On June 25, the CH-UH City School District Board of Education (BOE) announced that Douglas Heuer is stepping down as superintendent, and Nylajeau McDaniel, the district’s director of human resources, will become the new superintendent for a one-year period.

The board voted to accept Heuer’s resignation, and appoint McDaniel, at a special board meeting on June 24.

While Heuer’s resignation is effective June 30,

he will not be leaving the district. According to a district news release, Heuer “will lead an effort in the upcoming year to help the district implement the State of Ohio’s new standards-based evaluation system for teachers and principals.”

“This marks the beginning of a new era for our district and we are grateful for Doug

Heuer’s leadership as superintendent,” said Ron Register, board president, in a written statement. “Doug will be assisting us for the critical first year of these programs, with a focus on the logistical



Doug Heuer



Nylajeau McDaniel

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BOE takes first votes toward placing facilities bond issue on November ballot

Alastair Pearson

At its June 18 work session, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education (BOE) voted unanimously in favor of two resolutions related to school facilities improvements. These votes are the first step in placing a bond issue on the ballot this November.

The board approved a resolution announcing the “necessity” of submitting the \$134.8 million bond issue to voters, as well as a resolution determining that CH-UH is a “special-needs district.”

The special needs designation would enable the district to have a

higher debt limit than the state standard 9 percent, and would allow up to a \$144 million levy, but the approval process creates time constraints for the levy as the district’s tax evaluation would need to rise an improbable 13.5 percent by 2014 for it to qualify again.

The BOE is expected to take the next step at its board meeting on July 2 when it votes to authorize the district’s chief financial officer, Scott Gainer, to submit the ballot language and millage amount to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

In a series of votes last summer, the BOE passed several required resolutions

on the way to placing its facilities Plan C on the November 2012 ballot, only to reverse its position by voting 0-5 against placing the bond issue on the ballot in its July 17 vote.

The current school facilities plan was written by the Lay Facilities Committee (LFC), a group composed of community members assembled by the BOE last October, after board members rejected Plan C. The LFC plan calls for a two-phase process of refurbishing most schools while closing Wiley Middle School and Noble and Fairfax elementary schools. The first phase

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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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2163 Lee Rd., #103,
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 216-320-1423

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PUBLISHER

Deanna Bremer Fisher
dbfisher@futureheights.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Sergio Inglis
city.editor@heightsobserver.org

ADVERTISING

Bob Rosenbaum
 216-401-9342
brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deanna Bremer Fisher, Carrie Buchanan, David Budin, Jeff Coryell, Greg Donley, Eleanor Mallet, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Clare Taft

EDITORS

Jamison Bobb, Maryann Barnes, Camille Davis, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Ben Bubnick, Daniel Budin, David Budin, Jeff Coryell, Greg Donley, Simone Jasper, Eleanor Mallet, Jewel Moulthrop, Alastair Pearson, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Jessica Schreiber, Kim Sergio Inglis, Dermot Somerville, Clare Taft

WEBMASTER

Dan Ott

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
 Temma Collins and Ruth D'Emilia

DISTRIBUTION
 Hannah Baldwin

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Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Observer



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

I am always amazed when I sign in at the *Heights Observer's* Member Center—where Heights residents contribute stories and we organize the production of the website, weekly e-news and monthly print edition—and I find a story from a new contributor. Often, it's someone I've never met who brings a new perspective and tells me about something going on in our community that I otherwise wouldn't know about.

We now have more than 800 people who have signed up to contribute to the *Heights Observer*, and they are essential to our success. With our small staff of a part-time publisher and a part-time editor, we couldn't possibly produce a newspaper of 24–32 pages each month without the contributions of these volunteers.

Our contributors represent all facets of our community. Some are public relations staff employed by our major institutions. Others are the heads of local organizations or volunteers for their churches or neighborhood groups. Still others are engaged citizens with an eye for the news who want to help tell this community's unique stories.

In addition to community members, we occasionally have unpaid interns who gain valuable experience

in journalism and community organizing by working with us. We have been fortunate over the past year to work with several students.

During the 2012–13 school year, Kendra Dean, a graduate student with the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, worked on community outreach programs and contributed stories, while Simone Quartell, a journalism student at Cleveland State University, also contributed several stories.

In May, we hosted Emily Brock and Richard Wilson, who completed their Heights High senior projects with us.

This summer we have three journalism interns: Alastair Pearson, a Heights resident and senior at St. Ignatius High School; Simone Jasper, a former Heights resident and sophomore at Elon University; and Camille Davis, a Heights resident and senior at Ohio University. In addition, Chris Hanson, a recent graduate of Cleveland State University's urban studies program, who interned with us before, is working on community outreach programs.

We have 10 wonderful professionals who make up our editorial advisory committee, and 15 volunteer editors who take great pains each month to help ensure that the stories that are submitted, are not only grammatically correct, but also are readable and accurate.

Once the paper is printed and delivered to our office, about 20 volunteers deliver the newspaper to the many locally owned businesses and gathering

spots in our community and the surrounding area.

We are so grateful to our volunteers for helping us bring the *Heights Observer* to CH-UH residents each month during the last five years. To show our appreciation, we invite all our volunteers to join us at Lopez Southwest Kitchen, 2196 Lee Road, on Monday, July 29, for light refreshments, margaritas and a cash bar. The event runs from 5:30–7:30 p.m. and is free to *Observer* volunteers, but you must R.S.V.P. Call us at 216-320-1423, send an e-mail to info@futureheights.org, or register at www.heightsobserver-volunteers.eventbrite.com to let us know you are coming.

We want to meet the people behind the names at the bottom of each article, letter and opinion piece; the editors, proofreaders and distributors of the newspaper. We hope you want to meet us—the publisher, editor, and members of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, our graphic designers, ad sales director and the editorial advisory committee—too. Bring your questions, comments, and ideas for making the *Heights Observer* even better. (Craig Summers, owner of Lopez and creator of those quirky ads, might make an appearance, too.)

Mark your calendar now, RSVP, and join us for a “meet and greet.” See you at Lopez!

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

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CITY MANAGER continued from page 1

mittees.

“The residents of Cleveland Heights are very engaged. I have experience working with a diverse community and engaged residents,” Briley said.

The mayor and law director are drafting the contract for her to take over responsibilities from Susanna Niermann O'Neil, assistant city manager, who has been acting city manager for the past 14 months.

The position opened up after the resignation of longtime city manager

Robert C. Downey in 2012. He served for 27 years beginning in 1985. Following his resignation, the city enlisted the help of the Novak Consulting Group and received 68 applications for the position. In March 2013, the city interviewed four finalists and offered the job to Andrew White who, for personal and professional reasons, declined the offer.

With no clear second choice, the city began the search again.

Briley was one of three finalists interviewed for the position in June 2013.

Tom Carroll, city manager of Loveland, Ohio, and Richard White, assistant manager for administrative and community services of Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Athens, Ga. also interviewed for the position.

Though no start date has been set, Briley said she is looking forward to returning home.

Camille Davis is a senior journalism major at Ohio University and a summer intern for the Heights Observer

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Parking enforcement keeps me away from Cleveland Heights

To the Editor:

I recently visited Coventry to have a few beers and watch the Indians game at the Winking Lizard. I put about \$1.25 into the parking meter figuring that would be enough to get me through the evening. An old friend of mine showed up and I bought him dinner and a few drinks. The bar was pretty much empty and there were plenty of parking spots available.

Unfortunately I forgot about how much time I had in the meter and received a \$20 parking ticket.

I left Cleveland Heights because of the additional amount I had to pay each year in income taxes as a Heights resident working in the City of Cleveland. I also grew tired of the petty parking and traffic enforcement issues in the Heights. I've since moved to the East 185th neighborhood and rarely visit Cleveland Heights, mainly to avoid the parking issues (God forbid I don't have enough quarters in my pocket).

This latest incident sealed it for me. I will avoid Cleveland Heights as much as possible. It's not worth the hassle. I was ready to spend money at a local establishment and help support the neighborhood, but if a \$20 parking ticket is more important than my patronage then I'll just stay away.

As a side note, I was attending an industry conference about five years ago, and a gentleman from New York City mentioned that he was in Cleveland Heights on business. He asked me if I had ever been to Lopez & Gonzalez on Lee Road. He then remarked how parking enforcement in New York isn't as bad as it is in Cleveland Heights.

I think Cleveland Heights is a great community, but shortsighted thinking like this will only drive people away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jonathan Katz
Cleveland

HEUER continued from page 1

and systemic challenges that come with this initiative through a contract with the Educational Services Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County."

Heuer became superintendent of CH-UH schools in August 2009. He received an initial three-year contract, and in June 2011 the BOE voted unanimously to extend his contract for three years, effective August 2012 through July 2015.

In April of this year, Heuer was one of two finalists for the position of superintendent of Toledo Public Schools. According to the district statement, Heuer "recently informed the Board that he would not be seeking another contract as superintendent at the conclusion of his term. He also shared his desire to move into other areas of educational administration at this point in his career, like the leadership role he will now be undertaking for the district in the coming year."

Register said that Heuer announced his resignation to the board, in private, "about a month ago." According to Register, the district realized that it had to find someone to implement the state's new evaluation system. "The stars aligned in this case," he said.

In a district e-newsletter sent the evening of June 24, Heuer stated, "After 40 years in public education, I have come to the decision that it is time to consider a change in my professional career. It has been an honor and a privilege to spend the last four years serving as Superintendent for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, but the time is right for me to move into other areas of educational administration, and so I will be stepping down on June 30."

Nylajeau McDaniel, the newly appointed superintendent, has served as director of human resources for eight years, and was set to retire from that position at the end of June.

"Prior to coming to Cleveland Heights-University Heights [McDaniel] was superintendent of the Fairview Park School District for six years. During that time she received the Ohio PTA Award as Superintendent of the Year. Before that, she served as director of curriculum in East Cleveland," said

Register.

"We are extremely pleased that Dr. McDaniel has agreed to accept the position of superintendent until the end of this upcoming school year. We gladly interrupted her previous plans to retire at the end of this month in order to help the district transition to new leadership. The board can continue to move forward with an experienced team of administrators for the next year and, at the same time, execute an extensive search for a new long-term superintendent," said Register. "Meanwhile, we are confident Dr. McDaniel will continue to provide us with stability and sound leadership."

News of the change in leadership for CH-UH schools comes as the BOE is moving forward in its efforts to place a \$134.8 million capital improvement levy on the ballot in November, and it is the latest in a series of personnel changes that the district has announced in recent months.

On June 3, Jeffery Talbert, CH-UH assistant superintendent, resigned to become superintendent of the Alliance City School District. According to Register, the search for Talbert's replacement is underway. "We've already been interviewing," said Register.

Since May, the district has named new principals to lead four of its schools.

On April 23, the board voted to cut the positions of 42 teachers, for a 7-percent reduction in its teaching staff. In a second round of cuts, board members voted on May 21 to cut 24 support staff and 10 administrative positions. According to the district, the staffing cuts were part of "an ongoing effort to reduce costs and bring expenditures in line with educational needs."

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

Simone Jasper, a Heights Observer intern, contributed to this article. A 2012 graduate of Beaumont School, Jasper is a sophomore at Elon University, majoring in print journalism.

REINVEST continued from page 1

renovating properties. The city helped Forman find parking for his seven on-site employees, for which he said they are grateful.

Alan Israel of Lee Silsby Compounding Pharmacy takes a balanced view of doing business in Cleveland Heights. He has added employees and interior structures during his tenure in the distinctive former fire station on Silsby Road, while marketing nationwide. "Lee Silsby," said Israel, "steps in to meet specialty needs when manufacturers can't meet those special needs," such as gels for gastric bypass patients.

The pharmacy is housed in former Fire Station No. 3, a Cleveland Heights landmark. Israel worked within the city's historic building code to expand his premises while maintaining the original aesthetic. He had considered moving to Beachwood, but stayed when costs proved prohibitive. Israel is currently working with the city to create a development plan for further expansion and hopes the city will provide financial support.

Israel believes, however, that Cleveland Heights's tax burden and infrastructure are negative factors. "The city developed before there were any freeways," he said. "It takes time to get here—I live half an hour away." He emphasized that he is still "trying to stay here in Cleveland Heights."

On the positive side, Israel said that Cleveland Heights is distinct from nearby municipalities. "It's like a community," he said. "Other cities are like warehouse districts." Although he would not advise a national chain to invest, Israel regards the local business climate as good for restaurants.

Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city

manager of Cleveland Heights, touts the city's business-friendly policies. "As part of our promotion of ourselves as a city, we promote our restaurants, our regular theaters, our movie theaters, everything we have to offer," she said.

Without an industrial base, Cleveland Heights's tax burden falls heavily on local businesses and residents. A 2010 survey of 100 Northeast Ohio cities found Cleveland Heights to have the third highest municipal tax burden. The city tries to make up for the revenue demands by providing services to small businesses through programs such as the city's below-market loans and storefront renovation program; tax abatement; and regulations that seek to maintain the city's unique character.

Three of the city's 12 business districts—Cedar Fairmount, Coventry Village and Cedar Lee—are Special Improvement Districts (SIDs), where the city has empowered the property owners to tax themselves for maintenance, business development and marketing. Regulations, such as a zoning update requiring 60 percent of a business's windows to face the street, are meant to maintain the city's "streetcar suburb" atmosphere and boost sidewalk vitality.

The approach seems to have an ally in the business community. Forman advises business owners to invest here if "you have a good business plan, and a good product." He said that Cleveland Heights's strengths lie in "the diversity of the community, not just in terms of race, but also [in terms of] businesses."

Alastair Pearson, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a student at Saint Ignatius, where he edits the school newspaper and literary magazine. He is a summer intern at the Observer.

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Heights Observer 2013 local elections candidate policy

With the November election approaching, the *Heights Observer* is publishing its policy for contributions by candidates for local office.

As a community newspaper staffed by volunteers and committed to equal access for everyone, the *Observer* is unique among publications in providing opportunity for any member of the Cleveland Heights and University Heights communities to raise and discuss issues of local interest.

At election time, however, this commitment creates a challenge in managing the finite space that is available for community members who are running for public office.

The policy, approved by the FutureHeights Board of Directors, is designed to address that challenge. It states the following:

- The August–November issues of the printed publication will not carry any editorial contributions from known candidates for office.
- During this pre-election period, *Observer* contributors who are not running for office will produce any coverage of election issues.
- During this pre-election period, all candidate contributions of news or opinion will continue to be accepted for publication online at www.heightsobserver.org.
- Candidates seeking to place information in the August–November printed editions of the *Observer* may do so through advertising space purchased from the *Observer*.

The *Heights Observer* and its parent organization, FutureHeights, do not endorse candidates.

BOARD OF EDUCATION continued from page 1

concentrates on the high schools and middle schools, and the second phase focuses on the elementary schools, seven to ten years later.

The BOE will submit the current facilities plan to the Ohio School Facilities Committee (OSFC) on Oct. 1 so that the OSFC can officially sign off on it when it meets on Oct. 24.

The overall cost for phase one is projected at \$157.35 million, with \$134.8 million to be raised in a bond levy this fall. The 36-year bond would be just under six mills, costing \$183 a year for a home valued at \$100,000. An additional \$18.75 million would be funded through a bank loan. The district expects to raise \$2.65 million in private donations, and the balance would come from other sources.

Phase one funding will go toward renovations and new construction at Roxboro and Monticello middle schools, along with remodeling at Heights High that includes demolishing the old science wing and building a new pool. After restructuring, Roxboro and Monticello would hold 630 students each. The plan provides for geothermal energy at the high school with additional green tech in other schools. All post-World War II additions are to be removed due to concerns about poor integration with existing structures.

Wiley will be used as a “swing space” during both phases of the project, providing learning space during renovations. Interior walls will be demolished and rebuilt in all eight district buildings.

Funding for phase two, with a projected cost of \$80 million, is still yet to be determined, but could include another levy and 14 percent state matching funds if the district meets certain

guidelines. A new building would be constructed at Boulevard, and full renovations are planned for the other four schools. Elementary school enrollment is targeted at 504 students per school.

Board members expressed enthusiasm for phase one of the LFC plan on June 18. “I feel good our community has come together on this,” said Ron Register, school board president.

Board members Eric Coble and Karen Jones spoke to a sense of urgency, with Coble stating, “This is our time, this is our best shot. Nothing is going to get better than now.” He went on to compare the proposed bond issue to the sacrifices asked of the community when district schools were first constructed, and said that the renovations were necessary because “we value the next two to three to five generations.”

Jones said, “If the issue fails, we will lose out on an opportunity to get millions.”

Register expressed confidence in the committee that has been formed to campaign on behalf of the bond issue, Citizens for Heights Schools, which has been active during past operating levies but will be leading its first capital levy campaign for the bond issue. Citizens for Heights Schools is co-chaired by Dave Tabor, Alvin Saafir and Patrick Mullen, all of whom served on the LFC.

Mullen was succinct in describing his aims for after the board approves the plan, declaring, “The bond issue must pass. Right now, that is our goal.”

Alastair Pearson, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a student at Saint Ignatius, where he edits the school newspaper and literary magazine. He is a summer intern at the Observer.

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

MAY 20, 2013

All council members were present.

Awards for firefighters/paramedics

Awards were presented to six firefighters/paramedics by University Hospitals for their successful response on Feb. 24 when resident Phyllis Reeves was having a heart attack. The rescue crew arrived five and a half minutes after receiving a 911 call from her daughter. Reeves and her daughter, who were present at the meeting, also thanked the men for their assistance. Dan Ellenberger, director of emergency services for University Hospitals, conducts weekly training with University Heights paramedics. He reported that only 6 percent of people who have a heart attack outside of a hospital survive.

Waterline replacements

Council approved Monte Cristo Construction Company's bid for waterline replacements for 2013 waterline replacements for Fenwood and Channing roads, at a cost not to exceed \$1,020,652. The acceptance will be forwarded to the Cleveland Water Department for reimbursement. Councilman Steven Sims abstained from voting, and asked if bids had been received from any minority-owned contractors. They had not.

Purvis Park

Council approved Industrial Service Sealer Inc. to seal cracks and re-stripe the Purvis Park tennis courts for a cost not to exceed \$74,490. The company was the only bidder, but its price was within the budgeted amount. So that courts will always be available, [the company] will work first on three of the courts and then the other

four. The service department is resetting the net posts. Joe Ciuni, city engineer, confirmed that the courts have never been replaced, and should be replaced with new drainage and new nets in the next three to five years. The patching done this summer should hold up for several years.

Reverse 911

A proposal that the city contract with Emergency Communications Network LLC for reverse 911 (CodeRED) services was presented on first reading. The city's current system has been inoperable for a year, and this company has been recommended by other cities.

Street paving

Joe Ciuni, city engineer, announced that street paving will begin on May 28 and is scheduled to be completed before July 4.

Texting ban

Steven Hammett, police chief, reported that it takes two to six weeks to receive new "texting ban" signs. Police won't cite anyone until the signs have been posted, but they have begun issuing warnings. The new signs will be identical to the signs in Beachwood and will reference all electronic communication devices, not only texting.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

JUNE 3, 2013

Councilman Steven Sims was absent.

CodeRED (reverse 911)

Council authorized the purchase of a one-year agreement for a new emergency notification system, CodeRED (a reverse 911 system) from CitiWatch. [CitiWatch, used by University Heights last year, has been acquired by Emergency Communications Network, LLC, located in Ormond Beach,

Fla.] Many surrounding cities use CodeRED and are satisfied. Councilwoman Sue Pardee questioned purchasing from CitiWatch again when there were so many issues with the old system. Mayor Infeld stated that CodeRED is an Internet-based system versus the old phone-line system. The system is constantly updated when residents enter their information on the website. They can receive notifications by a call, text, or e-mail. No personal information can be sold. CodeRED will be up and running by July 8.

Police training

The police department trained with the John Carroll University police and focused on campus shootings. On May 25, which was National Missing Children's Day, the department participated with other police departments in Take 25, spending 25 minutes with a child at the Boys and Girls Club on West 23rd Street in Cleveland, in recognition that this was the neighborhood where three abducted girls were recently found. The department took advantage of free trainings recently offered, including some for management, communications and amber alerts.

Service report on trees, sewers, and tennis courts

Planting of 90 percent of the trees has been complete, and the rest will be planted by June 15. In addition, 350 catch basins are cleaned out, and sanitary and storm sewer televising is 10 percent complete. The tennis court renovations are almost complete with new nets, power washing, sealed cracks and a new surface on four courts. The courts will open June 10.

Fuchs Mizrahi demolition

The city engineer is finalizing the Fuchs Mizrahi



building demolition. Asbestos will be removed first, the building will be razed after July 4, and grass is to be planted in September.

Waterline replacement

The waterline replacement on Fenwood and Channing roads will begin in two to three weeks. The company has notified residents by letter. The city will also send letters and place notices in the newsletter.

Council salaries

The mayor reminded council members to hold committee meetings to set salaries for council seats because this is an election year.

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 "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

UH summer concerts



University Heights's annual free Summer Concert Series, a tradition since the 1970s, kicked off in mid-June with the first of 11 weekly concerts for the public.

Concerts take place each Thursday evening, on the Wiley Middle School lawn at 2181 Miramar Blvd. July concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., August concerts begin at 7 p.m. In case of rain, the concert will move inside to the Wiley Middle School auditorium.

Concerts scheduled for July and August are:

July 4: University Heights Symphonic Band

July 11: The Stratophonics

July 18: University Heights Symphonic Band

July 25: Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band *

Aug. 1: University Heights Symphonic Band


Aug. 8: Red Light Roxy *

Aug. 15: Blue Lunch Band

Aug. 22: Clear Fork Bluegrass Quartet *

Concert dates marked with an asterisk (*) will feature an ice cream social as part of the evening program.

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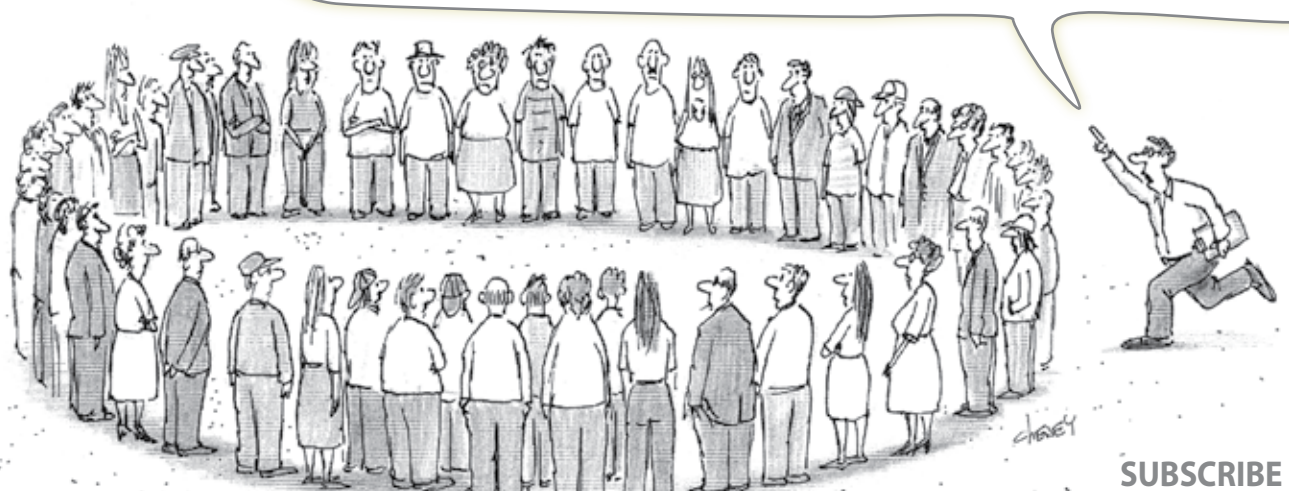


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Coventry plans street festival for July 21

Simone Jasper

The Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID) will hold a Family Arts Day on Coventry Road between Mayfield Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard from 1-5 p.m. on July 21. Steve Presser, marketing and publicity manager of CVSID and the owner of Big Fun Toy Store on Coventry, said that the event will feature vendors performers, and activities that cater to all ages.

The street fair will be the first on Coventry since a flash mob broke out at the 2011 event. After the incident, the City of Cleveland Heights implemented a curfew and heightened its police presence in the area. Presser said that these measures have decreased disturbances on Coventry. "You feel comfortable and safe," he said.

Coventry merchants decided to resume the event this year because, Presser said, many area artists wanted to showcase their work at a street fair, noting "There was a lot of input from the community."

According to Presser, the CVSID will take increased security precautions at this year's event. During the festival, Cleveland Heights police and volunteers will patrol the area. Also, the streets will not be blocked off to



motor vehicle traffic, as they have been in previous years.

The CVSID will host other free summer events, through early August. The times and dates of these family-friendly events (subject to change) include: Yoga at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Sundays from 5-7 p.m.; Drum Circle led by professional percussionists at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Sundays from 7-9 p.m.; Music on Coventry Road at Lot #15 (between Marc's and Heights Cleaners) on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m.; Drive-in Movie Series at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Thursdays from 9-11 p.m.

For a full schedule of events, visit www.coventryvillage.org.

Heights Observer intern Simone Jasper, a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School, studies print journalism at Elon University.

Creating a sense of community



STEIN'S WAY

Jason Stein

In March, I participated in a panel discussion, hosted by FutureHeights, about neighborhood organizing. It was an upbeat evening that highlighted the success of neighborhood groups in the Cain Park and Grant Deming's Forest Hill areas. These two parts of the city are different, and each has its own unique strengths and attributes, but both associations share a love for their neighborhoods and a positive enthusiasm for making them better.

The Cain Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) meets once a month at City Hall. The neighbors stay in touch throughout the month via their CPNA Facebook page and Nextdoor.com. Members have collaborated with the city to allow leashed dogs in Cain Park, give and get advice about the new Sprinkler Park in Cain Park and plan block parties. The CPNA is currently creating a website to market the Cain Park residential neighborhood to prospective residents.

The Grant Deming's Forest Hill (GDFH) District neighbors also use Nextdoor.com to communicate neighborhood happenings and plan events. They have collaborated with the city to have the Grant Deming's Forest Hill District of Coventry Village listed in the National Register of Historic Places, spray painted a "Lake Erie Starts Here" stencil on sewer grates in the district, and hosted a community-wide garage sale on June

22. The GDFH neighbors have an active website to market their neighborhood to prospective residents, www.grantdemingneighborhood.org.

These street associations are making a difference. Does your street or neighborhood have an active association? If you would like to become involved and help improve your neighborhood, the city would like to work with you. For information about creating a street association, please contact the Community Relations Department at 216-291-2323 or comrel@clvhts.com.

A new option to collaborate with the city and our police department is the neighborhood watch program. Cleveland Heights is a safe city because we have an excellent police department. Nevertheless, throughout the country there has been an increase in crime because of the recession and housing crisis. Neighborhoods are safer with an alert and engaged neighborhood watch program. If you are interested in more information about creating a neighborhood watch program for your street, contact the Cleveland Heights Police Department's Community Response Team at 216-291-4225 or myp@clvhts.com.

Whether your neighborhood wants to establish a street association to strengthen your street's sense of community, or start a neighborhood watch program to increase safety, now is the time to become involved.

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.

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Bonnie Caplan will retire from CH City Council in January

Alastair Pearson

"Twenty years was enough. It's time to do something else," said Bonnie Caplan, member of the Cleveland Heights City Council.

At the June 3 Cleveland Heights City Council meeting, Caplan announced that she plans to retire when her term expires in January.

Her retirement marks the end of two decades of service to the city. Her tenure oversaw extensive changes to city infrastructure, battles with funding shortfalls, and an emphasis on Cleveland Heights's diverse culture.

With seven months to go in her final term, Caplan looked back with pride. "I believe I have been a good representative for the people of Cleveland Heights," said Caplan. "What I am most proud of is my responsiveness."

She noted that being on city council carries responsibilities far beyond the job description, as those who are unsure where to turn often contact council members first. As the city has transitioned into the digital era, city council representatives need to have "almost an immediate reaction" to queries, said Caplan.

Despite the workload the Heights's concerned citizenry places on its elected officials, Caplan thanks community participation for many of her most successful initiatives. Though she originally knew little about digital administration herself, Caplan formed the Technology Advisory Group to integrate computing into city government. "We reorganized what the city was doing with technology," Caplan noted, adding that the changes—ranging from phones to e-mail and computers—were all due to a citizen-led program.

Interfacing with the electorate also brought Caplan into contact with an energetic environmental activist whose efforts to rid public lands of herbicides and pesticides instigated groundbreaking legislation to remove chemical agents from city property.

"We were the first city in the country to do that," Caplan remarked, laughing, "and I went and got an award." Now, she said, "I am kind of a recycling guru," and it's a policy area with benefits she touted. "We get paid for recycling—it's a win win, and good for the environment."



Bonnie Caplan has served on Cleveland Heights Council since 1993.

Caplan said the biggest hurdle facing Cleveland Heights has been "continuing to provide excellent services on a budget" that has increased at a decreasing rate, while less state funding and the elimination of the inheritance tax have hit the city treasury hard.

"How do we make the city more prosperous?" Caplan asked. "How do we bring people with reasonable incomes here so we can tax them?" The end goal, she emphasized, is always to promote a thriving community. "If you keep good services," she explained, "people will want to live here."

Caplan is not yet sure what she'll do after her time in office ends, but says she knows a few things will stay constant—time with family, travel and her active volunteer work. Before her term ends, she said she aimed to interview and hire a new city manager, set the city budget, and stay tuned in to her constituents. Her message to the residents of Cleveland Heights: "Well, I ain't gone yet. I will do my best till it's over. I have absolutely loved it."

Alastair Pearson, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a student at Saint Ignatius, where he edits the school newspaper and literary magazine. He is a summer intern at the Observer.

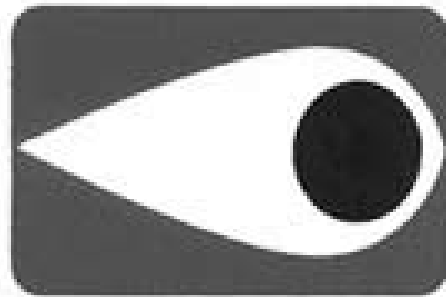
CH police department starts trial Block Watch program

Simone Jasper

On June 17, the Cleveland Heights Police Department launched a trial Block Watch program. Over a six-month trial period, the department will assist residents who want to create neighborhood watch groups.

Sgt. Ernest Williams of the CH Police Department said that residents can work with police to establish groups that cater to the specific needs of their neighborhoods. According to Williams, a few residents have already shown interest in the program. "It could bring a lot of advantages," he said.

For more information, residents can



contact the city's Community Response Team at 216-291-4225.

Simone Jasper is a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School. She studies print journalism at Elon University and is an intern at the Heights Observer.

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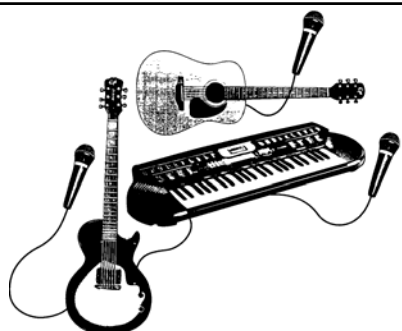
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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

MAY 20, 2013

Council Member Janine R. Boyd was absent.

Resident communications:

Bike Week: Resident Ian Hoffman spoke on behalf of the Heights Bicycle Coalition about the observance of Bike Week last week. He described The Ride of Silence, commemorating bikers who have lost their lives, and thanked the city for providing a police escort. Bike to Work Day was held on Friday May 17, and a coffee-and-cookie stop was set up at Edgehill and Overlook roads, one of the most heavily travelled bike routes in the region. Hoffman presented a thank-you poster signed by many riders in gratitude for the recent repaving of the hill and the anticipated "sharrows" and dedicated bike lane. They gave Richard Wong, planning director, special thanks.

Cain Park Dog Project: Resident Carrie Whitehouse, speaking on behalf of the Cain Park Dog Project pilot program, said things are going well with no major problems in any area related to dogs. She discussed the difference between a dog-friendly park, like Cain Park, and a dog park. The project has volunteer coverage [for] the cleanup stations. A big cleanup will take place just prior to the Arts Festival in July and two dog-related programs this summer will be publicized on [the Dog Project's] website.

Ruffing School learning project

Council approved an agreement with Ruffing

Montessori School to permit use of a public city right-of-way for ecological and educational purposes. The school will build a bio-retention cell and stormwater learning lab as part of a parking lot improvement.

Nuisance properties

Council declared three properties to be nuisances:

- 2807 Avondale Ave., owned by Keith Pace. The estimated cost to raze and clean is \$15,500.
- 1654 Coventry Road, owned by Kenneth and Deborah Mate. The estimated cost to raze and clean is \$15,500.
- 3346 Tullamore Road and 2251 Goodnor Road, a double home owned by Georgene Coneglio. The estimated cost to raze and clean is \$15,500.

Police and Fire Pension Funds

Council approved legislation affirming the policy of "pick-up" contributions to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Funds. Each officer makes a mandatory contribution, which is matched by the city and will rise each July for the next three years. The current amount is 10 percent. It will be 10.75 percent this July, 11.50 percent in 2014, and 12.25 percent in 2015.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

JUNE 3, 2013

All council members were present.

Water rate increase

A water rate increase from \$56.60 per Metered Cubic Foot (MCF) to \$70.04 per MCF was read into the record. Cleveland Heights buys water from the City of Cleveland but maintains its own lines. The lines are old, and new lines are needed throughout the system. Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager, noted that response time for correcting water problems is currently less than six hours.

Payday lending

Council approved a moratorium on any new business proposing to issue payday loans without being licensed under the Short-Term Loan Law until the Ohio Supreme Court issues a ruling in Ohio Neighborhood Finance Inc. v. Scott. During the resident comment portion of the meeting, two residents spoke out supporting the legislation and criticizing high-fee loan practices. Dennis Wilcox, council member, thanked the public for their comments and said council will continue to watch closely that citizens are not being taken advantage of. Jason Stein, council member, commented that payday lenders are predatory by nature and the moratorium will send a message that they are not welcome in Cleveland Heights.

1935 Coventry Road

Council declared the property at 1935 Coventry Road, owned by Michael M. Stevens and deteriorating since January 2012, to be a nuisance



and authorized abatement.

LGBT Pride Month

Council declared June 2013 to be LGBT Pride Month.

Powell Caesar

Cheryl Stephens, council member, relayed condolences from the city and the council to the family of Powell Caesar, who died recently. Caesar, a well-known public figure, was a longtime Cleveland Heights resident and the first African-American police officer on the city's force.

Waterline survey

Council authorized an agreement with Consulting Engineering Inc. for a waterline survey, not to exceed \$46,000. This survey would find leaks and thereby save water that would be wasted.


Bonnie Caplan to retire

Bonnie Caplan, council member, announced her intention to not run for another term this November. Noting her 20 years as a council member, she claimed that it has been like a university education. She said she has enjoyed her interaction with residents and the opportunity to make a difference.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

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

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Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival offers family fun



Fair goers enjoy a ride on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car at the 2012 Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival.

Camille Davis

As Aug. 11 approaches, plans for the 12th annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival are coming together.

The community festival, presented by the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, will take place in the Cedar Fairmount Business District of Cleveland Heights from noon to 5 p.m. Elite event sponsors, which include the Cedar Grandview Building, Chase Bank, Dave's Supermarkets, Eileen M. Burkhart & Co., Fifth Third Bank, the Heights Center Building, the Heights Medical Building and FutureHeights, have matched a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, enabling expanded activities and ensuring the fair remains free to the public.

The festival will offer activities for the entire family. As in previous years, children can enjoy face painting, cricket races, pony rides and more. The whole family can enjoy a ride on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car or visit with Batman and Robin at the Batmobile. New this

year, Howard Hanna Real Estate will offer a child ID program.

From 1-2 p.m., local historian and geologist Roy Larick will share slides at the Alcazar and lead a brief walking tour of Cedar Fairmount's natural and cultural landscapes.

Several local artists and nonprofits will offer a wide range of activities and arts and crafts. Festival goers will be able to hear the musical styling of Heights Jazz Project, Karma Kings and Oldboy. Appletree Books will hold a book signing for local authors.

It is not too late for nonprofits and artists to join. Booths are still available. For the tenth consecutive year, members of Boy Scout Troop 222 will assist fair participants with the set up of their booths. For more information and booth applications, visit www.cedarfairmount.org.

Camille Davis is a senior journalism major at Ohio University. She is also a summer intern for the Heights Observer

First annual Cleveland Heights Chicken Coop Tour

Twelve Cleveland Heights homeowners opened up their backyards—and their chicken coops—to the public on Saturday, June 15, for the first annual Cleveland Heights Coop Tour. On average, coop owners reported more than 70 visitors, and tour organizer Blayne Hoerner Murray declared the tour “a huge success.”



All photos by Gabe Schaffer.



Former manse at Fairmount Presbyterian to be moved or demolished

Alastair Pearson and Bob Rosenbaum

In about a year’s time, the 101-year-old home that served as the residence for Fairmount Presbyterian Church’s pastor will be gone.

From 1968 until early 2011, the house served as the church’s manse for four consecutive pastors.

After more than two years of deliberation, during which the structure was unused, the congregation has decided to try to sell the house to someone who will move it to another location. If such a buyer cannot be found by June 30, 2014, the church will demolish the house. In either case, the church intends to retain the property.

There currently is no plan for how the property will be used.

The city’s law department has not reviewed the particular situation in sufficient detail to determine whether some sort of city review may be required in order to move or demolish the house. John Gibbon, the city’s law director, has asked the church’s attorney to keep him advised of the church’s plan for the property.

The property is zoned for residential use, which means that after the house is removed, the church will need to apply to the City of Cleveland Heights for a conditional-use permit for any other use of the land.

The house is a Tudor Revival structure, built in 1912 and designed by Meade and Hamilton, Cleveland architectural firm. It is a contributing structure to the Fairmount Boulevard and Shaker Farm National Register Historic Districts. The church bought it in 1968 with \$53,000 donated by congregants.

The last pastor to use it as a residence was Louise Westphal, who left in February 2011 to lead a church in

Colorado.

According to Lee Chilcote, an ordained elder in the church and a former clerk of its governing Session, the practice of maintaining a pastoral residence has fallen out of use. Most pastors now prefer to select and buy their own home—sometimes facilitated by a loan from the church.

As a result of this, a five-member task force was assembled in December 2012 to gather input from the community and congregation, and recommend how the property should be used or disposed of. As part of that process, a public meeting was held earlier this spring seeking community input.

On June 5, the Session approved the task force’s recommendation: to seek a third-party buyer who will agree to relocate the building and fill in the basement at his or her expense.

The church has set aside \$25,000 to cover improvements needed to make the home saleable, and may spend up to \$100,000 for inducements to a purchase agreement.

The final sale would need to be approved by the Session, trustees and congregation. If no agreement has been presented to Session on or by June 30, 2014, the house will be demolished.

Editor’s note: Deanna Bremer Fisher, publisher of the Heights Observer, is a member of the Historic Fairmount Association, which has sent a letter to the congregation stating its opposition to the removal of the house. She did not participate in writing or editing this story.

Alastair Pearson, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a student at Saint Ignatius, where he edits the school newspaper and literary magazine. He is a summer intern at the Observer.

Bob Rosenbaum is a longtime contributor to the Observer.



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CH and UH move up in their recycling rankings for 2012

Alastair Pearson

The 2012 edition of the annual Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District report on residential recycling rates shows a significant upward trend for both Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The survey measures 59 communities in the county in terms of total tons of solid waste deposited in landfills, tons recycled of both recyclables and organics, and each community's recycling rate for 2012 and 2011. The recycling rate is the percentage of the total residential waste created by the community that is not delivered to landfills.

Cleveland Heights's combined recycling and landfill waste decreased by more than 1,100 tons from 2011 to 2012, while total recycling volume increased by more than 2,500 tons, and landfill waste dropped 3,600 tons. As a result, the city's recycling rate jumped from 59.98 percent in 2011 to 66.98 percent in 2012.

The city continued its progress in the overall ranking of the 59 communities, moving from 11th to 6th in highest recycling rate in 2011, and from 6th to 4th in 2012. Only three Cuyahoga County communities, ranked higher than Cleveland Heights—Woodmere (overall rate: 72.44 percent), Pepper

Pike (70.10 percent), and Bay Village (68.13 percent). Beachwood, ranked 5th, recycled 62.65 percent.

University Heights, meanwhile, improved from a 19.25 percent to a 35.74 percent recycling rate, reversing the 10.82 percent decline in recycling reported in 2011. The city moved from 48th to 32nd place in the ranking of 59 communities. While total waste increased 1,300 tons, landfill waste decreased 180 tons, and recycled waste more than doubled to 2,700 tons.

In University Heights, newspapers, plastics with identification numbers 1-7, metal cans, and glass bottles can be placed in clear or blue recycling bags by residents for once-weekly pickup by garbage service crews. Residents wanting to dispose of cardboard boxes or magazine-style paper are asked to deposit those recycling materials in the blue box car in the service department yard at 2300 Warrensville Center Road. Computers, digital accessories, batteries, tires, and all materials accepted on the normal collection day are also received at the service department.

Glass, metal cans, and plastics 1-7 are also accepted for recycling in blue or clear bags during normal pickup in Cleveland Heights, as are car batteries, old motor oil, and computers. Paper products and cardboard, separated

from blue bag recyclables and placed in a paper bag, a corrugated box or bundled with twine, will be picked up during normal collection for recycling. Residents wishing to recycle "technotrash," such as cell phones and digital cameras, are asked to bring them to Cleveland Heights City Hall or the community center, while ink cartridges may be dropped off at city call or the service garage. Residents can recycle a computer monitor by leaving the monitor on their front porch and calling 216-691-7300 for pickup, or by delivering the monitor to the public works department at 14200 Superior Road.

Additional questions should be directed to the University Heights Service Department at 216-932-7800, or to the Cleveland Heights Service Department at 216-691-7300. Recycling information is on the websites for both cities. Cleveland Heights maintains a comprehensive guide for recycling procedures, recyclable and non-recyclable materials, and frequently asked questions under the "Recycling" tab on its website.

Alastair Pearson, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a student at Saint Ignatius, where he edits the school newspaper and literary magazine. He is a summer intern at the Observer.

Forest Hill Church Haitian Celebration to be held July 14

Peg Weissbrod

For Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian (FHC), the 7.0 M earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 and the Haitian people's struggle to rebuild have provided an opportunity to change lives.

In 2012, eight FHC members traveled to Haiti hoping to connect and build relationships with Haitians in the center of the country. The team was impressed by the opportunities to partner in agrarian development, education, midwife programs, and hospital and other basic health care. They plan to return to Haiti with a larger group this October.

In order to raise funds for medical care, education and sanitation, FHC will host SOHoh (Supporting Opportunity and Hope in Haiti) at SOHO, on July 14, from 5-8 p.m., at *Scene* magazine's Best New Restaurant of 2013, SOHO Kitchen & Bar in Ohio City.

The event is by advance reservation only. The \$50 per person (\$30 tax deductible) ticket includes hearty samplings of Haitian-inspired cuisine and two drink tickets.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be an informal presentation about the Forest Hill Church-Haiti partnership, and at 7 p.m., there will be a live auction of art quilts by local and nationally recognized quilters, and a spectacular piece of blown art glass by artist Brent Kee Young.

In addition to working and learning with their Haitian partners, the Haiti team hopes to deliver scholarships for young farmers learning to farm efficiently for self-sufficiency.

Event proceeds will also be used for educational enrichment, medical care and community development programs of the Little Brothers and Little Sisters of the Incarnation located in the town of Pandiassou, Haiti, near the city of Hinche.

For more information about FHC's Haitian program visit, www.fhcpresb.org/social-justice-outreach/international-connections-haiti/. For event reservations or donations, call 216-371-9004.

Peg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and publicity coordinator/webmaster for Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian, in Cleveland Heights.



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Rev. Derek Redwine is the new minister of Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Fairmount Presbyterian Church selects new minister

Joe Mosbrook

On June 9, members of Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights voted to call Rev. Derek Starr Redwine as their new senior minister and head of staff. The 262-6 vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the appointment, with seven abstentions.

Redwine has been the senior minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Akron for the past seven years. Before that, he was an associate pastor and acting head of staff at Central Presbyterian Church in Denver, and interim director of families and young adults at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University and Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The 40-year-old minister is scheduled to begin his new assignment July

9 and will lead Sunday services at Fairmount for the first time on July 14, at 8:30 and 10 a.m. He and his wife, Amy, the associate pastor at the Akron church, have three young children and plan to move to the Cleveland area.

The congregation also voted to retain Rev. Eric Dillenbeck as Fairmount's associate pastor. Dillenbeck and Rev. Martha "Missy" Shiverick have been serving as co-interim pastors while Fairmount's Pastor Nominating Committee searched for a new senior minister.

Fairmount Presbyterian Church (www.fairmountchurch.org) is located at 2757 Fairmount Blvd. (at Coventry Road) in Cleveland Heights.

Joe Mosbrook is a longtime broadcast reporter and author who now chairs the Communications Committee of Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

July 1-7 is Independents Week in the Heights

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA) and FutureHeights have declared the week of July 1-7 Independents Week.

"It's a time to reflect on the importance of economic democracy and community self-determination by celebrating the nation's locally owned, independent businesses and the stake each citizen has in shaping their home town's future," said Jennifer Rockne, AMIBA director.

"FutureHeights invites Heights residents to help celebrate by shopping at our many locally owned, independent businesses in the Heights," said Clare Taft, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors. "When we ask people to name their favorite restaurant or shop during the Best of the Heights Awards, they usually name locally owned businesses. Owners of these businesses are our friends and neighbors. They embody the spirit of entrepreneurship and individuality in our community."

"Independent businesses help give the Heights its one-of-a-kind personality," said Adam Fleischer, chair of the FutureHeights HeightsShops Committee and owner of the Wine Spot. "And studies have shown that each dollar spent at a locally owned independent business returns three times



more money to our local economy than one spent at a chain. The choices our residents make about where to spend their money are important to ensuring we keep these businesses that help define who we are and contribute to our sense of place."

To mark the occasion, FutureHeights is reissuing its Buy It In the Heights window decals for merchants to place in their store windows and is supplying them with copies of a brochure titled "Why Shop Local?" to give to their customers.

Susan Infeld, mayor of University Heights, issued a proclamation declaring July 1-7 to be Independents Week. Cleveland Heights City Council will do so at its July 1 meeting.

"We are grateful to have the support of our cities," said Fleischer.

Independents Week is part of a nationwide campaign facilitated by the American Independent Business Alliance. To learn more, visit www.amiba.net. To learn more about FutureHeights HeightsShops program, visit www.futureheights.org.

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

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City passes payday loan moratorium

Alastair Pearson

Cleveland Heights City Council unanimously passed a payday loan moratorium at its June 3 meeting, prohibiting any new payday lenders without licenses under the Ohio Short-Term Loan Act of 2008. The moratorium will remain in effect until the state Supreme Court makes a final decision in the ongoing appellate case *Ohio Neighborhood Finance Inc. v. Scott*.

The legislation was passed as a pre-emptive measure, although Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager, said that no conventional payday lenders are currently operating in Cleveland Heights. University Heights has no plans for similar ordinances. According to Adele Zucker, University Heights Councilwoman, "We have not legislated against [payday lenders], but no such types of stores have applied to be in our city."

The ban, Ordinance 88-2013, was introduced by Vice Mayor Dennis Wilcox and received "aye" votes from all seven council members. Under the terms of the bill, payday loan providers issuing short-term cash advances may open new businesses in Cleveland Heights only if they are registered under the Short-Term Loan Act, which sets a ceiling at 28 percent APR (annual percentage rate) for loans less than \$500 that have a duration of less than 31 days.

All lenders issuing such loans are required to first receive a license from the Ohio Superintendent of Financial Institutions. The dispute in *Ohio Neighborhood Finance Inc. v. Scott* concerns whether businesses registered under a separate Ohio law regulating mortgages are in fact actually issuing payday loans, and if lenders may selectively choose to register under either the mortgage or the payday loan regulations.

The Ohio Supreme Court could potentially rule either on behalf of the lenders, permitting choice between the mortgage and loan statutes and the different restrictions each law places on

lenders, or on behalf of municipalities like Cleveland Heights that seek tightly regulated payday loan providers—thus forcing those lenders to register under the payday loan law. Until that point, the council elected to exclude all new payday loan providers not registered under the Short Term Loan Act.

"We're hoping that the Supreme Court is going to take a reading of the letter of the law," said Wilcox. "If they say that this does apply to you [payday lenders], they'll have to change their practices." Wilcox noted that the existing maximum APR of 28 percent is "pretty high," and expressed his dissatisfaction with payday lending business practices in general: "They're preying on people in pretty dire straits. To put it in common vernacular, they're getting ripped off."

Wilcox was joined in his opposition to lending abuses by Council Member Jason Stein, who helped develop the idea for the bill during a meeting at constituent Micah Kermin's home. Stein later echoed comments he'd made at the June 3 meeting—that payday loans are "predatory by nature," and that borrowers "perhaps don't have any other choice, or don't realize what they're getting into." Stein also emphasized that he believes payday lenders "haven't learned anything about being good citizens," and that the moratorium is only a temporary measure. "We are continuing to explore the legalities" [of additional legislation.] "Predatory lending practices need to stop now," said Stein.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley confirmed during the meeting that council is seeking further avenues for action, and said, "Payday loan lenders—these businesses add nothing to our community. If anything, they prey on the less fortunate, people that are in financial crisis. We don't want them here; this moratorium is just the beginning."

Alastair Pearson, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a student at Saint Ignatius, where he edits the school newspaper and literary magazine. He is a summer intern at the Observer.



DEANNA BREMER FISHER

Montford Community Garden Association to hold auction fundraisers

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Montford Community Garden Association is teaming up with the 2nd Cents auction house to raise funds for the community garden on the corner of Windsor and Montford roads in Cleveland Heights.

The association seeks donations of non-clothing items, such as furniture, tools, artwork, household goods, and collectibles, to sell at auction. All of the proceeds are tax deductible and will help fund projects at the garden, including

the construction of a perimeter fence.

The auctions will be held every three weeks. Find a schedule and listings at www.2ndcents.com. For additional information or to donate an item, contact Aaron Woldman at aaron@visn.net or 216-214-0800. More information about the Montford Community Garden can be found at www.montfordcommunitygarden.org.

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



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Heights Holistic Fair adds all-ages play area and slate of speakers

Bob Rosenbaum

Adults and kids alike will be encouraged to get in touch with their inner child at the third Heights Holistic Fair, which will feature an all-ages play area with toys provided by Coventry mainstay Big Fun Toy Store.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 20-21 at the Open Office Community Space, located in the former Coventry School, 2843 Washington Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

The fair, the third in a series of such events this year, will present products, services and information on holistic health and sustainable living in a vendor-style format. Speakers will be featured on both days, presenting a range of related topics. Other activities include all-ages drum circles, healing treatments, yoga classes for kids and adults, and a kid's tambourine-making project.

The fair is organized by Judith Eugene, a Cleveland Heights native and owner of Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki, and Pat Uhr of Lakewood, owner of Harmonic Journeys.

Eugene expects the new all-ages play area to add a fresh dimension to the Holistic Fair with its Hula Hoops, bubble wands, jacks and other toys. "We want the fair to be a place where community members can come to let go of stress, have fun, and learn about healthy lifestyle options," Eugene said.

The fair is sponsored by Future-Heights, the local nonprofit organiza-



Diane Turner and Sarah Dick discuss nutrition with fair attendees.

tion that publishes the *Heights Observer* and promotes a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Tommy's restaurant has generously donated food that will be sold at the fair. All proceeds from the food sales will be donated to the Heights Libraries.

Admission is \$5 per day and includes access to all of the activities and speakers. Admission is free for children under 12. Psychic mediums will be on-hand to provide personal readings for an additional fee.

For a complete schedule of activities and speakers, visit www.lovinghandsyoga.com or call Eugene at 216-408-5578.

Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is a longtime Observer volunteer and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development.

Learn to do repairs at hands-on classes

Rebecca Stager

Many home repairs could be tackled on a do-it-yourself basis, if the homeowner just knew what to do. That's where Home Repair Resource Center (HRRRC) comes in.

HRRRC's repair workshops teach the "how-to" of basic home repairs, with a special focus on maintaining older homes.

The workshops are taught by experienced professionals and include opportunities for hands-on practice with the tools, materials, and techniques needed for the project.

Emily Hamburg and Rob Shields of South Euclid attended their first class last fall, a workshop on caulking and weatherization. Since then, they have worked to weather-strip doors, wrap pipes, and seal gaps—tasks Hamburg described as "lots of hammer, nail, glue, caulking stuff." She said that the classes have helped them become "more confident in a hands-on environment, in doing basic things."

This summer, HRRRC's class schedule includes common exterior repairs,

such as porch flooring replacement, exterior painting, screen replacement, asphalt driveway sealing, caulking and weatherization.

Class fees are \$10 for Cleveland Heights residents and \$15 for non-residents, with reduced rates for low-income Cleveland Heights homeowners.

All classes are held at the HRRRC Teaching Center, 2520 Noble Road (two blocks north of Monticello Boulevard, at the corner of Oxford Road). Most workshops run from 7-9 p.m. on Monday evenings.

For additional information and a schedule of upcoming workshops, check HRRRC's website, www.hrrc-ch.org. Reservations are required, and classes fill quickly. To reserve a spot, call Becky Stager, program coordinator, at 216-381-6100, ext. 16, or e-mail rstager@hrrc-ch.org.

Becky Stager has been HRRRC's education coordinator since 1989. Visit www.hrrc-ch.org or call 216-381-6100 for more information on programs and services.



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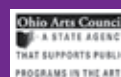


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Local volunteers honored by JFSA

Camille Davis

Jewish Family Services (JFSA) of Cleveland recently honored three of its more than 150 volunteers.

Basya Gluzman, Scott Erickson and Melanie Young all received Volunteer of the Year awards at JFSA's annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on May 5 at the Beachwood Community Center.

"These are three extraordinary volunteers," said Sandy Lusher-Waterhouse, manager of volunteer services for JFSA.

Cleveland Heights resident Basya Gluzman is a Holocaust survivor who emigrated from Ukraine in 1991. She was honored

with the Lois Zaas Award for her contributions to JFSA's Older Adult Services programs. Gluzman teaches English as a second language. She is passionate about her work. Her career began in the public schools of Ukraine and continues with her English as a second language classes at JFSA.

Scott Erickson, also a Cleveland Heights resident, received the Kim Chapman Award, which recognizes the volunteer contributions of young adults. Twice a week Erickson volunteers with the lunch and challah deliv-

ery program.

Erickson's contributions go beyond just delivering the food. He bakes cookies and muffins to sell along with lunch and participates in many other volunteer projects through JFSA.

Melanie Young, a University Heights resident, received the PLAN (Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Northeast Ohio) Volunteer of the Year Award. She volunteers as a recreational therapy assistant leading exercise and wellness groups and music appreciation programs. Her leadership came at a crucial time when budget cuts forced the elimination of these programs. Young stepped in to continue leading these programs for PLAN members every week.

Lusher-Waterhouse describes these volunteers, and all others, as the heart of JFSA. "They are the bridge from the organization to the clients in the community," she said.

Camille Davis is a senior journalism major at Ohio University and a summer intern for the Heights Observer.



Scott Erickson



Melanie Young



Basya Gluzman

We are the owners of our public places



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

If you live in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district as I do, we have something in common: We are co-owners of a lot of real estate—13 school buildings (11 currently in use), a stable and an office building, which together occupy more than 135 acres. School district property is found in every corner of our community.

This portfolio was amassed over the last 110 years to meet our high expectations for serving the educational needs of the children of our ever-evolving community. These buildings, as small-town Texas superintendent John Kuhn so eloquently put it, "are not just schools, they're touchstones. They're testaments to our local values—monuments to community." They belong to us and we are responsible for their maintenance and quality.

Our school buildings and the land they occupy have long, proud histories filled with the personal stories of thousands of young people profoundly affected by time spent within their walls. They have shaped us as individuals and as a community, and they have contributed to our democracy.

Our school buildings were once up-to-date and a great source of pride. During my 17 years as the director of Reaching Heights, I was in and out of all the buildings and saw that they were in need of improvement. Each one suffers from problems too big to patch over one more time, and too significant to ignore. The buildings fall short of offering the nurturing, safe and healthy environment our students deserve.

Our school facilities need a boost—a big boost—and soon it will be up to us to decide what kind of investment we will make in this public asset. Our community has a reputation for valuing public education. I hope we don't defer the investment needed to make our schools places where our

children can flourish, and that demonstrate our community values.

I walk. During my exercise hour, I visit different neighborhoods looking for promising paint combinations, gardening options and possibilities for transforming my front yard into something I don't have to mow. It's a thrill to see the creative ways residents express their values through the appearance of their homes.

Like tours offered by realtors to introduce potential buyers to their housing options, my walk-by "windshield" survey also reveals whether people are investing in their homes. It's a gauge of how a neighborhood is doing. How individuals maintain their properties affects the feel of a street, the willingness of neighbors to invest, resale values and the level of demand for homes in the area. While homeownership is private, we don't have sole control over our home's value. Our individual decisions affect our neighbors and vice versa. We are interconnected!

Similarly, public spaces affect the value of a neighborhood and a community. The quality of the public infrastructure communicates strong messages about how the community values public institutions. A review of the appearance of our public buildings can shape perceptions of the health of our institutions. The appearance of our school facilities offers the most basic evidence of the educational opportunities available therein.

As co-owners of our public schools we face a crucial decision that will affect all of us. We will determine the stature of our public schools and, in so doing, affect the stature of our community.

We are the stewards of an inspired public commitment to education that has served our community well for generations. We owe it to those who went before and those yet to come to uphold this tradition. It benefits everyone to do so.

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.



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Beaumont School's Robotics Team (from left): Elizabeth Stanitz '14, Julie Schiffer '15, Alyssa Muttillio '15, Molly Cogan '15, Ana Maria Vargas '15. Not pictured: Sarah Myers.

Beaumont takes third in National RoboBot Competition

Rita Kueber

Beaumont School took third place in the National Robotics League 2013 Competition. The event, held in Indianapolis May 17-19, hosted 48 teams from seven states, representing 26 high schools and colleges. Beaumont was the only school from Northeast Ohio to compete this year.

Beaumont School's team, The Beaumonsers, and its polycarbonate machine with an 18-spike titanium spinner, named Ramses, made it to the semifinals in the two-day competition. The team consisted of Molly Cogan '15, Alyssa Muttillio '15, Sarah Myers '15, Julie Schiffer '15, Elizabeth Stanitz '14 and Ana Maria Vargas '15.

This was only the second year Beaumont competed in any competition and its first year competing on the national level. The Beaumonsers lost in the semifinals to the team that would ultimately take first place, the Polar Robotics team of North High School (North St. Paul, Minn.). The N.E.R.D. team of Eastern Westmoreland CTC (Latrobe, Pa.) came in second.

Beginning in November, the Beaumont team spent Saturday mornings working with its sponsor, Christopher Tool in Solon. Led by Gretchen Santo, science department chair, the Beaumonsers designed, drew and helped manufacture their battling

robot.

A manufacturing professional evaluates each robot's design, drawings and materials, its weaponry and the team's strategy. Each team must divide responsibility for various aspects of running the robot, from maintenance to driving. In addition, the robots are judged on their performance in the competition. In addition, the robots are judged on their performance in the competition.

In April, Beaumont School won first place in the annual AWT (Alliance for Working Together) RoboBot Competition, held at Lakeland Community College. AWT, which organizes the local RoboBot competition, is a consortium of area manufacturers working with Lakeland to promote their industry as a viable career option.

Twenty-three high school teams competed at Lakeland this year, and Beaumont's win there allowed the team to compete in the national competition.

Beaumont School, an all-girls Catholic secondary college preparatory school in the Ursuline tradition, educates women for life, leadership and service. Located in Cleveland Heights, Beaumont was founded in 1850. It is the oldest school in the Cleveland Diocese and the oldest secondary school in Cleveland.

Rita Kueber is the public relations and marketing manager for Beaumont School.

Urban Oak School will bring Waldorf education to the Heights

Emily Brock

A new school is planning to open its doors in Cleveland Heights this fall. Urban Oak, a Waldorf school, will open at the former Coventry Elementary School building. It will become one of only 3,000 Waldorf schools in the world, and its founders believe it will attract new families to the community.

The school will initially serve students from preschool through grade two. It will expand each year until it reaches grade eight.

A group of parents, among them architects, attorneys, preschool teachers and a social worker, began planning the school in September 2011.

Amy Marquit-Renwald, Urban Oak's director said, "There is a strong connection to the Heights—most of the founders of Urban Oak School grew up in the Heights or live there now, and we want this school to serve the Heights community. There aren't that many Waldorf schools, so some families specifically choose a residential community based on where a Waldorf school is located, and we think this will benefit the Heights community because the school's values are greatly aligned with those of the community—diversity, the arts, intellectual curiosity and community."

Waldorf has become the largest independent alternative education method to become a globally recognized learning style. Unlike the Montessori method, Waldorf is teacher-led with a mixture of classroom collaboration, whereas Montessori is student-led.

Waldorf adapts its educational program to the three main stages of child development. In a child's early years, Waldorf focuses on hands-on activities and creative play. During a child's early elementary years, artistic expression and social development are strongly encouraged. During a child's later elementary years, understanding and action are encouraged. The goal is to educate the whole child—the "head, heart, and hands."

"The day is filled with spoken stories, song, movement, group time and free play, and is intended to create the feeling of being in a home environment," said Marquit-Renwald.

During an eight-year teaching cycle, the school is dedicated to having students spend a significant amount

of time outside. Computers and other forms of technology are not used in classrooms until eighth grade, encouraging learning through social interaction.

The Urban Oak School received the CH-UH Board of Education's approval to work out a lease for the Coventry building on June 4. On June 12, the City of Cleveland Heights's Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit for the school, enabling the school board to finalize the lease.

Marquit-Renwald said that more than 100 families have already expressed interest in the school, and the school is now accepting applications for its inaugural 2013-14 school year. The school is in the process of hiring teachers who have undergone Waldorf teacher-training programs.

The annual tuition will be about \$8,500. The school hopes to establish an endowment that will enable it to provide tuition assistance to families who demonstrate need.

For more information, visit www.urbanoakschool.org.

Emily Brock is a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School who interned with the Heights Observer for her senior project.



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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

MAY 21, 2013

All board members were present.

Reduction of personnel

The board approved classified staff layoffs due to a reduction-in-force. Discussion was held concerning the release of classroom teacher aides, and the need to ensure that teachers had proper support. The board was assured that, because of changes in the classroom models of co-teaching and consultation, the teachers would have support. As part of a reorganization and consolidation of administrative functions, and to decrease expenditures, the board approved the suspension of administrative contracts for the coordinator of education services, coordinator of career/technical education, Bellefaire principal, director of information technology, building managers, aquatic supervisor, and the Pathways Partnership specialist.

New principals

New principals were introduced: Michael Jenkins, Roxboro Elementary School; Shelley Pulling, Boulevard Elementary School; Alisa Lawson-McKinnie, R.E.A.L. School at Cleveland Heights High School; and Jane Simeri, Mosaic School at Cleveland Heights High School.

School schedule and transportation

The board discussed elementary and middle school start and end times, considering how to reduce transportation costs and improve transportation efficiency for both public and private schools. After considering four plans, the board recommended an option that reroutes buses, but preserves the present bell schedule, which accommodates working parents.



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Lay Facilities Committee

The Lay Facilities Committee presented an update concerning the upcoming proposal for the November levy. Patrick Mullen, committee chair, explained that the bond millage could be reduced by extending the terms of the bond from 36 to 38 years. Phase one will include the high school and middle school renovations, and phase two will include elementary school renovations. Phase two would be delayed until phase one is completed. The elementary schools would require continuous maintenance during this interim.

The millage would generate \$155 million so that contractors could be hired. It is important that the bond issue be on the November ballot as the district's special-needs qualification expires at the end of 2013. This bond may reach the maximum debt that the district could borrow.

The board requested that residents attend the June 4 regular BOE meeting and comment on the \$234-million master facilities plan during an extended comment period. The project includes closing some schools and remodeling others. These details were not discussed.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

JUNE 4, 2013

All board members were present.

Lay Facilities Committee

Patrick Mullen, chair of the Lay Facilities Committee (LFC), was present with other committee members to answer questions regarding the LFC report presented to the board at its last meeting.

Several consultants were also present to answer questions: Kathy Petrey, legal counsel and financial expert; Scott Wagner from Regency Contractors; and Steve Zanotti from the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC). Mullen reiterated that current district facilities are outdated, inefficient and expensive to operate, and emphasized the need to invest and the cost of not acting. All related documents are available to the public on the district's website: www.chuh.org.

Committee members working on various subcommittees and adjuncts also added comments. Alvin Saafir, building subcommittee member, stated that his committee, which has visited every building, concluded that Monticello and Roxboro were the two best locations for middle schools, and that Boulevard, Canterbury, Gearity, Oxford and Roxboro [were] the five best locations for elementary schools.

Dave Tabor of the finance subcommittee explained that phase one will cost \$157 million, \$134 million of which would be generated by a 36-year voted bond issue of just under six mills, costing \$183 a year for a home valued at \$100,000. Another \$19 million would be generated by a 30-year loan, and the rest would come from private donations. Passing the bond issue in 2013, rather than 2014, would make the district eligible for a state provision allowing more money to be generated. Planning phase two at this time would make the district eligible for a 14-percent match through the OSFC.

Other committee members spoke in favor of the plan, citing the responsibility of the community to maintain the buildings, the funding opportunity from the state, consideration of community input, the lack of any major renovation since 1974, and the high degree of agreement among committee members.

However, other residents expressed concerns. Garry Kanter stated that the money should be

used to retain teachers instead of renovating buildings, and that there has not been sufficient public input. Marji Edgner advised the board to stress the real need for building renovation to the community, without tying it to educational models. Fiona Koontz, parent and Gearity teacher, expressed worry that the community would not be able to afford the bond issue, making future operating levies difficult to pass.

Board members responded, citing the need to communicate a timeline, keep the public engaged, and construct buildings that will be sustainable and will serve the district's needs even as educational methods change. The ongoing effort to gather public input was emphasized.

Gifted program

Only 15 students have qualified so far for the 2013-14 self-contained fourth-grade gifted class housed at Roxboro, compared to 27 for 2012-13. The qualifying process will be reviewed because the district is committed to bringing more students into the program and hopes to have a second self-contained gifted fourth grade at Boulevard by 2014-15. There will be two self-contained fifth-grade gifted classes, one at Roxboro and one at Boulevard. Board members requested data to explain the drop in qualifying students. A new position, Coordinator for Gifted and Arts, will be posted.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

Talbert resigns as CH-UH assistant superintendent

Heights Observer Editor

In a June 5 statement, the CH-UH City School District announced that Jeffery Talbert, assistant superintendent, has been named the new superintendent of the Alliance City School District.

According to Angee Shaker, director of communications for the CH-UH school district, Talbert submitted his resignation to Superintendent Douglas Heuer on June 3—the same day that the

Alliance City School District's Board of Education approved the hiring of Talbert as its superintendent. "As a courtesy," said Shaker, "he [had] notified the superintendent when he submitted his resume for the position."

The CH-UH Board of Education (BOE) approved Talbert's resignation on June 4.

Talbert has been the assistant superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School Dis-

trict since May 2010. According to Shaker, the BOE had offered Talbert a new contract that would have started July 1.

Prior to coming to the Heights, Talbert was superintendent for the Osnaburg Local School District in East Canton.

"Jeff was a very talented, knowledgeable assistant superintendent; he contributed a great deal to the success of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. I can certainly understand why Alliance City Schools would want his leadership. I wish him a great deal of success as su-



Jeffery Talbert

perintendent of Alliance City Schools," stated Heuer.

Over the past three years, Talbert has contributed to the development and implementation of the district's Pathways initiative and overall K-12 instructional programming.

"I appreciate the opportunity that I have had to serve in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights communities," said Talbert. "It's going to be very hard for me to say goodbye to the Heights staff and all of our families. The opportunity in Alliance is a good fit for me and my family. CH-UH schools are in a good place, we have a strong staff and great families."

According to the district statement, Superintendent Heuer and the BOE will define a process for selecting a replacement for Talbert within the next couple of weeks.

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Two students receive the 2013 Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship

Lita Gonzalez

Cleveland Heights High School held its annual Senior Awards Night on May 29. Among the seniors receiving local, state and national scholarship awards were the recipients of the 2013 Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship—graduating seniors Dymond Lockhart and Travis Thompson.

“This year’s class did not make it easy for the scholarship selection committee,” commented Quintero Mack, CH police investigator, who made the presentations. “Seven outstanding students submitted applications and in the end the committee decided to award two scholarships. These two students exemplify Officer West’s leadership and dedication, and see a career in law enforcement as a way of making a difference in their community.”

Mack told the audience that, like Officer West, Lockhart is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need through her volunteer work at the library and at Menorah Park. She helped raise funds for needy elderly residents—all this while taking honors classes. She is a certified private security officer, who plans to attend Ohio University in



Investigator Quintero Mack (left), award recipients Dymond Lockhart and Travis Thompson, and Lita Gonzalez.

the fall, and hopes to join the Central Intelligence Agency some day.

Travis Thompson, vice president of the Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice class and a member of the high school’s varsity football and baseball teams,

also works at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Investigator Mack said that Thompson “has a thirst for tactical law enforcement and a strong knowledge of SWAT and K-9 operations.” Thompson will attend Kent State

University in the fall, with plans to study sociology with a focus on criminology and criminal justice.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Cleveland Heights residents and businesses together with family, friends and fellow officers of West, who died in the line of duty in 2007. The scholarship in West’s name is a two-part award: The first part is given to a graduating senior from the Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice program who exemplifies Officer West’s dedication to his work as a police officer, who plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. The second part of the scholarship is presented to the recipient after he or she successfully completes the first year of college.

Contributions to the scholarship fund can be mailed to:

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o Treasurer’s Office
CH-UH City School District
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University Heights, Ohio 44118

Lita Gonzalez has been a resident of Cleveland Heights since 1995.

Ruffing remembers custodian George Porter

Simone Jasper

George Porter, the 57-year-old custodian at Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights, died on June 2.

According to Debra Mitchell, the school’s director of finance and operations, Porter was a beloved staff member. “We would always joke about him being the most popular guy in school,” Mitchell said.

“George would come in [a classroom] to change a light bulb, and all the children would gather around,” Mitchell said. “They would cheer. They would clap.”

Gordon Maas, Ruffing’s head of school, hired Porter in 2003. He said that he was searching for a candidate who was comfortable with children. Shortly after hiring Porter, Maas was commended for his decision because Porter became such a well-respected staff member.

Maas said that Porter was a staple at Ruffing during the past 10 years. He was the crossing guard, knew the names

of every student and staff member, and fixed objects around the school. Maas also said that Porter enjoyed interacting with families and dancing at school functions. “He was really embedded in the culture of the school,” Maas said.

After Porter’s death, Maas hosted an all-school assembly to honor him. Later that week, eighth-grade students spoke about him at their graduation ceremony, and middle school students unanimously decided to donate \$4,000 from their micro-economy project to a fund for Porter’s family.

Maas said that more than 100 Ruffing students and their families attended Porter’s funeral service on June 7.

The school is looking for a full-time custodian to replace Porter. “It’s going to be tough,” Mitchell said.

Simone Jasper is a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School. She studies print journalism at Elon University and is an intern at the Heights Observer.



Beloved custodian George Porter, who died on June 2, will be missed by Ruffing staff and families.

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Cleveland Heights council member Mary Dunbar to compete in National Senior Games this month

Simone Quartell

Cleveland Heights Council Member Mary Dunbar will swim and bike in the National Senior Games in Cleveland July 19 through Aug. 1.

Dunbar participated in the Ohio Senior Games in 2012 to qualify for the National Games. She originally hoped to run a 5K or a half triathlon in those Games, but could not run due to a hamstring injury.

Instead, she decided to compete in the 200- and 500-meter freestyle swimming events, and the 10K time trial and 20K bicycling races. By finishing fourth in her age group in both swimming events and second in both bicycle races, Dunbar qualified for all four events in the National Games.

The National Senior Games Association comprises 49 member organizations and two associate member organizations that conduct the state competitions that qualify participants for the National Senior Games. State competitions are held in even-numbered years, and the national competition is held in odd-numbered years.

Dunbar has never before competed in the National Senior Games, though she has been involved with sports most of her life.

In 2009, she ran in the Cleveland Marathon. She was a member of a basketball team in high school and an

intramural soccer team in college. She also was a member of a recreational swim team as a child.

Growing up, Dunbar spent “every day, all summer long” at the pool, teaching swimming. A member of the Heights Bicycle Coalition, she often rides for commuting and recreation, though her first bicycle race was last summer.

Dunbar said that not many women her age are competitive athletes. “I often come in first or do well in my group when I enter races,” said Dunbar, “because I’ve outlasted the competition. Not infrequently, I’m the only one in my group.”

“Having good coaching is really important but you have to do the work, put in the time and effort,” said Dunbar, “I’ve been working on form, especially in running, because I had a lot of injuries until I adopted Chi-Running. In all sports, I hope that better form will help me go faster.”

Dunbar said that regardless of age, everyone should exercise one way or another. “Their health and brain depend on it,” she said. “People who don’t exercise are more prone to obesity, diabetes and mental decline as they age. I believe that, in general, older people can accomplish more than they and others think.”

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



Cleveland Heights Council Member Mary Dunbar holds awards from various competitions.

Bicycles are vehicles



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles. According to Ohio law, cyclists are permitted to “drive” on all roads except freeways, and are subject to the same rules that apply to all drivers.

Cyclists are not motorized vehicles, however, so a few additional Ohio laws apply to the car-bicycle road relationship.

Under Ohio law, a motorist must:

- Maintain a safety zone of approximately three feet between the car and the bicycle;
- Pass a bicycle only when safe to do so;
- Leave ample room when turning right after passing a bicyclist so the bicyclist is not cut off when the motorist slows for the turn.

Ohio law stipulates that cyclists:

- Must ride on the right side of the

road—in the same direction as traffic. Drivers turning right do not expect a vehicle on the left side of the road and may turn into the path of a cyclist if one is riding there.

- Can ride two abreast, and single cyclists can ride in the middle of the lane when necessary for the cyclist’s safety, although local governments can mandate single-file-only riding. (The cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights have accepted the state law that allows cyclists to ride two abreast. Gates Mills is the only nearby community that has posted signs that “Bicycles must ride single file.”)
- Use lights at night.
- Use hand signals before turning.

Common sense dictates that bicyclists should obey the rules of the road. As it is drivers, it’s dangerous for bicyclists to talk or text on a cell phone while driving. Wearing a helmet is strongly advised, though it is not required by law.

The Heights Bicycle Coalition was formed in the spring of 2010 and works to encourage citizens to ride their bicycle for fun, fitness and transportation.

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Heights Arts show features new work by renowned Cleveland photographers

Peggy Spaeth

Cleveland-area artists Linda Butler, Jennie Jones and Judith McMillan have all been exploring the photographic medium for decades. Their photographs depict subjects ranging from intimate botanical studies and Cleveland architectural landmarks, to China’s Yangtze River Valley as it was flooded in an enormous hydroelectric project. Each artist has earned a place of honor in the arts community with her own distinctive vision and superb craft, and each has numerous works in the Cleveland Museum of Art’s collection.

A new exhibition, “The View from Now: New Photographs by Linda Butler, Jennie Jones, and Judith McMillan,” opens Friday, July 12 at Heights Arts Gallery, 2175 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. The show presents a unique opportunity to see brand-new work by three of Cleveland’s most respected photographic artists.

Heights Arts is the first gallery to feature these three together in a show built around their current projects, which focus on Cleveland-area subjects both diminutive and vast, from hatching birds on a windowsill to the grand expanse of Lake Erie. While all three have often worked in black-and-white, the photographs in this exhibit are all in color. “The View from Now” continues a commitment by Heights Arts to orga-



“The Heron Comes Home” by Jennie Jones is part of the summer photography show at Heights Arts, opening July 12.

nize fine exhibitions of photography for the broad yet discerning audience that visits the gallery, located near the Cedar Lee Theatre.

The July 12 opening, 6–9 p.m., is free

and open to the public. The exhibition runs through Aug. 31. Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday 1:30–9:30

p.m. The gallery is also open by appointment. Call 216-371-3457.

Peggy Spaeth, founding director of Heights Arts, retired on June 30.

Heights residents to perform at Jam for Justice fundraiser

Simone Jasper

Cleveland Heights residents Judge Michael Donnelly and Jim Reesing will perform with the rock band Faith & Whiskey at the Jam for Justice fundraiser on Thursday, July 11, from 5–8 p.m. at the House of Blues in downtown Cleveland.

All the proceeds from the \$40 admission fee, which includes food and drink, will benefit the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, an organization that provides legal access to vulnerable people in Northeast Ohio. Donnelly, a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court judge who



Judge Michael Donnelly (center) performs with Faith & Whiskey.

has lived in Cleveland Heights for 10 years, said that he enjoys the amenities that the city offers. He plays guitar for Faith & Whiskey, and Reesing is a singer. “I believe that Legal Aid performs a vital service for people in our community,” Donnelly said.

Three other local bands, all headlined by attorneys or judges, will also perform at Jam for Justice. For more information about Jam for Justice, visit www.lasclev.org/2013jam.

Simone Jasper is a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School. The Heights Observer intern studies print journalism at Elon University.

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Play Me, I'm Yours! piano project comes to Cedar Lee

Peggy Spaeth

Make music in the Cedar Lee minipark!

Heights Arts will participate in "Play Me, I'm Yours," an international street piano project made possible locally by a collaboration between the Cleveland International Piano Competition and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). More than 20 pianos will be placed at a variety of cultural institutions in Cleveland, the majority in University Circle.

Before Rachel Bernstein was hired as the new executive director of Heights Arts, she had heard about the project and immediately identified it as perfect for the arts organization, given its rich history of bringing multi-disciplinary art projects to the community.

"This project embodies Heights Arts' mission and vision perfectly," Bernstein said. "It unites the visual arts with the musical arts into an appealing piece of public art that invites everyone to participate."

"Even the story of how we got the piano—by posting a request on a neighborhood Listserv and recruiting board members to move it on a rainy day—reflects the collaborative, enthusiastic and creative nature of our



Heights Arts volunteers help move the piano donated by Faith and Brendan Gill of Cleveland Heights.

unique organization and community."

The piano, currently being painted by artist Andrea Joki and Heights Arts staff, is named Close Encounters, after Heights Arts' popular chamber music series.

The piano will make its debut in the minipark outside of the Heights Arts gallery on July 18, 7-8:30 p.m.

The kickoff party to launch the

"Play Me, I'm Yours Cleveland" experience will take place at 11 a.m. on July 18 at Toby's Plaza at CWRU Uptown.

For information, call 216-371-3457, visit www.heightsarts.org, or drop by the Heights Arts gallery at 2175 Lee Road.

Peggy Spaeth, former executive director of Heights Arts, is delighted to watch Heights Arts continue bringing the arts to daily life.

Wiley Middle School Challenge Choir wins again

Camille Davis

The Wiley Middle School Challenge Choir won three first-place awards at the Music Showcase Festival in New York City in May.

The 38-member choir of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students practices for more than seven hours a week during the school year. All that practice paid off when it took first place in the mixed choir, show choir and gospel choir sections of the competition, with songs ranging from Broadway to gospel.

The 24 students who competed are no strangers to performing in front of large audiences. This group traveled the country and sang in places such as the Motown Museum in Detroit, the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Ala., and at Ground Zero in New York City.

Glenn Brackens, choir director, believes that competitions and travel teach and prepare the student performers for life. "The road trip pushes them to the limit," he said. "They learn to be on a schedule, to live out of a suitcase, to live out of a hotel. They know how to perform, but they learn how to do it



Members of the Wiley Middle School Challenge Choir ham it up after winning first place. Pictured are Rachel Melchor, Tyrese Clark, Angelique Hale, Marrissa McSheperd, Myriah Smedley, Mariyah Reed, Morgan Weinstock, James Victoroff, Carlisle Hall, Sydney Watson, Ryan Penson, Robyn Lynch, Beverly Stover, Destinee McElroy, Rhiannon Kuntz, Maria Jones, Shanita Williamson, Heaven Williams and Corriana Rivers.

when tired."

The student-led choir receives a great deal of help from Wiley Principal Octavia Reid, the students' parents, and Cleveland and Cleveland Heights city officials. "I tell the choir, 'You won't know half the people who have helped you,'" Brackens said.

While the students may not know all those who have shown them support, they are aware of the financial

support and guidance they receive from the Wings of Jordan Choir, a historic African-American choir that sang Negro spirituals in the 1930s and 1940s. The choir played a role in the Civil Rights Movement by refusing to sing for segregated audiences. Choir members also made broadcast history by being the first African Americans to independently produce national and international radio programs.

First annual Heights Music Hop is set for Oct. 18

Simone Jasper

FutureHeights will sponsor the first annual Heights Music Hop, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 18 from 6-10 p.m.



FutureHeights, the community-based nonprofit that publishes the *Heights Observer*, will hold Heights Music Hop in partnership with Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, Cellar Door Cleveland, and Cleveland Beer Week. During the event, musicians from the region will perform at venues along Lee Road, from Cedar Road to the Lee Road Library and Dobama Theatre. Music genres, ranging from classical to rock, will vary by location.

Heights Music Hop will take place on the first day of the fifth annual Cleveland Beer Week, which attracts attendees from throughout the region. Each year, Cleveland Beer Week aims to draw attention to Northeast Ohio's craft beer industry while encouraging people to patronize local establishments. Heights Music Hop will feature beers from the following brewing companies: Great Lakes, Fat Head's, Buckeye, Hoppin' Frog, Cellar Rats, The Brew Kettle and Thirsty Dog.

While the Heights Music Hop is free of charge, attendees will need a Cleveland Beer Week ticket for the opportunity to sample five exclusive Cleveland Beer Week beers. Tickets are limited and will go on sale July 15.

Sponsorships for the Heights Music Hop are available. For information, contact FutureHeights at 216-320-1423. For more information about Cleveland Beer Week or to purchase tickets, visit www.clevelandbeerweek.org.

Simone Jasper is a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School. She studies print journalism at Elon University and is an intern at the Heights Observer.

"Students don't know about pre-Civil Rights America," Bracken said, "but the Wings of Jordan Choir bridges that gap. It is one thing to know history, but to have a connector, to put your hands on it, brings it together for the students."

Camille Davis is a senior at Ohio University studying journalism. She is also a summer intern for the Heights Observer.

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Digital media lab at Lee Road Library offers public access to production technology

Sheryl Banks

The Lee Road Library’s new Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC) opened on June 2, with a new, roomier computer lab, extended Wi-Fi area, and a digital media lab.

Heights Library Digital Media Lab is a one-site production center for audio, video, graphics and photography. The lab expands public access to advanced, costly equipment and software that, according to Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director, “may be out of reach for most individuals, whether they are freelancers, consultants, students, entrepreneurs, or small business owners.”

“The purpose of the HKIC is to provide members of our community with access to technology and work spaces that will help them grow professionally, economically, even personally,” stated Levin. “The digital media lab is a big part of that.” For example, patrons can make a video for a new business that includes music, create a sophisticated marketing brochure, or record a podcast. “Patrons are limited only by their imaginations,” Levin said.

Production tools now available during regular library hours include:

- an Apple Mac Pro computer with Adobe Creative Suite 6, Final Cut Pro (video), iLife (iPhoto, iMovie, and Garageband), Aperture 3 (photo), and



Erica Whitehead, Heights Libraries technical assistant, demonstrates Final Cut Pro video editing software in the new HKIC Digital Media Lab at the Lee Road Library.

- Logic Pro 9 (music);
- a Sony HDR-CX220 Video Camera;
- a Sony PowerShot SD1300 IS Still Camera;
- M-Audio Axiom 64 musical keyboard;
- two condenser microphones;
- an Audio Axiom 61 Midi Controller;
- a Bambo tablet; and
- a sound mixer, in the near future.

To reserve the media lab, call 216-932-3600, ext. 251. Use of the media lab is restricted to patrons 18 years and older. Users must present a photo ID and CLEVNET library card to use the room.

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

What’s going on at your library?

Each summer, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library offers summer reading programs for kids and adults at all of its branches. This year’s themes, which are meant to encourage deep thinking, include “Dig into Reading” for children, “Below the Surface” for teens, and “Groundbreaking Reads” for adults. There will be weekly prize drawings, culminating in a grand-prize drawing on Aug. 9 for an eReader. Residents can sign up at any library location.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Monday, July 8, 7 p.m.

Coventry Concert Night with the Cleveland Institute of Music. The concert will showcase Cleveland Institute of Music students and graduates.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, July 10, 7 p.m.

Matchmakers Speed Dating Party. Attendees can recommend books, DVDs, or CDs, and take suggestions from others. Registration required at www.heightslibrary.org.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, July 8, 7 p.m.

Dinosaur’s Dead! Kids under age 12 are welcome to participate in paleontology activities. Registration required at www.heightslibrary.org.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Fridays, July 5–26, 1 p.m.

The Lunch Bunch. After a free lunch at noon, children in grades K–8 can participate in a variety of activities.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

MAY 20, 2013
All board members were present.

Community survey

Tom Sutton and Pierre David, professors at Baldwin Wallace University, presented the results of the community survey they directed. The main goal was to gauge the success of future library levy campaigns. The professors often work with nonprofit groups.

They used 10,000 landline numbers and 5,000 cell phone numbers. In addition, the library provided both paper and Web surveys to patrons and received 220 completed surveys. Altogether there were 802 completed surveys. Jim Posch, board member, stated that high school students, who were not included in this survey, may be heavy users of the online databases.

The respondent base was well-educated; 38 percent of the respondents held advanced degrees.

- Among the findings were:
- Traditional library services were more important to respondents than Wi-Fi, study rooms and homework/study services;
 - The online chat reference service Knowlt-



- Now was little used;
- Of respondents age 70 and older, 21 percent had e-readers;
 - Most respondents used television for information and entertainment;
 - Some users were concerned about noise and behavior, which Sutton felt was a natural outgrowth of the number of people using the facilities;
 - The study subtracted 10 to 15 points from “value-laden” questions, such as those about whether and how one will vote, because respondents often answer positively regardless of their actions;
 - Sutton stated that most school districts would “willingly give their right arms” for numbers as positive as those [the] library’s respondents gave.

Zinio magazine service

Using Zinio service, patrons can now read

more than 150 online magazines subscribed [to] by the library. Issues can be read online or downloaded to a computer or mobile device. The digital copies are available at any time and don’t have to be returned. A current Heights Library card will allow customers to use this collection.

Automatic external efibrillators

The board approved the purchase of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at a cost of \$11,685, which includes training. There will be one on each floor of the Lee Road Library, one in the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center, and one in each branch library. The AEDs are able to sense situations when they should not be activated and have a special setting for use with children.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

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Third annual Heights Libraries Pet Show a howling success



The third annual Heights Libraries Pet Show attracted many children and their animal companions.

Sheryl Banks

The third annual Heights Libraries Children's Pet Show took place on Thursday, June 20, at the Lee Road Library.

"The Pet Show is an opportunity for children in the area to show off their pets and all the cool tricks they can do," said Henry Drak, youth services librarian and pet show emcee and organizer. "More importantly, the Pet Show encourages kids and adults alike to learn about the importance of taking good care of their pets and gives them a chance to share with the community how important their pets are to them. You can tell by how the children treat their pets, and how proud they are to show them off, that these animals are much loved, and are valued members of the their families."

Each child received a certificate for participating.

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



Mariah Hawkins and her puppy, Paris.



Eliot and Blayne Murray with their chicken, Golden.

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Art show at Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center



SIMONE JASPER

An art exhibition at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center features work by seniors who take art classes with instructor Susan Morse. Some of the works are for sale, and the show will be on view until mid-July. Visitors can vote for their favorite piece, and the winner will receive a people's choice award at the end of July. The prize will be a free art class. The Senior Center is inside the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Elaine Irvin, Kay Aldrich, Susan Roberts, Deloris JacksonBey, Steven Jin; (back row, from left) Carol Walton, Nichol Brown, Elaine Wolk, Rebecca Jefferson, Susan Morse (instructor), and Joann London.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. For information, and to suggest program topics, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-397-0336 or info@universityheights.com.

July 4: In observance of Independence Day, there is no program today.

July 11: Debra Mandel, director of the Monarch School at Bellefaire for Children with Autism, describes innovative measures the school is taking to address this neurological disorder and help young people master skills, communicate meaningfully and form relationships to enrich their lives.

July 18: Dick Russ, vice president of resource development for North Coast Community Homes, talks about how he is applying his 35 years of experience as an award-winning journalist and TV broadcaster to his new position, helping people with disabilities achieve new levels of satisfaction in life.

July 25: Angie Pohlman, executive director of Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce, will discuss the services and networking systems the chamber offers, to nurture business development in its member cities of Cleveland Heights, Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights.

How home care can help



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

As we age it is natural to lose some of our strength and ability. Daily tasks become harder to do and we also may not have as much stamina and endurance as we used to. Sometimes we forget important things, or we may be recovering at home from a fall or an illness and be unable to care for ourselves independently. Home care companies can be a good solution to provide help at times like these.

Home care workers, also called caregivers, will come into the home and help with chores such as cleaning, cooking, laundry and pet care.

Caregivers can also provide companionship—playing board games,

reading aloud, and providing medication reminders. If necessary, they can also help with personal care tasks such as bathing and dressing.

It can be hard to decide whether you really need help, or if you might need just a little assistance. “We’re there to do as little or as much as they need,” said Sherry Jones of Seniors Helping Seniors. Caregivers can stop by for just a couple of hours or they can stay all day.

Seniors Helping Seniors employs senior adults as their caregivers. According to Jones, “Our caregivers can identify well with the peers they are helping.” They have several well-qualified Heights residents on staff, retired from their jobs working in local hospitals, assisted living, and private duty care.

Homewatch Caregivers, a caregiving agency with clients in the Heights, also matches the personality and

background of its caregivers to that of their clients. Ashley Hill, director of marketing, said, “Matching the caregiver skill set and personality to the client can increase the quality of life.”

Caregiver help can also provide tremendous relief for those caring for an ailing family member. Homewatch Caregivers recently provided help to a Cleveland Heights woman who was caring for her husband. Hill recalled, “The help was life-changing for her. She was able to go back to being a family member instead of a family caregiver.”

Opening your home to someone you don’t know can be intimidating. Reputable home care companies screen their caregivers carefully before hiring them, and then again at regular intervals. Jones said, “We give three interviews, do a criminal background check, and three reference checks. We screen them as well as anyone possibly can.”

Reputable companies are also licensed, bonded and insured. Hill said,

“Always ask how long the company has been in business and what training they provide to their caregivers.”

If you need medical care, or if the layout of your home makes it hard for you to live there safely, you may need other help in addition to home care. Please talk with your doctor or the social workers at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center to see what resources are available for you.

Seniors Helping Seniors may be reached at 440-759-0319, Homewatch Caregivers may be reached at 216-593-0120, and the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center may be reached at 216-691-7377.

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

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A store that wants to change the world

James Henke

From the outside, Revolution Books—located on Mayfield Road just a few doors down from Coventry—resembles a typical bookstore. The windows are full of books, along with a T-shirt and a poster or two; and inside, the shelves are full of books. But unlike most bookstores, Revolution Books has a mission that goes beyond selling books—way beyond.

The store's mission is to change the world. "The world doesn't have to be this way," said Norm Karl, who works at the store. "People are being shot by the police. Every 15 seconds a woman is battered or raped in this country. Some 10 million children die every year in the Third World from diseases and other causes that could be avoided. Then there's the whole state of the environment, which is in pretty bad shape."

Revolution Books, opened by the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) in 1983, was originally located on the second floor, above its current location. According to Karl, the RCP chose Coventry because the neighborhood "has a history of counterculture and likes diverse viewpoints, and young people feel comfortable here."

Formed in 1975, the RCP was founded on the belief that U.S. imperialism will never end peacefully and that the only way to liberate the world is through Communist revolution. Bob Avakian is the party's leader, and Revolution Books carries many of his books, including *From Ike to Mao and Beyond: My Journey from Mainstream America to Revolutionary Communist* and *Away with All Gods: Unchaining the Mind and Radically Changing the World*. In early June, the store presented a symposium about Avakian and his work.

The store is an Ohio-based corporation, but it has no single specific owner and it does not make a profit. In addition, all of the workers are volunteers. "We're a group of people who work together," Karl said. "We learn from each other and support each other. It's a labor of love based on the fact that humanity needs revolution."

Numerous other volunteers help the store spread its message at festivals and other events. For example, Revolution Books had a presence at the Hessler Street Fair in May, and on June 10 the store participated in National Hoodie



As the name suggests, Revolution Books at 2804 Mayfield Road specializes in books on history and political theory, world politics and philosophy.

Revolution Books
216-932-2543
 2804 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights
 Mon.–Sat. 3–8 p.m.
www.revbookscl.org

Day, a protest against George Zimmerman, the man accused of killing Trayvon Martin last year in Florida. The protest included a rally and march on Public Square.

The store also presents film screenings and talks by authors and activists. In 2011, for example, the store hosted a talk by S. Brian Willson, a Vietnam veteran and peace activist who was run over by a train in California while protesting the shipping of U.S. weapons to Central America. His autobiography, *Blood on the Tracks*, is available at the store.

The local Revolution Books is one of 11 such stores throughout the country. Other Revolution stores are in New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston, Seattle, Houston, Chicago, Atlanta, Berkeley and Honolulu. "We have an informal association," Karl said of the stores. "We are all associated with the RCP, but each one is separately managed."

Despite its political leanings, Revolution Books has good relations with the other Coventry merchants and frequently works with Mac's Backs, another Coventry bookstore. "If we need extra chairs or tables for an event, we borrow them from Mac's," Karl said. "And if we are having an event that is too big for our store, we may hold it at their store."

At the end of the day, however, Revolution Books hopes to help change the world. "The world has to be changed

in a fundamental way," Karl said. "The needs of the people and the environment have to come first, and it's going to take revolution and nothing else to accomplish that."

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

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S.O.F.E. Wholefoods Grill offers healthy dining options

Simone Jasper

Tanya “Ty” Richardson, a Cleveland-area native, serves healthy meals at The S.O.F.E. Wholefoods Grill on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

Richardson, who developed an interest in fitness at a young age, used to operate S.O.F.E. (Studio One Fitness Events), a gym in Bedford. Richardson said that her clients were interested in adopting healthy eating habits to accompany their fitness regimens, so she closed the gym and opened a restaurant with the same name. “I decided I wanted to get more into the food than the exercise,” she said.

Richardson, a self-taught cook, said that she created the restaurant’s menu without testing the recipes. She said that she likes to combine flavors and is open to suggestions about her dishes. “I’ve always been crazy about food,” she said.

According to Richardson, the goal of the S.O.F.E. restaurant, which opened in April, is to show people that many healthy meal options are tasty. She said that 90 percent of the ingredients at S.O.F.E. are fresh foods. The menu is free of red meat and features many vegetarian options, including salads and wraps. “I feel good encouraging people to eat here every day,” Richardson said.

S.O.F.E., which mainly serves carry-out orders, offers breakfast all day. Richardson said that the dairy-free soy milkshakes, fresh-fruit smoothies and 10 turkey burger options are very popular. She encourages patrons to try her



Ty Richardson, owner of The S.O.F.E. Wholefoods Grill, makes healthy meals from scratch.

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favorite menu item, the salmon burger.

The restaurant is decorated with a large, colorful chalkboard that displays some of the menu items. Richardson said that she enjoys her new location in Cleveland Heights, especially the “eclectic demographic” that enters her restaurant. “They’re very engaging,” she said.

Like the neighborhood, S.O.F.E. has a welcoming environment. Richardson said that she values customer service and a relaxed atmosphere, and her employees dance to a variety of music during the day. “It’s a really fun place to work,” she said.

Richardson has not abandoned her passion for fitness training. She teaches cardio kickboxing and hip-hop classes at the Naturally Gifted Fitness Center on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, and plans to open a S.O.F.E. Express location at the center.

Richardson said that she was born to be an entrepreneur. In the future, she hopes to open additional S.O.F.E. locations that are convenient for customers. “I plan to expand,” she said.

Simone Jasper is a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School. She studies print journalism at Elon University and is an intern at the Heights Observer.

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Future Heights

The ongoing evolution of Record Revolution

James Henke

Record Revolution is a Coventry institution. Located on the west side of the street between Lancashire and Hampshire roads, the store opened in 1967. More than 45 years later, at a time when record stores are a dying breed, Record Revolution is still there and still doing a brisk business. As Rob Pryor, the store's general manager said, "We are one of the oldest independent record stores still operating in the country. That's pretty amazing!"

The store, founded by Peter Schliewin, quickly became a key part of Cleveland's burgeoning rock and roll scene. WMMS radio, which was one of the top FM rock stations in the country during the 1970s, based a lot of its programming on the store's sales. Hundreds of rock artists made in-store appearances there, including Lou Reed, Patti Smith and Elvis Costello. The walls of the store—which, back then, took up three storefronts on Coventry, including the current location as well as the spaces now occupied by the Crazy Mullets beauty salon—were covered with rock stars' autographs, including those of Led Zeppelin, Bruce Springsteen, the Who, Genesis and Mott the Hoople. According to Pryor, several plywood walls covered with signatures still exist, but they are currently in storage.

In his 1983 book *The Catalog of Cool*, music critic/historian Gene Sculatti called Record Revolution "the coolest place to buy records in Ohio."

In June 1983, Schliewin was killed in a car crash after attending a Bloomsday party at Nighttown. A couple of years later, Mike Allison bought the store from Schliewin's widow. Prior to his death, Schliewin had begun expanding the types of products the store carried beyond just music, a process that Allison continued after he took control, bringing in clothing, jewelry, incense, tobacco pipes and other items. Many of the products Record Revolution carried back in the 1980s went on to become national brands. One such example is Doc Martens shoes. Record Revolution began carrying them in 1986. At that time the only places you could find those shoes were in England, New York City or—yes!—Record Revolution. As it turned out, the decision to sell more than just music was very wise. Over the past decade, sales of prerecorded music—in-



Rob Pryor, the general manager of Record Revolution.

cluding compact discs and vinyl—have decreased at an alarming rate.

As a result of that precipitous decline in music sales, Record Revolution was forced to downsize in 2007. It now takes up only one-third of the space that it used to occupy. Even so, sales are strong. When you walk in the front door, one wall, on the right, is lined with used vinyl records. The rest of the main level features T-shirts and other clothing, jewelry and other products. The store's lower level is entirely filled with vinyl records.

According to Pryor, today the store only carries vinyl records—no compact discs. Most of those records are used, purchased from customers wanting to get rid of their collections. But Record Revolution does sell some new vinyl reissues of classic albums. That said,

prerecorded music now accounts for less than 50 percent of Record Revolution's sales. Even so, many rock artists still come to the store, especially those playing down the street at the Grog Shop; and they are still signing the walls, which now include signatures from Machine Gun Kelly, Sepultura, Sloan and Hank Williams III, among many others.

Pryor is optimistic about the store's

future. "We'll keep doing what we do," he said. "We're a center for free thought, a provider of goods that help people with self-expression, and people like what we are doing."

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

Record Revolution
216-321-7661

1832 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sun. Noon to 7 p.m.

facebook.com/pages/Record-Revolution/125365498084

JAMES HENKE



Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri.: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Sat.: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
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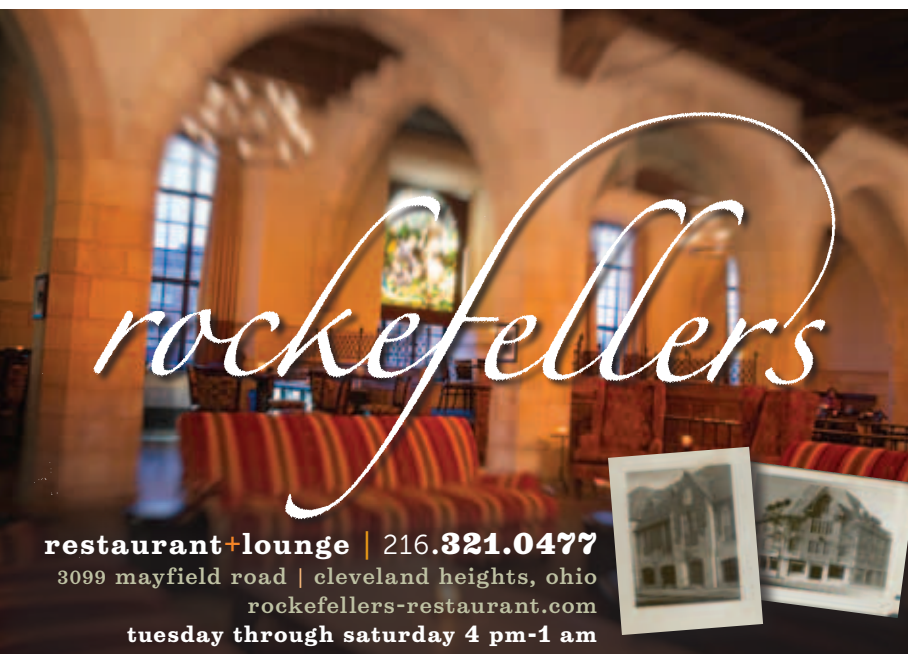
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Place a checkmark in the box in each category to determine the Best of the Heights. One ballot per person. In order for your ballot to be counted, you need to vote for at least half (11) of the ballot categories. Ballots not meeting these requirements will be considered invalid. Voting Begins July 1. Deadline is August 31.

Mail your ballot to:
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 2163 Lee Road, #103
 Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
Questions? Call 216-320-1423

In order to have your ballot counted,
you must include your name and
contact information.
One ballot per person.

Email:

Best New Business
☐ *The Katz Club Diner* ☐ *Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt*
☐ *Pinwheel Kids*

Best Cleveland Heights Business
☐ *Abstract A Hair Salon* ☐ *Ten Thousand Villages*
☐ *Bryan's Marathon*

Best University Heights Business
☐ *Geraci's* ☐ *Bialy's Bagels* ☐ *Pizzazz*

Best Minority-Owned Business
☐ *Anatolia Cafe* ☐ *Janea H.* ☐ *Pipe'n Hot Grill*

Best Hairstylist
☐ *Melissa Fisher - Crazy Mullet*
☐ *Shawn Paul Gustafson - Shawn Paul Salon*
☐ *Ryan Simons - Abstract A Hair Salon*

Best Place for Sweet Treats
☐ *Sweetie Fry* ☐ *Luna Bakery Café*
☐ *Mitchell's Fine Chocolates*

Best Live Entertainment/Music Venue
☐ *The Grog Shop* ☐ *Nighttown* ☐ *Cain Park*

Best Heights Park
☐ *Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park* ☐ *Cain Park* ☐ *Forest Hills Park*

Best Bar, Pub or Tavern
☐ *The Tavern Company* ☐ *The BottleHouse Brewery*
☐ *Brennan's Colony*

Best Healthy Eats
☐ *Aladdin's Eatery* ☐ *Anatolia Café* ☐ *The Stone Oven*

Best Place for Fashion
☐ *You Too Inc.* ☐ *Revive Fair Trade* ☐ *Blush Boutique*

***Bonus Question:** What business would you like to see in the Heights?

Best Automotive Business
☐ *The Lusty Wrench* ☐ *Bryan's Marathon*
☐ *Alternative Solutions Car Care*

Best Home-Based Business
☐ *Skettle Electric* ☐ *Simple Hands Studio*
☐ *Barnett Computers* ☐ *Hummingbird Bakeshop*

Best Storefront Signage
☐ *Big Fun* ☐ *Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt* ☐ *The Wine Spot*

Best Place to Pick Up a Copy of the Heights Observer
☐ *The Stone Oven* ☐ *Phoenix Coffee* ☐ *Heights Libraries*

Best Barber
☐ *Pat Freed - Freestyles*
☐ *Alex Quintana – Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa*
☐ *Adam DiDomenico – Adams Barber Shop*

Best Carry-Out Only
☐ *pizzaBOGO* ☐ *Mister Brisket* ☐ *On The Rise*
☐ *Mama Joyce's Soul Food*

Best Place to Buy a Gift
☐ *Ten Thousand Villages* ☐ *Heights Arts* ☐ *Big Fun*

Best Place to Take the Family
☐ *Tommy's* ☐ *Dewey's Pizza* ☐ *Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt*

Best Patio
☐ *Nighttown* ☐ *Brennan's Colony*
☐ *Lopez Southwest Grill*

Best Place for Health
☐ *Atma Center* ☐ *CH Community Center* ☐ *Anytime Fitness*

Best Community Volunteer
☐ *Susie Kaeser* ☐ *Jan Kiouss* ☐ *Alex Quintana*

Dealer Rater **Google Maps** **Insider Pages** **Edmunds.com** **Yahoo! Local**

Updated 4/15	Reviews	Score out of 5	Reviews	Score out of 30	Reviews	Score out of 5	Reviews	Score out of 5	Reviews	Score out of 5	Total Reviews
Motorcars	371	4.9	145	27	118	5	22	5	77	5	733
Classic Honda	35	3.8	57	29	0	0	1	5	3	3.5	96
Ganley Honda	219	4.7	35	20	1	1	18	4	11	4	284
Honda of Mentor	106	4.8	66	25	3	4	10	4.5	42	4.5	227
Jay Honda	298	4.9	56	24	1	1	1	5	1	1	357
Rick Case Honda	73	4.8	11	16	3	4	2	3	2	3.5	91
Sunnyside Honda	11	2	3	0	10	2.5	2	2.5	7	2.5	33

Don't Take Our Word, Take Your Neighbor's

