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Section of Cedar Road to become 'Jason West Road'

Deanna Bremer Fisher

At its Dec. 16 meeting, Cleveland Heights City Council passed a resolution to name a section of Cedar Road from Coventry Road to Lee Road "Jason West Road" to honor the memory of Cleveland Heights Investigator Jason D. West, who was killed in the line of duty on May 26, 2007.

The resolution, which was introduced by Council Member Janine Boyd, recognized West for his dedication and devotion to the community he served as a police officer. It read, "This dedication is to be a daily reminder to our community and to all who pass by that we will never forget and we will always honor the ultimate sacrifice of Investigator Jason West."

Boyd said she began working on the legislation after being approached in late 2012 by police officers and residents at a fundraiser for the Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship, which was established in his memory and is awarded each year



Officer Jason D. West.

to a Heights senior who plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. She investigated several roads before selecting the section of Cedar Road, which is close to West's home.

Susanna Niermann O'Neil, assistant city manager, said that the city plans to install signage on both sides of the intersections of Cedar and Coventry roads, Cedar Road and Cottage Grove Drive,

and Cedar and Lee roads. The signage will be installed in the spring and the city plans to hold an unveiling ceremony. "Because Cedar Road is a county road," she said, "the city must send a copy of the legislation to the county before signage can be installed."

"City council and staff—those who worked with him—have wanted to do this for a long time," said O'Neil. "We are grateful for the work of all of our police, and Jason was such a wonderful person."

Boyd said she is looking forward to holding the unveiling ceremony with West's family and friends. "I hope our police officers know that we are grateful for them, the commitment they make, and the risks that they take for us. We miss Jason and Tom [Officer Thomas F. Patton] and hope their families are comforted by these small acts that we can do to honor their memory," she said.

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

Two Heights libraries to change hours

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library will expand its Sunday hours in 2014 by opening the University Heights Library on Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

Heights Libraries will fund the additional hours at the University Heights Library by closing the Coventry Village Library on Fridays—a day with relatively low circulation rates compared to the other three libraries in the system.

The new hours will begin on Sunday, Jan. 5.

"We conducted an extensive community survey last February, and an issue that came up with our customers was a desire for more hours, especially on Sundays," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "So we analyzed our circulation rates and our budget, and found a way to better serve our customers' needs while keeping our budget balanced."

Heights Libraries decided to increase hours at the University Heights Library because it is the second most-heavily used of its four branches (behind the Lee Road Library), with the second highest circulation rates and second highest population of patrons living near, and using, the branch.

In 2009, Heights Libraries had to cut Sunday hours at three of its four branches when the State of Ohio drastically reduced public library funding. The Lee Road Library remained open on Sundays, but the Coventry Village, Noble Neighborhood and University Heights libraries closed.

"We can't wait to offer our customers the greater access they've



John Zagara in front of the store's new bulk foods dispensers.

Family-owned Zagara's renovates to meet new competition and modernize

Alastair Pearson

Zagara's Marketplace has undergone a sweeping makeover to modernize its facilities and improve customer service.

Sleek new freezer cases line the frozen food department, filled with tandoori chicken, ground bison and glistening loaves of rye bread. The towering mounds of fruit are gone, replaced by strategically located produce displays

designed to entice the customer toward a vast new bulk foods section.

The message behind the new peanut butter grinders and dispensers full of quinoa and other grains is that Zagara's remains confident in the Heights community.

Zagara's has served the Heights for 77 years, and to John Zagara, president of Zagara's Marketplace since 1996, the

continued on page 2

Grog Shop kicks off New Year with free shows

James Henke

The Grog Shop, on Euclid Heights Boulevard at the corner of Coventry Road, is kicking off 2014 with a week-end of free shows. The concerts will take place the weekend of Jan. 3 and will feature a variety of musical styles. On Friday night, the club's focus will be on indie rock, with Pleasure Leftists, Royal Blood, Ultrasphinx and DJ Nig Champa. The following night, the club will host a big dance party, with Secret Soul Club, Ma Holos and Shit-Box Jimmy. Then, on Sunday night, the focus will be on acoustic music, with

Tiger & Boy, True Stories, Noon and Carrie Ryan.

"The holidays are so crazy, so we wanted to give something back to the community," said Kathy Blackman, the club's owner. Blackman and two of her friends, Matt Mugridge and Sean Heine-man, from Club Isabella in University Circle, opened the Grog Shop in September 1992. It was originally located at the other end of Coventry, in the space that is now occupied by Piccadilly Artisan Yogurt. The club moved to its current location in 2003, and Blackman is now the sole owner.

Over its 21-year history, the Grog



Kathy Blackman, owner of the Grog Shop.

Shop has developed a reputation as one of the finest rock clubs in the country. "We're now veterans on the Cleveland

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Deliver to addressee or current resident

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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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You are invited to become an observer



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

I'm sure you've had plenty of invitations this holiday season. But before you settle down to a more comfortable pace in the new year, let me extend one more invitation: Become an observer in 2014.

We welcome submissions from all community members—no previous writing experience is required. The *Heights Observer* has no writing staff; it exists to publish your stories.

The *Observer* brings people together on important issues. It creates networks in our community and strengthens our capacity to remain vibrant in the future. Consider adding your voice to the diversity of voices in the newspaper.

Here are a few simple guidelines to get you started:

1. Write about the hyper-local.

The *Heights Observer* is by and for those who live and work in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Consider interviewing a local resident, store owner or community leader, or show how a story affects people living and working in the Heights.

2. Submit a story, not a press release.

We have no writing staff to follow up on a press release. Occasionally we have an intern or a volunteer willing to accept an assignment, but mostly we rely on you to decide what your neighbors should

know and then to send us the story in a print-ready format.

3. Give us the news up front. Tell us the who, what, where and when in the first paragraph or two. Tell us what is newsworthy about your story and what you want readers to know.

4. Be succinct. Make every effort to stay within the word limit, and follow other guidelines in our online Style Guide. We publish several types of stories—news, features, opinion, announcements for upcoming events, and letters to the editor—in our limited space each month. Please keep feature articles (stories that profile a person or explore a particular subject) and opinion pieces to 600 words. Limit news items to 400 words, and keep letters to the editor to 220 words. We know this is not always possible, but you'll help our volunteer editors tremendously if you are stay within these limits.

5. Keep your opinion out of your story (unless it is an opinion piece or letter to the editor). Quoting the opinions of others adds color to a news story, but be sure to attribute those views to a specific person. You should disclose any relationship you have to the story in the short bio that you attach to the end of your article.

6. Submit original work only. This may go without saying, but when you submit a story to the Member Center, we trust that the work is your own.

7. Be fair, accurate and civil—even in opinion pieces. We hope that this publication will create dialogue around issues that are important to

Heights residents. Following this guideline will encourage conversations and build community.

8. Provide a photo. Photographs can help tell your story. It's great to see people we know engaged in activities around the community. Photos must be high-resolution, a minimum of 350KB to reproduce well in print. Suggest a caption, name the people in the photo, and let us know who took the picture. Be sure you have permission to use it.

9. Respect our deadlines, so we can stay organized and sane. We publish monthly deadlines at www.heightsobserver.org/read/become-an-observer/. A story submitted by the deadline has a better chance of inclusion in the print edition.

To submit a story, go to www.heightsobserver.org, select Member Center in the left-hand column, and create an account. Then select Submit New Story, copy and paste the text of your story, and hit Submit. If you would like to discuss a story idea before writing it, call me at 216-320-1423, or contact our editor, Kim Sergio Inglis, at city.editor@heightsobserver.org.

Take a look at our monthly deadlines and Style Guide by selecting Become an Observer on the homepage. Don't worry that your story is not good enough. We can help polish your story.

I look forward to reading your story in an upcoming issue of the *Heights Observer*.

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

ZAGARAS continued from page 1

new Walmart Supercenter that opened at Oakwood Commons on Oct. 16 is just one more grocery store in town.

Over the last two years, Zagara directed a \$350,000 renovation program. He believes that Zagara's high standards can overcome chains like Walmart.

"Their variety is worse, their quality is worse, the only thing that is better is the perceived price," he said.

Zagara said that his family-owned store has a diverse core group of Heights customers whose tastes span the spectrum of what grocery stores can provide. He said he doesn't think the new Supercenter will attract his customers, who he expects to be curious about Walmart's

low prices, but disappointed with what they find there.

"People who want the shopping experience that Walmart provides could find that," Zagara said. "Our goal is to continue to merchandise to our customers."

Kathleen Greenberg, a Cleveland Heights resident and Zagara's shopper for 35 years, appreciates the changes. "To me, there's a dramatic expansion in the type of products he's carrying," Greenberg said. "So much of what I'm buying is different."

Greenberg likes the bulk quinoa, and the expanded Amy's Kitchen frozen food line. She lauds the Nature's Oven flaxseed breads in the gleaming new freezer aisles.

"The bottom line is, I want [Zagara's] to survive as a business," she said. "Just the fact that they're here and employ people in the neighborhood."

Zagara said that his store, built around a model that emphasizes customer service, targets a "multi-segmented" demographic.

"We get a little bit of everything. It's really more of a melting pot store than it is a homogenous store," said Zagara. "For me, it's always been about flavor and how well the food is processed to create flavors people will find interesting."

The last three years of planning and two years of restructuring had three goals: improve customer access to products, replace the frozen foods department, and install the new bulk foods department.

Zagara added new products in specialty sectors, such as wheat-free and vegetarian goods. Variety is the crux of the Zagara's model, evidenced by the wide array of jellies and craft sodas fighting for shelf space, neon-colored iced tea next to Victorian rose lemonade.

Zagara purchased 50 new mini-shopping carts, and introduced a rewards program called ZMPPreferred that offers customers discounts on household goods. Every \$2 in purchases equals one program point, and one recent offer gave members who had accumulated 150 points the option to buy up to a dozen cartons of eggs for 38 cents per dozen, for a savings of \$1.47 per carton.

A U.S. Bank—which Zagara hails as the "number one bank in the country" for in-store locations—has occupied the wall opposite the checkout lanes since 2012. Zagara aims to accommodate as many of his customers' needs as possible, from finance to custom orders. If a customer submits a request for a special product, he will get the item on the shelves as quickly as possible.

So far, Zagara is unsure about Walmart's impact on his store, and said it could take two to three months for the effects to become clear.

The struggle between Zagara's and Walmart, between big and small, family-owned and corporate, is one with hefty advantages for the larger chains: economies of scale, union-busting power, the ability to take short-term losses. But Zagara feels that his approach is validated by his customers.

"How do I take care of the customer

who's standing in front of me?" Zagara said. "You cannot compete with Walmart on price. It's silly even to try. We have enough business right here around us to keep us happy for many years to come."

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

No Mart, Bart!

To the Editor,

The closing of Walmart at Severance and opening of Walmart at Oakwood brings back memories. Back in the day (the 1980s, I believe), the developer Bart Wolstein wanted to buy Oakwood and put Cleveland's first Walmart there.

The neighborhood—the whole city—was, expectedly, up in arms and formed a Stop Walmart group headed by a Heights High teacher, Allan Wolf.

I, who had run for the Cleveland Heights school board, joined the fray as an ad consultant. The first thing I did was to design a bumper sticker that read "NO MART, BART!"

The campaign worked and Walmart was turned down, not to rear its ugly head until many years later.

Saul Isler

Santa Monica, Calif.

(Isler was a Cleveland Heights resident from 1939 to 1996.)

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Police should follow traffic laws

To the Editor,

I have traveled all over the county, and the state, and I have never seen law enforcement with such disregard of the law than the Cleveland Heights police. Let me begin by saying that I have the highest respect for people who put their lives in danger to protect others.

Over many years, I have seen police in Cleveland Heights park illegally, run red lights, even write tickets to legally parked vehicles. I have posted pictures and videos of all my accusations at saferheights.wordpress.com.

I think we all feel upset when we see officers running red lights, turning on emergency lights when there is no emergency, and parking illegally. Why should police have special privileges to break the law?

I spoke a year ago with the assistant chief of police. Since then, I have requested a meeting more recently, and my requests remain unanswered. When I spoke to him last year, he told me that they do park throughout the city for deterrence. In the meantime, the FBI reports that incidents of "violent crime" in 2012 were 600 percent higher than 2007 (FBI Uniform Crime Report 2007-12). Where have the police been during this crime increase? They have been "deterring crime" by running red lights; parking in fire zones, at unpaid meters on their break, in front of fire hydrants, and in bus zones.

Yet my concerns for the safety of residents still go unanswered by the police administration. Are the Cleveland Heights police making the city more safe, or are they putting the residents, travelers and visitors in more unnecessary danger?

Let me end by asking this: Who polices the police? I have been to city council twice to express my concerns, and there has been no executive or legislative action since. With no other options, the people must rise up and police our own police. We must police them at the ballot box. We must ask city candidates how they plan to combat police misconduct, and vote for those who will do something. We must send letters to the mayor and council members.

Studies show that when people trust the police the crime rates drop. Let's get these brave women and men out of the fire lanes where they put people in danger, and into the street lanes to bring down the skyrocketing crime. The time has come for the mayor and council to rein in police misconduct, so that we can begin to trust the police more.

Joshua Schaffer
Mayfield Heights

Ohio's dual system of publicly funded schools



THE COMMON
GOOD

Susie Kaeser

I prefer to ignore charter schools. I know good people who work in them and use them. Charters don't appear to have much to do with my school district. How much good can they do? How much harm?

Reports of fraud, profiteering and failure pushed me to learn more. Because charter schools are funded with public funds, I thought I would go to the heart of the matter and "follow the money." I turned to Bill Phillis, a longtime advocate of reforming school funding in Ohio, for an explanation of the system that now uses state tax dollars to fund two different kinds of public schools. I am troubled by what I learned.

The Ohio Constitution requires the state to provide all children a thorough and efficient education. In carrying out that responsibility, the state legislature funds and regulates schools. In 1998 the legislature created "community schools," its name for charters, and began a dual system of publicly funded schools with major differences in funding, regulation and oversight. Today there are more than 390 charters in Ohio, using close to \$1 billion in state funding.

The funding mechanism is costly to traditional public schools. Public resources flow from schools that are governed by an elected school board—and are expected to adhere to state regulations covering financial oversight, teacher qualification and accountability, and educational programs—to loosely governed and deregulated charter schools.

Each year, the legislature determines the funding level for charter students and those in traditional public schools. According to a 2013 Department of Education report, the funding level for every charter student was set at \$5,732. By contrast, state funding for traditional public school students is specific to the school district they attend, based on the property wealth of each district. Because I live in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, I thought I'd focus on its funding. According to CH-UH treasurer Scott Gainer, our per-pupil allocation in 2012-13 was \$1,741, or just 30 percent of the amount promised to charter students.

Not only do charter students receive more state funds than their public school peers, but the difference comes out of the per-pupil contributions for public school students. This is how it works: The state creates a pot of money for each school district that will pay for both charter and traditional students who reside in that district. While the state promised \$5,732 to charter students living in Cleveland Heights, it put only \$1,741 in the pot for each of those students. This is the same amount that is added to the pot for each of the 5,787 public school students who live in the district.

When it is time to pay for charter students, the state subtracts the guaranteed amount—\$5,732—for each student and sends it to their charter school. Public school kids get what is left. The \$4,000 shortfall for each charter student comes out of what was put in the pot for the public school students. In 2012-13, about \$2.5 million was sent to pay for 371 Heights charter school students, even though they brought only 30 percent of that money into the pot. In effect, traditional public school students subsidize 70 percent of the cost of charter school students.

To add insult to injury, once the money passes out of public hands to the charter, there is no elected school board to be held accountable for how it is used.

The state legislature has been loath to increase resources for its

public schools, but when it comes to charter schools they do not hold back, at a sizeable reduction to local school district budgets. How does that make public schools better?

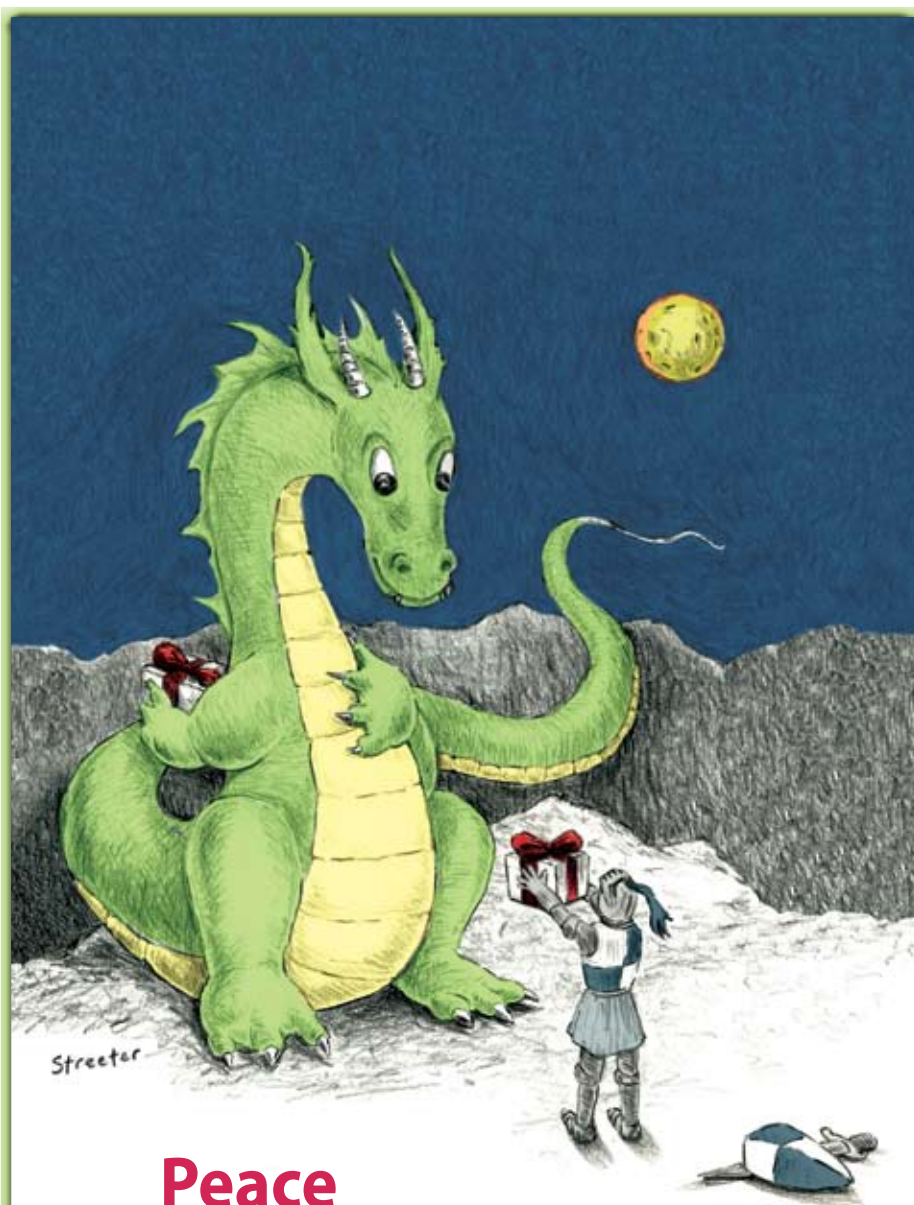
As I see it, the legislature has created a dual system for delivering education. Those systems receive different levels of state support, operate with different expectations, and are governed by different rules. Charter schools—no matter their quality—operate without adequate safeguards to protect public funds and undermine authentic public schools by draining away resources and children. This is wrong.

Ohio's charter schools are not harmless. The system encourages waste through inefficiency and lax oversight. Creating two systems that follow dramatically different rules makes no sense. It endangers public education, violates public trust and undermines education pursued as a common good.

Our elected officials need to end their reckless use of public resources and fulfill their obligation to create an effective system of common schools, the bedrock institution of our democracy.

I am glad I finally decided to learn more.

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.



Peace

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

All council members were present.

Income target areas

Mayor Infeld announced that Cuyahoga County is updating its Income Target Areas. The county maintains a list of areas with low to moderate household incomes that might benefit from grant opportunities.

Cement pricing

Council approved obtaining bids for cement pricing for a new city sidewalk and apron program. The intent is to secure a standard price for concrete per foot that can be offered to residents who need to replace sidewalk blocks and driveway aprons. The city would not recommend nor endorse the contractor, but would offer the information to residents. This would help residents secure a reasonable price from a licensed contractor.

Grass abatement program

Council approved obtaining bids for the grass abatement program. The city periodically hires a contractor to mow the lawn at a home, usually one that is empty or foreclosed. In the current contract, which has ended, contractors bill property owners and then the county if there is no payment. The county then places a lien on the property tax bill. In the new version, the city will take over billing the county and pay the contractor directly. This should increase the number and quality of contractors willing to provide grass abatement for the city.

Municipal tax reform bill

Finance Director Larry Heiser reported the municipal income tax reform bill has passed in the Ohio House and is expected to pass in the Senate. The bill will have a modest effect on University Heights because the city already has a five-year loss option. The issue is still opposed by the Mayors and Managers Association, and is now also opposed by the original backers

because of the compromises that have been made to moderate the bill. If passed, the changes would take effect for 2014 taxes reported in 2015.

Police receive award

Police Chief Hammett announced that University Heights has received an award from AAA for promoting traffic and pedestrian safety. The city has 32 miles of streets and 64 miles of sidewalks.

Fire chief

Mayor Infeld announced that the search for fire chief has been reopened. The position was offered to a candidate, but the candidate declined the offer.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

DECEMBER 2, 2013

All council members were present.

Park planning meeting

A committee will meet Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. to discuss plans for the park at the former Fuchs Mizrahi School site. Preliminary plans of the park will be posted on the [city's] website.

Wiley Middle School's closing

On Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., the school district will hold a meeting in the Heights High Social Room to discuss closing Wiley Middle School and how the district will relocate students to Monticello and Roxboro middle schools next school year.

Honorees

At the next meeting, Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg will be honored as the city's public servant of the year. Bob Walton will be honored as citizen of the year. He is a magistrate and counsels first-time youth offenders in the city.

Nancy English sworn in

Nancy English was sworn in as a new councilwoman for a two-year term, filling the seat to which Mark Wiseman had been appointed following the death of a councilman. Wiseman ran for and won a four-year term for the seat being vacated



by Frankie Goldberg. Therefore, Wiseman will resume his duties as councilman on Jan. 1.

Fire department

Council approved the purchase of three bay garage doors for the fire department at a cost of \$12,309. The building commissioner obtained three bids and recommended Action Door as offering the lowest price. The company has done other jobs for the city. These doors will be more energy efficient and have clear glass. Shaker Heights and Bainbridge [fire departments] have similar style doors.

Fuchs Mizrahi demolition

Council authorized a change order in the amount of \$8,410.50 for the Fuchs Mizrahi building demolition because a crawl space filled with pipes and asbestos was found during the demolition.

Search for fire chief

The search has opened for a new fire chief, and many resumes have been submitted.

Tree trimming

Councilwoman Goldberg asked about tree trimming. The service director said that the arborist looks at every tree and determines how to prune the tree to ensure the strongest growth and safety. A suggestion was made to [identify] in the [city] newsletter those quadrants of the city [in which trees] will be pruned.

Dunkin Donuts

The building commissioner stated that Dunkin Donuts will break ground in early spring.

School facilities oversight

Councilwoman Sue Pardee said the school district budget oversight committee for the facilities renovation is being formed, and [any] resident [who] wants to participate should view [the information] on the [district] website at www.chuh.org.

LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

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

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

Shop local!

GROG SHOP continued from page 1

music scene," Blackman said. "We've been around longer than any other club, with the exception of the Agora."

In its early years, the Grog Shop focused on presenting alternative rock and indie rock bands. But over the past couple of years, Blackman has expanded the club's offerings. "We have been presenting comedians for the past few years," she said, "and we also bring in more established artists, like Dick Dale."

On Jan. 18, the club will present a show by comedian James Adomian, and on Jan. 29, it will feature a show by Wayne Hancock, a country musician known as the King of Juke-Joint Swing.

In addition, the Grog Shop presents shows that attract a younger audience. For example, on Jan. 19, the club is hosting a show by singer-songwriter Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players. That show, at 3 p.m., is expected to draw children who are five years old and younger.

Asked what her favorite shows have been over the years, Blackman mentions the Brian Jonestown Massacre, Yo La Tengo, Built to Spill and Hank3, or Hank Williams III, the grandson of Hank Williams. "There have been so many shows, it's difficult to mention only a few," she said.

Blackman is a longtime resident of the Heights. She grew up in University Heights, attended Heights High, and now lives near Roxboro School in Cleveland Heights. She's married and has two children, ages seven and eight. She also has a dog, Colton, and a cat, Georgia.

"I am very committed to Cleveland Heights," Blackman said. "Rock clubs usually don't last 20 years, so I am very connected to this city. I am vested in this community. It's my home."

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

LIBRARY continued from page 1

been asking for," said Aurora Martinez, manager at the University Heights Library.

The news hours will be implemented for one year, at which time Heights Libraries will assess the effectiveness of the change.

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

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UH honors three for service

Kim Sergio Inglis

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld named outgoing Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg and volunteer magistrate Robert Walton University Heights's 2013 Public Servant and Citizen of the Year, respectively, for the work they have done on behalf of the city.

This year's UH Employee of the Year is Scott Rudyk, a 14-year employee of the city and head mechanic in the service department. He was selected for that honor by a vote of city employees.

At the UH City Council meeting on Dec. 17, Infeld presented Goldberg and Walton with official proclamations honoring their achievements. Rudyk was honored at the city's employee appreciation event on Dec. 16.

"Frankie Goldberg has served the community as an elected official for 12 years; eight years as a councilwoman, and as vice mayor for four years," said Infeld. "Frankie is a strong advocate for the residents of University Heights and is very well-liked."

"For several years, Robert Walton has served as the volunteer magistrate for the Juvenile Diversion program of University Heights," Infeld explained. "He generously donates his time to at-risk first-offender youths in our community who have committed a nonviolent crime."

Each year, Infeld chooses a University Heights resident to honor as Citizen of the Year. The resolution honoring Walton, a 28-year resident of the city and a criminal defense attorney, cited the "innovative guidance" he provides to the city's at-risk children, "encouraging them



Honorees Robert Walton and Frankie Goldberg.

to get good grades in school, ordering community service . . . and "generously [giving] his time to the community in a way to make a difference in the lives of children who need guidance."

Infeld said of Rudyk, "Scott is well-liked by his fellow employees and interacts with nearly every employee . . . in his role of overseeing the vehicle fleet. He is responsible for the maintenance of all city vehicles and has done a tremendous job."

In honoring Goldberg, Infeld noted her "record of advocacy on behalf of residents and community issues," and her service as chair of city council's building, recreation and safety committees.

First elected to UH City Council in November 2001, and re-elected twice, Goldberg was chosen to serve as vice mayor in January 2009. She left council at the end of 2013 because of term limits.

"Frankie will be missed by all of us who have served with her," said Infeld.

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

Meals on Wheels seeks volunteers to package or deliver meals to University Heights residents

Victoria Bauer

Meals on Wheels, a program that delivers fresh meals to seniors and those with disabilities, seeks volunteers to package and deliver meals.

Volunteers assist program staff by filling containers with hot and cold food, and then placing the containers in a heater or cooler for delivery. Each Heights route has between 5 and 9 clients. Volunteers deliver the food to the door of each home on a pre-assigned route and, if invited in, spend a few minutes visiting with the recipient.

Volunteers are urgently needed for the Meals on Wheels Shaker Heights office, which serves University Heights, Shaker Heights and Beachwood. Those who sign up can volunteer just once a

week, or as many days as they are available to help.

A volunteer can either pack meals, deliver meals, or both. Each day requires about a two-hour commitment, from about 10 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers are also needed to serve on the Meals on Wheels Board of Trustees, assist with newsletters, mailings and fundraising.

For more information, contact the Shaker Heights office at 216-991-6376 or www.mealsonwheelsshaker.com.

For information about volunteering with Meals on Wheels in Cleveland Heights, contact the Cleveland Heights office at 216-382-5697.

Victoria Bauer is a member of the Shaker Heights Meals on Wheels Board of Trustees.

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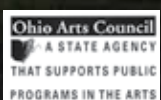
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Jan. 16 public meeting on CH school travel plan

Mary Dunbar

In May 2013, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) awarded the City of Cleveland Heights a consultant to help develop a school travel plan. A public hearing to review a draft of the plan is set for Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers at Cleveland Heights City Hall, with questions and answers to follow. Residents interested in the effort to improve safe walking and biking to school are encouraged to attend, learn about the plan, and provide input.

A school travel plan is required in order for the city to apply for Safe Routes to School grants, which in turn are used to fund infrastructure improvements and educational programs. Infrastructure might include

improved traffic signals for crossing busy streets, while education programs support safety education for walking and bicycling.

In November, the consultant surveyed parents at Oxford, Canterbury and Roxboro elementary schools, Monticello Middle School and the Hebrew Academy to identify attitudes and concerns about students walking or biking to school. Teachers were asked to tally actual modes of transportation that students used to get to school.

In December, the consultant and traffic engineers met with city and school personnel and observed dismissal at the schools selected for the study. While studying every Cleveland Heights and University Heights school would have been desirable, program requirements limited the number, and the sample chosen is geographically diverse.

Cleveland Heights will finalize its school travel plan following the public hearing on Jan. 16. The city then will be able to apply, in March, for Safe Routes to School funds.

The application to ODOT for a consultant to help in developing a Cleveland Heights school travel plan was supported by the city, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City District, Heights Bicycle Coalition and the Hebrew Academy. Findings are expected to apply to all schools in the city.

Mary Dunbar is a member of Cleveland Heights City Council and president of the Heights Bicycle Coalition.

Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



NOVEMBER 18, 2013

All council members were present.

Public comments

Joshua Schaffer expressed concerns regarding the conduct of Cleveland Heights police officers and claimed that people do not respect the police because officers do not follow the laws they are hired to enforce. He said that, upon addressing his concerns to the assistant chief, he was told that he did not understand police procedures. Schaffer made an impassioned speech in which he concluded, "Crime will decrease when we trust the police." He maintains a blog with photos and videos of the behavior that concerns him.

City telephone contract

Council authorized a renewal agreement with Windstream for city phone lines and services for three years, commencing Dec. 1, at a cost not to exceed \$1,062 per month. This amount is considerably less than the current contract.

Troublesome tenants

Council amended the Abatement of Nuisances and Certificate of Occupancy sections of the city code to clarify definitions of "nuisance" and "public nuisance," and to modify the process for revocation of an occupancy permit when either type of nuisance is determined to occur. Nuisance is defined as "an unreasonable interference with a right common to the general public." Council Member Jason Stein maintained that some absentee landlords have failed to ensure that they rent to tenants who are good neighbors. This legislation will encourage landlords to consider the rights and needs of the neighboring community by empowering the city to remove a certificate of occupancy for up to 12 months if their residential property becomes a nuisance.

County health services

Council renewed an agreement, with an addendum, that enables the city to obtain additional public health services as needed from the Cuyahoga County General Health District. The fee for basic services shall be \$180,794, and the [cost of] additional services is not to exceed \$70,000 without further authorization from council.

Heights Emergency Food Center

Council Member Janine Boyd reminded citizens that the Heights Emergency Food Center needs volunteers, especially during November and December, and urged people to volunteer by contacting the agency at www.heightsefc.org.

Tax budget

Council approved the tax collection amounts and rates as determined by the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission, thereby authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor. This gives the city the ability to issue millages to raise revenue.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

DECEMBER 2, 2013

Council Member Janine R. Boyd was absent.

Public comments

Thanking retiring council members: Terry Killeen of The Illuminating Company thanked Mayor Edward Kelley and Council Member Bonnie Caplan for their years of service on council and recognized their passion for the community.

Post office complaint: Resident Calvin Lampkin criticized the city's lack of response to problems he said were caused by the post office facility on Severance Circle.

Nuisance properties

Council declared two properties, 942 Brunswick Road and 3206 Sycamore Road, to be nuisances and authorized abatement.

2014 recreation programs

Council heard two ordinances regarding recreation programs on first reading. The first would authorize and approve the entertainment and recreation programs in Cain Park and other locations for the year 2014, provide for use regulations, and establish rates for the described activities. The second would establish use regulations and rates for admission and other services for Cumberland Swimming Pool, and the provision of indoor swimming programs at the Cleveland Heights High School pool for the year 2014. Both ordinances will be voted on at the Dec. 16 council meeting.

2013 budget and 2014 appropriations

Council heard two budget ordinances on first reading. The first deals with amendments to the 2013 budget to balance amounts that have increased, decreased, or been transferred between funds. The second makes appropriations for expenses of approximately \$42,236,000 for the 2014 fiscal year. These will be presented and voted on at the Dec. 16 council meeting.

Lee Road improvement

Council approved the improvement of Lee Road from Superior Avenue to Dellwood Road, with resurfacing and upgrading signs and signals, to be planned and completed in cooperation with Cuyahoga County using Motor Vehicle Tax Funds.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

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Youth members of YAC and adult advisers.

New CH Youth Advisory Commission members appointed

Noreen Fox

On Nov. 26, the City of Cleveland Heights announced that the Youth Advisory Commission for the 2013-14 school year had been appointed. High school students who are Cleveland Heights residents were selected from public, private and parochial schools.

The commission, which was created by Cleveland Heights City Council in January 2013, works to promote understanding and awareness of government among youth, encourage participation in government by youth, provide advice to council on issues affecting youth, promote communication between young people and adults within the community and work on projects that better the community.

In addition to the 15 appointed members, nonvoting members include high school seniors who would like to continue with the commission. Adult advisers include Council Member Jason Stein and representatives from the Recreation Advisory Board, the Cleveland Heights Police Department and Heights High.

The 15 appointed members are Cameron Cole, Sydney Cook, Ashley Davis, Olivia Dotorre, Shani Gelles, Christopher Gideon, Una Hanley, Jaylen Harris, Joey Hauser, Silvia Immarino, Alice Janigro, Mary Grace Krapf, Payton Meeks, Amanda Murray and Emily Vinson.

Returning seniors are: Garth Bennett, Laurel Brown, Tre Grady, Alexandria Keller, Ellen Posch, Kayla Primes and Joshselyn Smith.

Noreen Fox is the public relations coordinator for the City of Cleveland Heights.

Outgoing CH Mayor Kelley to run for County Council

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Dec. 3, Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward J. Kelley announced his decision to run for Cuyahoga County Council. Kelley did not seek re-election to Cleveland Heights City Council and his term there ended on Dec. 31.

Kelley will run for the District 10 seat currently occupied by Julian Rogers, who announced his resignation from county council on Nov. 20. Rogers resigned to take a position with Cleveland State University, and his resignation is effective Jan. 31.

"Julian Rogers has represented us well," said Kelley, in a press release. "I will continue his commitment to public service, adding my own experience and understanding of the need for regional solutions. I know this will be a spirited campaign, and I welcome the opportunity to participate."

"My experience as an elected official involved issues affecting the poor and less fortunate, regional issues, housing, infrastructure and economic development initiatives, and the ongoing needs of our seniors and young people," continued Kelley. "I know firsthand the challenges of this district and the creative solutions needed to go forward. I look forward to working with my district colleagues and all the elected officials representing District 10 to solve problems together. I commit to doing all that I can to strengthen Cuyahoga County and improve the lives of our citizens. I am honored to have served the residents of Cleveland Heights, the most diverse city in the United States,

and will be honored to expand this service to the county."

District 10 includes the cities of Bratenahl, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, University Heights and Cleveland's 10th and 11th wards. According to a recent Cleveland.com article, the process for replacing an elected official under the Cuyahoga County's new charter government is unclear. According to the charter, Democratic Party precinct members from District 10 will have 30 days from the date of resignation to pick someone to fill the vacated seat temporarily until the general election in November 2014.



Edward J. Kelley

CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

However, in order for the person they choose to be eligible to run for the seat in November, he or she must file as a partisan candidate by Feb. 5 in order to qualify for the May 2014 primary election—only five days after the resignation date.

Kelley served on Cleveland Heights Council from 1993 to 2013, serving as mayor for 16 years. Currently, he is director of administration for the law firm Kelley & Ferraro. Kelley served on the RTA Board of Trustees for 10 years. His other board service includes the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, the Shaker Lakes Nature Center and the Senior Transportation Connection.

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

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Cameron Steele, Kyla Washington, Taylor Scott and Kyle Washington are four of Heights Youth Club's Keystone Tigers.

Heights Youth Club going green in 2014

Louise Khayat

Discarded plastic bottles, cans and litter on Washington Boulevard between Lee and Grosvenor roads will be harder to spot in 2014, thanks to an initiative planned by the Heights Youth Club (HYC).

The Keystone Tigers, an HYC teen service group, plans to go green and clear trash from the curbs and tree lawns along that stretch of road, weekly, bi-weekly, or as often as needed.

"We hope to start in January," said Roscoe Morgan, HYC director. "First, the plan has to go before city council for a vote, because there is no adopt-a-street program currently in Cleveland Heights."

The teens are also making a conscientious effort to print less, and use e-mail more.

Morgan said the club is excited to have this opportunity and, if it gets the green light, looks forward to making it a success.

"This kind of work not only benefits our neighborhoods but our youth, their future and our future," said Morgan.

The Heights Youth Club is a non-profit organization serving Cleveland Heights youth. Donations to support its projects are welcome, and can be sent to Heights Youth Club, 2065 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118.

Louise Khayat is the administrator for the Heights Youth Club Board of Directors.

Community groups to host communitywide public education book discussion

Deanna Bremer Fisher

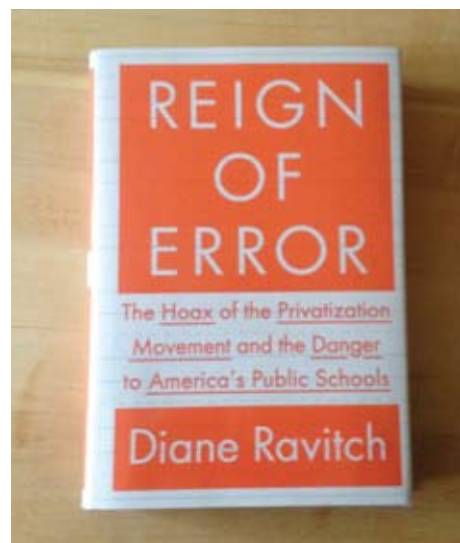
Several Heights-based organizations will host a communitywide discussion about the future of public education and educational reform this winter. The focus of the discussion is the book *Reign of Error*, written by Diane Ravitch, an education historian who served as assistant secretary of education under President George H. W. Bush, and whose views have changed significantly as she has observed the impact of widespread high-stakes standardized testing on public schools, neighborhoods, cities, teachers and children.

Three evening conversations are scheduled for Wednesdays, Jan. 22, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 7-8:30 p.m., in the Social Room at Cleveland Heights High School. Each session will focus on particular chapters in the book, but organizers say that it isn't necessary to have read the book in order to participate.

Participating organizations include Reaching Heights, FutureHeights, Heights Community Congress, the CH-UH Public Library, the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, the CH-UH City School District, the CH-UH PTA Council and Link Educational Consulting.

"We choose the book because it creates a context for understanding education in our community," said Susie Kaeser, a public education advocate and one of the organizers of the discussion. "The chapters are short and topical and don't have to be read in order."

In the book, Ravitch argues that the privatization approach that educational reformers advocate threatens the future existence of public schools in the United



States. Reformers, "mask their agenda with rhetoric that is soothing and deceptive," writes Ravitch. "Though they speak of 'reform,' what they really mean is deregulation and privatization. When they speak of 'accountability,' what they really mean is rigid reliance on standardized testing. . . . When they speak of 'effective teachers,' what they mean is teachers whose students produce higher scores on standardized tests every year, not teachers who inspire their students to love learning."

Chapters of the book deal with such topics as standardized testing, the achievement gap, the meaning of international test comparisons, high school graduation rates and value-added ratings for teachers. Ravitch also explains charter schools and their financial drain on school districts.

"We hope people will join us to share their reactions to the book with neighbors, CH-UH teachers and community leaders. We hope to learn a common vocabulary to be able to understand current education issues in order to make informed decisions," said Ari Klein, president of the CH-UH Teachers Union and discussion organizer.

Community members can purchase the book at a discounted price at Mac's Backs in Coventry Village and Apple-tree Books in Cedar Fairmount, thanks to the generosity of those merchants. Heights Libraries will make additional copies of the book available for residents who wish to borrow it.

The organizers plan to host a wrap-up meeting at a date and time to be determined. Free child care is available by reservation by calling 216-321-0020. For more information, visit <http://cbtu.oh.aft.org/news>.

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

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The Nature Center Good Neighbor Litter Patrol recently cleared 10 bags of garbage from the perimeter of the property.

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes initiates Good Neighbor Litter Patrol

Lisa Fredrickson

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes launched a new initiative in December, the Good Neighbor Litter Patrol. In the spirit of the holidays, the patrol was organized as an opportunity to show appreciation for and give back to the community.

The Good Neighbor Litter Patrol is led by Kay Carlson, executive director, and consists of local high school students, staff and additional volunteers who will meet every Thursday, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., throughout the year. The Litter Patrol will remove all trash and debris from the perimeter of the Nature Center, contributing to the tranquility of the area for visitors, commuters and nearby residents.

"The Litter Patrol initiative is all about being a good neighbor," Carlson said. "We are taking responsibility for keeping our grounds clean, inside and

out, while engaging a terrific group of volunteers. It also gives us an opportunity to recycle."

The Nature Center is known for its hiking and walking trails, natural habitats, birding opportunities and acclaimed environmental education programs. Approximately 40,000 walkers, runners, birders and other nature lovers visit the Nature Center annually, including over 15,000 children who participate in its educational programs each year.

To volunteer for the Good Neighbor Litter Patrol, contact Jessica Brand, volunteer coordinator, at 216-321-5935, ext. 237 or brand@shakerlakes.org.

For more information on programs at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, visit www.shakerlakes.org.

Lisa Fredrickson is the media and events manager for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

HRRC HouseMender series offers free advice from experts

Rebecca Stager

In January, Home Repair Resource Center's (HRRC) HouseMender University lecture series begins its eighth year.

Launched in 2007, the series provides homeowners with information to help them make good decisions about home repair and improvement projects. Lectures cover how to get quality workmanship when contracting, how to choose materials that best fit a specific situation, and how to decide whether a new technology is likely to meet one's needs.

Three HouseMender University presentations are planned for this winter:

- Jan 28: Is a Tankless Water Heater Right for Me? Presented by Jeff Platt of Herb's Plumbing.
- Feb. 11: Green Driveways: Permeable Pavers and Other Options. Presented by Herrick Mann of H.A.M. Landscaping.



- March 25: Contracting Interior Painting: Two Out of Three Ain't Bad. Presented by Sheila Tiddle, Sherwin-Williams decorative product specialist.

Each presentation will run from 7-8:30 p.m. at HRRC's Teaching Center, 2520 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights (two blocks north of Monticello Boulevard).

HouseMender University lectures are free and open to residents of all communities, but reservations are requested. For more information about the series or to reserve a spot, call 216-381-6100, ext. 16.

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

Reaching Heights receives \$4,550 grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Patrick Mullen

Reaching Heights, a community non-profit in Cleveland Heights that supports excellent public education, has been awarded \$4,550 by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) for the Heights Summer Music Camp, which will mark its 10th year in June.

Reaching Heights mobilizes local musicians and music educators to create a weeklong, affordable music-immersion experience for more than 90 10- to 15-year-olds who participate in the school district's instrumental music program.

"We are excited to use some of these grant funds to promote attendance at the music camp's finale concert on June 21, 2014," said camp director Susie Kaeser. "Parents and campers are both surprised and awestruck by the remarkable quality of the orchestra's performance, the skills demonstrated by chamber groups that perform in the reception area and from the stage, and the joyful choir. We're eager to share this concert with an even larger community audience next year!"

CAC made this grant through its 2014 Project Support grant program, which supports Cuyahoga County-based projects that promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming in our community.

Heights Summer Music Camp is a weeklong day camp, where young musicians explore a wide range of musical styles in a variety of ensembles.



Pam Adamson, retired CH-UH instrumental music teacher, is surrounded by Heights Summer Music campers rehearsing for the camp's Finale Concert in June 2013.

They participate in two orchestra rehearsals; work in their instrument group in a master class and in a sectional rehearsal; participate in a chamber group; and explore a new musical interest such as jazz, African drumming, guitar or choir.

Campers demonstrate their progress in a chamber group recital on Friday and in a finale concert on Saturday morning, the last day of camp.

Since 1989, Reaching Heights has worked to engage the entire community in supporting excellence in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools in three areas of focus: academic support, music support and community engagement.

To learn more about Heights Summer Music Camp and Reaching Heights, visit www.reachingheights.org or call 216-932-5110.

Patrick Mullen is the executive director of Reaching Heights.

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Free speech essay contest for high school juniors and seniors

Jewel Moulthrop

The call is out to all high school juniors and seniors. The City Club of Cleveland is presenting The Hope and Stanley Adelstein Free Speech Essay Contest, a special opportunity for upper-grade students to shine, and to win generous cash prizes.

The Adelsteins, lifelong residents of Northeast Ohio, are philanthropists and longtime members of The City Club. Stanley joined The City Club in 1941 and served as president of its board of directors. Hope, a retired nurse, joins her husband in their support of free speech, justice and the environmental issues.

The Free Speech Essay Contest gives students an opportunity to explore the complexities of our constitutional right to free speech while building essential writing and critical thinking skills. The contest is open to all juniors and seniors in public, private, parochial, charter and home schools in Cuyahoga and the surrounding counties.

Essays can address the topic "What is the value of free speech in a democratic society?" in any way that exhibits an understanding of the theme. Essays will be judged on clarity of thought, quality of content, originality, and significance of the ideas expressed, and should be no more than 300 words. A panel of judges, selected from The City Club member-

ship and the community, will select the winning essays.

More than 20 prizes will be awarded. The first three prizes are \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, respectively. The next 17 winners will each receive \$100.

The top three winners will read their essays at a City Club Forum to be broadcast on radio, television, YouTube and The City Club website. The 20 finalists and their guests will be invited to attend a special luncheon and will receive a one-year membership to The City Club and a certificate of recognition.

The deadline for submitting an essay is March 14. All entries must include entrant's name, age, home address and telephone number, and e-mail address. Entries should include a cover letter, signed by the entrant, that states the following: "This is my original document and does not include any previous composition by another."

Entries should be sent to Free Speech Competition, 850 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, 44114. Winners will be notified by April 15.

For more information, contact Arin Miller-Tait at 216-621-0082 or at FreeSpeech@cityclub.org.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the Heights Observer's Editorial Advisory Committee and frequent contributor to the newspaper.

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CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights



NOVEMBER 19, 2013

All board members were present.

Equivalent Education Outside the Schools

The board approved the Equivalent Education Outside the Schools policy.

Construction project

Stephen Shergalis, director of business services, presented a timeline for the design and construction at Heights High, Monticello Middle School, and Roxboro Middle School. Designer and construction manager interviews are taking place now and will be approved at the Dec. 17 board meeting. The design of the high school project will happen during 2014. In early 2015, bids will be received and the contract awarded. Construction at the high school will begin June 2015 and continue until July 2017.

During the 2014-15 school year, changes will be made to Wiley Middle School, including the addition of modular units, to prepare for its use as a swing school when the high school is moved there.

The design for Roxboro and Monticello middle schools will take place during 2015. Construction on the middle schools will begin in June 2017 and continue until July 2019.

A facility accountability committee will be appointed to oversee the project. In December 2013, an executive partnering session will take place to set guidelines for the project. This session will include the architects, construction

manager, the school board and the administration.

In January 2014, new geographic boundaries for the middle schools will be drawn and approved by the board. Asked if the two middle schools can accommodate all the middle school students. Assistant Superintendent Andrea Celico responded with a definite "Yes."

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

DECEMBER 3, 2013

All board members were present.

Library board interviews

The only agenda item was to interview and appoint a trustee for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board. Appointment of trustees for the Heights Library Board is the responsibility of the board of education.

The three candidates were Michael Kurtz, James K. Roosa and Kenneth E. Simmons. After each was interviewed, the board of education appointed James K. Roosa to the seven-year term. Roosa has been on the library board for the past two years, filling an unexpired term.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

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Communion of Saints students win scholarships to Beaumont

Amy Fischer

On Dec. 4, at Beaumont High School, four Communion of Saints students were honored for their performance on Beaumont's entrance exam. These extraordinary girls—Courtney Foerg, Sarah Kikel, Christy Murgiano and Rose Scalish—have been together since first grade, steadily building their impressive academic résumés. The four are active in parish life and volunteer with various community organizations. They are also athletes and officers on the school's student council.

All four have earned academic scholarships for Beaumont's Class of 2018, the result of scoring in the 90th percentile on the Presidential Academic Scholarship test last October.

Located at the corner of Coventry and Cedar roads, Communion of Saints



Scholarship winners are Rose Scalish, Sarah Kikel, Courtney Foerg and Christy Murgiano.

School, formerly St. Ann School, was once the home of Catholic sisters dedicated to educating Heights students. Today the school has a staff of 14, with a combined teaching experience of 255 years.

The school takes pride in the con-

tinuity of nurturing children through eighth grade. Often referred to as the "heart of the church," Communion of Saints School comprises parishioners, alumni, and children of former students.

Seventh-grade teacher Kevin

O'Toole chose to teach in a Catholic school "because of the high level of family involvement and [the ability] to share my faith with the students," sentiments shared by other teachers at the school.

Communion of Saints will celebrate Catholic Schools Week Jan. 26 through Feb. 1. This year's theme—Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service—is part of the school's proud tradition of academic excellence in Cleveland Heights. As its mission states, "We are a welcoming and inclusive community, rooted in Gospel values nurturing spirituality, academic success, and social responsibility."

For more information about Communion of Saints School, call 216-932-4177 or visit www.communionofsaintsschool.org.

Amy Fischer is a member of the school advisory committee at Communion of Saints.

Heights High students have an action plan for achievement

Joy Henderson

Last fall, six Heights High students and three adults attended the national Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Conference in Amherst, Mass.

The conference, Take the Road Less Traveled: Courage to Act, included keynote speakers, college tours, workshops and an opportunity for each school team to create an action plan to improve student achievement.

"It was really great to see what other schools are doing and to get ideas about how we can improve," said Landry Snead, MSAN student leader at Heights High.

The action plan created by the CH-UH team focused on three issues: providing in-school, peer-to-peer tutoring; developing a diversity course; and improving cultural competency training for teachers.

After returning from the conference, the students started a math tutoring program in the library during periods 3-9. Any student can attend during EOS, an in-school study period.

"We are working with the human relations department to improve our cultural competency training for staff," said David Peake, MSAN co-advisor.

The group is also working with administrators to create a diversity course

for teachers.

"Taking students to the national conference is a way to inspire them to take action," said Peake.

MSAN student leaders who attended the conference were Malachi Carlisle, Lexus Hawkins, Raven Jackson, Carl Sims, Landry Snead and Kelia Todd.

MSAN offers ongoing activities to motivate and inspire students to achieve and be engaged in school.

Weekly after-school Thirsty Thursday events feature guest speakers and always begin with Peake's question to the group: "Are you thirsty?" The students respond: "Thirsty for change!"

Upcoming MSAN events include a trip to Kent State University for a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and a visit to Detroit's Museum of African American History.

"We want students to know more about history and democracy and to broaden their networks," Peake said. "Ultimately, we want students to be comfortable and successful in school."

MSAN is a 24-member coalition of multiracial, suburban-urban school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate the racial achievement gaps that persist in their districts.

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



Attending the MSAN conference were (from left): Co-advisor Shawn Washington, Lexus Hawkins, Malachi Carlisle, Raven Jackson, Landry Snead, Kelia Todd and co-advisor David Peake. Also attending the conference were student Carl Sims and chaperone Charlene Seacy.

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University Heights library to explore renovation options

Julia Murphy

Built in 1962, the University Heights Library is the second most heavily used branch in the Heights Libraries system, after the Lee Road Library.

Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director, thinks it's time to consider upgrading the UH Library, and she wants to hear from the community about what that upgrade should include.

"The University Heights branch is bursting at its seams," said Levin. "The Lee Road branch was renovated in 2005-06, and the Noble branch in 2011. Now it's time for the University Heights branch."

"We'll be looking to members of our community to share their ideas for the renovation of the branch," said Levin, "and we'll be holding five community visioning sessions throughout University Heights in January and February. This is a chance for our customers to let us know what they would like to see at the University Heights branch."

There will be online and paper surveys for those who cannot make it to one of the community input sessions.

The UH Library community visioning sessions are planned for the dates listed below. All are open to the public, and no registration is required.

- Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m., at the University Heights Library. Families are welcome; there will be activities for kids in grades K-5.

- Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., at Gearity Elementary School
- Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2 p.m., at Whole Foods Market at Cedar Center
- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m., at Dolan Auditorium at John Carroll University
- Thursday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m., during the Senior Citizen Happenings talk at University Heights Library

As of yet, there is no time frame for renovations, and Heights Libraries is just starting the process of exploring possibilities and inviting feedback from the community.

Goals for a potential remodel include better access for library visitors of all ages, more efficient and sustainable energy updates, and a comfortable environment with enduring aesthetics.

Last year, the UH Library had around 184,500 visitors and circulated an estimated 187,000 items.

Beginning Jan. 5, the library will expand its hours to open on Sundays, 1-5 p.m.

It hosts an international movie festival and babysitting clinics, and offers expanded programs off site at Whole Foods on Cedar Road, John Carroll University, Purvis Park and Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools.

Julia Murphy is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 18, 2013
All board members were present.

Heights Libraries is again named a five-star system

For the fifth year in a row, the Heights Libraries was awarded five stars (the highest level of distinction) in the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service 2013. The index has per capita scores on circulation, visits, program attendance and public Internet use.

Two branch libraries to change hours

The board approved a proposal to provide more Sunday hours in response to customer requests. The University Heights Library will add Sunday hours, from 1-5 p.m. To prevent an increase in the budget, the Coventry Village Library will now be closed on Fridays. This change is for a trial period of one year.

Nancy Levin, library director, said she understands that some public confusion will result, and emphasized that there is no plan to phase out the Coventry Village Library. Circulation data and visitor statistics across the system pointed to Friday closure at Coventry as being the most logical. There is a popular Friday morning story hour at Coventry that will be rescheduled, and Coventry will remain open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. All of the physical improvements planned for Coventry, such as outdoor lighting, interior remodeling and roofing, will continue. The library will begin a publicity campaign to inform the community about the changes that will begin in January.

Board Member Jim Posch asked for a six-month update on the changes; sooner if public concern warrants it.

Donations

The board accepted three gifts: \$500 from the Staff Association to pay for a portion of the picnic table for the Lee Road Library's children's sensory garden; \$1,809.96 from the Harry Parkman Fund of the Friends, to be used toward technology purchases; and \$100 from resident Paule Prebus for books.

UH Library visioning

The library is planning a University Heights Library "visioning" process, hopefully without [requiring] any additional taxpayer dollars. The visioning session dates for community input for the University Heights Library renovation are: Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the University Heights Library; Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at Gearity Elementary School; Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. at Whole Foods at Cedar Center; Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Dolan Auditorium at John Carroll University; and Thursday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Happenings program at the University Heights Library.

October public service report highlights:

- History of the Heights, a series presented in partnership with the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Cleveland Heights



Landmark Commission, presented two programs: "Immigrants and Migrants: the People of Greater Cleveland" and "The Shakers of Cleveland Heights."

- The second Octavofest program presented master calligrapher Steve Otlowski on "The Glory of the Written Page." Octavofest is an annual festival dedicated to advancing the appreciation of book and paper arts. The third program, a workshop led by certified Zentangle teacher Ellen Darby, "Tangling with Art, Zen and Paper," was about this method of creating beautiful art using black pens on white paper.

- Mary Murphy, circulation manager, met with the Shaker Heights circulation manager and deputy director to share information on position descriptions, scheduling, and best practices to aid Shaker staff as they consider operational changes directed by their board.

- Coventry Village Library partnered with Kattywompus Press on a poetry book launch presented to 30 poetry lovers. The Cedar-Coventry Author Series featured local mystery writers Shelley Costa and Kylie Logan.

- Noble Neighborhood Library staff is working with Heights Community Gardens Network and Food Not Lawns to make plans for the Noble Neighborhood Library garden. Noble Elementary School may be able to provide student volunteers. Dana Wible and Sam Lapides submitted a proposal to the Subaru Garden Grant for funding.

- Noble Neighborhood Library also participated in Octavofest with Melissa O'Grady's program, "Book About Me," where children made their own books.

- The University Heights Library's weekly Senior Citizen Happenings programs featured Connie Rebich of Ten Thousand Villages; Rachel DeGolia of Universal Health Care Action Network; and Kenneth Palko, a professor at Notre Dame College.

- Lauren Saeger started her new music-focused storytime, Kids in Harmony. Average attendance has been 40, for just three programs.

New website design

Sheryl Banks, marketing and community relations manager, demonstrated the website redesign to applause from the board and staff. It will be available for the public soon and is very user-friendly and attractive.

Library brochure

Banks has finished the text for a general library brochure, the first update in a number of years.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 4.

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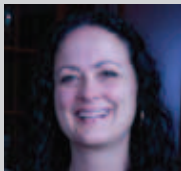
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Local in-home services for seniors



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

During the winter many people find it difficult to get out of the house to do errands and socialize with friends. Those with limited mobility are unable to get out any time of the year. Fortunately, there are local companies that bring their services to people's homes.

Amy Roth, a Heights-area dress-maker and tailor, will come to your home to pick up your mending and tailoring. With more than 40 years of couture experience, Roth can alter your clothing to make garments easier to put on and take off. "It's called adaptive sewing," said Roth. "I can replace buttons with snaps or Velcro." Roth also makes comfort and convenience items for seniors, such as wedge pillows for back pain, and privacy curtains to create a sleeping area on the first floor of your house. Call Amy Roth at 216-904-1786.

Spa On Wheels For Seniors is a mobile service caring for feet and nails. Owner Wanda Ragins is a licensed manicurist and pedicurist with nine years of experience. She cleans the feet, clips and shapes the toe and finger nails and removes dry skin. Ragins specializes in conditions common to older feet and hands, such as corns, calluses, long nails, yellowed or thick nails, fungus and dry skin. "Many seniors are embarrassed to have someone else see the condition of their feet," said Ragins, "But I tell them it's OK, sometimes it just gets too hard to care for your own feet." To schedule an appointment, call 330-348-1922.

Vets on Wheels (VOW), a mobile veterinary service, comes to your home to provide medical care for pets. Staff provide medications, vaccinations, disease testing, wellness screening and nail trimming. They also treat skin diseases and ear problems, and provide nutritional guidance. VOW is a program of One Health Organization, a nonprofit group dedicated to the health of people, animals and the environment. VOW offers discounts for low-income seniors. Founder Dr. Anna van Heeckeren said, "Many se-



VOW clients Aileen Snell and Doodle Bug.

niors have trouble affording health care for both themselves and their animals. Our discounts help ease this burden." To reach Vets on Wheels for services, call 216-920-3051 or visit www.onehealth.org.

Meals On Wheels (MOW) provides for seniors who have trouble shopping and cooking for themselves. Coordinated by the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging (OOA), MOW volunteers deliver two meals per day, five days per week, to people in need. The cost is \$6.25 per day.

OOA also offers a transportation service for Cleveland Heights seniors. Drivers will pick you up and take you to the doctor at a cost of \$2.50 per round trip. You can also go to the Senior Activity Center (SAC) for \$1 per round trip, to participate in classes and programs offered at SAC and socialize with other seniors. To reach the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging for services, or to become a MOW volunteer, call 216-691-7377.

The Loving Hands Group consists of professional artists and holistic health care practitioners who bring classes, activities and therapies to seniors at home. Loving Hands has more than 70 different programs in a wide range of subjects, such as art, architecture, interior decorating, writing, music, yoga, tai chi and massage. For information call The Loving Hands Group at 216-408-5578.

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.

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.

Jan. 9: Stephen Cory, director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program at Cleveland State University, charts the spread of Islam across the world, and explores the history and achievements of Islamic culture highlighting the Mediterranean region, Africa and Asia.

Jan. 16: Jan Thrope, a social worker, photojournalist and urban activist, presents *Sights that Hurt and Visions that*

Heal, about her quest to find solutions to Cleveland's poverty, and the work of caring people who tackle projects to transform the city.

Jan. 23: Karen Pace, clinical assistant professor of nursing at Cleveland State University, tells of her one-week mission last June to the Dominican Republic. Pace led 16 graduating students, carrying 21 suitcases of medications, and treated 500 patients in remote villages of San Juan de la Maguana.

Jan. 30: Mayor Susan Infeld looks back on her first four-year term, and reviews the issues, accomplishments and challenges of service in the City of University Heights. She'll outline potential projects that could benefit the community in the new year.



Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
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Winter Open House
 Tuesday, January 14, 2014
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Heights resident Christine Howey performs her one-person show at CPT

Stephen Bellamy

Christine Howey, who was born and raised in Cleveland Heights and still lives in the city, feels as if she's being reborn as an actor.

Years ago, she was an actor and director at Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights. At that time, she was Richard Howey and performed in more than 20 productions between 1969 and 1984.

Among the roles Richard played were Richard Nixon in "An Evening with Richard Nixon" by Gore Vidal and Bitos/Robespierre in "Poor Bitos" by Jean Anouilh.

Since then, Richard has become Christine. The one-person show she wrote and performs, "Exact Change," will run at Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) Jan. 9-25.

"Exact Change" is, in large part,

the story of Howey's transgender journey—one that took place here, in her hometown.

"This play is my attempt to show others what it feels like to struggle with a gender identity conflict," said Howey. "Most people, gay or straight, don't have a clue about it."

The play consists of 40 poems and monologues, many of which are funny and are delivered in a variety of character voices. It begins with pieces that cover a wide range of topics, as Christine searches for her own voice.

Then, for the last hour of the 90-minute production, the focus is on Christine's transgender odyssey—from birth at St. Luke's Hospital and school days at Roxboro Elementary to her eventual transition in 1990.

The performance includes video from Christine's appearance on "The



Christine Howey

Oprah Winfrey Show" in 2002, as well photos and videos of Richard/Christine as the years pass.

A shorter version of the play was performed last January at CPT's Big Box

new play series. Dee Perry, senior host and producer at 90.3 WCPN ideastream, said of that workshop production, "The writing was funny, fierce, bawdy and smart. The acting was a revelation. I was mesmerized by the way Howey commanded the stage, hurling lightning strikes of emotion and insight. I walked out of the theater wanting to tell as many people as I could that if this show came back to the stage for a longer run, they should see it."

Talkbacks are scheduled for some of the performances. For details and reservations, contact Cleveland Public Theatre at 216-631-2727 or go to www.cptonline.org.

Stephen Bellamy, a local filmmaker, photographer and writer, has known Howey since the 1970s. They met at Dobama Theatre, where they frequently worked together on shows.

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Dual exhibition at Heights Arts opens Jan. 17

Andrea Joki

On Jan. 17, Heights Arts unveils a two-person exhibition of works by artists Mark Keffer and Lisa Schonberg. "As a nonprofit arts organization, Heights Arts serves the community by shining a light on the remarkable artists, musicians and writers that call this region home," said Rachel Bernstein, Heights Arts executive director.

"With this exhibition, Heights Arts showcases the artists' shared technique of constructing evocative compositions through a rigor of layering and patterning," said Bernstein. The exhibition displays Keffer's graphic abstract paintings alongside Schonberg's vibrant nature-inspired works on paper.

Keffer maintains an intimate studio within a large warehouse space in midtown Cleveland's Tyler Village. His paintings fill the quiet and singular space and are constructed on panel through a meticulous layering of processes—brushwork, spray paint, masking and sanding.

A longtime resident artist at Cleveland's Zygote Press, Schonberg works within the bustle of a fine arts print-making cooperative. Utilizing the techniques of relief and monoprinting, Schonberg creates her prints by rolling vibrant inks on stencils, textured materials and hand-carved matrices, then impressing these inked materials onto paper using a printing press.

The exhibition will be on view at



Mark Keffer, *Unlikely Sun* (detail), acrylic and spray paint on paper.



Lisa Schonberg, *Variations on Flow x3, no. 1* (detail), relief and monoprint.

Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, through March 1. For more information, visit www.heightsarts.org or call 216-371-3457.

Andrea Joki is an artist and staff member of Heights Arts.

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Eric Coble: A playwright’s journey from Dobama to Broadway



CREATIVE
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Peggy Spaeth

What do Clint Eastwood, Sonny Bono and Eric Coble have in common? All are professional artists elected to public office. Playwright Coble’s presence on the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education, and painter Jeffrey Coryell’s recent election to Cleveland Heights City Council, give our city more artists as elected officials than almost anywhere else in the country. Coble, in the middle of his second four-year term, has promised not to write a play about the school board while he is a member. “Self-preservation,” he claimed.

Coble began storytelling as a small child in New Mexico, when he would dictate stories blending Alice in Wonderland and Captain Kangaroo to his mother, who would write them down for him to illustrate. In Colorado, he turned to acting in his high school theater program and then, as a college English major, performed in both college and professional community theater, racking up 12 shows a year for many years, ranging from Shakespeare to Sam Shepard.

A playwriting class in grad school at Ohio University (OU) began to shift Coble’s interest from acting to writing. While at OU, he met his future wife,

Carol Laursen, a fellow acting major, and found his future home through an internship at the Cleveland Play House.

After grad school, Coble and Laursen settled in Cleveland Heights and started a family. Laursen began to work at University Hospitals as a lab technician, and Coble drifted into playwriting rather than acting, because he could write in the playpen while watching the kids. Apparently this was a successful strategy for their family, as today their son Trevor is a freshman at Macalester College, daughter Miranda is a junior at Heights High, Laursen is returning to acting and writing, and Coble is about to launch a play on Broadway.

Coble credits Dobama Theatre, founded on Coventry Road in 1959 and now located on Lee Road, with giving him “chance after chance.” His first full production, “Sound-Biting,” was a political comedy launched at Dobama in 1996. In fulfilling its mission to nurture the development of area theater artists, Dobama has produced five Coble plays and must be so proud that one will be opening on Broadway this spring.

The play, “The Velocity of Autumn,” starring Estelle Parsons and Stephen Spinella, is the last in a trilogy about a smart, passionate, independent visual artist at three stages of life.

The trilogy began with “A Girl’s Guide to Coffee,” a play for six actors, which presented an independent 20-something who made no plans and felt that nothing was permanent. “Stranded on Earth,” a one-woman



BETSY MOUNAY/BIG STILLS

Eric Coble

show, brought us the middle-aged married woman, after she had put down roots, at a time in her life when she lived through her best moments and worst nightmares. In the two-person play, now headed for Broadway, the woman is in her 80s and in failing health. Ironically, she now knows who and what she is, and resists being pulled from her roots to enter assisted living. She has barricaded herself in her home with Molotov cocktails when her youngest son, whom she hasn’t seen in 20 years, climbs a tree to enter the house and intervene.

In spite of having a play on Broad-

way, Coble said, “Cleveland is not a stepping stone. It is home. There is something really meaningful about having an audience that knows me for myself, greets me in the grocery store and has experienced my work over the years.”

“Velocity of Autumn” previews begin April 1, prior to an April 21 opening at Broadway’s Booth Theater. Tickets are available at Tel-echarge.com.

Peggy Spaeth is the former director of Heights Arts.



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

December 16, 2013

An Open Letter to the Residents of Cleveland Heights:

As many of you know, in August of this year, I announced that I would not seek re-election to City Council. I have been humbled by the generous response that I have received. It is clear that we all share an unrivaled love for our city. Thank you for your enthusiastic support and advice over the last 20 years.

Without your support and help, we would not have accomplished everything that makes Cleveland Heights the eclectic, diverse and desirable city it is today. There are so many things that I am incredibly proud to have been a part of over the last 20 years. The expansion of our Community Center, which serves residents from preschool to retirement, is a standout. The redevelopment of our commercial districts at Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry are the envy of our neighbors from east to west. And the gem of Cleveland Heights, our very own Cain Park, makes us, along with galleries and theaters, truly “Home to the Arts”—all of this within the boundaries of the most beautiful and diverse city in the United States.

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. I am confident that our efforts to combat the negative have succeeded in weathering the storm. Now we are ready to pursue economic development in our business districts and to upgrade our housing stock.

Thank you to my colleagues for both your professionalism and your friendship. Thank you for entrusting to me the position of Mayor and President of Council since 1997.

As my final term on City Council comes to an end, I am asking all of you for your support once again. I am entering the race to serve on the County Council District 10. I never thought that an opportunity to serve in another capacity would present itself so quickly. However, I am prepared to dive right in. I will use the experience that I have gained, the contacts that I have developed and my commitment to people and their quality of life to represent District 10 to the best of my ability.

I am a strong supporter of regionalism and the need for communities to work together to problem solve. The success of the inner-ring suburbs and our District 10 is directly tied to the success of the County. I will do my best to make that success a reality.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Kelley

Edward J. Kelley
Mayor

Contact Information:
Cell: 216-315-4616
Work: 216-575-0777
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These Knees’ singer-guitarist has loved music her whole life

James Henke

Stephanie Trivison has loved music for as long as she can remember. In fact, there is a photo of her taken when she was three years old, and she is standing in front of a microphone, holding a guitar and singing.

Now 27, Trivison, who lives in Cleveland Heights, is the lead singer, guitarist and main songwriter for the band These Knees.

The group, which also includes Eric Piontkowski on bass and backing vocals and Rob Hassing on drums, recently released its debut album, “The Young and the Bright,” a collection of songs that range in style from pop rock to indie rock to singer/songwriter.

Trivison grew up in Macedonia and attended Nordon High School. Music

was always around her when she was growing up. Her father, also a guitarist, plays in cover bands, and her grandfather was a jazz guitarist.

“My dad had a red Fender Stratocaster (guitar) that I loved,” she said. “I watched VHS recordings of his gigs and learned a ton of classic rock at an inappropriately young age. And I also loved the music my mom and dad listened to: the Beatles, Queen, Creedence Clearwater Revival, all of that stuff.”

Trivison got a drum set for her eighth birthday, and her first real guitar when she was nine. She made her first appearance onstage at age 14, playing the Beatles’ song “Help” with her father’s band.

Trivison said she started taking music seriously when she was 15 or 16, and after high school, she attended



Stephanie Trivison of These Knees.

Cuyahoga Community College’s Recording Arts and Technology program. She dropped out after a year and began focusing on her music career.

Prior to forming These Knees, she recorded two solo EPs, “Stumble” and “Ohio!” She came up with the name These Knees as a result of issues she has with her own knees. “Ever since I was little, my knees have been unreliable,” Trivison said. “I even had surgery when I was 19. I’ve had intermittent problems with my knees for years, but I always bounce back!”

Her band has played at many Cleveland-area music venues, including the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahall’s in Lakewood and Musica in Akron. These Knees has also played at Ingenuity Fest, the Brite Winter Fest and the Heights Music Hop in Cleveland Heights.

In addition, These Knees has played shows in Pittsburgh, Columbus and Oberlin, and the group recently played at the New York Songwriters Circle in Manhattan.

She works in customer service, sales administration and account maintenance. “My role as resident noisemaker is well-known at the company,” she said. “I keep a guitar in my office, and if I’m not singing or whistling, something may be wrong!”

In addition to music, Trivison loves nature. “I feel like I need a fair amount of alone time to refresh and get centered and grounded,” she said. “For me, there’s no better way to get that than to connect with nature.”

“I’m a big advocate of the Metroparks, the beaches of Lake Erie and, now that I live in Cleveland Heights, the Shaker Lakes,” said Trivison. “When I was making my final notes on our new album this summer, I just sat on a dock in Marblehead for hours, headphones on and feeling very connected. I feel like nature is this rejuvenating and inspiring force, and it’s something I write about often. It’s all throughout ‘The Young and the Bright.’”

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

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Vero Bistro serves authentic-style pizza



Marc-Aurele Buholzer at the wood-burning oven in Vero Bistro.

James Henke

When most people think of pizza, they think about the kind of pizza served by the large chains across the U.S. It has a relatively thick crust, with tomato sauce, cheese and maybe sausage or pepperoni. But the pizza at Vero Bistro, located on Cedar Road in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, is quite different. It's *pizza napoletana*, or Neapolitan pizza.

Neapolitan pizza is the original style of pizza, first introduced in Naples, Italy, back in the late 18th century. "It was originally street food," said Marc-Aurele Buholzer, the owner of Vero. "It was basically peasant food." Neapolitan pizza has a very thin crust, made with super-fine flour. It also features San Marzano tomatoes, which are grown on the volcanic plains south of Mount Vesuvius, and mozzarella cheese. It has to be baked in in a wood-burning oven at 900 degrees for 90 seconds.

Buholzer opened Vero Bistro a little more than a year and a half ago, on June 15, 2012. It's the same location that La Gelateria formerly occupied.

Buholzer, who is 30 years old and was born in Switzerland, worked at La Gelateria on and off for about six years. Prior to working there, he worked at Valerio's in Little Italy. In fact, it was Valerio Iorio who opened La Gelateria in 2002. After a few years, Iorio decided to install a wood-burning oven, which he acquired in Naples, and began serving pizza.

Eventually, Buholzer became the *pizzaiola*, or the maker of the pizzas.

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When La Gelateria closed in 2011, he decided to take over the space. "I put a business plan together, got some money and opened Vero," he said. He spent about three months remodeling the space, with the idea of focusing on pizza, not gelato. In addition to the pizza, Vero also features small plates, such as marinated olives with crostini, a salami board and a variety of other crostini with cheese and other items. In addition, the menu includes three salads, and the restaurant still offers gelato for dessert.

Buholzer obtained a liquor license this past June, and the restaurant now offers a full menu of Italian wines, as well as various beers.

Buholzer, who lives on Woodmere Drive in Cleveland Heights, focuses on using as many locally grown products as possible. He gets many of his ingredients from Farm Share, an organization that connects him with farmers who are all located within 75 miles of Cleveland. His goat cheese comes from the Lake Erie Creamery, and all of his bread is from On the Rise bakery, on Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights.

Vero has received strong support from other chefs who live in the area, including Michael Symon, Jonathon

Sawyer and Doug Katz. "Doug comes by almost every Sunday," Buholzer said, "and his restaurant Fire had its staff party here."

As for the future, Buholzer said the restaurant is "always a work in progress." He is considering eliminating the gelato from the menu and adding more space for additional seating in the restaurant,

which can now accommodate 45 people. Meanwhile, Vero remains a very unique restaurant on the Cleveland scene.

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

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White Cloud Pilates celebrates 20 years in Cleveland Heights

Erin Hobey

Troy McCarty, local resident and owner of White Cloud Studio (WCS), is celebrating more than 20 years in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. McCarty began teaching Pilates in 1989, drawing on his professional dance career and his own Pilates training. Since then, he has grown his original Lakewood studio and opened studios in Cleveland Heights and Chagrin Falls. He has 14 coaches and an active teacher training program.

White Cloud Studios boasts a wide range of equipment to accommodate an increasing number of Pilates devotees. WCS has spread Pilates not only throughout Greater Cleveland, but also in Canada, Cuba, Portugal, Italy, England and China by way of McCarty-trained coaches. McCarty named the studio for “the big white clouds in the sky and the way they float so gracefully.”

Many of White Cloud’s clients use Pilates as an alternative to physical therapy. Rose Metzger, a Cleveland Clinic endocrinologist, began Pilates

as a last-ditch effort to ease persistent low back pain. “I was a bit apprehensive about Pilates in the beginning, she said. “I wasn’t sure I would like the reformers [exercise equipment], and didn’t want to be limited by having to use them.”

But Metzger put her worry aside, took three introductory classes, followed up with a group class and hasn’t stopped since. “I was surprised at what a complete, whole-body workout I was getting. Classes were tiring, and left me sore all over, but in a really good way. It took a bit of time, but within a few months I started to realize that my back pain was almost gone.”

Each studio prides itself on the staff’s professionalism, ability and accessibility. All White Cloud coaches have had Balanced Body® Pilates training and have apprenticed with McCarty for six months. McCarty ensures that clients receive individualized attention. Raudel Napoles, general manager, adds zest and humor to each workout.

“Raudel keeps me coming back to White Cloud,” said Chastity Embrescia. “He has a fun personality and his class is a great, tough workout. You



Troy McCarty, owner of White Cloud, and Raudel Napoles, general manager, stand beside a Pilates reformer.

workout.”

Other White Cloud enthusiasts include local college and professional athletes, ballet dancers, and the United Arab Emirates royal family. Most clients visit the studio more than once a week for group classes or for private instruction to complement their other exercise activities.

McCarty has added Saturday morning group classes, as well as new workshops: Pilates Logic and Provoking Motion. He recently produced educational videos, “Pilates Anytime” and “Pilates Fusion,” which will soon be available online for teachers. The December launch of an improved website makes enrolling in classes even easier.

The Cleveland Heights White Cloud studio is located at 2460 Fairmount Blvd. For more information, call 216-221-9998 or go to www.whitecloudstudios.com.

Erin Hobey is a client at White Cloud and a writer living in Shaker Heights.

Hetrick is new Coventry Village Special Improvement District executive director

Michael Peterman

The Coventry Village Special Improvement District (SID) has named Angela Hetrick its new executive director.

After her November appointment to the position, Hetrick’s first task was planning, coordinating and executing the first annual Coventry Village Holiday Festival, which took place Dec. 14.

The festival featured free holiday events throughout the neighborhood, including appearances by Coventry Claus, Cleveland favorite Mr. Jingeling, and an “Elf” movie marathon at the Centrum Theater.

Steve Presser, the owner of Big Fun and the former Coventry Village SID executive director said, “We are really excited for Coventry Village to have Angela Hetrick take the position of the executive director. Angie had previously worked with the Coventry Village SID assisting with social media, so most of the merchants already had a good relationship with her. Angie brings great contacts, experience and communication skills to the street. We are all looking forward to a new era for Coventry Village Special Improvement District.”

For more than three years Hetrick has worked as an independent consultant, specializing in marketing, advertising, public relations, event planning, sponsorship sales and social media services. Clients have included a variety of small businesses and nonprofits throughout Greater Cleveland, among them Beachland Ballroom & Tavern, Jakprints, Luxe Kitchen & Lounge, Berea Animal Rescue, City Buddha, Public Square Group, Lottery League and Cleveland Food Truck Operators Coalition. Before establishing her consulting business, Hetrick worked at WKYC-TV and at *Alternative Press*, the Cleveland-based national music magazine.



Angela Hetrick

Michael Peterman has been a managing member of Coventry Yard for more than 30 years, is president of the CVSID Board of Trustees, and is CEO of North Pointe Realty Inc.

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Longtime family restaurateurs open Joey's on Lee Road

James Henke

Will Leonetti and his brother, Michael Leonetti, are the owners of Joey's Bistro Bar Italiano, the new restaurant located at 2195 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights's Cedar Lee Business District. The two brothers also own Joey's Restaurant in Solon, and they formerly owned Joey's Restaurant in Chagrin Falls, which burned down in November 2011.

The two brothers come from a family that has a long history in the Cleveland-area food business. "Our family has been in the food and restaurant business for more than 100 years," Michael said.

"Our great-grandparents originally had fruit and vegetable stands in the West Side Market back in the early 1900s," Michael explained. "Our great-grandfather was the first person to import bananas in gas chambers so they could ripen while coming from Africa to the U.S., and our grandfather was the first person to bring pizza to Cleveland."

Their grandfather is Michael Geraci, who opened Geraci's Restaurant in University Heights back in 1956. That restaurant is still owned by the Leonettis' mother and her two sisters. Their father, Joe Leonetti, also ran several restaurants, including Joey's in Chagrin Falls, the Gathering in Bainbridge and Leonetti's by the Falls.

The Leonetti brothers grew up in Bainbridge and attended Kenston High School. Michael, who's now 36 and lives in Chagrin Falls, attended The Ohio State University, where he majored in



Michael (left) and Will Leonetti, owners of Joey's Bistro Bar Italiano

hospitality management. Will, who's 34 years old and lives in Chesterland, had planned to attend Ohio State. Instead, in 1997, he and his brother took over the business when their father decided to turn his restaurants over to his sons.

The new Joey's is slightly different from the Joey's in Solon and the one that was in Chagrin Falls.

"The restaurant business is changing," Michael said. "The trend is no longer families going out for a meal, but it's now more people going out by themselves, or couples going out on a date, or people going out with one or two friends. So we wanted to create a place where someone can sit down at the bar, have some good food and a drink, and get out of here for \$20."

Because of that, the restaurant's

Joey's Bistro Bar Italiano
216-932-7777
 2195 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights
 Mon. through Thurs. 4-10 p.m.
 Fri. 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
 Sat. 1 p.m. to 2 a.m.
 Sun. 1-10 p.m.

focus is on large appetizers, such as the Eggplant Napoleon, which consists of breaded eggplant, ricotta, spinach, pesto and balsamic glaze. Another house specialty is the Black and Blue Risotto Fritters, made with bacon, blue cheese, hot peppers and breaded risotto. Like almost all of the appetizers and salads on the menu, those items are priced under \$10.

Other house specialties are the

pizza and the pasta. The pasta dishes include Pasta Puttanesca and Chicken Florentine. Joey's offers several daily specials, including various seafood and meat dishes, and all of the items on the menu are available gluten-free.

"The whole idea is to keep the prices on the menu low," said Michael, who currently serves as the restaurant's chef, while his brother runs the front of the house.

The Leonettis spent about 11 months remodeling and rebuilding the space, which was previously occupied by Jimmy O'Neill's Tavern. "We completely rebuilt and redesigned the place," Will said. "We put in all new electrical and all new plumbing. It was a complete build-out."

In addition to serving food, the Leonettis are starting to feature live music in the restaurant one night a week. They also plan to host wine tastings and book signings.

"One of the reasons we chose to open a restaurant in Cleveland Heights was because we wanted to be in a more urban location," Michael said. "We were attracted to the idea of being in a high-traffic urban area. But Cleveland Heights also has great neighborhoods, and we really want to serve the people who live around here. We want this to be a gathering place for them."

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

HEIGHTS' GOT Talent

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