

INSIDE



7
Cain Park
Splash Pad
opens



19
CH musician
Antoine Dunn
plans two
August benefit
concerts



24
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Aug. 31



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Deer on the increase, with control left to homeowners for now

Camille Davis

Deer wandering around residential neighborhoods is an increasingly common sight in the Heights as the deer population grows.

Though the City of Cleveland Heights does not track its deer population, Mayor Edward Kelley said he believes there has been an increase in the number of deer inside city limits.

Gwen Fenty, a South Taylor Road resident, raised the issue at Cleveland Heights City Council's July 1 meeting. "I'm really truly afraid to work in my backyard," said Fenty, "because I don't know what I would do if I came face-to-face with a deer."

Representatives from several cities on Cleveland's East Side, including Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, South Euclid and Lyndhurst, have met twice to brainstorm practical solutions for dealing with the deer.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, who attended the first meeting,



Three deer enjoy a snack in a homeowner's front yard near Cedar Road.

said, "The rationale behind approaching deer management regionally is because the deer move about freely and do not recognize community boundaries."

According to Susanna Niermann O'Neil, Cleveland Heights's acting city manager, attendees discussed possible ways to control deer population and migration, including shock fencing, deer repellent sprays and culling—the sharp-shooting of deer by trained law enforcement professionals.

"It was the general agreement that

culling was not wanted," said O'Neil, who attended a recent meeting. "It was felt at this point that nonconfrontational methods are preferred."

"There was a consensus to continue monitoring the deer population in the communities," said Infeld, "but no consensus on culling the population."

Infeld said that the city has received sporadic notification of deer in yards, but has no plans yet to hold community meetings on the topic. "To date,"

continued on page 5

CH-UH calls back 29 teachers let go in April

Camille Davis

In April the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education voted unanimously to cut 7 percent of the district's teaching staff—42 teachers.

In accordance with state law, the board notified the teachers prior to April 30 that their positions would "not be available" next year. At the time, the district noted that, depending on enrollment, some teachers could be rehired to their previous positions or other positions for which they qualify. After April 30, the district can recall, but cannot reduce, teaching staff.

Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement for the district, said it is too soon to tell what enrollment looks like for the upcoming school year.

"Even though we are still down by 20 teaching positions, we were able to

call back 29 of the 35 [eligible] teachers due to retirements or teachers leaving for other reasons," said Shaker. [See the list of recalled teachers at www.heightsobserver.org.]

Some teachers have been rehired to their original positions or qualified for different positions in the district. Other teachers have retired or moved. Seven teachers that were part of the April reduction in force had no recall rights, narrowing the number of teachers eligible to be rehired from 42 to 35.

In a subsequent May 21 vote, the board eliminated 24 support staff and 10 administrative positions, among them elementary media specialist (librarian) positions.

According to Ari Klein, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union president, non-teaching positions were cut in order to keep classroom sizes manageable.

continued on page 9

CH-UH school district undergoes leadership changes in 2013

Simone Jasper

In the past four months, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has undergone significant leadership changes. In June, both the superintendent and assistant superintendent resigned. Since April, four principals have stepped down and six new principals have been named to fill those vacated positions, as well as two positions that had been filled by interim principals for much of the 2012-13 school year.

Angee Shaker, CH-UH director of communications, said on July 30 that one additional principal change is still to come. Fred Thomas, who has been assistant principal of Wiley Middle School for seven years, is expected to be named the school's next principal when the board of education (BOE) meets on Aug. 6. The current principal, Octavia Reid, will become coordinator of educational services at the district's central office.

In sum, the new principals are two of the principals from Heights High's small schools, two (of three) middle school principals, and three (of seven) elementary school principals.

These changes come at the same time the district is moving forward in its efforts to pass a \$134.8 million school facilities capital improvements levy this November.

A new parent to the school district, Patti Carlyle of University Heights said that she is "uncertain" about the reasoning behind the superintendent transition. She also expressed concerns about

continued on page 12

CH cancels Coventry Family Arts Day

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The City of Cleveland Heights canceled the Coventry Family Arts Day that had been scheduled for Sunday, July 21. The city made the decision on July 18, three days before the event, citing social media threats to disrupt it.

In a press release, the city stated, "After police monitoring of social media regarding messages about the event and also, being aware of the incidents last weekend at the St. Gregory the Great Festival, the city has determined that this is the appropriate and responsible

thing to be done."

Mayor Edward Kelley said that he made the decision together with the police chief and Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager and safety director.

Kelley said he has heard from several residents and business owners who are supportive of the city's decision. "I know we made the right call," said Kelley, "and if I had to do it again I'd make the same call 100 times out of 100. Sure, there are some people who will second guess it, but I sleep well at night. It would only take one bad incident at an



Previous Coventry Village festivals had attracted large crowds from the Heights and surrounding communities.

event like this to potentially bring the whole district down. I'm never going to compromise the safety of our com-

continued on page 11

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

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life.

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The Observer welcomes opinions about candidates and issues



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Municipal elections are coming up this November. This is the third local election cycle that the *Heights Observer* has been through since its inception, and it's an important one. Cleveland Heights residents will vote for five of seven members of city council this year. University Heights residents will vote for mayor and four of seven members of council. Residents of both cities will vote for three of five members of the CH-UH Board of Education. In addition, a school facilities bond issue, the first since the 1970s, will be on November's ballot.

As a hyper-local publication with a goal of providing information to Heights residents in order to build a better community, municipal elections are very important to us.

Many civic-minded people and groups are seeking opportunities to express their opinions about candidates and issues. The *Observer*, in its role as a forum for sharing information about the community, welcomes the opportunity to publish these diverse opinions.

Contributors may include the

candidates themselves; however, because we have limited space in our print publication (each page of the newspaper costs money to print, and the number of pages we print is based on the advertising revenue in that issue) we must limit candidate submissions in the print edition between August and November to paid advertisements.

Online—where we have no space limitations—candidates can submit articles, blogs and opinion pieces. All candidates are invited and encouraged to make submissions at the *Heights Observer* website (www.heightsobserver.org) and the *Heights Observer* blogs (www.blogs.heightsobserver.org/). This ensures that everyone is treated equally.

In the print issue, we welcome comments and contributions of non-candidates right up until the election. In partnership with the nonpartisan League of Women Voters, we will provide detailed information about the candidates in a Voters' Guide in the October print issue. We will also partner with the league to host a Candidates Forum on Oct. 8 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center.

One point that bears emphasis is that we will not endorse candidates. The *Heights Observer* is published by FutureHeights, a community-building organization with 501(c)3 status, which means that the IRS recognizes it as

not-for-profit/tax-exempt. As such, neither FutureHeights nor the *Observer* is permitted to endorse any individuals running for public office.

FutureHeights is permitted, however, to advocate for a "yes" or "no" vote on a particular issue or ballot initiative.

FutureHeights has been involved in one of the ballot issues that will be before the community this fall: I am the executive director of FutureHeights, and I served on the Lay Facilities Committee, which recommended the school facilities plan that the facilities bond issue would fund. FutureHeights has not yet determined whether it will advocate on behalf of this issue.

If FutureHeights decides to advocate for this or any other issue, the opinion will be clearly marked as such.

The *Heights Observer* itself will not take a position but will welcome all opinions. Remember that opinions you may read in this newspaper or on its websites reflect the views of the individual authors, not the newspaper.

We encourage you to educate yourself about the candidates and issues, and then vote on Nov. 5.

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

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.

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

Behind the scenes with 'Boston Marriage' at Ensemble this week

I had the great fortune to visit with Director Christine McBurney yesterday to get a sneak peak at Mamaí Theatre Company's second production of their inaugural season of which is "Boston Marriage." Written by David Mamet this is the Cleveland premiere. It opens this Thursday, July 18th and runs to August 4th.

The Mamaí Theatre Company was co-founded by four exceptionally talented women: Bernadette Clemens, Wendy Kriss, Christine McBurney and Derdriu Ring. The company is in residence at the Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights (at the old Coventry School Building).

—Tiffany Laufer

The Summer Swing: The rewards of interning small

This summer, I have another opportunity to intern at the *Heights Observer*, a community-based newspaper that serves two Cleveland, Ohio, suburbs. I first interned at the newspaper for my high school senior project, and I returned this summer because the experience was so worthwhile.

The *Heights Observer* is published

by FutureHeights, a nonprofit that seeks to improve the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights by encouraging people to shop locally and become engaged in their communities. The *Heights Observer*, which is printed monthly, covers only local news and takes submissions from community members.

—Simone Jasper

Invisible commitments and "You didn't give us a chance to vote because you knew we would say 'No'"

A few hours every weekend my friends and I stand on Mayfield Road in front of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Public Library holding up signs protesting the possible sale of the Library.

People walking by talk with us and sometimes ask us, as we ask ourselves, does our demonstrating really do any good? Are we wasting our time and inhaling all that exhaust for nothing?

The South Euclid-Lyndhurst Public Library has been in the Telling Mansion for 60 years. Telling Mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and is an Ohio Landmark.

—Fran Mentch

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CH ordinance banned pesticides on public property

Laurel Hopwood

The year 1995 was memorable for the City of Cleveland Heights. A first-of-its-kind ordinance was passed, which prohibited the use of cosmetic pesticides and herbicides on public grounds, including parks, schools, libraries and day care centers. Here's the story.

I have an inquisitive mind. In the 1990s, I read news stories about how exposure to lawn chemicals can increase a person's risk of acquiring cancer. As a health care professional, I wanted to know more, so I spent days in the stacks at the downtown library, dusting off journals. I was shocked to learn how many studies linked pesticide exposure to various other illnesses, such as Parkinson's, attention deficit disorder, and learning disabilities. One study in particular raised the red flag. Rats [exposed to pesticides] became fearful and frustrated. One could ponder the implication of behavioral changes and diminished learning capacity to society.

I was confused as I kept hearing that lawn chemicals were safe. I attended a conference in Washington, D.C., where I became aware that it's illegal for a pesticide applicator to claim pesticides are safe. I did my own survey: Out of 20 phone calls, 19 lawn care companies assured me these chemicals were safe. I was upset that customers were given misleading information.

I'm not one to vacillate and complain. I needed to make a change in order to protect Cleveland Heights families, especially children. I spoke to many residents, of various backgrounds. All agreed. We could take the path of least resistance and do nothing or we could take action to minimize our children's risks in a risky world.

I presented the Cleveland Heights City Council with a request to pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of pesticides on public grounds. Here's an excerpt from my testimony: "Some of us have read Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, where we learned that pesticides were killing birds. We've seen ads, showing Astroturf lawns and pesticide applicators pulling out their hoses. Perhaps people were afraid their property values would drop if their grass had weeds. Perhaps people don't realize the value of dandelions, which are highly nutritious."

I posed a question: How could it be that children can roll around in lawn chemicals hours after an application of the widely used weed killer 2-4 D, yet

cows have to stay off treated grass for seven days? A company inadvertently sent me a copy of the inert ingredients, which carry the active ingredient. Included in the listing was naphthalene and xylene. According to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), these poisons are "very toxic." There is no testing on repeated cumulative exposures or the synergistic effect of how these chemicals react together.

The National Academy of Science revealed that children are the most susceptible to problems from exposure. This starts in utero. Children's body systems are developing and children have immature detoxification systems. This scientific fact struck me as profound: Children have windows of vulnerability where even a one-time exposure can cause irreversible cellular damage, but symptoms may not emerge until years later, when it's impossible to connect cause and effect.

According to the Institute of Medicine, doctors receive little or no training about the effects of pesticide exposure. Flu-like symptoms, rashes and asthma symptoms from exposure tend to get misdiagnosed.

The National PTA has endorsed reducing children's exposure to pesticides. The American Cancer Society published a pamphlet titled "Warning: Pesticides may be hazardous to your health." Water departments have been advising customers not to use lawn care pesticides because these chemicals can end up in our drinking water. Lawn chemicals attach to dust particles and enter open windows during warm weather, settling on carpeting.

This ordinance not only protects children, but also our food supply. We are currently losing honeybees, a major pollinator for nearly 100 fruits and vegetables. It is prudent to encourage proliferation of flowering plants, such as clover, that encourage pollination.

Ordinance number 131-1995 PSH passed by a groundswell of caring Cleveland Heights residents. It has been a model for the passage of a similar ordinance in Cuyahoga County and others throughout the United States. We, here in Cleveland Heights, can celebrate for taking action to protect those most precious to us—our children.

Laurel Hopwood volunteers with the Northeast Ohio chapter of the Sierra Club and chairs its committee on human health and the environment.



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Cleveland Heights cares about democracy

To the Editor:

Cleveland Heights voters just showed they care deeply about democracy. And we hope they will have the opportunity to show it again in November.

More than 3,000 people in Cleveland Heights showed they cared by signing the Move to Amend initiative petition. Thanks to them, we passed an important milestone in the effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to firmly establish that individuals, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights. More than a symbolic gesture, passage of the initiative would instruct our U.S. and state representatives to take action on this issue.

On July 15, Move to Amend organizers learned that out of 3,093 signatures submitted to the Cleveland Heights Clerk of Council, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections deemed 2,441 to be valid signatures of registered Cleveland Heights voters—an excellent validity rate of 79 percent. And that proved to be enough.

The petition drive got within sight—but short—of the Cleveland Heights City Charter requirement for valid signatures from 10 percent of the voters (3,390). But it turns out that the state requirement takes precedence, which is 10 percent of the actual votes cast at the most recent general municipal election. That total was 15,464 votes

in November 2011, so only 1,547 valid signatures were actually needed for the petition to be acted upon.

For helping us surpass that requirement, Cleveland Heights Move to Amend thanks the 60 petition circulators and the community-minded business owners John Zagara of Zagara's Marketplace, who gave us permission to petition in the lobby and parking lot of his store; and Suzanne DeGaetano of Mac's Backs, who raised awareness with a big "thermometer" poster in her store window to track our progress and who, along with several of her employees, also circulated petitions.

Finally, thanks to the most important people of all—the voters who signed the "Corporations are not people, and money is not speech" initiative petition.

Now, we hope that Cleveland Heights City Council will vote at its Aug. 5 meeting to put our initiative on the November 2013 ballot so that all voters in Cleveland Heights will have a chance to call for a national return to the kind of democracy that's been a treasured tradition in Cleveland Heights—where the voices of engaged citizens are heard and are not drowned out by dollars.

Penny Allen
Cleveland Heights Move to Amend

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We don't want to go back



THE COMMON
GOOD

Susie Kaeser

John Lewis is my hero.

His unwavering belief in the dignity of every human being has driven his life—a life focused on making our democracy more authentic, more inclusive. As a longtime civil rights activist, and a 27-year veteran of Congress, he exemplifies moral certainty and perseverance. At times he has put his life on the line to dismantle a violent, racist culture and to confront a frequently complicit government, in order to guarantee all citizens full citizenship, including full access to the vote.

For Lewis, civil rights is about all of us. In his 1998 memoir, he recalled screening white college students volunteering to participate in Freedom Summer in Mississippi in 1964. He reminded them: "Don't come to Mississippi this summer to save the Mississippi Negro. Only come if you understand, really understand, that his freedom and yours are one."

On June 25 the Supreme Court ruled Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 unconstitutional. In doing so, the Court ended the requirement that states with a history of discrimination gain federal approval before making any changes in the way they hold elections. It was a powerful provision, putting the burden on election officials, instead of on the electorate.

I happened to be watching late night news as congressional advocates of voting rights spoke out against the decision. I frequently tune out disappointing news but it was impossible to ignore the final speaker, John Lewis.

"The Supreme Court has struck a dagger in the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Voting rights had been given and taken away. It took 100 years—from 1865 to 1965—to get them back," he told the audience. "We don't want to go back. We want to go forward."

That dagger also struck the heart of John Lewis. He was mournful yet defiant. He called for all of us to mobilize Congress to repair the damage caused by the Court.

Lewis knows better than anyone what it took to get back the voting rights given to blacks following the Civil War. Recent battles to constrict

the vote are evidence that the right to vote is not secure.

More than 50 years ago, a relentless strategy of nonviolent maneuvering challenged a democracy that tolerated the racism and violence used to enforce segregation, second-class citizenship and exclusion from the vote. As a leader of this movement, Lewis was part of the reason that the Voting Rights Act passed.

Lewis grew up the child of sharecroppers in rural Alabama. When he went to seminary in Nashville in 1957, he met James Lawson, a proponent of nonviolence. Lawson's influence changed the course of Lewis's life. As an early member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Council, Lewis became part of the youth vanguard that challenged the older generation's gradualist approach to change. He expressed his beliefs and commitment through non-violent action, joining a movement to expose and frustrate those who excluded blacks from full participation in society. He put himself in danger by challenging segregation at lunch-counter protests in Nashville, and as a Freedom Rider facing down the wrath of Bull Connor. He was one of many who shed blood marching for voting rights on Bloody Sunday in Selma, Ala.

Lewis has moral standing gained through sustained involvement and sometimes-terrifying personal experiences. The sanctity of voting rights is deep in his being. When he spoke out against the Court's ruling, the history of the struggle and the depth of its meaning came forth from him. It was personal. The Court's decision was a terrible blow to the ongoing struggle for democracy.

It seems that the Supreme Court is out of touch with our national history of exclusion, with the struggle by disenfranchised masses of people to claim their rights, and with the reality that people with power are willing to protect their interests at the expense of democracy.

No one knows better than Lewis what the past looked like and felt like, and what was involved in the struggle to make progress. We must not ignore his warning. We cannot go backward. It is up to all of us to make sure we don't.

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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Goodman finishes marathon and helps bomb victims

Diane Rodio

It was meant to be a 50th birthday celebration and a chance to prove he still had the strength to run long distances. University Heights resident Kevin Goodman entered April's Boston Marathon with the hopes of finishing strong, and he didn't disappoint himself. He crossed the finish line at 3 hours, 3 minutes and 14 seconds. (His finish time when he ran the marathon in his 40s was 3 hours, 11 minutes.)

"I'm sure all of my runs through the Heights and my strengthening at Bikram Yoga Cleveland [in Shaker Heights] prepared me for that day," Goodman said.

He was recovering in his hotel room when something shook the building. "At first I thought it was fireworks," he recalled. "Then I saw black smoke coming up over the library building." Goodman called some loved ones to find out if they knew what was going on, then he went outside of the hotel

and toward the finish line.

"I saw them setting up for what looked like a war-zone triage," Goodman said. He was impressed with the world-class care the first responders and volunteers were giving the victims. "I talked with doctors who said they had never seen something like this on such a level, but they rallied and they kept the fatality numbers low."

Goodman, like many marathon runners and bystanders, jumped in to help. "What you couldn't do medically, you did in any way you could. You moved people to different locations. You offered a comforting thought. You said a prayer," he recalled.

Goodman received letters from the mayor of Boston and the governor of Massachusetts thanking him for his volunteer efforts on that day. "I'm just glad I was there to help," he said. "I believe in the resiliency of the human spirit. We'll get through this and be stronger because of it."

Back at home, Goodman, manag-

ing director and partner of Cleveland's Bluebridge Networks, continues to run and train for future marathons, including next year's race in Boston.

"I'll be there," he said confidently. "I'll be running with an old trackmate, Rebecca Harris Lee, now of New Jersey. She and I ran at Wiley Junior High School 30-some years ago. She was hit by a car and has recovered and qualified for the 2014 marathon. I told her if she got better, I owed it to her to run with her."

Diane Rodio is a writer, editor and public relations expert in Cleveland Heights. Blue-Bridge Networks is one of her clients.



UH resident Kevin Goodman beat his previous finish time in the Boston Marathon.

DEER continued from page 1

said Infeld, "when residents contact the police department or city hall with questions about deer management, we share information about plants that attract deer and those that do not."

Kelley said it is up to property owners to find safe and effective ways to protect their yards and families. "It is the residents' job, there are a number of things they can do," Kelley said.

Some residents believe that effective methods of deterring deer are limited.

"When deer are hungry, the spray won't stop them. You already have to use a lot because rain washes the spray away. We tried five or six different sprays," said a Fairmount Boulevard resident, who has seen an increase in deer coming from nearby Shaker Lakes.

About a year ago, the resident installed a two-and-a-half-foot-high shock fence to keep deer out of his garden. He got the idea from the electric fences that farmers use to control cattle. "I figured if it could control a 1,200-pound animal, it could stop a deer," he said.

He needed to do something, he said, because a herd of eight deer were eating his plants every night. "Last year our hostas were down to the ground, and we haven't had day lilies in our yard for three years. They decimated our garden," said the resident.

The impact of the deer was not confined to his garden. "I have seen two car accidents involving deer in my neighborhood. We saw a police officer shoot a buck that had been hit. They had to put it out of its misery, but it really upset my kids," he said.

The resident said the fence has made a difference, and the deer now avoid his family's yard.

While the CH Police Department's Animal Protective Unit (216-291-4987) will field complaints about domestic animals, there are no city resources available to homeowners for dealing with deer. O'Neil said residents should contact police for the removal of dead deer.

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

University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

JUNE 17, 2013

All council members were present.

2014 budget

Council adopted the 2014 budget on emergency. The report is due to the state by July 15. This is an estimate of the revenues to be received and how they will be applied to the city's various debts.

Grant for new ambulance

Council accepted a grant award of \$19,217.21 from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Demonstration Safety Grant to fund the power-load system for the new ambulance. The grants are being offered to reduce injuries to emergency personnel. A representative of the manufacturer demonstrated the new power-lift system, which raises and lowers the patient by using battery power instead of the physical strength of the emergency personnel. It also has a more effective system for locking the cot into the ambulance. Council authorized the purchase of the Stryker Cot Model 6506 and Load System Model 6390 for the total cost of \$39,321.75. The grant will offset a large portion of the cost. The cost to the city will be \$20,130.79.

Patient chair for stairs

The fire chief demonstrated a chair that is being used for carrying patients up and down steps. A tread grips the stairs and allows emergency personnel to roll the chair down the steps. The city already owns these chairs and has found

them extremely helpful and much safer for everyone involved.

New rubbish truck

Council authorized the purchase of a used 2000 Mack LE613 Rubbish Truck for \$50,500 from Holtz Industries. This will replace the oldest city truck, which is currently 27 years old. The service director wants to continue to use the older truck during leaf pickup this fall. He would get \$4,000 in trade now, but can also get \$4,000 in scrap for the truck in the next couple of years. The new truck will be used for recycling pickup.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Larry Heiser, finance director, announced that teenagers from Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) will be working around the city for six weeks, painting fire hydrants and assisting with general maintenance. YOU pays them slightly more than minimum wage for this work and provides clear guidelines to the city on what to expect from the teens. The teens also attend a course on money management and banking to help them manage their pay.

Fuchs Mizrachi

Brian Phan, interim fire chief, reported that training has been completed at Fuchs Mizrachi and demolition is beginning with asbestos removal.

Fire hydrants

Fire hydrant painting and flushing will be done in July.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

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 "lwg-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.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

JUNE 17, 2013

Council Members Janine R. Boyd and Mary Dunbar were absent.

Cumberland lifeguard action

Council recognized five Cumberland Pool lifeguards for their effective response when a patron suffered a pulmonary embolism. Mayor Kelley, Fire Chief Dave Freeman, and Assistant Commissioner of Parks and Recreation Chris Kendel expressed appreciation for the life-saving actions taken by Julian Gilbert, Liam Robinson, Tyler Rudy, Max Hackman and Esther Bergson.

Lead remediation program

Council accepted a \$556,618 grant from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's Lead Hazard Remediation program. In housing units where there is at least one child age six or younger, the program provides up to \$9,500 per unit to reduce lead contamination. Over 12 months beginning July 1, the Housing Preservation Office will administer the funds, which will improve at least 50 dwelling units. The city will match the grant with \$106,875 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Heights Innovation Center support

Council reallocated \$30,000 of CDBG funds from the East Derbyshire Rehabilitation Program to support equipment purchase for the Heights Innovation Center at the Heights Libraries.

Cedar Fairmount SID

Council approved implementation of the previously approved five-year public services plan for the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID), with 100 percent of the cost funded by the SID's special assessment. Council

also committed \$5,000 of CDBG funds to support streetscape improvements in the Cedar Fairmount SID during a one-year period beginning July 1.

Cedar Taylor Development Association

Council allocated \$5,250 of CDBG funds to partially fund a streetscape enhancements study for the Cedar Taylor Development Association during a one-year period beginning July 1.

RapArt

Council provided a one-year allocation of \$15,000 of CDBG funds to support the Pinpoint Program of the Center for Families and Children at the RapArt Center beginning July 1.

Cleveland Tenants Organization

Council provided a one-year allocation of \$6,000 of CDBG funds for telephone housing counseling services provided by the Cleveland Tenants Organization for low- to moderate-income residents of Cleveland Heights. The organization provides information to landlords and tenants on fair housing and landlord-tenant laws.

Property donation

Council accepted JP Morgan Chase Bank's donation of the 1920 Powell Ave. property to the city. All transfer costs are to be paid by the donor.

Council meets with school board

Mayor Edward Kelley announced that the council would meet with the board of education on June 27 to learn about the new facilities plan.

LWV Observer: Susie Kaeser.

JULY 1, 2013

Council Member Jason S. Stein was absent.

Citizen comments

Move to Amend: Residents Dean Sieck, Greg Coleridge and Carla Rautenberg, representing Cleveland Heights Move to Amend, spoke about a citizen-initiative petition in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision of 2010. The initiative, which Move to Amend hopes will be placed on the ballot and approved by voters in November 2013, calls for Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to declare that only human beings, not corporations, are persons, and that money is not speech and can be regulated in political campaigns.

Best of the Heights: Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights, mentioned the Best of the Heights Awards and encouraged residents to vote for their favorite businesses in the Heights. They can vote on the FutureHeights website (www.futureheights.org) or submit ballots published in the *Heights Observer*. The voting deadline is Aug. 31.

2014 Tax Budget

Council heard a first reading of the 2014 Tax Budget. A public hearing will be on Monday, July 15, at 7 p.m., at City Hall. Most likely, council will vote on the budget at the regular meeting that evening.

CDBG funds

Council approved the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in agreements with six nonprofit entities:

- Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System, \$30,000 for its Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center/Small Business Development Center Collaboration. This will be an entrepreneurial support space for small businesses and nonprofits.



- Heights Emergency Food Center, \$8,500 for operating expenses.
- Heights Youth Club, \$33,000 for assistance with its Project Learn: The Educational Enhancement Program. Project Learn reinforces school-based learning and knowledge through leisure reading, writing activities, group discussion, homework help, tutoring, and cognitive skill-building games.
- Home Repair Resource Center, \$118,000 for its home-repair and home-improvement programs.
- Open Doors Academy, \$10,000 for the organization's year-round enrichment program for at-risk youth.

Recycling report

The 2012 Residential Recycling Report from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Disposal District shows that Cleveland Heights has one of the highest overall recycling rates in the county: 66.98 percent (up from 59.98 percent in 2011). The combined tonnage of recyclables (paper, plastic, glass, metal, etc.) and organics (leaf, brush and other lawn wastes) is calculated as the percentage of waste diverted from landfills in 2012. Council Member Bonnie Caplan thanked residents for doing their part and encouraged everyone to do more.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

Please note: YouTube videos of Cleveland Heights City Council meetings may be accessed at www.youtube.com/clevelandheightsoh.

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Cain Park Splash Pad opens to delight of neighborhood kids

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Young Cleveland Heights residents have a new way to keep cool in the summer heat. Cain Park neighborhood residents joined Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley and council members Cheryl Stephens and Mary Dunbar on July 21 to cut the ribbon to open the new Cain Park Splash Pad. Once the water was turned on, young residents immediately began to explore its many interactive features.

The new splash pad, which has no standing water, replaces the former baby pool at the same site and is intended for the use of children five-years-old and younger. It was constructed by Platform Cement Inc. at a cost of \$198,000. Behnke Landscape Architects, with help from city staff, designed the pad, choosing elements from Vortex Aquatic Structures International.

The splash pad is the latest in a series of improvements to city parks that have taken place since Cleveland Heights residents passed Issue 27 in 2004. "The money can only be used for facilities and upgrades in our parks," said Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager. "Our residents really understand the value of recreation. We have been able to redo our tennis courts, replace crumbling walls at Cain Park, install a new pool and bathhouse at Cumberland Park, put in new soccer fields at

Denison Park—all the playgrounds are in process of being upgraded."

According to O'Neil, the City of Cleveland Heights made the decision to install the splash pad in 2012. Although the city had hoped to have it ready earlier in the summer, weeks of rain delayed the opening.

"Splash pads are very popular and considered safer for younger children," said O'Neil. "It [has] tall elements—when children run under them the water comes down like a shower—and small elements, such as little mushrooms that water comes out of." She said the elements provide a delightful surprise that is entertaining and "not at all scary."

Jason Stein, member of Cleveland Heights City Council, said that the city had sought input from neighborhood residents on the design of the splash pad.

"We met with the city to discuss the design and the types of elements we thought would be fun for kids," said Peter Titus, a leader of the Cain Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA), which comprises residents from streets surrounding the park. "We also voiced our concerns about age limits and parental supervision. We want to make sure that it is fun and safe for the littler kids that aren't [ready] for the pool, but also accommodating to families."

"This splash park should help bring more people back to the park," said



The Jamieson family enjoys the new splash pad on opening day. Amanda Jamieson, with arms outstretched, plays with Hadley and Evelyn, while her husband, Bruce, holds Juniper.

Titus. He added that CPNA hopes to convince the city to expand the time that the splash pad is open to include morning hours. "As parents of toddlers, having an activity in the morning would be great," he said.

O'Neil said the rules and regulations for the splash pad are similar to those of the baby pool it replaced. It is for use by preschoolers, under 48 inches tall, who must be accompanied by a parent or adult who is a Cleveland Heights resident with a recreation ID.

Hours of operation are: 1–7 p.m. weekdays, 12–7 p.m. Saturdays and 12–6 p.m. Sundays. This year's splash pad season mirrors that of Cumberland Pool, which is open until Sept. 2.

O'Neil said the city is considering a similar splash pad to replace the baby pool at Cumberland and that Turtle

Park, a favorite of the five-and-under crowd, is also getting an upgrade this summer. "We are installing new equipment and a sun screen," she said. The sun screen will be installed on the Euclid Heights Boulevard side of the park over benches and a portion of the play area. "But don't worry," she said. "The turtle will stay. We will never take him away."

Stein said that the playgrounds at Denison Park, Cain Park and Caledonia all have special features for young children, while the playgrounds at Forest Hill and Cumberland are built for all ages. For more information about parks and recreational facilities in Cleveland Heights, visit www.clevelandheights.com.

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

"There was no question—Judson was it!"

—Don and Dottie Kuhn, Judson Park residents since 2012



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The couple, now residents of Judson Park, met in 1974 while attending an Audubon Society meeting at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

"The rest is history—we've been together ever since," says Dottie.

With no children, they felt it essential to have a plan in place as they grew older. "We wanted to make decisions under our own power," says Don.

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"There was no question—Judson was it," says Don. "We continue to enjoy the things we've always loved to do," adds Dottie. "We're practically in the same Cleveland Heights neighborhood where we lived before."

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Residents confused by special assessment letter

Camille Davis

In June, Cleveland Heights residents were notified of a special tax assessment that pays for street lighting and the operation of the city's forestry division.

This year, as in previous years, residents were notified by either a notice in the *Sun Press* or certified mail about the special renewal tax. Those who received a certified letter from the city are the property owners whose total assessments will be more than \$250 over the next three years.

While this is the renewal of an already existing tax, there will be a 20-cent increase per foot of frontage, which is measured curb to curb. This increase was unanimously approved by a city council vote in March.

This tax will continue to pay for street lighting and forestry division services, such as paving, repaving, repairing, plowing, sweeping and cleaning streets, as well as other city-wide services.

It has been part of the property tax bill in Cleveland Heights since 1978. The tax must be renewed every three years or it expires, meaning the tax has been renewed approximately 12 times. Every three years, when the tax is renewed, residents must be notified, either by newspaper or certified mail. Ohio law dictates that residents who will be charged more than \$250 in the three-year period must be notified

by certified mail.

Tom Raguz, finance director for the City of Cleveland, said that residents have had a lot of questions about the letter. He said he is not aware of how residents reacted in previous years because he was not the finance director at that time.

Susanna Niermann O'Neil, Cleveland Heights acting city manager, believes that residents showed no more confusion than in previous years.

"Basically, this is the standard that happens every three years," O'Neil said on the matter of the tax assessment coming as a shock to residents.

Residents with objections to the special assessment were to send their objections in writing to the Clerk of Council at Cleveland Heights City Hall no later than July 16. Raguz said the city had received several objections by the deadline and would send a notice to each objector notifying him or her of a hearing before an Equalization Board.

The Equalization Board is made up of three nonresidents who serve on a volunteer basis and are appointed based on financial knowledge. These hearings are not public and will take place during business hours.

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

Cleveland Heights citizens meet to discuss city leadership and concerns

Chris Hanson

On July 8, a group of citizens, organized by longtime resident Diane Hallum, convened at the Lee Road Library. Hallum brought the group together under the name Citizens in Search of Leadership because she hoped to identify potential leaders within the city and encourage them to run for Cleveland Heights City Council.

"I hope to create a coalition of many into a single, organized voice to present three-to-four top grievances to city hall in some fashion," wrote Hallum in an e-mail.

At the meeting, about 20 people introduced themselves and expressed their concerns about the city: high taxes, a dwindling tax base, vacancies in commercial and residential properties, the process of three-year special assessments, and school levies. The group included both longtime residents and young professionals who moved to the city as recently as three months ago.

Susan Miller, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, said that she had ideas for saving money and saving the environment. Miller said she is concerned with the way vacant homes sit for months on end without anyone caring for them. "I want to see a robust economy but my hopes are dashed at every turn, from city hall to every time I turn on the news and watch the federal government," she said. "Banks purposely delay taking custody of vacant homes because of the cost of repairs, upkeep, taxes, fees, etc." Miller said she is growing weary of caring for vacant homes in her neighborhood on her own.

"Cleveland Heights is sinking fast," said Stephen Rajki, another longtime resident. "The city should get busy and start improving buildings that exist. Most of the problems with properties are from benign neglect compounded over the years." Rajki said that the city needs to "look at where to sell in the Heights, and market those areas to the broader region."

Nick Wilkenson, a 1990 Heights High graduate who returned to the city a few years ago, said he was concerned about the lack of professionalism within the Cleveland Heights Police Department. "Home invasions are called in and homeowners are made fun of when

officers report to the home," he said. He questioned the benefit of police cars speeding on residential streets without the headlights on. He acknowledged that it might sometimes be necessary when patrol cars receive a call, but said that it is happening too often and "someone is going to get hurt."

Not everyone present expressed dissatisfaction with the city. Carol Staiger, a longtime resident, said that she had come to hear the presentation and that she has had an "enjoyable experience in the Heights." Rick Ferris, an empty nester who moved from Kirtland, Ohio, said that he thought Cleveland Heights, with its rich culture, eclectic shopping districts, and walkable neighborhoods, was the best place to live in the Greater Cleveland area.

Hallum had invited current city council members to attend the July 8 meeting. None was able to attend, however, because the meeting took place the same night as a regularly scheduled city council meeting.

One declared candidate for a seat on city council, Melissa Yasinow, a recent graduate of Case Western Reserve University's School of Law, was in attendance. She promised that she would "listen intently to the concerns of Cleveland Heights citizens."

Miller said that the current council members don't respond quickly enough, or fail to respond at all, and wanted to know if she could "reach out and touch" Yasinow when there is a problem in the city. Yasinow assured her that she would be available.

After the meeting, Hallum sent a summary of the group's concerns to members of Cleveland Heights City Council. She said she had talked with the mayor and other council members and presented two of the group's suggestions at the council's July 15 meeting.

The next meeting of the group, which Hallum said she is now calling Citizens Leadership, will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. on Aug. 8 at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. She invites interested citizens to contact her at 216-691-9386 or dhallum@earthlink.net.

Chris Hanson is a graduate of the Urban Studies program at Cleveland State University.

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Surveillance cameras monitoring Cleveland Heights benefit police

Simone Jasper

Starting with the installation of surveillance cameras in the Cedar Fairmount garage a decade ago or more, the City of Cleveland Heights has used cameras to deter crime in the Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee, Coventry and Noble Monticello business districts. This summer, cameras were also installed in a section of Cain Park.

Jeffery Robertson, Cleveland Heights police chief, said that the various cameras were installed after conversations among the police department, city manager and city council. "We came up with a plan for different districts," he said, and estimated that the first cameras were installed in the Fairmount garage in the late 1990s or early 2000s. Decisions to install cameras are part of an "ongoing process," said Robertson.

Brad Sudyk, deputy chief of police, said most cameras have been installed within the last three to four years.

The cameras are in parking garages in the Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry business districts, and they are on streets in the Cedar Lee, Coventry and Noble Monticello business districts.

Cameras in some locations are high-resolution, but even lower-resolution cameras enable police officers to zoom in on subjects. Robertson and Sudyk said that the cameras in the business

districts and Cain Park provide footage that is clear enough to enable police to determine the general descriptions of subjects.

The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day so that police can respond to crimes in progress. They record all activity, so police can review video of crimes or car accidents. Also, some police officers can access camera footage on their cell phones as they travel to crime scenes, according to Robertson.

In June 2012, high-resolution—and high-profile—cameras, with bright blue lights indicating their locations, were installed on Lee Road. The police department used surveillance video and other evidence to connect a suspect to a series of break-ins in the Cedar Lee business district in September 2012. Sudyk said that the cameras benefit police investigations and prevent crimes. "Criminal activity has decreased because of our surveillance cameras," he stated.

Shawn Paul Gustafson, owner of Shawn Paul Salon on Lee Road, said that the constant monitoring of his district makes him feel at ease. "Any form of [police] presence, whether it is remote by camera or walking down the street [feels comforting]," he said. "I like it."

Adam Fleischer, owner of The Wine Spot on Lee Road, stated, "They make the street a lot safer for the community in general."

Steve Presser, marketing and public-

ity director of Coventry Village Special Improvement District and owner of Big Fun Toy Store, said that he and other Coventry business owners talked to the city about crime deterrents prior to the installation of surveillance cameras in his business district. He said that the cameras are beneficial to Coventry because they increase police interaction with the merchants.

Members of the Cain Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) also had discussions before cameras were installed in the park. But residents have mixed thoughts about them, according to Peter Titas of the CPNA. "We've had representatives from the police department at our meetings. The general consensus seemed to be that cameras were a good idea, and we made that known to the city," Titas wrote in an e-mail. "However, there are residents who feel like the cameras are intruding on privacy."

In spite of privacy concerns, police plan to install surveillance cameras in other areas of Cleveland Heights. "The expectations are that we can put them as many places as possible," Robertson said.

"They're great deterrents, and they make the community a lot safer," Sudyk 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.

Lee Road wine events celebrate new film at Cedar Lee Theatre

Wine lovers will have good reason to visit Lee Road during the last week of August.

On Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., the Cedar Lee Theatre (2163 Lee Road) will screen "Somm," a new documentary that looks into the mysterious world of the Court of Master Sommeliers. The film is directed by Jason Wise, a Cleveland native.

The Aug. 28 screening will be preceded by a tasting event at The Wine Spot (2271 Lee Road) at 5 p.m. During the week of Aug. 26-30, Taste (2317 Lee Road) will host blind tastings in its lounge. For tickets and additional information, visit www.clevelandcinemas.com.

TEACHERS continued from page 1

According to the district, the number of students in its schools has decreased 16 percent since 2001. It made the staff cuts in order to reduce operating costs due to uncertainty regarding the amount of state funding the district would receive.

"We have to continue to do more with less. We've reorganized our central office to operate more efficiently. Every move we have made and will continue to make is based on what's best for our students. Cuts were also made in overtime, travel, and supplies," said Dr. Nylajeon McDaniel, superintendent.

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



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36th Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour set for Sept. 22

Alice Jeresko

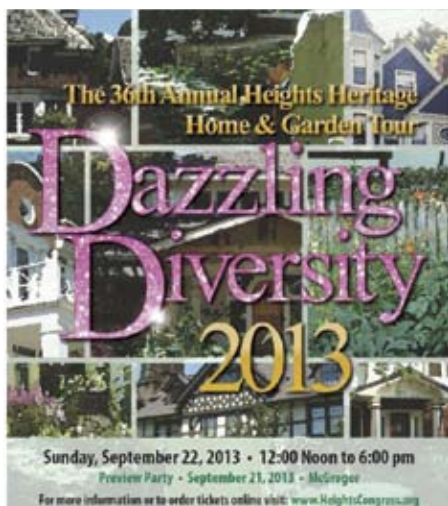
Dazzling Diversity 2013 is the theme of the 36th annual Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 22 from noon to 6 p.m. The self-guided tour, hosted by Heights Community Congress (HCC), will feature six homes and four gardens, and will include a tea and refreshment stop.

Diversity is evident with this year's locations: a newly renovated International Style residence featuring clean lines and glass block, an intimate neighborhood of renovated carriage houses, and the creative gardens and studio of a landscape designer/artist couple. Each tour stop has been chosen to surprise and delight tourgoers.

HCC will also host a Tour Preview Party for sponsors on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. at the McGregor property in the Forest Hill neighborhood. This year's honorary co-chairs, architect Peter van Dijk and Jane Kessler, owner of Appletree Books, will open the event with a champagne toast. Guests will be shuttled to four sneak-preview locations before returning to McGregor to enjoy garden tours, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a jazz combo and a silent auction.

Sunday tour tickets are \$20 in advance. Tickets can be purchased online or at select businesses in the Heights beginning Aug. 1. For more information on tour tickets, preview party sponsorships, advertising opportunities, or HCC, call 216-321-6775 or visit www.heightscongress.org.

The Heights Heritage Tour is hosted each year by HCC, whose mission is to help build strong communities by



promoting social justice, monitoring fair housing practices and hosting diversity and inclusion programs within Heights neighborhoods. All proceeds from the tour go to continue this mission.

Alice Jeresko is an environmental communications consultant and has been a Cleveland Heights resident for 15 years.

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Forest Hill Church plans outdoor worship and community supper for Aug. 17

Peg Weissbrod

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian will hold an outdoor summer worship service and community supper on Saturday, Aug. 17. The informal service will begin at 5 p.m. Immediately after the service, all are invited to stay for a free community supper provided by members of the church and open to everyone.

The service will feature a message by Patrick Davis, founder and director of Cleveland-based Scars and Bars, a group that works to support ex-felons through a network of mentors, churches, nonprofits and employers. Davis, a former inmate and frequent Forest Hill Church visitor, will speak about prison ministry and the importance of empowering and caring for inmates, ex-felons

and those on the fringes of society.

Music director Anne Wilson, who many Heights High students and parents know through her work with the school's vocal music department, said the musical selections will include a return of last year's popular steel drums and will "appeal to all ages and faiths." Caleb Wright of the Wright Family Singers, along with other alumni of the award-winning Cleveland Heights High Barbershop Group, will also return.

Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian is located across from Forest Hill Park, at 3031 Monticello Blvd. For more information, call 216-321-2660 or visit www.fhcpres.org.

Peg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and web editor for Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.



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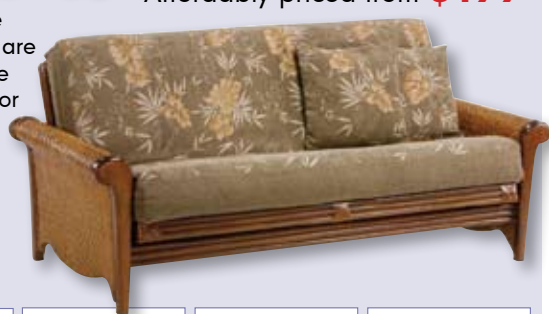


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Fitness and exercise recommendations for Heights seniors



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

The National Senior Games held in Cleveland last month brought attention to the importance of physical fitness for older adults. The games, held in a different city each year, promote healthy and active lifestyles for athletes age 50 and older.

While most of us may not consider ourselves athletes, the games, and the presentations held during the games, educate seniors at all levels of ability about the importance of physical activity and staying healthy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), “Regular physical activity . . . can prevent many of the health problems that seem to come with age. It also helps your muscles grow stronger so you can keep doing your day-to-day activities without becoming dependent on others.”

The CDC recommends that senior adults choose from three target levels of activity: (1) two hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity every week; (2) one hour and 15 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity every week; or (3) an equivalent mix of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity.

Aerobic activity is any activity that causes ones heart to beat faster and makes it harder to breathe, such as pushing a lawn mower, dancing, biking, or taking a brisk walk.

On a scale of zero-to-ten, where zero is sitting and ten is working as hard as you can, the CDC defines moderate-intensity aerobic activity as a five or six. It makes you breathe harder and causes the heart to beat faster. You should be able to talk,

but not sing. Vigorous-intensity aerobic activity is a seven or eight on this scale. At this level, you should not be able to say more than a few words without stopping to catch your breath.

The CDC also recommends that older adults participate in muscle-strengthening activities that work all major muscle groups (legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders and arms) two or more days a week.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) offers many exercise and fitness options for local seniors. Classes include aerobics, dance, yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, table tennis and Wii bowling. Some classes are free while others require a small fee. Seniors are invited to walk on the fitness track free of charge three days a week.

The Cleveland Heights branch of the Mandel JCC offers a Lunch Plus program three days a week that includes chair yoga, tai chi, a hot kosher lunch (suggested donation \$1), and free transportation for seniors living in any East Side suburb. Jamie Cohen, JCC supervisor, said. “We also stress simple exercises seniors can do at home for balance, flexibility and strength, and to prevent falls.”

Cumberland Pool offers both water aerobics and beginning swimming classes suitable for seniors. Summer passes are available at half price (\$17.50).

It is important for seniors to exercise safely. Find an exercise program that is appropriate for your level of ability, and learn with a live instructor rather than a video. Trained instructors can help senior adults get in shape, while ensuring that they are exercising correctly and safely.

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

COVENTRY continued from page 1

munity.”

“Other communities have canceled events. Shaker Heights canceled its fireworks. Until somebody comes up with a new strategy to deal with this, the police are going to continue to monitor social media,” he said.

Steve Presser, marketing coordinator for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID) and organizer of the event, said that he understood the city’s decision. “It’s a sad, sad, unfortunate situation. We are sorry on so many different levels,” said Presser. “The people who are posting these things on social media do not understand the bigger picture of what they are doing. It’s time they grow up.”

The fair would have been the first on Coventry since a flash mob broke out at the 2011 event. After that incident, the City of Cleveland Heights implemented a 6 p.m. curfew in Coventry and other business districts, and heightened its police presence in the area.

CVSID had hoped to bring the fair back in 2012, but, after discussions with the city and the community, decided it was not ready to do so and postponed the event until this year.

CVSID went out of its way to ensure that the 2013 event would have a family focus. It changed the event name to Family Arts Day and planned it for a Sunday afternoon. Unlike past festivals, Coventry streets were to remain open to motor vehicles.

“We had 50 performers and 50 vendors booked,” said Presser, spokesman for CVSID. “The music was folk, roots and classical—most of it acoustical, only one area was going to be amplified. Everything was geared towards family.”

Presser said that the problem of people making veiled threats and inciting panic via social media is a national issue. “It’s a sad statement of society,” he said. “It has to change.” He said he believed Coventry was targeted because people like to come to Coventry. “It’s easy access,” said Presser. “People come to areas they are familiar with.”

Presser said that the many other events held at Coventry this summer have been peaceful and uneventful. The CVSID will continue to host a variety of free summer events through early August, including Yoga at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m.; Drum Circle led by professional percussionists at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Sundays from 7 to 9 p.m.; Music on Coventry Road at Lot #15 (between Marc’s and Heights Cleaners) on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.; and Drive-in Movie Series at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Thursdays from 9 to 11 p.m.

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

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

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- **The distance to work seems too far.** Consider combining bicycling

with public transportation. Ride your bike to a bus stop, load the bike aboard, and then get off when you reach a more convenient bicycling distance. All RTA buses have bike racks. Bikes are permitted in Health-Line trains and two bikes per car are permitted on rapid transit trains.

- **I don’t have any cycling/bike commuting friends.** Join a bike club: see HBC resource Web page, www.bikesintheheights.org/resources/. Register with OhioRideShares/OhioBikeBuddies, (www.ohioride-share.com/Pages/BikeBuddies).
- **I don’t have a bike.** For new bikes or bike repairs in the Heights, check out Cain Park Bicycles and Cycle Sport & Fitness. There are also bike shops in Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Mayfield Heights. For used bikes, consider the Ohio City Bike Coop and Affordable Bikes Recyclery, both on the near West Side of Cleveland.

Heights Bicycle Coalition (www.bikesintheheights.org) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to making the Heights more bicycle friendly.

HRRC offers electrical classes for women

Rebecca Stager

For many people, the prospect of working with electricity is just plain scary. The instructors for Home Repair Resource Center's (HRRC) Home How-To for Women repair course take the time to explain how to remain safe when doing electrical repairs.

Heights homeowner Mary Cushing, who enrolled in the electrical module last year, said that all the classes were helpful. "I learned a lot in every class. I'm no longer fearful of doing easy electrical work myself," she said.

The upcoming electrical repairs module will consist of eight workshops, held from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from Aug. 7 through Oct. 2.

Participants will learn to replace switches and outlets, run new circuits, troubleshoot electrical problems, install ceiling fans and more. No previous experience is required.

The cost of the module is \$120 for Cleveland Heights residents and \$150 for nonresidents. Reduced tuition rates are offered for low-income participants. Each module is limited to 18 women.

The four modules in HRRC's Home How-To for Women course (home maintenance, carpentry, electrical, and plumbing) can be taken in sequence or individually. For more information, visit www.hrhc-ch.org/programs/home-how-to-for-women or call 216-381-6100, ext. 16.

Becky Stager has been HRRC's education coordinator since 1989.

CH-UH LEADERSHIP continued from page 1

all of the leadership changes that have occurred since her daughter became a CH-UH student six months ago. "That's what's most frustrating, the amount of turnover there is," she said.

According to Ron Register, CH-UH BOE president, the board has a positive outlook about the recent leadership changes. "We think that the district is in good shape and that it is ready to move forward," Register said.

Upper administration changes

On June 24, Nylajeon McDaniel, formerly human resources director for the CH-UH district, replaced Doug Heuer as superintendent. Heuer in turn will move into a new role with the district, helping it to implement Ohio's new school evaluation system through a contract with the Educational Services Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County.

Heuer became superintendent in 2009, and received an initial three-year contract. In 2011, the board voted unanimously to extend his contract for an additional three years, effective August 2012 through July 2015. In April, Heuer was a finalist for the position of superintendent of Toledo Public Schools but was not chosen for that position.

In its June 24 statement announcing the superintendent change, the district stated that 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."

McDaniel had been the district's human resources director for eight years. She was set to retire at the end of June but chose to stay on when she was asked to be superintendent for a one-year transitional period. She remains a district employee and retracted her retirement paperwork from the State Teachers Retirement System, said Shaker. McDaniel will be replaced as human resource director by Paul Lombardo, who most recently worked in the Willoughby-Eastlake School District.

Jeff Talbert resigned as assistant superintendent on June 3 to become superintendent of the Alliance School District. The new assistant superintendent, Andrea Celico, most recently served as assistant superintendent for the Euclid City School District.

"Change is constant in public schools," said Susie Kaeser, former director of Reaching Heights. "New leadership is not a bad thing. It's always an adjustment, however."

School facilities plan

Heuer and Talbert were both proponents of school facilities Plan C, which BOE members voted last summer not to place on the November 2012 ballot. In October, the board convened the Lay Facilities Committee (LFC) to create an alternative plan. The LFC plan proposes a two-phase process and was approved for this November's ballot by a BOE vote on July 2.

Patrick Mullen, director of Reaching Heights and chair of the LFC, noted that many of the new school leaders are familiar with the CH-UH school district. He also pointed out that new assistant superintendent has worked in

a similar district. "I think that there's going to be a decent amount of continuity," Mullen said.

Dave Tabor of the LFC explained that McDaniel was on the original facilities committee and that Celico worked on a facilities plan at her previous job. "I'm excited that the new assistant superintendent comes from Euclid," Tabor said. "She's very well aware of how to get it done."

Principal changes

Jane Simeri replaced Joseph Nohra as interim principal when he resigned from Heights High's Mosaic School in December to become superintendent of Struthers City School District. Simeri became principal of the school in June and has worked in the district since 1990.

In June, Marc Aden, principal of The R.E.A.L. Early College High School program at Heights High, announced his retirement. Aden had been the longest-serving principal in the district. He was replaced by Alisa Lawson-McKinnie, who most recently was a high school principal in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Also in June, Brian Sharosky resigned as Monticello Middle School principal to become principal of Visintainer Middle School in the Brunswick City School District. He has been replaced by Deborah D. Moore, a former Monticello student and a Heights High graduate, who had been principal of Shaw High School in East Cleveland.

On April 8, Tara Grove resigned as Roxboro Elementary School principal to relocate with her family to Columbus. She was replaced by Michael Jenkins,

continued on page 14



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CH-UH BOE votes to place facilities bond issue on November ballot

Deanna Bremer Fisher

At its July 2 meeting, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education (BOE) voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to place a \$134.8-million bond issue for school facilities improvements on the November ballot. This was the second reading of the resolution; the first occurred at the BOE's June 18 work session.

The bond issue would cover the majority of the cost of phase one of a school facilities renovation plan, which is projected to cost \$157.35 million and would include renovations to the high school and two of the existing three middle schools. A third middle school, Wiley Middle School, would be closed when renovations to the elementary schools are completed in phase two of the project.

Unlike last summer, when a split BOE passed several resolutions to place a facilities bond issue on the ballot, only to reverse its position at the last minute, the BOE's July 2 vote was unanimously in favor of the resolution.

Eric Coble, BOE member, said, "I'm even more confident moving forward now than the last time we voted on it." "I'm real pleased," said Ron Register, BOE president. "Last year, no one knew where we'd end up."

Only a handful of residents addressed the board regarding school facilities at the beginning of the meeting. Resident Jan Geneva said, "This bond issue is an issue of compromise," and reminded the BOE that "this is not about us individually, but about what is best for our students."

Resident Garry Kanter expressed his displeasure with the bond issue and the board, saying, "This bond issue spends all the money on buildings, not kids."

Kanter also noted that Beachwood had renovated its high school for less money than the LFC proposal for the renovation of Heights High.

Coble responded that comparing the CH-UH facilities project to that of Beachwood was not an apples-to-apples comparison. "Beachwood is about one-third of our population," he said, "so it would follow that their high school renovation would cost less than ours."

BOE member Kal Zucker said that he wanted to address the perception of a backlog in school facilities repairs and a lack of focus on elementary school



As part of a renovation of the high school that would take place if voters approve a bond issue in November, the outdated science wing, which obscures the view of the historic facade of the building from the street, would be removed.

repairs. "The backlog of \$40.4 million is based on a 2007 audit," he said, and added that in the last five years, about 60 percent of the permanent improvement budget had been spent on the high school and middle schools.

"We need to stop taking about a backlog," he said. "It's a slice in time. It's a reason why it makes sense to do the high school and middle schools first. If we address those schools' needs first, we free up a greater portion of permanent improvement funds to use on elementary schools."

BOE member Karen Jones addressed the charge that the bond issue would pay for only facilities improvements. "It will not pay for salaries and it will not pay for books," she said. "It will be [for] those buildings and those facilities—all of those things that will make it better for students to learn and teachers to teach and to do what needs to be done in the classrooms."

"It will save on operating expenses," said Nancy Peppler, BOE member. "More dollars will be freed up on an annual basis to support educational expenses that aren't buildings."

Register said, "It's a great time for our community to step forward and say what we believe in. This is the high point of my career on the school board."

The BOE's vote to place a 36-year, \$134.8-million bond issue on the November ballot would cost \$183 a year for a home valued at \$100,000 if approved by voters.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer. She served on the LFC and co-chaired its buildings subcommittee.

Celico is new CH-UH schools assistant superintendent

Kim Sergio Inglis

In a July 5 statement, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District announced that Andrea Celico has been named the district's new assistant superintendent.

Celico was assistant superintendent in the Euclid School District for the last four years.

"Dr. Celico's vast experience in a district that is similarly situated to ours, along with her strong background in curriculum and instruction, is just what we need right now. She is energetic, bright, and ready to step into the position immediately," said Nylajeane McDaniel, CH-UH superintendent, in the written statement. "I'm confident she will contribute in big, meaningful ways here."

According to Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement for the district, Celico coordinated Euclid's comprehensive continuous improvement plan, was the internal facilitator for the District Leadership Team, worked with the Ohio School Facilities Commission in building four new schools, and was the supervisor of human resources.

Prior to becoming assistant superintendent for the Euclid City School District, Celico served in many roles including elementary school teacher, assistant principal and principal.

"I'm very familiar with the Cleve-

land Heights-University Heights City School District. I've studied the data, there's a lot to be excited about, and there are some



CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Andrea Celico

challenges. This district is full of children who can succeed. It has a talented and dedicated staff, and a supportive community. Great things are ahead. I can't wait to get started," said Celico.

Jeffrey Talbert, the former assistant superintendent for the CH-UH district, resigned on June 3 to become superintendent of the Alliance City School District.

On June 25, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education announced that Doug Heuer had resigned as superintendent, and that Nylajeane McDaniel, formerly the district's director of human resources, would become the new superintendent for a one-year period.

Commenting on the search for an assistant superintendent, Shaker said, "The search began with Superintendent McDaniel. She was involved throughout every step of the process. Mr. Heuer was not involved."

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



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CH-UH LEADERSHIP continued from page 12
who taught at the former Coventry Elementary School. Most recently, he was principal of a school in Port Clinton, Ohio.

Katrinka Dean, former principal of Boulevard Elementary School, was placed on administrative leave by the school district last November. At the time, the district chose an interim principal, Karen Muffley. In May, the district named Shelley Pulling, most recently an elementary school principal in the Perry Local School District, the new principal of Boulevard.

Stacy Stuhldreher resigned as principal of Canterbury Elementary School at the end of the school year to become a principal in Seven Hills. The district expects the board to approve the hiring of her replacement on Aug. 6, at which point it will name her replacement.

According to data from the CH-UH school district, the average tenure of its middle school principals over the past decade was about three years, and the average tenure of an elementary school principal was about four years. The district was unable to provide a comparison between CH-UH and other nearby districts.

According to the School Superintendents Association’s (AASA) 2006 State of the Superintendency study, the mean tenure for a superintendent is five to six years.

“It seems like a lot [of change] until you break it down,” said Eric Silverman, president of the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation. He pointed out that some administrators left so that their commutes could be

shorter. “You like them to stay longer, but you can’t argue with that,” he said.

Meetings planned with new school district personnel

According to Angee Shaker, the district has plans underway to enable families to meet new school leaders. The district will hold Online Luncheons with Superintendent McDaniel—interactive webinars wherein parents can ask questions of McDaniel during their lunch breaks.

“Viewers can send in their questions and comments during the discussion and also submit topic suggestions for future luncheons,” Shaker said. “Sessions will be recorded and posted on the district website for later viewing as well.” The first luncheon webinar is set for Aug. 16, from noon to 1 p.m., and it will focus on the school facilities plan. The district will provide additional information about future luncheons, scheduled for the third Friday of each month.

The district has scheduled an open house at Heights High on Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m., where community members will be able to meet the new superintendent and assistant superintendent, learn about the facilities plan, and address questions, concerns, and suggestions to the school district.

In addition, according to Shaker, “The new principals and their PTAs will decide how and when to meet with families.”

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board
Meeting highlights



JUNE 18, 2013
All board members were present.

Social studies exams

The board adopted the social studies interim and end-of-course examinations in American history and American government. This is a new state statutory requirement.

Personnel

Some of the staff laid off due to fiscal problems were rehired. The board also approved adoption of tentative agreements with the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, and the monitors’ unit.

School facilities improvement bonds

The board declared the necessity of submitting to the voters of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district the question of the issuance of school facilities improvement bonds in the amount of \$134.8 million. The board commented that the community came together under the leadership of the Lay Facilities Committee (LFC) with Patrick Mullen as chairperson. Questions from the community had revolved mainly around “Why now?” and “Why so big?” The board responded that everything needs fixing and stopgaps were no longer possible. To place the bond issue on the November ballot, the board must vote to do so by July 18. The bond issue must be passed this year to take advantage of a window of opportunity to borrow a maximum allowed amount. The special needs district designation may expire next year and thus reduce the amount that can be borrowed. The district might not qualify as a special needs district again. The mayors and councils of both Cleveland Heights and University Heights are being consulted.

Graded courses of study

All core courses of study are being aligned. Performance objectives exist for student, district, and administrative assessment. Students must be “college ready” in reading, speaking, writing, and listening skills. The courses of study will emphasize informational text, critical thinking skills development, evidence gathering, main idea comprehension, and approaches for investigating the world. Financial literacy will be taught in 11th- and 12th-grade economics and government classes. Science assessment relies on international benchmarks and is STEM designed. Mathematics skills are based on real-world problem solving. Embedded in all content areas will be the technology standards that require the district to offer instruction in tools, media literacy, digital citizenship, and internet safety.

Waiver days for 2013–14

The board is seeking four waiver days (school days with students absent and teachers present for professional development). Election Day cannot be used as a waiver day if school is held. The first waiver day will be training for the new teacher evaluation process. Aug. 28 will be a waiver day for safety and security training; Aug. 29 will be for elementary teachers only

and staggered student visitation; objectives for Aug. 30 have yet to be completed. In January, the middle schools and high school will have the waiver day for teachers, as for the elementary teachers in August.

Elementary swimming program

The board discussed the successful pilot elementary swimming program in which Gearity second-grade students participated in an eight-day learn-to-swim course. The second grade was chosen because there is no standardized testing in this grade. The board will discuss whether this program can be expanded to all district second graders.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

JULY 2, 2013

All board members were present.

Soli Collins

Superintendent Nylajeane McDaniel recognized student Soli Collins for winning first prize in the [Maltz Museum’s] “Stop the Hate” essay contest. Collins read her winning essay.

Community picture book

Michele Dawson, gifted teacher at Boulevard Elementary School, presented the board with copies of a picture book of the community, produced by her students.

Outstanding financial officer

Treasurer Scott Gainer was recognized for the 11th time as outstanding financial officer by the association of Government Financial Officers for the United States and Canada.

Roxboro Middle School field trip

The board approved the Roxboro Middle School field trip for Nov. 13–15 to Williamsburg, Va. and Washington, D.C.

Appointments

Paul Lombardo was appointed director of human resources; Andrea Celico was named assistant superintendent; and Deborah Moore is the new principal of Monticello Middle School.

Coventry space

The board approved lease agreements with County Village Children’s Center and Waldorf School for space at the former Coventry School building.

School facilities bond

The board approved placing the school facilities bond for \$134.8 million on the November ballot.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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

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Former Monticello student Deborah Moore is named principal of the middle school

Kim Sergio Inglis

In a July 5 press release, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District announced that Deborah D. Moore, a former Monticello Middle School student and Heights High graduate, has been named the new principal of Monticello Middle School.

Moore takes over the position from former principal Brian Sharosky, who stepped down in June to become principal of Visintainer Middle School in the Brunswick City School District.

Since 2010, Moore served as principal of Shaw High School (East Cleveland). Prior to that she was principal of Cleveland's Collinwood High School (2005-10), Alexander Hamilton Middle School (2003-05), and Glenville High School Freshman Academy (2000-03).

According to Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement for the district, "In her previous roles, Ms. Moore has worked to open lines of communication among teachers, paraprofessional and support staff, students, and parents, with regard to all school matters. She has also made it a priority to establish procedures for maintaining a safe and secure learning environment at both the middle and high school level. Among her experiences are improvements to student proficiency and graduation test scores, grades 6-12."

In the district's statement, Moore characterized herself as having been "a change agent for schools struggling with academic achievement, behavioral standards, and proper culture."

Superintendent Nylajeane McDaniel said of Moore, "She has a great working knowledge of how to manage students, keep them safe, and develop a philosophy of education that fosters student drive, teacher excellence, and a community of informed and active parents. She has the foresight to prepare Monticello Middle School students for high school and beyond, given her successive middle to high school experience. And, based on her track record, she understands what it takes to improve test scores so that students can advance and graduate with competency."

Moore said, "I intend to create a data-driven environment so as to promote academic excellence for all." She also said she believes in moving students forward in a technology era, and acknowledges the importance technological skills will have in students' academic and professional futures.

Also on her list of priorities is the school budget, where Moore intends to allocate funds to the most important academic initiatives, from a fiscally responsible perspective.

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



Deborah Moore is the new principal of Monticello Middle School.

Communion of Saints School continues K-8 education model

Amy Fischer

Although many school districts have done away with the K-8 model, Communion of Saints School will continue to graduate 8th graders. Many experts believe this model fosters a strong sense of self while supporting academic progress. The school has been praised for fostering a continuity of learning and for the positive effects of the leadership roles required of upper-grade students.

A family atmosphere is evident at Communion of Saints School. The students in the 8th grade understand and accept the responsibility for helping younger students. Most 8th graders have a job, such as flag duty, safety patrol, and service to teachers.

The Class of 2014 is excited to take the reins of leadership. These 13- and 14-year-olds are scholars, lay leaders, athletes, writers, and dancers, to list just a few of their talents. Many of these young people have been together since preschool and they take to heart the mission of Communion of Saints School: "...we are a welcoming, inclusive community, rooted in Gospel values. . ."



(From left) Courtney Foerg, Desmond Fischer and Cameron Toppin, members of the Class of 2014, are shown here on their first day of kindergarten in 2005.

As the start of the new school year approaches, the Class of 2014 anticipates a bright start, drawing on the words of Mother Theresa for inspiration: "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Communion of Saints School is located at 2160 Stillman Road in Cleveland Heights. For more information about the school, go to www.communionofsaintsschool.org or call 216-932-4177.

Amy Fischer is a member of Communion of Saints School's advisory committee and a past co-president of its PTO.

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Library’s community survey results are in

Sheryl Banks

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library’s community survey results are in, and the results are positive—especially regarding respondents’ opinions on library staff and facilities.

In February 2013, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library contracted with the Community Research Institute at Baldwin Wallace University to conduct a combined survey of Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents, library customers and noncustomers alike.

“We wanted to gather as much information as possible from our residents, both positive and negative, to make sure that we understand what they want and need from us,” said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. “We’ll be using the results of this survey to help us make decisions in the coming years.”

The surveys were conducted as random phone surveys between Feb. 25 and March 20, and residents who did not receive a call were encouraged to fill out the survey online or on paper at any of the library’s four branches during the same time period. Baldwin Wallace



completed a total of 582 phone surveys, and another 220 completed surveys were obtained from online and paper survey results. The random phone survey results were analyzed separately from the online and paper survey results.

Library staff, library board members, and staff from Baldwin Wallace worked together to design the 34 survey questions that ranged from how often the resident visits the library and whether he or she has an eReader, to the resident’s level of satisfaction with the libraries’ staff and services.

The results of the survey fall roughly into two categories: what types of services residents use (and how often), and how residents feel about the libraries’ staff, services and facilities.

Use of library services varied widely. More survey respondents check out books (80 percent via phone survey; 94 percent online/paper survey) than use

the public computers (31 percent phone survey; 48 percent online/paper survey), and more residents call for information (40 percent phone survey; 48 percent online/paper survey) than use the online databases (29 percent phone survey; 39 percent online/paper survey).

The respondents’ feelings about the library’s staff, services and facilities were consistently high. At all four branches, the average respondent rating for staff helpfulness and availability was 97 percent (both phone and online/paper), and the average rating for safety at all four branches was 93 percent (both phone and online/paper).

In addition to quantifiable data, the surveys also collected comments from residents, which ranged from glowing to frustrated. One resident praised the library, “Very, very grateful for the library system and think it is a treasure,” while another complained, “I am very upset about the hours. The hours are very poor.”

“We are thrilled to hear that our community thinks we’re doing a great job,” said Levin, “but there is always room for improvement, so we are paying close attention to the negative feedback as well.”

Heights Libraries encourages the community to read the full survey results, including all comments, by downloading the report at www.heightslibrary.org as a PDF document. Feedback is always welcome.

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

What’s going on at your library?

Summer’s not over yet. There are still plenty of free library programs to attend before fall starts.

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Monday, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Coventry Concert Night. The concert will showcase Cleveland Institute of Music students and graduates.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Shark Week Extravaganza. Teens ages 12–19 can create shark victim cookies and watch footage of sharks on a flat screen TV. Registration required at www.heightslibrary.org.

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, Aug. 12, 2 p.m.
Construction Challenge. Using household and pantry items, kids 12 and under can compete to create structures. Registration required.

University Heights Library
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 6 p.m.
Cultural Encounters Film Festival. This free summer film festival features recent foreign films.

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Cleveland Institute of Music

Cleveland State University

College of Wooster

Columbia College of Chicago

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Duquesne University

Eastern Michigan University

Eastman School of Music

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Hiram College

Hobart & William Smith Colleges

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Kentucky State University

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Mount Union College

New England Conservatory of Music

Northern Michigan University

Northwestern University

Notre Dame College

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Ohio State University

Ohio University

Ohio Wesleyan University

Otterbein University

Pennsylvania State University

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science

Pittsburgh Technology Institute

Princeton University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rice University

Saint Francis University

Shawnee State University

Southern University A&M

Spelman College

St. Augustine University

St. Thomas University

Temple University

Tiffin University

Tulane University

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Universal Technical Institute

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'Play Me, I'm Yours' on Lee Road



Andrea Joki (left) and Lily Waugh perform an impromptu duet in the Lee Road minipark next to Heights Arts at the July 18 launch of the international piano project, "Play Me, I'm Yours." The piano—one of 20 placed at cultural institutions in Greater Cleveland—was decorated by Joki and other Heights Arts volunteers, and donated by Faith and Brendan Gill. The piano project runs through Aug. 12. Afterwards, Heights Arts plans to offer the piano for sale, to cover its costs. Potential buyers are invited to contact Heights Arts at heightsarts@heightsarts.org or 216-371-3457.

GroundWorks Dance Theater returns to Cain Park Aug. 16–18

Pam Barr

Cain Park looms large in the history of GroundWorks Dance Theater and in the professional dance career of its founder and artistic director David Shimotakahara. When the company performs there Aug. 16, 17 and 18, it will mark the 11th consecutive year that Groundworks has appeared at this outdoor venue.

"We were the first dance company to perform at the Alma Theater," recalled Shimotakahara, "and we have premiered seven works at the park over the years."

This season, the company will feature a new work by associate artistic director Amy Miller, plus "My Hummingbird at the High Line," created in 2012 by New York choreographer Doug Elkins, and Shimotakahara's "Before With After" from 2003.

"Cain Park audiences have always been very welcoming to our company, and our dancers appreciate their enthusiasm for what we do," said Shimotakahara. "We can't wait to return this year to one of our favorite summer venues."

His history with the park goes back to the mid-1980s, when he and his wife, Pandora Robertson, danced with Ohio Ballet, before the roof was constructed over the Evans Amphitheater. In 1995, soon after they moved to Cleveland Heights from Akron, Shimotakahara had an opportunity to present one of his first ballets, "Caprice," as part of an Ohio Choreographers Showcase at Cain Park. "This was the only dance I ever created in which the women wore



David Shimotakahara, founder and artistic director of GroundWorks.

pointe shoes. My cast included dancers from Ohio Ballet and Cleveland Ballet, probably one of the few times that the dancers from both companies ever worked together."

"I've performed and presented at Cain Park through hail storms, swarms of bugs, rain and perfect summer nights," said Shimotakahara. "It's always an adventure and pure pleasure"

For more information about the program and to order tickets, visit the new GroundWorks website, www.groundworksdance.org.

Pam Barr is a 30-year Cleveland Heights resident and a principal of Barr Communications, a Cleveland Heights-based boutique marketing and public relations consulting firm, of which GroundWorks is a client.



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Cleveland Heights native is on the rise and giving back

Saroya Queen-Tabor

“It’s a great feeling to be truly living and walking your purpose.”

That is what Cleveland Heights native Antoine Dunn said drives him to create soul-stirring music that, in the past year or so, has achieved national recognition. Dunn’s music now touches the hearts of many.

His freshman album, “Truth of the Matter,” released last October, produced two Billboard Top 15 hits and earned him a place on the “Back to Love” national tour with R&B artists Estelle and Anthony Hamilton.

This month, Dunn will lend his talents to help two local nonprofits. On Aug. 11, Dunn will perform at Nighttown as part of the Sundays of Sound concert series to benefit Senior Outreach Services (SOS). The agency helps seniors stay independent at home and in the community.

Dunn will share the stage with local male vocalists Clayton A. Harris and John Morton as part of “Men and Music,” the third of four concerts at Nighttown.

Dunn, a 2006 Heights High graduate, credits the school’s music program for helping him hone his skills. “I was very involved with music there. I would always try to find time to write songs and to practice on the grand piano,” said Dunn, who was a member of the A Cappella Choir, the Gospel Choir and the Heights Singers.

Dunn said that national recognition for his first album was welcome and encouraging, as was the positive response



Antoine Dunn, a Cleveland Heights native, will perform two benefit concerts in August.

from music industry professionals. “It was a great feeling, affirming everything that I’ve been doing,” he said. Many in the industry have commented that Dunn is bringing back “good music” and that his writing style and arrangements are reminiscent of an earlier time. He credits some of this to early exposure by his parents to musical influences such as the Stylistics, the Chi-Lites and Gladys Knight.

Dunn may be just solidifying his dreams but he is taking time to give back. “I think it’s essential to not only be dedicated to the craft, but also involved in the community,” he said.

“I think what SOS does for seniors is terrific,” said Dunn. “Sometimes

people talk about how disconnected today’s youth are. I think it’s because many aren’t connected regularly with people of wisdom, culture, and experience. My best friend is 75 years old!”

Some might ask what he has in common with someone that age, but

to Dunn it makes perfect sense. “When you are surrounded by experience and culture and people living their purpose, it’s easier to identify your own purpose, your own calling,” he said.

Another cause important to Dunn is cancer awareness. He lost his mother to breast cancer, a devastating experience that shaped his latest single, “I Am,” and inspired him to plan a concert at Cleveland State University on Aug. 23 in support of Minority Women with Breast Cancer Uniting Inc. “I support everything they’re doing to increase awareness about cancer,” said Dunn. “Early detection is so critical and makes a difference.”

For information or to buy tickets to “Men and Music” at Nighttown, noon to 3 p.m. on Aug. 11, visit www.soscleveland.org or call 216-231-0003. The cover charge is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, with VIP seating available for \$50.

For more information or tickets to the Aug. 23 concert, visit www.iamantoinedunn.com.

Saroya Queen-Tabor is development director for SOS, a 20-year resident of Cleveland Heights, a Reaching Heights board member and parent of CH-UH elementary school children.

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Mamaí’s Cleveland premiere of ‘Boston Marriage’ runs through Aug. 4



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In the second production of its inaugural season this summer, Mamaí Theatre Company presents the Cleveland premiere of David Mamet’s “Boston Marriage.” Christine McBurney, director and co-artistic director, said, “I’m excited to share such a wickedly funny play. It’s as if Mamet had collaborated with Oscar Wilde in this play that is part farce, part mystery, full of wit and linguistic gymnastics.” Performances run through Aug. 4 and take place at Cleveland Heights’s Ensemble Theatre. For tickets and information visit www.mamaitheatreco.org or call 216-570-3403.

Julie Friedman becomes Dobama’s managing director

Jewel Moulthrop

Dobama Theatre’s Board of Directors recently announced that Julie Friedman has been promoted to managing director. She replaces Charlotta Enflo, who plans to continue her career in Pittsburgh.

Friedman came to Dobama seven years ago as the theater’s financial and office manager. She later became associate managing director. She holds a B.A.

in theatre arts from the University of Oregon and an M.F.A. in dramaturgy and theater criticism from Brooklyn College, CUNY. She also worked as dramaturge on several Dobama productions. In her new position, Friedman will maintain accounting records and payroll, and assist with grant requests and reports, donor research, and corporate relations.

Enflo joined Dobama in 2009 as box office manager and development



Julie Friedman

COURTESY: DOBAMA THEATRE

associate. The following year, she moved to the Cleveland Orchestra as a development associate, but returned to Dobama in 2011 to lead development efforts and assist in various management activities, later becoming Dobama’s managing director.

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

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Lakewood College moves to renovated building on North Taylor Road

Simone Jasper

In June, Lakewood College moved its operations to 2231 North Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights from Lakewood. The college, founded in 1998, teaches in a “self-guided distance learning” model. The college relocated so that it could expand. “We were outgrowing our space,” said Jessica Regal, Lakewood College marketing assistant.

Isaac Haggins, Lakewood College vice president of business development, and his wife, Tanya, Lakewood College CEO, purchased the North Taylor property in 2012. The building was constructed in the 1950s and originally served as a medical office. It then housed a series of high-end beauty salons before it became unoccupied. “This building had been vacant for three years,” Regal said.

With the help of the City of Cleveland Heights, Lakewood College transformed the empty, vandalized building. The Haggins used the city’s Storefront Renovation Program, which provides rebates, loans and design assistance to create revitalized exteriors of commercial buildings in certain districts. “We worked with the property owners to come up with the overall plan for the renovation program,” said Kara Hamley O’Donnell, Cleveland Heights city planner. “We [designed] it in a way that we thought would really transform the neighborhood.”

The renovation process took a year and a half. The renovation program provided the means to transform the building’s exterior, but the owners also renovated the plumbing, electric and other aspects of the interior. “We stripped everything down to the studs,” Isaac said.

Although the building solved Lakewood College’s office space concerns, the Haggins, who are Cleveland Heights residents, purchased the North Taylor property for additional reasons.

In the 1960s, Isaac’s father, also



Lakewood College revitalized its new building on North Taylor.

named Isaac Haggins, was one of the first African-American real estate agents in the region. His real estate office, located near the Lakewood College building, was bombed in 1969 in opposition to racial integration.

For Tanya, the North Taylor area is where she lived as a child. Growing up, she often passed the building that houses the Lakewood College offices. When the time came to find a new location for the college, she and her husband wanted to restore the building to improve the neighborhood.

“To be able to renovate and rebuild [the building] really means a lot to the community,” Regal said.

Lakewood College offers only online classes, with programs for the business, legal and medical fields. The college also offers a GED preparation course. “We’ll probably make more programs that follow career trends,” Regal commented.

Lakewood College plans to start a program to help Cleveland’s homeless to find jobs, as well as workshops that will be open to the public.

For more information about Lakewood College, e-mail info@lakewoodcollege.edu, call 800-517-0857, or visit www.lakewoodcollege.edu. For more information about the Storefront Renovation Program, call 216-291-4885.

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



Scott Suskowicz (left) and Tim Kempf, owners of DuoHome on Fairmount Boulevard.

DuoHOME opens in Cleveland Heights

Simone Jasper

Business owners Tim Kempf and Scott Suskowicz moved their design and furnishing retail store, DuoHome, to 3479 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights in April. DuoHome relocated from Cleveland’s West Side to join other “like-minded retailers” in the Fairmount Taylor business district, between South Taylor and Queenston roads. DuoHome now is neighbor to two other home stores, Paul Hamlin Interiors and Paysage. “This is a dedicated design block,” Suskowicz said.

Kempf and Suskowicz live near the Heights and have extensive design experience. The pair met while working at the Ohio Design Centre in Beachwood and wanted the challenge of starting their own business.

In 2007, they opened a retail store, naming it DuoHome. *Duo* represents the collaboration between the owners as well as the store’s plan to offer both retail items and interior design consultations. *Home* refers to the business’s design focus.

DuoHome sells mainly contem-

porary and transitional furniture, and many of its items cannot be found at larger furniture retailers. In the brightly decorated store, home furnishings, accessories and artwork are displayed. “A lot of the artwork we have is from local Cleveland artists,” Kempf said.

While customers have an opportunity to order furnishings that are not stocked at the store, visitors will find a range of items, from quirky accessories to functional pieces. “Our merchandise changes frequently,” Kempf said.

Suskowicz and Kempf said they own DuoHome with a “level of self-satisfaction.” Over the years, the men have responded to changes in the economy and the need to accommodate their target market. Now, they are adjusting to their new Cleveland Heights neighborhood. “There’s a definite sense of community here,” said Suskowicz. More information and store hours can be found at the company website, www.duohome.com.

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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City Buddha: Coventry's exotic marketplace

James Henke

Back in 1997, Larry Collins was going through one of those transitional phases in life. He had been booking bands at Peabody's DownUnder for more than a decade, but he was getting tired of the music business and felt it was time for a change.

"I needed to shake some stuff loose," he said. Collins decided to go to Indonesia. He traveled around Southeast Asia for a few months, and he brought some Indonesian items with him when he returned to Cleveland. It turned out that his friends loved the things he had gotten in Indonesia, mostly sculptures, so he went back six weeks later and filled a large container with many items, including jewelry, clothing and artwork.

Then, in 1998, Collins began selling his Asian items at the Open-Air in Market Square near the West Side Market in Ohio City. Shortly after that, he opened his first City Buddha store on West 25th Street, and the rest is history.

City Buddha is now located on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights. The store has been there since 2005, when Collins decided that he didn't want to renew his lease on the West Side store. "West 25th Street wasn't happening then, and I grew up here," he said. "I was a Coventry kid in the '70s, and I hung out here a lot." In fact, Collins was born in Cleveland Heights and attended Wiley Junior High and Cleveland Heights High School. He now lives in the North Collinwood area of Cleveland.

The store, which filled the space formerly occupied by the Cleveland Food Co-Op, is huge, and it is filled with jewelry, clothing, musical instruments, incense, furniture and many other things, virtually all of which were made in Southeast Asia. "It's like being in an exotic marketplace," Collins, who's now 55, said of the store.

He and his wife, Rai, who he met in Bali, still travel to Asia every year, spending two or three months there to locate new items to sell in the store. "When we are overseas," Collins said, "we work 12 hours a day, discovering new items, buying them and arranging the shipping."

Among the unique items in the store are the various tables and chairs that are made out of reclaimed teak wood; the hand-carved Buddha statues that are made in Bali; the batiks, which are hand-painted cloth wall hangings; the silk scarves; the musical instru-



Larry Collins, owner of City Buddha, stands next to a hand-carved statue, one of the store's many unique offerings.

ments, which include whistles, thunder sticks and flutes; the ceramic animals; the blown-bubble terrariums, vases and aquariums, which are made in Indonesia; the incense, including a City Buddha brand that is from Indonesia; and the artwork, including paintings from Bali. The store also recently started carrying greeting cards. More than half of City Buddha's sales come from fine jewelry, including earrings, rings, necklaces and other items.

Though he has thought about opening another City Buddha, Collins said he has no plans to open another store at this time. He said there are no other similar stores in Cleveland. "A lot of tourists come through here," he said, "and they say they have never seen a store like this anywhere."

In addition to City Buddha, Collins also has a Facebook page called "I Grew Up in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio in the 60s, 70s and 80s." People post photos and other items about Cleveland's past. "I was in Thailand, and I was really homesick, so I decided to start this page. And in three days, there were more than 500 [people] posting stuff," he said.

City Buddha is his main focus, however, and he loves it. "It's great bringing something new to Cleve-

land," said Collins, "and it's great being here on Coventry."

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.

City Buddha 216-397-5862

1807 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights
Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sun. 12 noon to 6 p.m.
www.citybuddha.com

City Buddha online photo contest

Inspired by its owners' love of travel, City Buddha has launched a "Focus and Inspiration Photo Contest" on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Original photo entries can be of anything that inspires, from family to the outdoors.

The contest began on July 18 and runs through Aug. 15. To enter, go to the contest entry tab located online at www.facebook.com/citybuddha, or submit photos to Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #CityBuddhaCLE.

Owner Larry Collins said, "The competition is a great way for the public to share their inspiration and perhaps inspire another in the process. There's beauty and inspiration all around us. We'd love to see your unique perspective. You don't need

to be a professional photographer to enter. Uploaded photos can be images taken with your phone or a digital shot taken with a camera."

Weekly winners, as chosen by a City Buddha judging panel, will be announced every Wednesday during the contest. One grand prize winner will be announced on Aug. 16 at 4 p.m.

All entries submitted will be shared on City Buddha's Facebook page. There is no limit to the number of entries that can be submitted.

The four weekly winners will each receive a \$25 City Buddha gift card; the grand prize is a \$100 gift card.

For more information about City Buddha or the contest, contact Angela Hetrick at 216-773-0210 or Larry Collins at 216-397-5862.

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