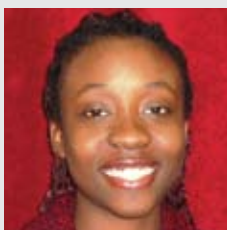


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Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour set for Sept. 22

Alice Jeresko

Late September—the end of summer and beginning of fall—is when gardens have reached peak growth and late blooms glow against background foliage. It's a good time to savor the end of the season with an afternoon tour sampling the “Dazzling Diversity” of some of the homes and gardens in Cleveland Heights.

Dazzling Diversity is the theme of the 36th Annual Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour, sponsored by Heights Community Congress (HCC). It is sure to dazzle with spectacular interiors, unusual exteriors, and colorful gardens reflecting the unique variety in the Heights. The self-guided tour of six homes and four gardens is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 22, from noon to 6 p.m., and includes a refreshment stop at the landmark Church of the Savior on Lee Road.

Highlights of this year's tour stops

include:

- A creatively renovated 1890s carriage house, incorporating brick floors, barn doors, a hayloft with skylights and a landscaped courtyard.
- A 1915 home, in the Arts and Crafts style, featuring bay windows, period details and furnishings, and a colorful folk pottery collection.
- A 1915 residence, completely renovated between 2004 and 2008, featuring exquisite custom interior work and balcony views of rear landscaping, with stone terrace, waterfall and koi pond.
- A 1938 International-style home, conceptualized as a “machine for living,” constructed with steel framing, plate glass and glass block for a sleek and modern envelope that glows with light.
- A backyard garden retreat, featuring



An International-style home, featuring glass block walls.

native perennials, trees and shrubs, a bluestone patio, pond and waterfall. Wind sculpture and painting accent the naturalistic plantings.

The 2013 Home & Garden Tour offers a rare opportunity to visit these

continued on page 2

CH Mayor Kelley will not seek re-election

Deanna Bremer Fisher

With a new city manager in place, the City of Cleveland Heights needs to prepare for more leadership changes. The city will have a new mayor come January. Mayor Edward J. Kelley, who has served as the city's mayor since 1997 and has been a member of city council since 1993, announced at the Aug. 5 city council meeting that he will not seek re-election in November.

“These last 20 years of service have been challenging, rewarding, heart-breaking, and humbling,” said Kelley at the meeting.

Cleveland Heights voters do not vote directly for mayor. Instead, members of Cleveland Heights City Council select the mayor—president of council—from among their members.

“I have been so blessed to work with this group of council members and their predecessors,” said Kelley. “I have developed lifelong friend-



Mayor Edward J. Kelley

ships with many of them, that I know will continue beyond mine, and their, service on council. I value the time I have spent serving the residents of the City of Cleveland Heights and am so proud to call Cleveland Heights my home.”

Kelley said that the expansion of the city's community center and the

continued on page 2

Improvements to streetscape planned for Cedar Lee district

Simone Jasper

Long-planned streetscape improvements in the Cedar Lee commercial district are now on track for implementation in the summer of 2015, according to Richard Wong, Cleveland Heights planning and development director. A plan put together by Studio Techne Architects in 2008 will serve as the basis for the improvements. Studio Techne was also the firm that designed the renovation and expansion of the Lee Road Library a few years ago.

The streetscape plan calls for installing two-level LED streetlights (illuminating both sidewalk and street) and crosswalks that are more clearly defined and pedestrian friendly. Other improvements will include increased signage, more bicycle racks, some new trees and trash cans, and bio-retention facilities that will help prevent stormwater from overwhelming the sewer system.

The tall concrete planters will be removed to allow for a freer flow of sidewalk traffic, and most of the existing trees will remain.

The RTA bus stop on Lee Road by Cleveland Heights High School will be reworked to enable buses to pull completely out of the travel lane when stopping, eliminating a bottleneck for motorists during after-school hours.

Total cost of the improvements will be approximately \$2.2 million, with the major share to be covered by grant funding obtained through the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). The local share comes from

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Roots of American Music enriches lives through music

James Henke

At a time when many organizations, from school systems to groups that help senior citizens and disabled adults and children, have cut back on their funding for arts-related classes and programs, a Cleveland Heights nonprofit group called Roots of American Music (ROAM) has stepped in and filled a major gap. ROAM takes teaching artists—musicians who have teaching skills and who work in group situations—into schools all over Northeast Ohio and presents classes and programs covering everything from music to history, and



Kevin Richards, ROAM founder and executive director, teaches kids.

even math and science. It also provides programs for scores of groups that serve adults with various needs.

ROAM was founded in 1998 by

Cleveland Heights resident Kevin Richards. Richards majored in music at Cleveland State University and also worked at Dick Lurie Guitars for several years as a salesman and a guitar instructor. Then, in 1988, he founded the Fairmount School of Music, which is still located on Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights. “I was teaching private, one-on-one guitar classes to musicians who were upper- and middle-class folks,” Richards said. “I wanted to start an outreach program for students in schools—for those who could or could not afford it. And I wanted to work with

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Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Best of the Heights celebrates our local businesses



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

For the last eight years, FutureHeights has hosted a Best of the Heights contest to help Heights residents celebrate and appreciate the variety of locally owned independent businesses that enrich our quality of life. Each year, a committee of FutureHeights board members meets to select the categories. The committee changes the categories each year in order to enable different businesses to win.

Over the years, we've also tried various methods of ensuring a fair contest. For example, for the past two years, we required that each ballot have at least half of the categories filled out in order to be valid. We hoped that this would discourage ballot stuffing and ensure that people were voting for a variety of businesses in keeping with the spirit of the contest. We also required that each voter provide his or her contact information on the ballot to ensure that a person votes only once.

Despite these measures, we received complaints from various business owners that the same businesses were winning again and again.

This year, we changed the contest rules in an attempt to enable new businesses to win. We decided to have a nomination period from May 1 through June 15, and then to select finalists from among the nominees for a final voting period that would run from July 1 through Aug. 30. We thought that having a list of finalists to choose from might make it easier for voters, and we

hoped more people would vote.

We also believed that if the committee chose the finalists from among the nominees, in cases where a business had won consistently in a particular category, the committee would select other nominees as finalists, thus ensuring that we would have new winners this year. Those removed from the finalist pool would be recognized for "continuing excellence" at the award ceremony.

This plan introduced an element of subjectivity that previously had been absent from the process. Although people complained that the same businesses seemed to win year-after-year, it had been strictly a popularity contest—whoever received the most votes won—we made no adjustments. Now, however, that was exactly what we were proposing to do, and it turns out that in attempting to level the playing field, we made the contest less fair.

The implementation of our plan also proved difficult. Having the nomination period end on June 15, and needing to print the ballot in the July issue of the *Heights Observer*, meant that we only had one week to choose the finalists—and several committee members were out of town. We also didn't have an effective plan to communicate with those businesses that had been removed from the pool.

The result was that we removed three businesses from the finalist pool in their respective categories—Jazzercise, Whole Foods and Washington & Lee Service—because they were perpetual winners. We were wrong, however, about Jazzercise. Although the business had been a finalist for several years, it had won the contest only twice.

We had made a mistake, but it was too late. The ballots had been printed and the voting had started.

While well-intentioned, our manipulating of the nomination results

resulted in an error that harmed a business, and for that we truly apologize.

Another change we made in the process resulted in another error. We decided to use our Constant Contact program—the same one we use for sending our weekly e-news—for online voting. We didn't anticipate that the program had a link for the survey's start page that was different from the survey greeting, and we ended up sending out a bad link. Our readers soon caught that error, and we apologize for that one, as well.

Next year, we resolve to learn from this year's mistakes. We will do everything we can to ensure that the contest is fair and error-free.

On Sept. 23, we will celebrate the winners of this year's contest and those who have achieved continuous excellence. We invite you to celebrate with us. The truth is that whether they are winners, finalists or nominees, we love them all! Our local independently owned businesses are what give the Heights its unique character. They give us special places to walk to and enjoy. They provide goods and services that we need. When we spend our money at these businesses, instead of at a large chain store, we know that more of our money will stay in our community, contributing to a stronger local economy.

Join us in celebrating our Best of the Heights at 6:30 p.m. at Dobama Theatre on Monday, Sept. 23. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the event. Your ticket includes nibbles and beer or wine, music by local folk-rock band Oldboy and the chance to network with the owners of our local businesses.

For more information, call 216-320-1423 or e-mail info@futureheights.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

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.

ED KELLEY continued from page 1

redevelopment of the Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry Village business districts are among the things he is most proud of. He said the city is "the most beautiful and diverse city in the United States" and that "Cleveland Heights is in great shape."

"The economic downturn of several years ago was a blow to us as it was to many inner-ring suburbs," Kelley said. "I am confident that our efforts to combat the negative have succeeded in weathering this storm and we are poised and prepared to continue development in our business districts and housing stock."

Cleveland Heights voters will vote for four members of council in November, each of whom will serve a four-year term. At least two of those seats will be occupied by new faces. Bonnie Caplan announced in June that she would not seek re-election. Current city council

members Jason Stein and Cheryl Stephens have filed petitions with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections to run.

Janine Boyd, who was appointed in October 2012 to replace longtime council member Phyllis Evans, who resigned in June 2012, must run in November to retain her seat for a two-year term. She will run in a separate category, and she must be challenged directly for that seat.

So far, four challengers have filed to seek a four-year term on Cleveland Heights City Council in November, Jeff Coryell, Fran Mentch, Keba Sylla, and Melissa Yasinow. The four-year-term seats will go to the top four vote getters. The filing deadline is Sept. 6.

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

HOME TOUR continued from page 1

Cleveland Heights homes, and proceeds benefit HCC. Ticket holders will be provided with a brochure containing a detailed tour map and background information on each location.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the tour, and can be purchased online at www.heightscongress.org, or at several locations in the Heights. For ticket sales locations, visit the website, or contact HCC

at 216-321-6775.

To kick off the tour, HCC is also hosting a preview party for sponsors on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the historic McGregor campus and gardens in the Forest Hills district. Honorary co-chairs Peter van Dijk, architect, and Jane Kessler, owner of Appletree Books, will open the festivities with a champagne toast. Guests will then embark on a sneak peek of tour locations, returning

to McGregor for a party with live music, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. For information about tickets to the preview party, contact HCC at 216-321-6775.

Heights Community Congress is an advocate of social justice, a monitor of fair housing and a facilitator of community building. Each year HCC sponsors the Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour as a primary fundrais-

ing event showcasing the unique variety of historic homes and gardens within Cleveland Heights. Since 1977, HCC has featured more than 300 Cleveland Heights homes which have attracted visitors from throughout Northeast Ohio.

Alice Jeresko is an environmental communications consultant and has lived in Cleveland Heights for 15 years.

Disqualification of Jazzercise was arbitrary

To the Editor:

I wonder why Jazzercise at the Cleveland Heights Community Center has been disqualified from FutureHeights's 2013 Best of the Heights awards. The official explanation is that Jazzercise has won too many times. Actually, Jazzercise has won only twice in eight years. However, Aladdin's, Tommy's, the Stone Oven, Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa, and Nighttown all appear on the 2013 Best of the Heights ballot. All have won multiple Best of the Heights awards.

What's going on here? Most of the

dozens of Jazzercisers are longtime residents of the Heights and enthusiastic supporters of this community and its businesses. We deserve to have our "best place to get healthy" represented on the 2013 ballot.

As a longtime, enthusiastic supporter of FutureHeights, I am puzzled and dismayed. This apparently arbitrary disqualification of Jazzercise makes me doubt the legitimacy of the whole Best of the Heights awards process.

Marian J. Morton
Cleveland Heights

Clarifying the mission of Revolution Books, and a correction

To the Editor:

I deeply appreciate the story you published on Revolution Books in the July 2013 *Heights Observer*. The writer prominently conveyed that the mission of Revolution Books is to contribute to changing the world in the interests of humanity. I particularly liked that he mentioned that we work cooperatively with other people wanting a better world. We are very pleased that more people have visited the store since the article was published.

The powers that be have a history of using positive articles like [the one written by Jim Henke] to mischaracterize revolution and communism. The story says, "Formed in 1975, the RCP [Revolutionary Communist Party] was founded on the belief that U.S. imperialism will never end peacefully and that the only way to liberate the world is through Communist revolution." This statement could be subject to misinterpretation. In this country today, the authorities viciously try to destroy any voice that exposes the crimes of the government, and especially if it offers people a viable alternative. I ask that you print a clarification to make clear that the strategy of the RCP is not to start the "revolution" by advocating violence.

What the RCP has done and is doing is to lead people to resist the violent repression that is visited on people by the powers that be, 24/7, and to stand firmly with them when they do resist. The RCP has been clear that fundamental social, revolutionary change can only be achieved when millions of people are desirous of such change and determined to bring it about. The work of the RCP includes "raising the political and ideological consciousness of masses of people and building massive political resistance to the main ways in which, at any given

time, the exploitative and oppressive nature of this system is concentrated in the policies and actions of the ruling class and its institutions and agencies—striving through all this to enable growing numbers of people to grasp both the need and the possibility for revolution when the necessary conditions have been brought into being, as a result of the unfolding of the contradictions of the system itself as well as the political, and ideological, work of revolutionaries." (See "Some Crucial Points of Revolutionary Orientation – in Opposition to Infantile Posturing and Distortions of Revolution" at www.revcom.us)

I'd also like to mention that Revolution Books wasn't opened by the Revolutionary Communist Party. It was opened by people who support the party. The store is open Wednesday - Saturday, 3-8 p.m., not on Monday.

Thanks for the honest and straightforward portrayal of Revolution Books.

Norm Karl
On behalf of Revolution Books

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Citizens Leadership meeting attendees are dedicated to Cleveland Heights

To the Editor:

I am glad to see an article about our group, Citizens Leadership, and its first meeting ["Cleveland Heights citizens meet to discuss leadership and concerns," *Heights Observer* July 2013].

However, I have an issue with the inference made in the paragraph that begins, "Not everyone present expressed dissatisfaction with the city." The pride of place attributed to two citizens in that part of the article was in fact shared by all in attendance.

Throughout the meeting people declared their dedication to this city, citing all the same wonderful attributes

that Rick Ferris mentions in the article. In fact, it was this dedication to the city that brought all of them to this July 8 meeting. All lived in Cleveland Heights by choice and were invested in it. However, they saw problems and wanted to find ways to address them to make this city better.

Several at the meeting, in fact, described themselves as being "dedicated, but frustrated." These people are invested in this community emotionally, not just financially, and plan on being here for a long time.

Diane L. Hallum
Cleveland Heights

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Walking to prevent suicide

Robin Craig

"It is solved by walking." So an ancient saying tells us.

We cannot solve everything by walking, but sometimes we can make progress in responding to life's challenges by walking. This year, along with thousands of other people affected by suicide loss, I will be walking to raise funds to combat what has become a national epidemic.

Cleveland's Out of the Darkness Walk takes place on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Wade Oval in University Circle.

For our Heights family, it was the death of our son and brother, Josh, that changed our lives and brought us face to face with the catastrophe of suicide. One day, he was a funny, engaging, and creative 24-year-old college graduate working in Chicago, full of ideas and plans for the future—and the next day, he was gone.

As the years passed, I learned that there were indeed signs that Josh was in trouble, if only someone had known how to read them. I also learned that while research into suicide and its prevention is in its infancy, there are ways of addressing and treating the underlying causes of the mental illnesses that all too often can have deadly consequences.

The turning point for me came when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I quickly realized that the stigma attached to suicide and suicide prevention is where breast cancer was a generation ago: in the closet. Progress has been made in addressing breast can-

cer because activists stepped forward and raised money and awareness for research, treatment and prevention of the disease. The same steps are required to address the devastation of suicide.

In early 2012, as I was recovering from my cancer treatment, I contacted the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and volunteered to become a field advocate.

Last fall, I went to Columbus to testify on behalf of the Jason Flatt Act, which now requires suicide prevention education for all Ohio school teachers, administrators and staff. In June, I spent three days in Washington, D.C., learning about federal mental health legislation. With 400 other volunteers and staffers, we met with senators and representatives to raise awareness about suicide prevention.

When suicide takes a life, survivors typically feel a sense of hopelessness in the face of the shattering grief and unanswerable questions that follow. I believe suicide prevention work is a way to speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves.

Walk with me on Oct. 19. To learn more about Out of the Darkness, go to www.afsp.org and click on the link at the top of the page, or visit www.facebook.com/AfspOutOfTheDarknessCommunity-WalkCleveland.

Rev. Robin Craig, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and pastor in the Presbyterian Church, is a board member of the Northern Ohio Chapter-in-Formation of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Chronicles of a crosswalk traditionalist

Mike Spencer

I remember when, because I'm not old enough yet to say, "When I was a kid . . .," you had to look both ways before you crossed the street. My mother made sure every time I left the house that I would remember this very important rule. Later, when I learned to drive, I was told to make sure I not only looked left and then right, but also left again, just to make sure. When I had children, I made sure to pass on this time-honored advice so that they too would be safe out there in the world.

I remember that when you wanted to cross the street, you would wait at the curb or the corner and let traffic pass, and when it was clear, and only when it was clear, you would take that step off the curb and into the crosswalk; and, you always crossed at the crosswalk 'cause that was the place to do your crossing.

But something has happened since that time, almost recently, in fact. It seems to have happened in the time since the city transformed our crosswalks by adding those wonderful flashing pedestrian markers and the in-the-road signage. Since that signage was installed, the minds of my Cleveland Heights neighbors have gone blank. They have forgotten that they are "pedestrians" when they are on the sidewalk, and that cars, even when traveling at the measly 25 m.p.h. we must travel in the Heights, are big and have human operators, and may not be able to stop in time simply because you wish to cross the street without waiting.

I have watched, from the safety of my steel-enclosed vehicle, my fellow residents step right off the curb moments

after pushing the magical crosswalk light button, expecting to be protected from oncoming traffic. I have watched as pedestrians have moments of sidewalk rage as they wait impatiently for cars to stop for them. I have even seen pedestrians who have entered traffic unsafely stop in the crosswalk and have words with the driver who nearly missed them.

I remember when safety was the priority for the pedestrian. I am pretty sure that is why the crosswalk improvements were installed—so that oncoming drivers would be aware of the crosswalk and more likely to notice pedestrians in it. They were not put in place to entitle pedestrians a free pass across the street, like the E-Z Pass system on the highway.

I checked the ordinances and sure enough they state clearly that "No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard (371.01b)." They also state that cars must yield to a pedestrian already in the crosswalk (371.01a).

It sounds like a pretty good system, and we can think of it this way: Cars are big and driven by fallible humans; people are relatively small and easily squooshed.

People who want to reach the other side of the road should wait patiently, and drivers on the road should heed those new flashing signs to remind them to take care of their neighbors.

One last thought: Like mom also used to say, "It's always fun and games until somebody gets hurt."

Mike Spencer is a resident of Cleveland Heights.



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A 50th anniversary: a time to celebrate, reflect and recommit



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

I grew up reading the Green Sheet, the section of my daily newspaper that reported on what had happened on that date 10, 20 and 50 years ago. It helped me connect my reality to history. On a good day, that connection helped me understand the present and respect those who went before. It inspired both caution and hope.

This year, Taylor Branch, the author of an exhaustive history of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement—more than 2,300 pages written over 24 years—condensed that history into 180 pages, hoping people would use the 50th anniversary of the movement to pay attention, understand our history, honor the courageous fight and become prepared to continue the unfinished work of democracy.

According to Branch, “Above all, the King years should serve as a bracing reminder that citizens and leaders can work miracles together, despite every hardship and against great odds.”

We again face an era of great odds. It’s an appropriate time to remember where we have been and how ordinary people stood up for their rights and, despite the wrath of entrenched power, caused a revolution.

Looking back 50 years, 1963 was a watershed year in the Civil Rights Movement. It was a roller coaster of progress and agony, but it was a turning point that led to profound change.

May 2, 1963, was the first day of the emotionally jolting children’s crusade in Birmingham where Bull Connor, the racist safety commissioner, ordered the use of water cannons and dogs to break up a peaceful children’s march to end segregation.

The graphic images of that event made it absolutely clear for the media, the public and national leaders what legally sanctioned hatred looked like. It was impossible to ignore any longer the evils of discrimination and segregation.

June 11, 1963, is the day that Presi-

dent John F. Kennedy finally spoke up and called for full citizenship for all Americans. In an impromptu televised speech, he made civil rights a moral issue worthy of national attention and legal protection—an issue relevant to our democracy. That was also the day that civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in his driveway.

The roller coaster continued on Aug. 28, 1963, the day when more than 250,000 people from across the country joined the transformative March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a peaceful call for full citizenship, and the day Martin Luther King Jr., delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech.

Branch describes this moment as the event that elevated King’s contribution to democracy. The speech, Branch stated, “projected King across the racial divide and planted him as a new founding father.”

Later that year, on Sept. 15, a bomb exploded in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, killing four innocent African-American girls, and then, on Nov. 22, President Kennedy was shot to death. Within a week, President Lyndon Johnson called for legislation to guarantee equal citizenship for all Americans—the goal of this protracted and courageous struggle against 200 years of inhumanity. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed within six months.

As we look back from 2013, the 50th anniversary of a year of extremes that revealed courage and remarkable strength in the face of incredible violence, we have much to honor. As we recognize these milestones in the long march of progress, it is clear that we cannot be complacent. We must not go back.

Celebrations are opportunities for rededication. The 50th anniversary of a watershed year in the Civil Rights Movement is an opportunity to remember a transformative period in our history and rededicate ourselves to the unfinished work of equality. Remember, “Citizens and leaders can work miracles together, despite every hardship and against great odds.”

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.

STREETSCAPE continued from page 1

various sources, including the city and the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District. CLSID, funded by additional taxes levied against properties in its service area, paid \$60,000 toward the \$150,000 cost of preliminary engineering by CDM Smith Inc., of Cleveland, and will contribute \$40,000 a year for 10 years toward the bond debt the city will incur on the project.

The cost of a separate street repaving project for Lee Road, which will occur concurrently with the streetscape construction, will also count toward the local share of the project cost. John Zagara, owner of Zagara’s Marketplace and CLSID president, pointed out that the SID’s financial participation in the project will enable the project to come about sooner than it otherwise would have.

Kelley Robinson, CLSID director, said, “We’re working to make the street a lot safer for pedestrians, motor vehicles and bicyclists, and to give the district a more cohesive feel.” She added that she hopes the improvements will encourage visitors to linger in the district, instead of leaving after patronizing just one location.

The streetscape enhancements will extend along Lee Road, from Cain Park to the library, and along the portion of Cedar Road between Edgewood and Kildare roads.

In related news, Wong stated that another Cedar Lee concern, the occasional flooding on Lee Road between Meadowbrook Boulevard and Tullamore Road, will be addressed separately from, and will not cause

any delays to, the streetscape project. Wong believes the flooding is due to stormwater runoff from the residential neighborhoods to the south and east. The bio-retention element of the streetscape project is likely to partly alleviate this problem.

Simone Jasper is a 2012 graduate of Beaumont School. She studies print journalism at Elon University and was a summer intern at the Heights Observer. Vince Reddy contributed to this article.

Changes to Cain Park signs may not be for the better

To the Editor:

I was both shocked and dismayed to be slapped in the face the other day by the new electronic signs placed at either end of Cain Park. I know there has been far too much money (taxpayer money?) spent to call for their removal, although correcting this mistake would be well worth the price. While I am well aware that Cleveland Heights is no quaint little New England village, neither are we Beachwood and certainly Cain Park is no Legacy Village.

While it appears that they have been designed to reflect some subtlety for what they actually are, their addition to the landscape has removed all of the charm to the entrances of one of our city’s most valued assets.

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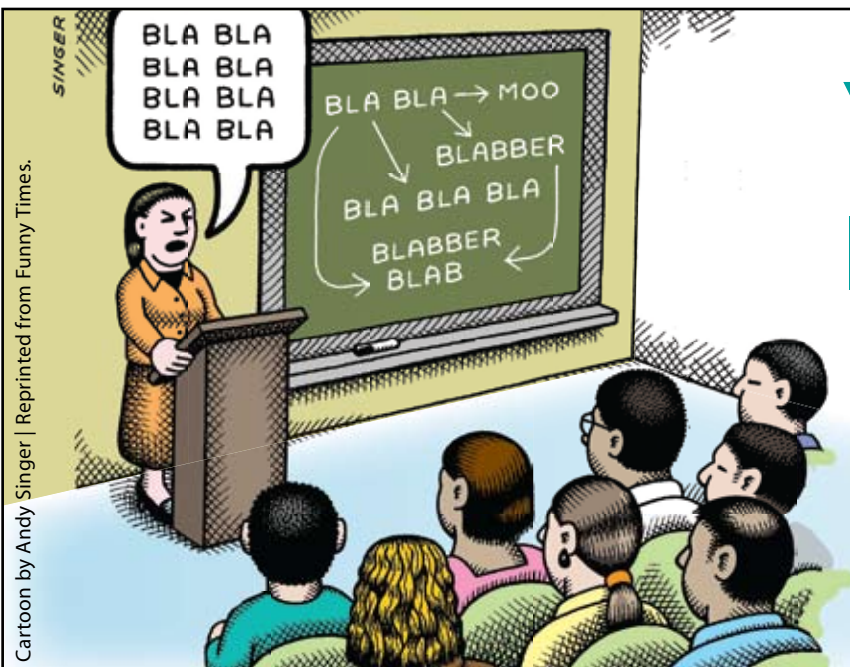
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Senior Citizen Happenings

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

Sept. 5: Steven Taylor, who recently retired after 24 years as director of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, reflects on the satisfactions and challenges of his career, and his commitment to the conservation of African wildlife.

Sept. 12: Helen Tarkhanova and Kayleen Herron, resettlement specialists for Us Together, describe that organization's work to help refugees from other countries establish new lives in America.

Sept. 19: K.J. Montgomery, a Shaker Heights Municipal Court judge whose jurisdiction includes the communities of Beachwood, Hunting Valley, Pepper Pike and University Heights, shares her experiences practicing law as a judge, prosecuting attorney, law director and community counselor and advocate.

Sept. 26: Lee Hoffer, professor of anthropology at Case Western Reserve University, talks about his work leading a team of graduate students researching in the drug market, and how their findings will favorably impact national drug control policy and the design of treatment programs.

University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



JULY 17, 2013 - SPECIAL MEETING
All council members were present.

Dunkin' Donuts

Council authorized four variances recommended by the planning commission for the new Dunkin' Donuts building at 13880-13882 Cedar Road, with Councilman Phil Ertel voting no. [He later explained to the LWV observer that he felt that an orange 24-hour drive-through donut shop would not be good for the community.] The variances allow reduced setbacks on all four sides of the property. They are the same as, or improvements over, the current setbacks of the building. The architect and owner of the business were in attendance to present the new site plans. The new design is quieter and intended for residential communities, such as University Heights. The largest concern was traffic congestion, with westbound traffic on Cedar Road waiting to turn left into the drive, and then exiting back into westbound traffic on departure. Council assured residents that the police would monitor the traffic in the area and make changes as needed for the traffic flow.

Pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly

Council authorized application to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

(NOACA) for grant funding from the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Study. The mayor wishes to explore ways to make Cedar and Warrensville Center roads more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. This ongoing program offered by NOACA can provide grant money up to \$75,000 for studies, with cities providing 20 percent matching funds.

Changes in mayoral compensation

Council changed the compensation for the mayor and the safety director, effective Jan. 1, 2014. All pay changes must be authorized before the deadline for submitting petitions to run for office. Currently the mayor receives \$33,750 as mayor and \$36,750 as safety director. As of Jan. 1, the mayor will receive \$75,500 as mayor and one dollar as safety director, resulting in a net increase of \$5,001 per year. The last raise for mayor was 12 years ago. Councilwoman Sue Pardee voted against changing the safety director's compensation to one dollar, claiming that this devalues the role of that position, which is clearly defined in the city charter as a separate position. She also noted that the two positions have not always been combined into one, and would not necessarily remain so in the future. Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg felt the change was appropriate be-

cause the mayor serves as CEO of the city and should be acknowledged as such.

City council compensation

Council compensation will remain unchanged as of Jan. 1, 2014.

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

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

MUSIC continued from page 1

the students who were not necessarily musicians. I wanted to preserve, present and educate through roots music."

Since its founding 15 years ago, ROAM has continued to expand, and now, it presents hundreds of classes, programs and workshops every year, including songwriting workshops, blues guitar, music and motion, and professional development for educa-

tors. Some of the topics covered in ROAM's programs include personal finances and healthy living. This year, Roots of American Music has engaged students at public and private schools in Cleveland Heights, Cleveland, East Cleveland, Elyria, Parma, Euclid and other school districts.

"ROAM is the mortar to my teaching," said Kathleen Merk, who teaches at the Luis Muñoz Marin School in the Tremont section of Cleveland. "I bring all of the necessary information to my students, and ROAM works with my class to cement the learning. All of my students benefit when music and movement are added to class curriculum, but my students who struggle academically really shine. It allows them to apply their own special learning styles and excel."

In recent years, ROAM has started conducting programs at local businesses, including Mac's Backs bookstore on Coventry Road, where it holds affordable blues guitar lessons for children. The organization works with numerous institutions, including Lake Metroparks, the Shore Cultural Centre, the University Settlement in Slavic Village, the Cleveland Clinic and the Cleveland Metroparks. This

year, ROAM is also presenting songwriting programs for young people at 28 Cuyahoga County Public Library branches.

ROAM receives generous funding from the Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, as well as from numerous private sponsors and foundations. ROAM also presents several fundraising concerts every year, featuring well-known musical artists.

The next benefit, Rockin' for ROAM, will take place on Nov. 9 at John Carroll University. More details will be forthcoming. Tickets are available by calling 216-321-9353.

Overall, Richards is extremely pleased with the success of Roots of American Music and looks forward to ROAM's future endeavors. "We reach out to so many people, and we help enrich their lives, using music," he said. "We are pleased that so many musicians in the Cleveland area want to help us, and we hope to keep expanding our programs and helping the citizens of Northeast Ohio."

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident and a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer, is the president of the board of Roots of American Music.

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Heights senior sprints for gold

Chris Hanson

At age 70, Stephen Robbins is on fire. A celebrated author on organizational behavior and management, retired San Diego State University professor, 2005 inductee into the Masters Hall of Fame and a Cleveland Heights resident for five years, Robbins is not one to rest on the laurels of past achievements. Many years ago, Robbins set out to become what he calls “the world’s fastest Medicare recipient.”

At this year’s National Senior Games, held in Cleveland, Robbins won gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter sprint events. He finished the 100-meter sprint in 13.09 seconds and the 200-meter in 27.33 seconds.

While this was his first time participating in the Senior Games, Robbins has been running competitively for 20 years. When he turned 50 years old, he competed in the Masters Track and Field World Championship.

In 2008, at age 65, Robbins broke world records in his age group for the 100 and 200-meter sprints.

Although Robbins is no longer the fastest Medicare recipient, he is still fast. “That [title] would go to Charlie Allie of Pittsburgh, who is now 66 and running much faster than me,” Robbins said. “I’m merely the fastest 70-year-old in the world. That title and \$5 might get me a latte at Starbucks.”

Robbins trains regularly at Case Western Reserve University’s indoor and outdoor tracks. “I am on the



Stephen Robbins, senior sprinter.

track three times a week. I lift in the gym three times a week. I also do Pilates once a week and get deep-tissue massage three times a week,” he said.

Robbins has also had his share of slow-downs, too. “I’ve only been able to compete in three track meets over the past two years,” he said. “Most of last year I had sciatica. In early February of this year, I injured an Achilles [tendon] and I’ve only been able to train now since June 1.”

During his running career, Robbins has won 18 national championships and 12 world titles. He holds world records in 100-meter (12.37 seconds) and 200-meter (25.20 seconds) sprints for men aged 65 and older.

Robbins is currently preparing for the World Masters Championship in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In the meantime, you can find him in his Ambler Heights neighborhood, or on the track.

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

Phyllis Evans, former CH City Council member, remembered by the City

Kim Sergio Inglis

On Aug. 5, the City of Cleveland Heights announced the death of former city council member Phyllis Evans, who died on July 31, according to an obituary published in the *Plain Dealer*; no cause of death was noted.

The city’s statement read, “The City of Cleveland Heights is saddened at the passing of former Vice Mayor and Councilwoman Phyllis Evans. She served with distinction on City Council for over twenty years as Vice Mayor and as Chair of the Public Safety and Health, Administrative Services and Community Relations and Recreation committees.”

In the written statement, Mayor Ed Kelley said, “Phyllis Evans was an integral part of making the City the vibrant community that it is today. She had a special commitment to our residents and a love of people. I know I speak for Council and City staff to say that she was a joy to work with.”

According to the statement, as a council member Evans supported expanded youth and recreation programs, diversity and integration initiatives, and infrastructure improvements. She was a champion of human and civil rights and was a founding member of the



Phyllis Evans

Heights Fund, a pro-integrative housing program. “We offer our sincere condolences to her family on the passing of this wonderful woman,” said Kelley.

Evans resigned from Cleveland Heights City Council on June 4, 2012.

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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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

JULY 15, 2013

Council Member Jason S. Stein was absent.

TAX BUDGET HEARING

A public tax budget hearing, lasting about ten minutes, took place before the regular meeting. Cheryl Stephens, finance committee chair, stated that the proposed 2014 budget contains just over \$42 million in revenue and just under \$42 million in expenses.

Resident Diane Hallum claimed that citizens had not been able to review and participate before council acted on the budget. Stephens responded that there is no formal process for public involvement. However, citizens can attend Monday evening work sessions of council and obtain details from city staff.

REGULAR MEETING

Citizen comments

Move to Amend: Resident Sally Hanley, speaking on behalf of Move to Amend, reported that 60 petitioners had accumulated enough valid signatures to place Move to Amend on the November ballot so that the will of the people of Cleveland Heights can be sent to Congress. Hanley was unsure when asked if the group had approached the Ohio Congressional delegation. Council Member Bonnie Caplan urged the group to contact representatives and senators as well, and expressed her admiration for the number of signatures collected. Resident Carla Rautenberg, also with Move to Amend, said the organization has reached out to Congress and that precise wording of the petition has been introduced in Congress. However, grassroots organizing is taking place because Congress has not responded.

City council candidate: Melissa Yasinow of Cedar Road introduced herself as a candidate for Cleveland Heights City Council in November.

Move to Amend

The clerk of council certified receipt of the Move to Amend initiative petition containing

3,093 signatures and instructing the city to call on the U.S. Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to declare that only human beings, not corporations, are persons and that money is not speech. A public hearing on this matter will be held annually in January until the amendment is passed and ratified.

2014 Tax Budget

Council adopted the 2014 Tax Budget. Council Member Dennis Wilcox said this is the first step for the 2014 budget, which will be revisited at the end of 2013. He stated that this is one of council's biggest challenges, especially without an increase in the city income tax and with revenue cuts from federal and state taxes. He commented that the state government should send thank-you notes to the cities for these cuts that enabled a balanced state budget. Cleveland Heights's revenue was cut \$2.5 million.

Youth Advisory Commission Fund

Council established a restricted fund, entitled the Youth Advisory Commission Fund, and authorized the department of community services to accept monetary donations to this fund. The fund will support the Youth Advisory Commission, which was established to advise council on youth activities, programming and other issues affecting youth.

New city manager

Council appointed Tanisha R. Briley as city manager effective Aug. 1, and authorized an employment agreement with her.

Council members praised and thanked Susanna Niermann O'Neil for doing a "fantastic" job as acting city manager and for the level of staff morale under her leadership. Law Director John Gibbon, speaking on behalf of city staff, expressed how grateful they were for O'Neil's leadership for the past 16 months.

Noting that hiring the city manager is council's most important job, Council Member Dennis Wilcox stated that Briley is articulate, thoughtful and knowledgeable. Mayor Edward Kelley thanked the Novak Group for its help in

the search process and noted that Briley knows the area, having been educated locally at Col-linwood High School, The Ohio State University and Cleveland State University.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

AUGUST 5, 2013

All council members were present.

Phyllis Evans

Mayor Edward Kelley called for a moment of silence in memory of former council member Phyllis Evans, who passed away on July 31. After Kelley read a proclamation into the record, members of council made individual statements.

Citizens comments

League of Women Voters Candidate Forum: Representing the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Chapter of the Cuyahoga Area League of Women Voters, Blanche Valancy of Yorkshire Road announced that the League of Women Voters and FutureHeights will host a candidates' night Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 7-9 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. All candidates for Cleveland Heights and University Heights city councils and for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education whose names will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot will be invited.

FirstEnergy representative: Terry Killeen, external affairs manager for Northeast Cuyahoga County and Southeast Chagrin Valley for FirstEnergy, introduced himself, along with his director of operations and senior customer support representative. Killeen's job is to answer questions about the company's community involvement activities, programs and resources.

Citizens' initiative (Move to Amend) to go on ballot

Last month the clerk of council certified a proposed ordinance titled "Political Influence by Corporate Entities," which was set forth in an initiative petition circulated by the Cleveland Heights chapter of Move to Amend. The initiative is a response to the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision,



which made it easier for corporations to support political campaigns. Janine Boyd, committee chair, directed the clerk of council to submit the proposed ordinance to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections for placement on the city's November 2013 ballot.

Streetscape projects

Council authorized an agreement with Osborn Engineering and City Architecture for engineering, bidding support and post-bidding design services for the Cedar Fairmount Streetscape Project. The cost will be \$280,000, with an additional fee of \$50,000 if an environmental assessment is required. Council also authorized an agreement with CDM Smith for engineering, bidding support and post-bidding design services for the Cedar Lee Streetscape Project. The cost will be \$206,934.

With the help of NOACA, both streetscape projects will be supported by \$1.5 million grants from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program. These expenditures are the first uses of those funds.

3596 Randolph Road

Council declared the property at 3596 Randolph Road to be a public nuisance and authorized abatement.

Mayor Kelley will not seek re-election

Mayor Edward Kelley, who has served on council since 1993 and been mayor since 1997, announced that he will not seek re-election. He spoke of his "journey of service," and said he values the time he has spent working on behalf of the city. He thanked his colleagues on council, the city staff and city residents.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.



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Welcoming reception for new Heights residents set for Oct. 6

Heights Observer Editor

Three local civic organizations will host a welcoming reception for new residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights on Sunday, Oct. 6 at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road.

The New Neighbor Welcome is scheduled from 2-3 p.m. at the Harvey & Friends bookstore on the second floor of the library. All new residents are invited to attend and enjoy light refreshments.

"No other event brings together people from many organizations specifically to welcome newcomers," said Susan Goldfarb, one of the event's volunteer coordinators. "We want people to get to know the community, and to let them know that this is a great place with a lot to offer. The idea is to encourage people to get to know their neighbors, get involved in the community, learn the benefits of shopping locally, and discover the great facilities right in their neighborhoods."

Sponsors of the reception include the Friends of the Heights Libraries, Future Heights and Reaching Heights.

Civic leaders, including city and school officials, will be on hand to welcome and orient new residents. Local businesses will provide door prizes, and information about schools, institutions and organizations will be available.

For more information, call Future Heights at 216-230-1423 or the Friends office at 216-932-3600, ext. 234, or e-mail info@futureheights.org or friends@heightslibrary.org.

Heights nonprofit bolsters Haitian student's dream

Carol Pearson

For Claryce Medard, international development is more than a possible career path or exercise in compassion. It's personal.

Even before the 2010 earthquake that devastated parts of her native Haiti, Medard witnessed aid efforts that had little impact. So when she learned about International Partners in Mission (IPM), based in Cleveland Heights, she wanted to see what set it apart.

In August, Medard, 22, completed a six-week internship with IPM, a nonprofit founded nearly 40 years ago to provide seed funding, training and technical support to small, community-based programs in more than 20 countries. Called Project Partners, the agency works in Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, and south Asia, focusing on women, children and youth. IPM also offers Immersion Experiences—short-term travel for participants from developed countries to visit partners and experience their way of life.

Medard was drawn to Cleveland during a retreat last October at Wheaton College, where she is majoring in computer science. She listened as Lilah Zautner of Neighborhood Progress Inc. described community efforts to reclaim vacant lots in Cleveland as farms, vineyards and parks. With dreams of starting her own nonprofit, Medard thought Cleveland would be a good training ground. She learned about the Porter Cleveland Fellowship, which funds internships, and about IPM. Both



IPM intern Claryce Medard

programs accepted her.

Her tasks included obtaining feedback from Immersion participants, updating resource materials and translating the Project Partners' annual report from Spanish to English.

She admires the respect for partners' autonomy. "IPM doesn't impose [its own] agenda on projects. Partners do their own projects based on what's needed in their community."

Medard believes that the insight and understanding forged during an Immersion Experience would contribute to more enduring results. "You learn about the people, their culture and country. You immerse yourself in someone else's reality and see how they're trying to develop their community."

Medard was attending an international secondary school in Costa Rica when she learned of the Haitian earthquake. For one week, she tried to get through to her family in Port-au-Prince. One day, after chemistry class, she reached her sister, who assured her that everyone was all right.

Obtaining permanent housing, however, has been a challenge. The family has moved around and will soon occupy a house outside Port-au-Prince.

They are luckier than many. Despite several billion dollars in aid, housing reconstruction in Haiti has barely begun, and hundreds of thousands of people are still in camps, *The New York Times* reported earlier this year.

After graduation next spring, Medard would like to earn a master's degree in the U.S. and then work in health informatics, a field that integrates computers with health care. After earning enough to support her family, she plans to return to Haiti.

She wants to apply lessons from IPM and previous volunteer work in Port-au-Prince with the French medical organization Médecin du Monde to curb violence and stop sexually transmitted diseases. "I want to teach young people some skills or help them develop their own talents. And I want to teach them to use technology for economic development."

For more information about IPM, visit its website at www.ipmconnect.org.

Carol Pearson is a freelance writer and a volunteer with IPM.

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CH Council Member Mary Dunbar places in National Senior Games events

Simone Jasper

Mary Dunbar, member of Cleveland Heights City Council, recently competed in the National Senior Games, held in Cleveland July 19 through Aug. 1. In her age and gender group, women 70-74, Dunbar placed sixth in the 10K cycling time trial and seventh in the 20K cycling road race. In swimming, she placed 12th in the 200-yard freestyle and 16th in the 500-yard freestyle.

On the national level, Dunbar said that she faced tough competitors. "Locally, I'm usually the only one in my group," she explained.

Dunbar also recently participated in the local Forest Hill Thunder Run 5K Run/



Mary Dunbar

Walk on July 23—an event that benefitted the Fund for the Future of the Heights Libraries. In that race, Dunbar won first place in her age/gender group, and commented on her Facebook page, "I'm more competitive locally than nationally."

"The best part [of the games] was witnessing the joy and fun that people were having," Dunbar said. She has not decided if she will compete in the next National Senior Games, scheduled for 2015. For now, she is focused on her plans to run the Mohawk Hudson River Marathon in New York state this October.

According to a Cleveland Sports Commission spokesman, said Dunbar, 27 Cleveland Heights residents registered for the 2013 National Senior Games.

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

Join the CureSearch for Children's Cancer Walk

Cynthia Van Lenten

Join the 4th annual CureSearch for Children's Cancer Walk on Saturday, Sept. 28 at Wade Oval, University Circle. Here are some reasons to participate:

- Besides accidents, cancer is the leading cause of death in children, more than all other childhood diseases combined.
- Drug companies invest next to nothing on research into children's cancers. They see no profit in it. While the pharmaceutical industry provides up to 60 percent of the research and development for adult cancer, it provides virtually none for children's cancer. Most treatments for childhood cancers are modified from adult versions.
- Despite this disparity in the private sector, the National Cancer Institute spends less than 4 percent of its budget on children's cancer, and, given the current climate in Washington, its budget is being cut even further.
- The incidence of pediatric cancer has increased by about 30 percent over the last several years. It is unclear why.
- Cure rates have increased dramatically, rising from 30 percent to 78 percent in the last three decades. Yet 74 percent of childhood cancer survivors suffer from chronic illnesses, and 40 percent from life-threatening illnesses.

The CureSearch Walk seeks to raise awareness of childhood cancer and the need for research. The walk also raises funds to support CureSearch for Children's Cancer, a non-profit foundation whose mission is to fund innovative children's cancer research.

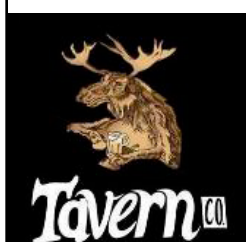


Anna Crowley, now 15, daughter of Stephen Crowley and Cynthia Van Lenten, walking for Team Olivia 2012.

Last year's walk raised more than \$60,000, and helped fund pediatric cancer research at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, the Cleveland Clinic, and Akron Children's Hospital.

The walk will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Sept. 28, at University Circle's Wade Oval. To register or contribute, go to www.curesearchwalk.org/neobio. Contributions are welcome even after the walk.

Cynthia Van Lenten and Stephen Crowley will be walking on Sept. 28 in memory of their daughter Olivia, who died of cancer when she was 10. They and other Heights residents will be walking because they have learned that children's cancer is particularly underfunded.



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Children’s author to speak here about emotional intelligence

Bob Rosenbaum

Cornelia Spelman, author of the popular children’s book series “The Way I Feel,” will give a talk titled “Taking Care of Our Emotions—So Kids Can Take Care of Theirs” at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21 at The Hanna Perkins Center For Child Development, 19910 Malvern Road, Shaker Heights.

The free talk, offered in cooperation with Cleveland Heights’s Appletree Books, will be followed by an informal discussion and book signing.

Spelman, a clinical social worker and therapist for children and families, will discuss how a child’s ability to manage emotions is influenced by the way his or her parents learned to manage their own emotions. “How does what we learned from our parents—our emotional legacy—continue to affect us today?” asks Spelman, whose goal is to empower attendees to decide if what they learned is what they want to pass on to their children.

The talk coincides with the opening of the Cleveland Children’s Museum “I Feel” exhibit, inspired by Spelman’s book series.

Reservations are recommended. For information and online reservations visit www.hannaperkins.org/spelman/.

In addition to being a longtime Observer volunteer, Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is affiliated with The Hanna Perkins Center as a contract provider of communications services.

Not your average bike



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Even the most dedicated bicyclist occasionally needs to haul something too big for a pannier (a bag attached to a bicycle) or a messenger bag. Trailers and special-purpose bikes make human-powered hauling easier. Whether you need to move equipment, clothing, or your kids, there is probably a bike available to do the job.

Two-wheeled cargo bicycles with a load on one side can be surprisingly stable, and there are options with three and four wheels, too. As with almost everything related to bicycles, the best solutions are often a blend of old and new technology.

Classic technologies, such as hubs that shift internally, disc brakes and the latest electrical-assist packages, can make hauling more efficient. Internal hubs are convenient because they allow shifting even when the bike is sitting still. Power-assist options help with longer distances and heavier cargo. With all that help getting going, good brakes are also essential. Many cargo bikes are fitted with disc brakes that can improve stopping distances, especially in wet conditions.

The Heights Libraries Book



Mary Dunbar, Heights Bicycle Coalition president, with the Heights Libraries Book Bike.

Bike, a bicycle book mobile, has a front-mounted box that opens into bookshelves. Bikes like this, made especially for hauling, can come in many configurations, from one that looks like a longer version of a regular bicycle to something that looks almost like a small car.

Sometimes a dedicated bike is not practical. In those cases, a bike trailer might be a better choice. Some trailers have one wheel and they tend to be narrower and more maneuverable. Wider trailers with more wheels are also available.

Some trailers are equipped with a child-size modified bicycle that includes pedals. These trailers are a great way to introduce children to the skills they will need to ride their own bike, and to introduce family cycling trips, whether they last from 30 minutes to 30 days.

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

Dream On Foundation fundraiser planned for Sept. 12 at Pizzazz

Mary Patton

The Dream On Foundation will host its second annual fundraising event on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6–8 p.m. at Jake’s Speakeasy in the lower level of Pizzazz On The Circle, 20680 N. Park Blvd. in University Heights.

Established in 2008 by South Euclid social worker Mim Conway, the Dream On Foundation began with initial donations earmarked for “adopting” 25 first-grade students at Hannah Gibbons-Nottingham Elementary School in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (now known as The Dream On Kids).

The foundation extends opportunities to the Dream On Kids that they would not otherwise have. Dream On provides programming, such as tutoring, summer camp, music, band, dancing and fine arts, as well as support for supplies, uniforms and transportation to a charter school.

Dream On Kids who graduate from high school in 2020 will receive scholarships for post-secondary education.

The fundraiser features wine, beer and food. Tickets are \$40, and available at the door. Attire is casual. To reserve tickets, e-mail mimconway@dreamonkids.com. For more information about the organization, visit www.dreamonkids.com.

Mary Patton, a University Heights resident, is assisting with publicity for the Dream On Foundation.

september

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outdoor showers	clam bakes
peach pies, tomato tarts	tequila tasting dinners
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The Alcazar

Community open house and tour of Heights High Sept. 10

Heights Observer Editor

A bond issue for the first phase of a comprehensive school facilities plan will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot after more than three years of dialogue and planning by community members, the CH-UH Board of Education, district administrators and teachers. The first phase would completely renovate and update Cleveland Heights High School, and Monticello and Roxboro middle schools.

Learn more at a community open house and tour of Cleveland Heights High School on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 p.m. At the event, residents will have an opportunity to tour the interior of the high school building and view areas



Cleveland Heights High School.

in need of renovation; meet Nylajeane McDaniel, CH-UH superintendent, district administrators and school board

members; learn more about the school facilities plan and ask questions; and view a student video presentation.

Public forum on CH-UH school facilities bond issue to be held Sept. 11

Pat Moyer

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Chapter of the Cuyahoga Area League of Women Voters (LWV-CA) will hold a public forum Sept. 11 on the subject of the \$134.8 million bond issue that would fund the first phase of a comprehensive school facilities plan.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has placed this bond issue on the ballot for the Nov. 5 general election.

The forum will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Lee Road Library (Meeting Room B), 2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.

Speakers from the CH-UH Board of Education, Citizens for Heights Schools, and any organization that may come forward to oppose the bond issue, will discuss the bond issue, its rationale and details. The LWV-CA invites attendees to "bring your questions and concerns."

Members of the CH-UH Chapter of the LWV-CA will consider supporting the bond issue after the presentations and discussion.

All members of the community are encouraged to attend this important and informative forum.

Pat Moyer is the director of public relations for the LWV Cuyahoga area.

CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights

AUGUST 6, 2013

Board Member Nancy Peppler was absent.

District receives PR awards

Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement, described the awards Cleveland Heights-University Heights received from the Ohio School Public Relations Association (OHSPRA) and the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). Awards were given for the following: for the e-newsletter, Mark of Excellence from OHSPRA and Award of Merit from NSPRA; for the print newsletter, Best of the Best from OHSPRA; for the 2011-12 Calendar, Mark of Distinction from OHSPRA; for the website, Mark of Distinction from OHSPRA; for Three Pathways & Early College - One Tiger Nation, Award of Excellence from NSPRA.

Student trip to France

Deborah Humbert, French teacher, and some of her students thanked the board for their trip to

France and showed pictures from the trip.

Bond issue

Resident Garry Kanter presented information he had learned from the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) website. He said that, contrary to his impression of what the board was saying, the OSFC did not require the board to fix the buildings. He asked voters to vote "no" for the bond issue. Resident Eric Silverman announced some informational meetings for the bond issue and asked voters to vote "yes" on the issue.

Curriculum

The board approved textbooks for advance placement classes, social studies and others. There was a first reading of the physical education waiver.

Staff appointments

The board appointed the following administrators: Jay Hobbs, coordinator of career and technical education and partnership development; Toia



Robinson, coordinator of gifted and arts; Erica Wigton, principal of Canterbury Elementary School; Allison Byrd, coordinator of educational services; Octavia Reid, principal of Wiley Middle School; and Fred Thomas, program specialist.

Coventry

The board approved a lease agreement for a daycare facility at the former Coventry School building.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.

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Dr. Mimi Guarneri is a national pioneer in holistic and integrative medicine. Board-certified in cardiology, internal medicine, nuclear medicine and holistic medicine.

She is President of the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine and founder of the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine, where she has served as Medical Director for 15 years.

She is the author of "The Heart Speaks", a collection of stories from heart patients who benefitted from integrative medicine, which will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture.



Fairfax Elementary grand-prize winner of Big Lots video contest

Chris Hanson

On Aug. 14, Big Lots CEO David Campisi named Fairfax Elementary School the \$20,000 grand-prize winner of its 2013 Lots2Give national video contest. Campisi presented the award at the Big Lots store in Beachwood.

More than 180 schools competed for a share of \$120,000 in prizes by submitting a short video and essay explaining why the school was in need of financial support. From June 10 to July 7, the public voted for their favorite video at the contest website, and more than 405,000 votes were cast.

Fairfax's video, "Learn Together, Play Together," depicts the diversity of students at the Lee Road school, including those with physical and developmental disabilities. With existing playground equipment that "makes full student integration impractical," Fairfax asked for help funding an adaptive play structure that will enable kids to play together regardless of any physical limitations.

"The parents, students, and teachers of the Fairfax community are thrilled we won the Lots2Give competition," said Andrett Calloway, Fairfax Elementary School principal. "I am thankful for all of the hard work the Fairfax parents, teachers, and PTA leaders put into making the video and promoting the video in the community. A special thanks to Evan Hardcastle who was featured in the video."

"This means our special education [students] will not have to have recess in their chairs, or recess separately, or just 'Oh, I'm just sitting and watching



Members of the Fairfax Elementary School community accept the grand-prize check from Big Lots.

COURTESY BIG LOTS

other kids play.' Now they can finally be on the equipment all together. And it's not just for our school, it's for our community. Even if you don't go to Fairfax, all children can join in and play together," said Calloway.

Calloway said the Fairfax PTA now needs to raise between \$20,000-30,000 to prepare the land and install the playground. The PTA has already applied for some grants, but will rely heavily on community donations. A pancake breakfast fundraiser is scheduled for Oct. 19, at 8 a.m., in the Fairfax Elementary School cafeteria.

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

Beaumont welcomes new staff members

Rita Kueber

Beaumont School welcomes new administrators, teachers and staff as it begins the 2013-14 school year.

Nicholas Beyer is the new dean of academics. Previously, he was social studies teacher and department chair at Benedictine High School. A graduate of Bowling Green State University, Beyer holds a Master of Education and post-Master administration licensure from John Carroll University (JCU).

The new dean of students is Coreen Schaefer. She received a bachelor's in English and a master's in both elementary and secondary English education from the University of Virginia, and is completing an education administration program at JCU. Schaefer worked as a teacher at St. Mary's in Berea, and

at Gilmour Academy, where she taught 7th-, 10th- and 12th-grade English and electives. Most recently, Schaefer was a graduate assistant in student affairs at JCU.

Both the dean of academics and dean of students positions are new, and include duties previously performed by Beaumont's assistant principal.

New faculty at Beaumont this year are Simon Masters, science teacher; Nancy Muir, theology teacher; and Rachel Handy, academic support specialist. New staff members include Mary Lynn Haldi, assistant to the president; Eileen McCann, development department assistant; and Bo Mueller, dining room manager. New part-time and substitute teachers are Anna Foti, fine arts, and Martin Steward, theology.

Beaumont School, an all-girls



Nick Beyer

Coreen Schaefer

COURTESY RITA KUEBER

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

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What's going on at your library?

Back to school means LAF (Library Afterschool Fun) programs are back at every branch. Visit www.heightslibrary.org for a full listing of programs for all ages; or pick up a copy of the library's program guide, *Check Us Out*, at any branch.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.

Cedar-Coventry Author Series. Local author Brad Ricca will discuss his recently published biography *Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster—the Creators of Superman*. Ricca will also sign books. Registration is required at www.heightslibrary.org.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Thursday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.

Muslim Travelers in the Golden Age of Islam. Stephen Cory, director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program at Cleveland State University, will chart

the spread of Islam through the lens of 14th-century scholar Ibn Battuta and other medieval Muslim travelers. This program is part of the Muslim Journeys Series. Registration is required at www.heightslibrary.org.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2 p.m.

Boomerang Bonanza. Logan Broadbent, member of the U.S. National Boomerang Team, will talk about the history of the boomerang, worldwide competitions, and give tips on how to throw one. For children ages 6–12. Registration is required at www.heightslibrary.org.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 4 p.m.

Literature and Line Dancing. Children listen to the first page of several books and pick one to hear more of. Line dancing follows the reading activity.

Pick a card, any card

Sheryl Banks

September is National Library Card Sign Up Month, and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is celebrating by offering both new and current customers new card designs.

"If customers already have a card, this is a perfect excuse to stop in, update contact information, and replace a scuffed up old card with one of the new designs," said Nancy Levin, director of Heights Libraries.

For those who don't have a card, signing up is easy, and it's free to anyone who lives, works, owns property or attends school in Ohio. All that's required is a picture ID, such as a driver's license or passport, and proof of Ohio residency, such as a personal check or utility bill. The form is simple to fill out and you can get your new card right away. Children age 18 and under need the signature of a parent or guardian before a card will be issued.

"We thought it was about time our library cards featured our logo," said Levin. "The new cards are fun, and reflect the vibrancy and energy of our community."



These cards also are emblazoned with the CLEVNET logo on the back, a reminder that Heights Libraries is part of the CLEVNET library consortium, comprising more than 40 Ohio library systems offering users access to 10 million items.

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

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Church of the Saviour - United Methodist September 8 is Kick-Off Sunday

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**Dr. Charles Yoost preaching:
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8:30 a.m. Traditional service in Myers Chapel
9:30 a.m. LifeSong service in the Great Hall
11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Potluck, Praise and Prayer in the Parlor
6:30 p.m. Catalyst in the Great Hall
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.



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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



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Board Member Rick Ortmeyer was absent.

Finance manager appointed

The board appointed Jana L. Nassif as finance manager. Nassif has a Master of Arts in nonprofit administration from John Carroll University and is a cabinet member and co-chair elect of United Way Young Leaders. Her most recent position was as operations manager for the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education. She also has experience researching and writing grant proposals.

CDBG funds for HKIC

The library will receive a \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant from the City of Cleveland Heights to support personnel for the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC). This is a one-time grant, subject to strict documentation.

Book Bike introduced to community

Sam Lapidés, special projects coordinator, gave a presentation on the new book bike, which was on display. It's been on 15 visits thus far and has been seen by 1,000 people. It's been a great success, and there are more requests for appearances than the library can handle. So far, the bike has been at Cain Park, Fairfax Elementary School's Bike Rodeo, Open Doors Health Expo, Millikin Preschool Festival, Homewood and CedarWood nursing homes, and many other venues. The bike's trays and shelves are filled with giveaways, some from Half-Price Books, and some cancelled volumes from the library's collection.

Summer lunch program a success

June figures for the summer lunch program recorded 639 children and parents at the Lee Road Library on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 79 people at the University Heights Library on Fridays.

Libraries closed Sept. 13

A staff development day will close the libraries on Sept. 13 for a program of training and teamwork.

Public service report

Highlights in the June public service report include:

- The June 5 celebration of Cain Park's 75th anniversary was the latest in the library's partnership with the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission. The series is called "Discover Cleveland Historic Treasures."
- The HKIC opening events, 30 Days of Innovation, covered topics from shale oil and gas to 3-D printers and NASA technology spinoffs. A screening of the documentary "The Show That Shook the World" was also presented.
- At Coventry Village Library, City Fresh began the weekly Tuesday produce pick-ups.
- Twenty children enjoyed Slimy Saturday at Noble Neighborhood Library, with a slimy no-mess substance.
- At University Heights Library, the weekly Senior Happenings program included speakers from the Housing Research and Advocacy Center, Euclid Beach Park and the Cleveland Botanical Garden.
- The Third Annual Pet Show attracted 110 people and 20 pets. Both the *Sun Press* and *Heights Observer* published photo spreads.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.

Sept. 4 HRRC Expo for seniors and their families

Allison Urbanek

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) is hosting its first annual Senior Expo. This event, sponsored in cooperation with the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging, will provide information to help seniors adjust to changes in income, emerging physical limitations, and home maintenance challenges.

The event encourages seniors to bring their questions to the Expo,



which will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Senior Activity Center at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd. Admission is free, and the Expo is open to residents of all communities.

The Senior Expo will provide information on various issues of concern to seniors. By listening to presentations and visiting advice tables, seniors and their families can get advice in a non-pressured setting on choices homeowners may need to make as they age. Experts will provide information on home repairs (home maintenance, getting bids and choosing a contractor, improving accessibility); housing options (assisted living, independent living, home care,

moving options); and money management (credit and budgeting, refinancing, using your home's equity).

Home Repair Resource Center is a nonprofit that has been serving the community for more than 40 years. For more information about the Senior Expo and other services for seniors, visit www.hrhc-ch.org, or call 216-381-6100.

Allison Urbanek is the financial programs coordinator at HHRC and enjoys working one on one with residents to solve home repair problems.

Ways to preserve memory as we age



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Although memory loss can be a normal part of the aging process, it is a cause for concern to many older adults. While normal age-related memory loss is common and natural, it can be slowed and even prevented through diet and certain activities.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Some degree of memory problems, as well as a modest decline in other thinking skills, is a fairly common part of aging." Normal memory loss can include occasionally misplacing your glasses or car keys, forgetting a person's name, or not being able to remember a word that is "right on the

tip of your tongue."

The National Institute on Aging reports that these minor declines in memory and cognitive ability may occur because "certain parts of the brain that are important in learning, memory and planning shrink with age."

Research has also shown that brain neurons become less able to communicate efficiently with each other, and blood flow in the brain is reduced because arteries narrow with age.

To help preserve memory, Harvard Medical School recommends that older adults keep learning new things, maintain a social network of friends and family, engage in regular exercise, refrain from smoking, get 6-8 hours of sleep a night, consume proper amounts of vitamins C and E, and eat a healthy diet rich in fruits, vegetables and healthy fats.

The Alzheimer's Association recommends learning new things by add-

ing small changes to your daily routine. You may consider adding a daily walk, attending a lecture or play, reading a book, researching a subject of interest, playing a game or starting a new hobby. Crossword and other types of puzzles and word games have also been shown to help enhance brain function.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) offers a variety of classes to help you keep learning new things. It also offers several exercise programs to help you maintain physical fitness and social interaction.

Lumosity, a memory training program on the Internet, offers a personalized game program to help enhance memory. Daily exercises help train a variety of cognitive functions, and are designed to improve overall brain performance, based on target training priorities that you set for yourself. Some exercises are free; others require payment.

It is important to note that there

can be other causes of memory loss besides natural aging. The Mayo Clinic lists medication interactions, head injuries, mental health disorders, alcoholism, vitamin B-12 deficiencies, hypothyroidism, and brain tumors as other possible causes of memory loss.

In some cases, memory loss can indicate beginning stages of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. If you're concerned about memory loss, it is important to see your doctor. He or she can conduct tests to judge the degree of memory impairment, diagnose the cause and offer a course of action.

SAC can be reached at 216-691-7377, and the Lumosity website can be found at www.lumosity.com.

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

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Mamaí's first season: a hit!

Jewel Moulthrop

Asked to reflect on their inaugural season, two of the four co-founders of Mamaí Theatre Company—Christine McBurney and Bernadette Clemens—agreed that they had exceeded their own conservative expectations.

"Ensemble Theatre welcomed us into their space," said McBurney. "The discounted rent in the form of a space grant enabled us to launch. Community support [came from] the *Heights Observer*, Nighttown, the Props Shop, friends, family, students, and Lori Berenson, our volunteer house manager."

McBurney said that colleagues volunteered their time to help build sets, photograph and videotape rehearsals and performances, and staff the box office. Friends did laundry for cast members, and family members provided food.

Other local theaters, such as Dobama and Cain Park, participated in ad swaps and "welcomed our postcards in their theaters," she said, adding, "We were able to pay every actor, every designer, every staffer, and even ourselves. No one was paid what their work or time was actually worth, but

they believed in what we were attempting to do and wanted to be a part of it."

Most gratifying, perhaps, is that McBurney, who usually talks with other theater folk when she attends performances, now chats with patrons. "I've been surprised and moved by perfect strangers walking up to us and thanking us for doing classical theater, for employing women artists, and for choosing plays with great roles for women. It's affirming, empowering, and humbling to know that other people think that our mission is relevant."

Clemens was also thrilled with Mamaí's first season. "The response from the community—and in equal doses from the theater community and the Northeast Ohio public—was unexpectedly overwhelming. We didn't intend to make a splash, we only wanted to enjoy the swim, and we've been hearing a resounding thank you for making a big splash."

Encouraged by the success of their inaugural season, Clemens said, "The changes we foresee [for next season] are all positive signs of growth: We will be employing a greater number of directors, designers, production staff



Mamaí Theatre Company co-founders Wendy Kriss, Derdriu Ring, Christine McBurney, Bernadette Clemens

and actors. We're expanding to four productions for Spring-Fall 2014, and hopefully drawing audiences to at least one new venue. Audiences will also see more than one co-founder of Mamaí Theatre Company onstage next season." Two of the company's founders are also Equity actors.

Further good news comes from Mamaí's generous sponsors. One has offered to revamp the group's website,

and another will professionally redesign and print its playbill.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for the announcement of Mamaí Theatre Company's second season line-up. "Like" them on Facebook or go to www.mamaitheatreco.org for updates.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee.

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From roots to sky

Mary Krogness

Works by artists Michael Weil (photographs), Richard Ruehle (wood), Kam Shun Lee (oil paintings) and Toni Fiderio (watercolors) are featured in a new show running from Sept. 13 to Nov. 30 at the South Wing Gallery of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

Meet all four artists at the exhibition's opening reception on Friday, Sept. 13 from 5-7 p.m.

"I was always taking pictures—never a time when I didn't," said Michael Weil, a photographer with a Ph.D. in art history with a focus in photography from Case Western Reserve University. An artist's book by Weil was featured in the 2012 Cleveland Museum of Art exhibition "DIY: Photographers & Books." His photographs also have been shown at the Heights Arts Gallery, the Cleveland Clinic, Cedar Creek Grill, and the Katz Club. Weil photographs a variety of subjects, from the Adirondacks, to Frank Gehry's flying rooftops, and aerial views. "I'm just beginning to think of myself as an artist," he said.

At 74, Richard Ruehle makes wooden bowls, platters, vases and hollowed forms using a lathe, band saw and table saw. "It kind of became a passion," he said. After retiring, he began creating a wide variety of pieces, starting with traditional woods, such as maple, cherry and walnut. He then became captivated by exotic woods from Australia, Southeast Asia, Russia and England. He is

quick to say that he uses only environmentally protected wood. One year, he displayed his turned wood at 18 shows. Ruehle believes that a rich retirement can keep a person young and vital.

Kam Shun Lee graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art and has 20 years of experience as a painter in oils. He is also a marathon runner. An award-winning painter, Lee captured the Grand Canyon on a big canvas with great swaths of yellow, orange and green giving the impression of rocks and crags. He paints what he saw firsthand, having run the canyon three times, and said that every color must be in place to evoke the canyon's vastness. He decides a painting is finished when one more splash of paint could destroy what he has already achieved.

Toni Fiderio, a versatile artist, paints with watercolors and oils, and is also a print maker. Her watercolors are airy, with subtle casts of color. She emphasizes the importance of light and is challenged and excited by the way light shifts and quickly changes. Painting with watercolors demands immediate brush strokes that cannot be corrected, so she works with a plan in mind, first sketching a building, an interesting scene in the Flats, or a pastoral piece, before she puts brush to paper. In her words, "Painting keeps the fire going."

The Rev. Alan Gates, rector of St. Paul's, sums up the mission of the space: "The South Wing Gallery provides



Kam Shun Lee with his oil paintings.

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A wooden vessel by Richard Ruehle.

COURTESY MARY KROGNESS

members of the parish and the wider community with a wonderful venue for celebrating the God-given gift of creativity in the arts."

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Mary Krogness is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

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Ambitious 2013–14 season for Ensemble Theatre

Jewel Moulthrop

Ensemble Theatre's 2013–14 season promises to be an ambitious and exciting one. Celeste Cosentino, artistic director, has announced plans to expand Ensemble's season to include summer and touring productions. In addition to its four mainstage productions, Ensemble will offer TheatreCLE in the company's Playground Theatre, a small, 50-seat venue adjacent to the mainstage space.

Ensemble's mainstage season begins Sept. 27 with "Animals Out of Paper" by Rajiv Joseph, which runs through Oct. 20. A finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo," Joseph's interest in theater began at Cleveland Heights High School and summers working in



Cain Park.

Other mainstage productions include "Prelude to a Kiss" by Craig Lucas, the quirky play that inspired a movie by the same name; "Knock Me a Kiss" by Charles Smith, a fictional account of the ill-fated marriage between Yolande, the daughter of W.E.B. DuBois, and

Countee Cullen, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; and "Beyond the Horizon," by Eugene O'Neill, about two brothers in love with the same woman. O'Neill won the Pulitzer Prize for this play.

Ensemble's TheatreCLE opens Oct. 17 with Joseph's "All This Intimacy." Ty, a 30-year-old poet, doesn't exactly exude

animal magnetism. Yet his girlfriend, neighbor and one of his students all find him bedworthy. Uh-oh, where will this lead?

"Frankenstein," adapted by Oakley Hall from Mary Shelley's novel, makes an appearance through the Halloween weekend. Productions of two of Eugene Ionesco's most popular plays, "The Chairs" and "Exit the King," will run concurrently in January.

Still to be announced are the March dates for the annual Colombi New Plays Festival and the summer dates for TheatreCLE. For information and updates, go to www.ensemble-theatre.org or call 216-321-2930.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee.

Heights Arts installs mural at Heights Youth Center

Heights Observer Editor

The mosaic mural created by Cuban-born Cleveland artist Augusto Bordelois and a group of students for the Heights Youth Club was installed in late July at the club's Lee Road location. The mural was officially unveiled on Aug. 29.

Heights Arts coordinated the project and secured an Ohio Arts Council grant to sponsor the artist in a five-week residency to create the mural.

Bordelois worked with student members of the club to design the colorful mural, which portrays Cleveland

Heights landmarks, such as Cain Park and the Cedar Lee Theatre, as well as the Heights High mascot.

Students worked with Bordelois and Heights Arts staff members Andrea Joki and Courtney Young to fabricate the design.

Other funders of the \$11,350 project include Ohio Arts Council, Christopher Brandt/Beth Sersig Fund, Cyrus Eaton Foundation, Jack and Blanche Valancy, Dominion Foundation, US Bank Foundation, Elisabeth Gevelber, Cedar Lee Special Improvement District and Heights Arts.



This colorful mural adorns the Heights Youth Club building at 2065 Lee Road.

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'Time Stands Still' opens Dobama's 2013-14 season

Jewel Moulthrop

Fall will be here before long, and with it comes Dobama Theatre's first production of its 54th season—"Time Stands Still" by Donald Margulies. The play runs from Sept. 6 through Oct. 6.

Nominated for two Tony Awards, "Time Stands Still" focuses on Sarah, a photojournalist, and her foreign correspondent boyfriend, James. They return home to Brooklyn to try to find balance and happiness after the physical and emotional wounds inflicted on them while they were covering conflicts in the Middle East. Theirs is a partnership based on telling the tough stories and making a difference in the lives of others. When their own story takes a sudden turn, the couple confronts the prospect of living a more conventional life.

Playwright Donald Margulies is best remembered as the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2000 for "Dinner with Friends." Margulies' plays also include "Brooklyn Boy," "The Loman Family Picnic" and "Sight Unseen."

He has won a Lucille Lortel Award, an American Theatre Critics Award, two Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, and two Obie Awards, among others. His works have been performed on and off Broadway and at major theaters throughout the United States.

Nathan Motta is directing "Time Stands Still." Motta, Dobama's fifth artistic director, has worked with Cleveland Play House, Opera Cleveland, Ohio Light Opera, Cain Park, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Pittsburgh

Symphony Orchestra, Mercury Opera Rochester, and Civic Light Opera (Pittsburgh).

He is the founding artistic director of the Dobama Emerging Actors Program (DEAP), a summer acting program. He holds a B.F.A. from Carnegie

Mellon University and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music.

Performances of "Time Stands Still" are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday afternoons.

For a complete schedule, ticket prices and reservations, call the Dobama

Theatre box office at 216-932-3396. Ask about reduced prices for RUSH tickets, the preview performance on Thursday, Sept. 5, and the "pay-as-you-can" performance on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee.

All-Ohio Ceramic Invitational brings the state's best to Heights Arts

Rachel Bernstein

The All-Ohio Ceramics Invitational at Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, begins with an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 6, 6-9 p.m., and runs through Saturday, Oct. 19. This landmark exhibition, organized by Tom Huck, curator of University Hospital's art collection, is the largest exhibition to date for the 13-year-old nonprofit gallery. Exploring the diversity of clay, it showcases ceramic works from 30 artists in northern Ohio and throughout the state, with contrasts in scale, clay bodies, firing ranges, glazing techniques, and execution.

"We are particularly excited," said Huck, "to introduce a recognized group of artists from the outlying regions of the state and exhibit their work for the first time in the Cleveland area. This exhibition not only highlights some of Ohio's talented ceramists, but also provides a perspective on ceramic art and its place in today's contemporary art market."

Participating artists include: Chris Breuer, Diana Bjel, Kristen Cliffler, Stephanie Craig, Megan Dull, Josh Foy, Bonnie Gordon, Yumiko Goto, Sha-



COURTESY YOUNG

Ceramic artist Yumiko Goto creates a swirl-pattern vessel.

ron Grossman, Rebecca Harvey, Amy Krusinski-Sinbondit, Eva Kwong, Elaine Lamb, Andrea LeBlond, Todd Leech, Clay Leonard, Paul Linhares, Lynne Lofton, Kirk Mangus, Missy McCormick, Jenny Mendes, Sandy Miller, Judith Salomon, Brian Sarama, Luke Sheets, Adam Shiverdecker, Kaname Takada, Donna Webb, Mark Yasenchack and Theresa Yondo.

The exhibition includes functional works, as well as sculptural and vessel-inspired pieces.

In addition to presenting six annual exhibitions, Heights Arts sells works by many of northeast Ohio's top artists working in glass, ceramics, jewelry, and other media. Gallery hours are Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information call 216-371-3457 or visit www.heightsarts.org.

Rachel Bernstein is the executive director of Heights Arts.



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Fashion-forward thinking keeps local designer a cut above

Chelsea Bonner

The Internet has given way to the ease and convenience of shopping online. With a click of a button, customers can view, purchase and have merchandise delivered to their homes. But what does the rise in online shopping mean for traditional retailers? As customers have become accustomed to the effortless process of purchasing online, some retailers find it difficult to compete, leaving many small, independently owned businesses pressed to bring in customers, and closing down within a year of opening.

Others, however, see an opportunity to change the methods of traditional retailing. DruChristine Fabrics & Design, at 1623 Lee Road, has successfully cleared the one-year benchmark by offering more than fashionable merchandise to clients. The success of this boutique comes by offering a lifestyle.

Designed in the style of a chic living space, owner Drue Thompson gives shoppers a comfortable setting for their buying experience. Clients are welcomed with complimentary drinks as they browse, and Thompson encourages her clientele to sit and chat while she sketches their designs. Service is her main priority, knowing that her customers place a high value on her fashion expertise—from designs to selecting fabrics, or even accessorizing a recent purchase.

“I was aware of the challenges that come with being a retailer and knew I had to be creative to bring clients to my store instead of shopping online, or in another boutique,” said Thompson. “In our fast-paced society, there is a need to



Drue Thompson in her shop on Lee Road.

develop a true shopping experience, letting clients know their time and money is well spent, and setting my boutique apart from traditional retailers.”

DruChristine Fabrics & Design carries items from the designer's current collections, as well as ready-to-wear selections for both men and women. The boutique offers an array of designer and vintage fabrics, with a rare collection of findings—adding to the experience, as clients can see the design, select fabrics, and even choose buttons to complete the look. In addition, the shop carries several unique accessory lines from other local designers and artisans.

Thompson also hosts monthly events as part of Fashion Forward Living, a lifestyle series that features sewing classes, personal style and holistic workshops, held at the boutique.

Thompson's forward-thinking approach to business has helped her complete a successful year. To mark the occasion, she hosted a week-long celebration last month, with food, music and giveaways to thank her customers. Events included tutorials and hands-on demonstrations.

Thompson knows the importance of personalization as it relates to the overall shopping experience, and has combined her design talents, energetic personality and specialized customer service to stand out in the fashion retail market.

For more information, call 440-941-0052 or visit www.druchristine.com.

Chelsea Bonner, a Cleveland resident and graduate of Spelman College, is a fashion and public relations intern for DruChristine Fabrics & Design.

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La'Sheek Resale Shop opens on Mayfield Road

Simone Jasper

In May, twin sisters Gennette Tanks and Annette Green opened La'Sheek Resale Shop on Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. The sisters had wanted to own a business for a long time.

"We have had a resale shop on our mind for ages," Tanks said. Green added, "The idea was to have something to do after retirement."

Tanks and Green fulfilled their dreams when they found the space that now houses La'Sheek. The name was inspired by boutiques that the pair discovered on a trip to Paris. For five months, the sisters decorated La'Sheek and collected resale items.

Now, their colorful shop includes furnishings and household items, ranging from sofas to knickknacks. The store also sells clothing for men, women and children, as well as shoes and fashion accessories.

The sisters said that their store came together through determination, despite challenges they have faced. Both Tanks and Green are cancer survivors who came from humble beginnings. Born in Mississippi, they moved to Pennsylvania before coming to Northeast Ohio.

Tanks has a daughter, a son and four grandchildren. As the first-born, Tanks said that she is the more forward of the twins. She works in fine jewelry at a department store and always thought that she would be an interior designer. At La'Sheek, she refinishes old furniture. Tanks said she likes that La'Sheek is within walking distance of the sisters' Cleveland Heights homes. The foot traffic around the shop, and the friendly



Annette Green (left) and Gennette Tanks opened La'Sheek Resale Shop on May 18.

business owners on the block, are other positive aspects of the location. "We've been accepted really warmly here," Tanks said.

Green, who said that her personality is more laid-back than her sister's, has a daughter and two grandchildren. She quit her jobs at a medical facility and a department store to start La'Sheek. In her spare time, Green creates floral arrangements, including the one that adorns the front counter. Green also makes labels for every item in the resale shop out of used cereal boxes and cardboard. She said that she enjoys providing clothing advice to customers, and that La'Sheek offers quality

merchandise at reasonable prices. "We wanted to make [a shop] for people who don't have transportation and who can't afford to go to the big stores," Green said.

Despite their differences, the sisters are "on the same wavelength" with their business, said Tanks. Both agree that their favorite aspect of running La'Sheek is that they trust each other and come together on most decisions. Tanks said that they both enjoy the daily interaction with customers.

Tanks and Green are the only employees at La'Sheek. In the future, the sisters said they might hire other workers. For now, they are proud that

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their ambition led to their new business. "I'm still in a daze about finally having a shop," Green said.

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



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A deep love of pets fuels Rainbow Vets

James Henke

Linda Mitchell grew up on a farm in Lordstown, Ohio. Her family did not have much money and could not afford to provide proper care for their animals. "I love puppies and kittens, but on the farm, the animals kept dying," Mitchell said. "It was terrible."

This experience inspired her to get a degree in veterinary medicine. She attended Hiram College, majoring in biology with a minor in environmental studies. She then went to The Ohio State University (OSU), where she earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1998.

After graduation, Mitchell began working at Blue Cross Animal Hospital, which was located in Cleveland Heights. In 2002, she left Blue Cross and started the Rainbow Mobile Vet Clinic. Two years later, she opened the Rainbow Veterinary Clinic on Noble Road in Cleveland Heights.

"We do a lot of research," said Mitchell. "We look at all of the cases and try to find answers. We look beyond simple treatment to find out how we can



Dr. Jessica Alcorn (left) and Dr. Linda Mitchell with Stinky Al Jose, a cat who lives at the Rainbow Veterinary Clinic.

really treat the animals and save their lives. We are always trying to stay up on new things and keep current on things."

"We're medicine nerds," said Jessica Alcorn, a veterinary doctor at Rainbow. "We love medicine. We read about medicine. We get very excited about

learning new things."

Alcorn also grew up on a farm and developed a love for animals when she was very young. She also loved the arts, and earned a degree in printmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design. After graduating, she worked as a wall-paper designer in Shaker Heights.

"Working in the arts didn't fulfill me," Alcorn said. "And I love working with animals, so I decided to change my career." She went to OSU and earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine. She met Mitchell when she worked as a vet assistant at Blue Cross Animal Hospital, and when Mitchell started Rainbow, Alcorn joined her.

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, they took their mobile vet clinic to New Orleans to take care of animals injured in the storm. They also loaded the mobile clinic with homeless animals, brought them to Cleveland and helped

find new homes for them.

Mitchell sold the mobile clinic in 2006, but Rainbow makes house calls in Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, Lyndhurst and Beachwood. Rainbow is one of the few veterinary clinics in the area that offers at-home service.

In addition to treating animals, Rainbow works with three area rescue groups: the South Euclid Humane Society, Waterloo Alley Cats and Cleveland Underdog Rescue. Rainbow's staff loves finding homes for animals.

Asked what makes Rainbow so special, Mitchell pointed to the staff. "Everyone gets along and they all work well together," she said. "It's like a family."

"Everyone is really well-trained," Alcorn said. "This staff has more training and experience than you will find at most places."

Both Mitchell and Alcorn have several animals of their own. Mitchell, who lives in North Royalton, has three dogs and two cats. Alcorn, who lives in South Euclid, has two dogs and three cats. Their love of animals makes Rainbow a special place.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years, and is the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley. Henke has been taking his dog, Bogey, to Rainbow Veterinary Clinic for the past couple of years.

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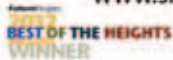
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Heights Music Hop plans to light up Lee Road

Patti Carlyle

The first annual Heights Music Hop will take place on Friday, Oct. 18 in the Cedar Lee Business District. This live music festival will be one of five regional flagship Collaboration Kickoff events on the opening night of 2013 Cleveland Beer Week.

FutureNow, a committee of FutureHeights, is organizing the event. “I’m really fired up about the Hop,” said Kevin Smith, chair of FutureNow. “This is more than just a fun night of music, it’s a fantastic opportunity to show that the Heights is a great music town and an exciting place to work or live.”

Musical performances will be free from 6–10 p.m. The Social Room, the Wine Spot, Phoenix Coffee, Lopez, New Heights Grill and the Stone Oven have been confirmed as mainstage music venues, each hosting two acts. Several merchants and institutions on Lee Road will offer live music in addition to the mainstage venues. Music genres include rock, jazz and classical.

An official after party, with a \$5 cover charge, will take place at the BottleHouse, 2050 Lee Road, from 10–11:30 p.m. After party attendees will enjoy live music, a half-pint sample of a new BottleHouse brew to be unveiled at the party, and door prizes.

Popular regional music groups will perform. “Oldboy is thrilled to be part of the inaugural Hop,” said Michael Kinsella, a Heights resident and mem-

ber of one of the first bands on board. “As a Heights-based band, we appreciate the depth and quality of the music scene in the Heights and in Cleveland in general, and we are excited to see so much of this talent showcased in one event.”

“The Hop is going to be great for Cedar Lee merchants,” said Adam Fleischer, proprietor of the Wine Spot. “Great publicity, lots of new customers on the street, and it’s a very appealing kind of event. I’m glad to be a part of it.”

For Allie Markert of record label Cellar Door Cleveland, music partner for the Heights Music Hop, collaborating on this event fits perfectly into her company’s mission. “As ambassadors of the Cleveland music scene, we’re excited to help plan, promote and produce a high quality music festival in the Heights,” Markert said.

Emily Hornack, a Hop organizer, Heights resident and founder of Brite Winter Festival in Ohio City, looks forward to a great future for the Hop. “I see the event this year as just the beginning,” she said. “The Hop can become a high quality annual music festival that really flourishes in the Heights.”



Simultaneously with the Hop, the Cleveland Beer Week Collaboration Kickoff will run 7–10 p.m. This ticketed tasting event highlights the collaborative efforts among 16 Northeast Ohio brewers to produce seven special brews exclusive to Cleveland Beer Week. Participating locations are the Wine Spot, New Heights Grill,

Parnell’s, the Social Room, Brennan’s Colony, and the Cedar Lee Pub.

Collaborative brews for sampling are Wango Tango Mango India Pale Ale, by Fat Heads and Chardon BrewWorks; Collaborator Doppelbock, by Willoughby Brewing and the Brew Kettle; Pancake Porter, by Lager Heads and Cornerstone; Tallboy Wheat Cocoa and Hazelnut Dunkelweizen, by Market Garden, Indigo Imp and Rocky River; Tripel Cherry Delight, by Buckeye, Black Box and Ohio Brewing; Evil Monk Bourbon Barrel Aged Black Belgian Tripel, by Thirsty Dog and Portside; and Berlot Wine Barrel Aged Ale, by Great Lakes and Cellar Rats.

Cleveland Beer Week, in its fifth year, is a not-for-profit collaboration that raises awareness of the region’s strong craft beer industry. Information

and tickets are available at www.clevelandbeerweek.org.

“This is going to be a nice event for the district, as well as the community,” said Kelley Robinson, director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District. “Not that long ago there were just a few places along Lee Road featuring live music, but now there are several places regularly featuring musical performances. The Hop will not only be a great time for music fans and craft beer devotees, but also will call attention to the unique roster of businesses we have and the variety of music you can find here.”

Sponsors of the Heights Music Hop include the Funny Times, the Howard Hanna Cleveland Heights-University Circle office, the Katz Club Diner, Keller National and Motorcars.

Community partners include the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, Cedar Lee Theatre, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, Dobama Theatre and Heights Arts.

For more information, visit www.heightsmusicshop.com and www.facebook.com/heightsmusicshop. Business owners interested in participating in or sponsoring this event should call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or e-mail heightsmusicshop@gmail.com.

Patti Carlyle is a FutureHeights board member and Heights Music Hop planning committee member living in University Heights.

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Classic Honda	35	3.8	57	29	0	0	1	5	3	3.5	96
Ganley Honda	219	4.7	35	20	1	1	18	4	11	4	284
Honda of Mentor	106	4.8	66	25	3	4	10	4.5	42	4.5	227
Jay Honda	298	4.9	56	24	1	1	1	5	1	1	357
Rick Case Honda	73	4.8	11	16	3	4	2	3	2	3.5	91
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