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Sweet Melissa opens first East Side restaurant in UH

James Henke

Sweet Melissa, the restaurant that has become something of an institution on Cleveland's West Side, finally has a location on the East Side. The new Sweet Melissa is on John Carroll Boulevard in Fairmount Circle in University Heights. It's in the space previously occupied by the North Park Grill, and it opened on March 24.

The restaurant had a "soft" opening the weekend before its official opening, and on Friday night, the place was packed.

Matthew Ullom, the owner of Sweet Melissa, said that the building's owners wanted a restaurant in the space, and they thought that Sweet Melissa was a perfect fit for the community and for John Carroll University. "We always kept our eyes open in case the right opportunity came about," Ullom said. "And after visiting the site, we thought that the area was very similar to Rocky River, where our other restaurant is located."

Ullom opened the first Sweet Melissa on Detroit Road in Rocky River in April 2008. It replaced Max's Deli, where he had been a kitchen manager. The res-



Restaurant owner Matthew Ullom with his wife, Melissa.

taurant was named after his wife Melissa, who had also worked at Max's, as a server. In fact, the couple met at the deli some 18 years ago. They now live in Bay Village, and have four children: Kaden, 11; Emilia, 9; Beatrice, 6; and Eloise, 4. They also have a dog, Jake, a Labradoodle.

Ullom also owns Café Melissa in Avon Lake. "It's smaller than the Sweet Mellissas, and has a lighter feel to it," he said. "It has more of an outdoor feel."

As for the Sweet Melissa restaurants, Ullom said he wanted to create a

place "that had healthy choices, a nice atmosphere and could be a neighborhood place." The restaurants are open seven days a week, for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. on weekdays and until 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, both locations also offer a brunch, which includes eggs, potatoes, toast, a choice of sausage patties or Applewood smoked bacon, and a cup of fruit with a scone, all for eight

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Heights High spring concert season highlights senior soloists

Florence D'Emilia

The Cleveland Heights High School Instrumental Music Department (IMD) spring concert series includes eagerly awaited performances by senior soloists, a tradition that started in 1929.

Ben Sperl and Josh Perelman-Hall showcase the breadth and depth of the music program at Heights High. Both are experienced musicians.

On Friday, May 2, double bassist Ben Sperl will perform "Fantasy on Themes from La Sonnambula" by Giovanni Bottesini. He will be accompanied by the string section of the Heights High Symphony, under the direction of Daniel Heim.

"[Fantasy] is probably one of the most challenging pieces for bass," said Sperl. He selected the piece be-



This year's Heights High senior soloists are Josh Perelman-Hall on tenor sax and Ben Sperl on double bass.

cause "it's flashy and fun, and really melodic and singing with lots of fast

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Cleveland Heights Council votes to create Turkey Ridge CRA

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights City Council voted to create the Turkey Ridge Community Reinvestment Area (CRA), granting tax abatement to two economic developments projects, at its March 3 meeting, on third reading. Council passed the measure 6-1, with Council Member Jeff Coryell casting the dissenting vote.

"Income tax provides more than 50 percent of the city's revenues," said Mayor Dennis Wilcox in explaining his reason for voting for the ordinance. "I asked myself, 'Will the city be better today with or without this project?'"

"I have deep misgivings about this legislation," said Coryell. "I am not convinced that the proposed Turkey Ridge town homes are the type of development upon which such a large incentive—a 15-year, 100 percent property tax abatement—should be lavished."

The Turkey Ridge CRA, Ordinance No. 8-2014, includes three sections of properties. The first are vacant parcels along Edgehill Road, currently owned by the city, that are planned for development as 10 housing units, with starting prices of \$600,000. These units are eligible for 15-year, 100 percent abatement on improvements that raise the value of the property. The prior value of the land itself will remain taxable.

The city signed a letter of intent authorizing the sale of the land to Visconsi Companies for development, subject to passage of tax abatement, last fall. The city discussed the Turkey Ridge project with the CH-UH Board of Education at

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Heights Guitars closes its doors

James Henke

Heights Guitars, the independent guitar store that had been a fixture in the Cedar Lee Business District since 1992, has closed its doors.

A post on the store's Facebook page stated in part: "We are closing, don't know how else to say it, our sister store is staying open and doing well, any consignments/repairs will need to be picked up, we're making the calls, or call us to set up time. Any gift certificates or trade slips can be used at the Toledo shop, or u can come pick up a check. . . ."

The closing came as a shock to the store's employees. Darrell Branch, one of the store's managers, said he got a call from the store's owners on Monday, March 3, telling him they were closing the store. The next day, they began clearing everything out of the store.

Samantha Wandtke, the store's other manager, was visibly upset by the closing. Both she and Branch said they had no idea the store would be shut down. They blamed the closing on competition from the big-box musical-instrument retailers, including Sam Ash and Guitar Center. The managers



Heights Guitar store managers Samantha Wandtke and Darrell Branch.

acknowledged that the store hadn't been performing as well as it had in the past, but both nonetheless said they were surprised by the decision to close it.

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Deliver to addressee or current resident

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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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2163 Lee Road, #103,
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216-320-1423

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PUBLISHER

Deanna Bremer Fisher
dbfisher@futureheights.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Sergio Inglis
city.editor@heightsobserver.org

ADVERTISING

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

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

EDITORS

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WEBMASTER

Dan Ott

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Temma Collins and Ruth D'Emilia

DISTRIBUTION

Hannah Baldwin

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FutureHeights seeks to engage residents through public forums and speakers



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

In addition to publishing the *Heights Observer*, FutureHeights encourages civic engagement by hosting speakers and facilitating public forums.

On April 1, FutureHeights will host a public forum entitled "Snow, Sidewalks and Shovels." In the past, we've published articles about keeping our sidewalks clear for pedestrians during the winter, and many residents have weighed in on the importance of doing so given our commitment to being a walkable community. This year, however, record snowfalls have brought the issue to the forefront.

How can we keep our sidewalks clear, efficiently and cost effectively? Whose responsibility is it to do so: the homeowner's or business owner's, the city's, or a combination? Join us on April 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at The Wine Spot, 2271 Lee Road. Representatives from the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, our school district, library and business community consider these issues and answer your questions.

On May 7, FutureHeights will hold its annual meeting at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. We've invited Jamie Greene, principal of the Columbus-based firm Planning Next, to speak about neighborhood planning. The annual meeting is open to the public and Heights residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

What is neighborhood planning? In the words of Bernie Jones, author of *Neighborhood Planning: A Guide for Citizens and Planners* (APA Planner's Press, Chicago, 1990): "If residents are to have any impact on their surroundings, they need to develop a plan for its future, rather than trusting their interests will be taken into account and protected by those various large decision makers. If residents wish to be empowered, they need to act in a systematic fashion that characterizes planning."

FutureHeights sees neighborhood

planning as the act of residents—and other stakeholders—coming together to think about the opportunities and challenges facing their neighborhoods and work out potential solutions. It's a grassroots process that may involve city staff or professional consultants, but is not led by them. Having a plan enables a neighborhood to be proactive, rather than reactive, and to respond quickly to both opportunities and threats. It may become a catalyst for action, either by the city or residents themselves.

Look for more information about our annual meeting in the weeks to come. In the meantime, if you have an idea for a community forum or want more information, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423.

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

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

Waltz to an excellent start to the 38th CIFF

... I ended up sitting next my counterpart Jewel to drink in the wonderful "Waltz for Monica." "This unknown jazz singer on this side of the Atlantic took some major risks by singing jazz greats in Swedish, her country of origin. While the film didn't break much ground in terms of movie making, the story was first rate and lead actress Edda Magnason was simply amazing singing and acting in this movie. If the world were a fairer place, she would have a Oscar nomination under her belt. [Four stars.]

See you at the movies.

—Jim Simler



Official link to School Facilities activities: future and past

<http://www.chuh.org/district/facilities-plan-phase-i>

Many things are happening. Often this linked page is behind on the details, but it is the most official source. Attend meetings to be current. (62 are coming as known so far.)

By early June 2014 the definition of what the refurbished Heights High should do is to be complete. This is the most crucial stage to get the right curriculum and building and grounds functions settled.

—Allen Wilkinson



The Movies Are Coming! The Movies Are Coming!

Yes! CIFF 38 is only two days away ... and I'm almost ready. I've been through the catalog, checked all the films that interest me (85), and plotted them on the schedule pages. Even seeing six a day, which is only barely possible, would not get me in to all 85.

Having a director's pass, however, will enable me to change plans at the last minute. And although I'm a relative newcomer to the festival (attending only since CIFF 32), I've made several once-a-year friends who seem to like the same films I do. They will, no doubt, influence some of those last-minute switches.

—Jewel Moulthrop



Tips to Attract Pollinators – A Critical Link to Garden Productivity

The seed catalogs are here. Despite the cold, the buds are swelling on trees and shrubs; birds sing louder in the mornings. Time for the home gardener to think about pollinators critters necessary for the reproduction of flowering plants. Result—those ripe fat tomatoes you plan to enjoy in August. Abundant and healthy populations of pollinators can improve fruit set, quality, and size.

We're not just talking honeybees, which were brought to this country 400 years ago. Before honeybees, flowers still got pollinated. In the Eastern Broadleaf forests Native American people did not live on deer meat alone.

—Elsa Johnson



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Why I voted against the Turkey Ridge CRA

To the Editor:

At the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting on March 3, I voted "No" on Ordinance No. 8-2014, establishing a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) in the Turkey Ridge area. Due to the late hour, I gave only a shortened version of the remarks I had prepared about the ordinance and my opposition. The following is the complete version:

When I ran for City Council, I pledged to the voters that I would act upon my belief that, in fairness to our residents and in recognition of the high value that we in Cleveland Heights place upon supporting our public schools, property tax abatements would be used sparingly and only when clearly justified by compelling need.

In addition, I pledged to support an economic policy that is consistent with the character of Cleveland Heights, is strategically planned, puts a priority on preserving open green space, and addresses our most pressing needs, which I see as restoring neighborhoods blighted by vacancies and vacant lots, attracting younger upwardly mobile residents to our city, and creating housing suitable for our empty-nest seniors.

Judged by these standards, I do have deep misgivings about the legislation before us. I am not convinced that the proposed Turkey Ridge town homes are the type of development upon which such a large incentive (a 15-year, 100 percent property tax abatement) should be lavished.

Although the proposed Turkey Ridge construction is projected to add to our income tax base, it uses up green space rather than repurposing already-developed land; it does not address our compelling needs of restoring neighborhoods harmed by the foreclosure crisis, or creating housing that attracts new young-adult residents, or creating housing suitable to senior empty nesters.

In short, I am not satisfied that this project meets any compelling need of the community beyond the hoped-for bump up in our income tax base.

It is true that Turkey Ridge is one of a dozen or so potential development sites listed in the 2011 Strategic Plan on our city website, but that plan does not rank or prioritize those development sites, nor does it address the use of large property tax abatement incentives. Indeed, the strategic plan calls for

studying the feasibility of producing an overall city master plan, something that has not been done. I do not believe that inclusion of this site in the strategic plan justifies the large tax abatement to be bestowed upon it.

This 15-year, 100 percent tax abatement for high-end new construction goes far beyond anything we have done in the past. Our city started using tax abatements about 13 years ago and, at that time, they were seven-year, 50 percent abatements. Our abatements were increased to 100 percent after the housing market collapse of 2008-09.

This new 15-year abatement we consider today is more than twice as long as the seven years previously in use. In my opinion, this is a major step for our community and is not warranted in this instance, especially not without a more robust community conversation about our priorities and values than has yet taken place.

The only place in the county I have been able to find where 15-year, 100 percent residential tax abatements are being used is in the City of Cleveland. The City of Cleveland has been in a world of hurt for a very long time and I believe that their 15-year tax abatement came from a place of desperation. I do not believe that the same condition applies to our city. And I am concerned that once a 15-year tax abatement has been offered here it will become the new standard sought by every other developer, such as when proposals are requested for Top of the Hill.

It is said that a 15-year tax abatement is necessary for the proposed luxury town homes on Turkey Ridge to compete with new construction in University Circle. I am not persuaded that the Turkey Ridge site is comparable to anything available in University Circle. Turkey Ridge possesses spectacular views of the lake unmatched down the hill, and is surrounded by trees. It is in Cleveland Heights, which is a prestige address and a city with superior services to the City of Cleveland. It is walking distance from University Hospitals and Little Italy, while being very close to Cleveland Heights attractions like the Cedar Fairmount and Coventry Village districts.

I also question the timing of offering this precedent-breaking tax abatement. We are not in the throes of a housing market collapse like we were when we increased our seven-year tax abatements to 100 percent. Although the housing recovery has not yet been as strong as could be wished, we are in

fact in a recovery mode, and the trend in University Circle is toward increased growth. Fifteen years is a very long time, and we should be very cautious before locking in a 15-year tax abatement just when things are looking up for housing development.

The wooded slope of Turkey Ridge has stood on our border since before we were a city, and will still be there in two, three, or five years when the housing market may have improved to the point where Turkey Ridge town homes could sell at a spectacular price to match their spectacular location, with less property tax incentive.

In addition, I am not persuaded that including Kenilworth Mews in this community reinvestment area is a sound decision. The Kenilworth Mews units are quite different in character and price point from the Turkey Ridge project, so the notion that Kenilworth Mews needs to be protected from competition with the new Turkey Ridge units is not convincing to me. The Brownstones of Derbyshire housing units that are one block away from Kenilworth Mews have been successfully marketed without a tax abatement, as have the Cedarmount homes in the nearby Cedar Fairmount district.

Several units within Kenilworth Mews have recently been sold, so the showing of disinvestment in this area is not strong. In my opinion, offering tax abatements to new construction in this small development will work a severe hardship on neighbors who bought very similar homes without a tax abatement.

It is not that I oppose all use of tax abatements as a development tool. For

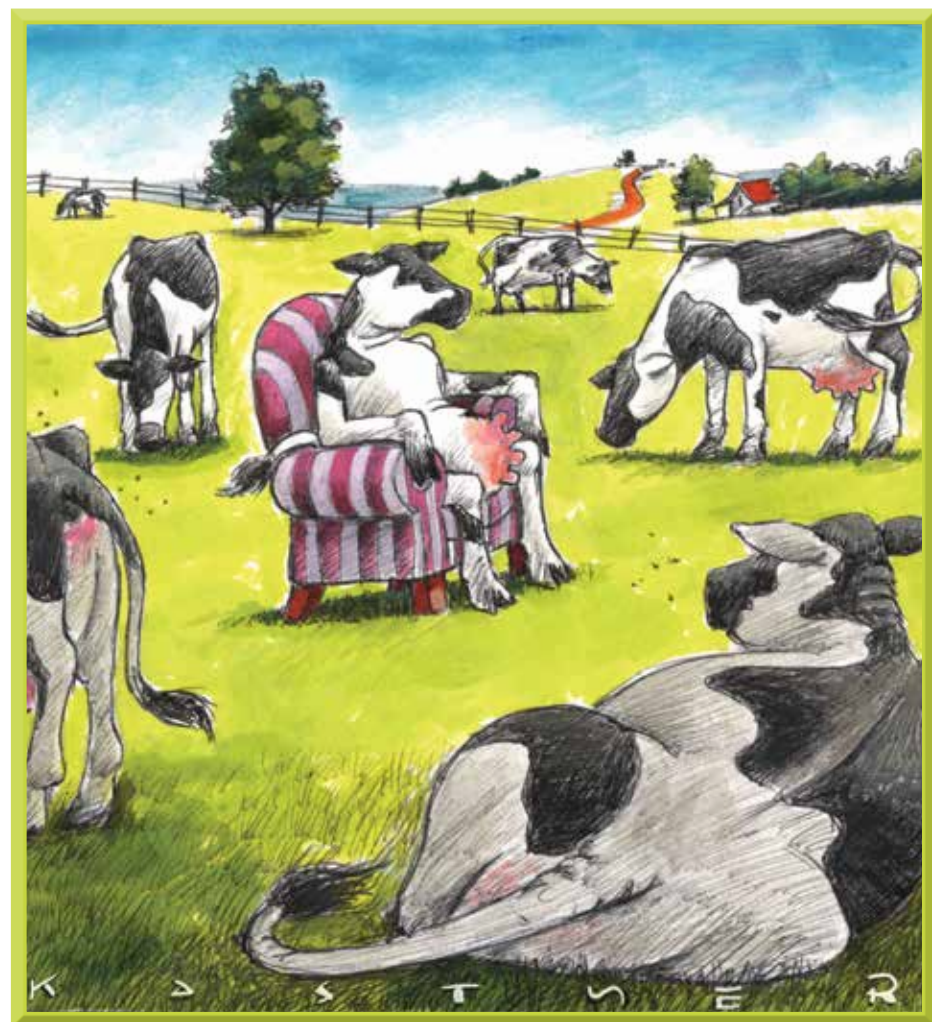
instance, I have no objection to the 10-year, 100 percent tax abatement in this legislation that applies to rehabilitation of historic residential buildings. Although the time period is long, the amount of the abatement is limited because it applies only to increased value due to the rehabilitation, and it serves a compelling need by incentivizing preservation of our existing historic architecture.

Our neighbor to the east, South Euclid, has declared a citywide community reinvestment area with a 100 percent tax abatement, but it is focused on finding buyers for vacant homes and vacant lots, a very compelling need of the community. This also strikes me as a clearly justified use for tax abatements.

It is very instructive that when the City of Cleveland decided to extend its 15-year, 100 percent tax abatements, the decision was preceded by a lively public debate. As a result, [Cleveland's] law was ultimately changed in 2010 to require that properties must meet advanced green standards of construction before qualifying for the tax abatement.

There are fundamental questions involved in increasing our tax abatements that I believe should be addressed by the community at large, prior to legislating them on an ad hoc basis in order to secure a particular deal. Our tax policy reflects our values. There should be a community conversation on what values and priorities are to be served by our economic development plans.

Jeff Coryell
Cleveland Heights City Council
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Making weather-related school closing decisions

Nylajeane R. McDaniel

This winter has tested the mettle of even the most winter-immune Northeast Ohioans. The frigid temperatures and frequent snow storms meant that CH-UH City School District administrators were faced even more often with that thorny

decision: how bad must the weather be before school is called off?

As much as parents and administrators would prefer hard-and-fast rules about when school closes due to weather conditions, such a rigid system isn't being, and can't really be, used. Every situation is different and has to be judged independently.

Closing school is never an easy decision because every minute of instruction time counts.

Obviously, the number one consideration is student safety and welfare. A large number of our students walk to school, so we have to be more cognizant of extreme cold and wind chill than other districts may be. Additionally, we try to make decisions as early as possible, to allow parents to plan accordingly, but not so early that changing conditions may leave schools closed for no reason.

And most importantly, we try to make the decision that will fit the majority of our students. We recognize a school-closing decision may not always fit with individual family circumstances, so we strongly encourage our families to make the decision that is best for them.

Our process for determining school closure due to severe weather is similar to the process used by most schools in this region, although the decisions we arrive at may not always be the same. We gather information from multiple local weather forecasts and firsthand reports from our grounds crew, who drive bus routes to help assess if roads are safe for student travel.

As superintendent, I consult with other nearby school district administrators, while weighing the weather forecasts. Sometimes we also consult with the police department and utility companies. In the event of extreme cold, our policy is to close schools if the National Weather Service issues a wind chill warning just before the school day begins. Schools will not necessarily be closed if there is a wind chill advisory for the county.

Nylajeane R. McDaniel is superintendent of the CH-UH City School District, and a 37-year resident of Cleveland Heights.

CH-UH Board of Education response to Mosdos letter

This is a statement from CH-UH BOE President Ron Register, responding to an open letter from Alan Rapoport, attorney for Mosdos Obr Hatorah, regarding negotiations for the Millikin School property:

We are mystified by this letter. We've worked very hard for several years to reach an agreement with Mosdos that protects our community's interests. We have been flexible, creative, compromising and patient, but in every instance we have eventually been rebuffed.

The proposal that the Board most recently received from Mr. Rapoport, on behalf of Mosdos, was to purchase both parcels of the Millikin property through an installment sale arrangement under which Mosdos would pay the Board \$150,000 up front and \$150,000 annual installments over the following three years. The Board has been advised by its counsel that it lacks the legal authority to sell its property through an installment sale arrangement, and, as a matter of policy, the Board does not want to be in the position of lending money to a private entity. Furthermore, the Board does not intend to negotiate a sale of its property to a private entity for less than market value. This was explained to Mr. Rapoport by the Board's counsel on Oct. 16, 2013. In establishing market value for the Millikin property, the Board has and will continue to rely on the report of its appraiser, Charles M. Ritley Associates, which assigned a value of \$770,000 to the two parcels together and \$740,000 for the 8+ acre parcel alone. On Oct. 21, 2013, the Board's counsel communicated to Mr. Rapoport that the Board would entertain a \$650,000 cash offer for the 8+ parcel only. That represents a 12 percent discount from market value and is well below the midpoint between the Ritley appraisal and the one obtained by Mosdos.

It should be noted that the Board's legal authority to negotiate the sale of the Millikin property to Mosdos is premised on the use of the property as a chartered nonpublic school. The 8+ acre parcel includes all of the property that was developed for public school use and should be sufficient for nonpublic school use as well. The remaining property, except for the stables, is largely undeveloped woodland and wetland, which has served as a buffer between the residential neighborhood and the Severance shopping center. Any land use plan that involves further development of that property by either the Board or a subsequent owner should be the topic of a broader community conversation. In any event, the District is using the stables for storage and plans to continue to do so at least during the design and construction phase of its master facilities plan.

Ron Register is president of the CH-UH Board of Education.

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This fantasy is a nightmare!



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Put on your rose-colored glasses and imagine this fantasy:

When it comes to academic success, all children are immune to such factors as their parents' situation, access to food and health care, vision or hearing issues, early childhood education or enrichment experiences, stress, expectations for academic achievement, the number of times they move in a year, trauma affecting people they care about, the learning conditions in their schools, language barriers or their ability to concentrate.

In this dream world, every child—regardless of their economic status, educational setting or personal challenges—is expected to learn the same amount, at the same rate.

Using this fantasy as their basis, regulators have developed quick and inexpensive tools that can measure the depth and breadth of academic success. A machine can grade the measurement tool, and a mathematical formula disconnected from real-life experience determines the score that indicates whether a child is good to go. Annual measurement of student progress is the only “resource” that state or federal government agencies need to provide to make sure children are reaching their expected academic performance, as defined through a political process.

Here is another piece of the fantasy: The only thing that matters to a child's growth is the child's teacher. Sadly, this unrealistic understanding of what affects academic success, and what is possible to achieve by testing for it, is driving public education. It is time to call this daydream what it is—a nightmare.

In March and April, children will be in the fitful final push to prepare for mandated tests. If all students perform as the fantasy says they should, they will prove their teachers are worth their pay, but, if they fall short, they and their teachers will be labeled failures.

Ohio high school students who don't achieve the cut score on any one of multiple tests will not receive a diploma. If too many students fall short, the schools they attend will be called struggling or failed, and the communities where they live will become known as places to avoid. For teachers it will mean a bad evaluation and evidence that they are lazy and heartless “bad guys” who let the children down.

This high-stakes disaster is the creation of our state legislators, who are charged by the Ohio Constitu-

tion with creating a system of education that serves all children. The legislature seems to think all that is needed is to wish everyone could be alike, administer tests that show that they are not, and then blame teachers. Anyone who challenges the logic or validity of a system constructed on a mountain of flawed ideas and invalid measurement tools is called an apologist guilty of the “soft bigotry of low expectations.”

Children are individuals. How they experience each day and function within the classroom setting—how they learn and when, what captures their imagination and ignites their motivation, how they react to a test—varies from child to child. It is possible to both honor individuality and hold high expectations.

Educators, parents and citizens believe in the wealth of potential that exists within each of us. We want education to give diverse sets of learners the chance to let their varied gifts come forward. We want education to help children develop the social and intellectual skills needed to be good citizens, to continue to learn, to work.

Uniformity is not what we need. Our test-driven system, built on dangerous falsehoods, is killing education as a resource for the mind, and it deflects attention from the messy issues that need to be addressed and the investments that could pay off if we truly want success for all. As the world grows smaller, economic differences are growing and opportunities are shrinking. If schools are to succeed, they need to nurture learners who are ready for this complex environment—not test takers. Addressing segregation and concentrated poverty would be good places to start.

I keep hoping this absurd system will fall under the weight of its failures, but nothing changes without people speaking up. I know I can't continue to play along with something so wrong.

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

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School district shares Wiley swing space plans with UH officials



Preliminary plans for the Wiley site.

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The CH-UH City School District Board of Education shared its preliminary plans for use of the Wiley Middle School property as “swing space” at a public meeting with University Heights City Council on March 17. The district plans to use the school to house Heights High students and then middle school students while the high school and Roxboro and Monticello middle schools are renovated.

Heights residents passed a \$134.8 million bond issue in November 2013 to help fund the first phase of a master plan to renovate all of the district’s facilities. This included about \$11.7 million for modifications to the Wiley property, to enable it to be used as swing space for the first phase of the plan.

The high school will be renovated first, and Wiley will house high school students from 2015 through 2017. Then, Wiley will house all of the district’s middle school students from 2017 through 2019. The district then plans to use Wiley as swing space for elementary school students as those buildings are renovated in a later phase of the plan.

Preliminary plans call for more than 30 modular classrooms, in seven stand-alone buildings, to be built on the Wiley property. They will connect to the school building via enclosed hallways and will house academic, athletic and arts programs. Additional community facilities may be also be used. The Heights Career Tech program will be temporarily relocated to the Delisle Center on Taylor Road.

The swing space site will include temporary, free-standing music and administration buildings and an auxiliary gym. It will also include additional parking for staff and one-way a drive that will encircle the perimeter of the property to improve traffic flow during student pick-up and drop-off times.

The Board of Education Building will remain at its current location, just north of the Wiley property.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld expressed concerns about the increased activity that the district’s plan will bring to the Wiley site. “My concern is for the safety of the people on the site, the impact to the surrounding neighborhood and the city at large,” said Infeld. “As of now the district officials said they were not considering a co-location for this temporary high school to alleviate the expected cramped conditions.”

Steve Shergalis, director of administrative services for the district, said that the district will provide the city with a preliminary construction schedule and photos of modular units, and will perform a traffic study. He said that the district will work closely with all University Heights city departments, including Fire and Police, and will formally present its plans to the Planning Commission and Building Department.

The district sought the city’s input on ideas for addressing the needs of its aquatic program and floated the idea of using the Purvis Park pool, which is currently open only during the summer. “We brought up the idea of installing a temporary inflatable dome over the Purvis Park pool to make it useable during the winter for our athletic programs,” Shergalis said. “This would be similar to the one utilized by CSU for their soccer fields, only much smaller.”

Both the city and the district agreed that more study was needed to determine if this was a viable option, and to explore other potential solutions.

“Our plans are still evolving and we will certainly address all of the city’s concerns,” Shergalis said. No dates have yet been set for future meetings.

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

KENILWORTH MEWS continued from page 1

its joint public meeting on Feb. 12.

The second section of the CRA includes a portion of the Kenilworth Mews development, which began in 2004 without tax abatement. The original plan called for 16 units, but four remain un-built. The ordinance would grant 100 percent tax abatement for seven years to remaining undeveloped parcels. Council said this was justified due to the slow sales of the units.

The third section of the CRA includes four already-developed parcels that are zoned for multi-family use. These include 2348 and 2350 Overlook Road, currently owned by the College Club of Cleveland; 2300 Overlook Road, the Waldorf Apartments; and 2141 and 2155 Overlook Road, two single-family homes owned by one property owner. The ordinance would extend 10-year 100 percent tax abatement to historic properties where a minimum of investment of \$500,000 is made to improve them, according to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. The Waldorf Apartments are not historic and, therefore, would not be eligible for the program.

The City of Cleveland Heights has six other CRAs within its boundaries: Villa Carabelli, Severance Town Center, Cain Park Village, Lee at Meadowbrook, Lee at Euclid Heights and East Derbyshire. The maximum tax abatement for these areas is 100 percent for seven years.

Several community members spoke during the “personal communications from citizens” portion of the meeting, and many urged council to vote no on the issue. Brendan Ring, owner of Nighttown and treasurer of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID), read a letter stating the SID’s support of the ordinance.

Brian Frentzko, president of the Kenilworth Mews Homeowners Association, who spoke at the Feb. 18 council meeting, urging council to delay its vote on the issue in order to address residents’ concerns. He said that while he was happy that council members had delayed the vote, he was distressed that they were still going to vote yes. “We have expressed our concerns and have even shown that there is no convincing evidence that the abatement is necessary or will be effective, and have demonstrated that it can even harm the residents of Cleveland Heights,” he said.

Debbie Shewitz, treasurer of the association, stated that Kenilworth Mews is not a blighted area and that the reason the remaining parcels had not sold was “due partly to the overall housing market (which has turned around to a large extent), and in large part due to the developer’s business decisions,” which included trying to sell half-built units and leaving construction debris on the site. She also pointed out that

the developer is delinquent on property taxes for the parcels. “They were certainly within their right to make all of those decisions, but the city and the citizens of Cleveland Heights do not owe it to them to help them financially if the decisions didn’t work out well for them,” she said.

After comments from residents, Richard Wong, city planning director, gave a presentation about the Turkey Ridge CRA. “Income tax revenue is the largest proportion of city income,” he said, adding that the city had received three proposals for development of the Turkey Ridge property, all of which had asked for tax abatement. He noted that the City of Cleveland gives numerous cash incentives to prospective homebuyers, including tax abatement.

Tanisha Briley, city manager, said, “We have followed all of the procedures [for the CRA]. We are not the first community to use tax abatement, and although the state uses blight as an example, the city can use tax abatement at its discretion.”

Prior to council’s vote, several council members expressed the need to go ahead with development projects such as Turkey Ridge in order to increase income tax revenues to the city. Council Member Mary Dunbar cited the state’s reduction of funds that it previously shared with cities as the reason why she was voting yes on the ordinance. “Our revenues have been reduced by \$2 million, and the city needs to increase its revenues. I would like to see Kenilworth Mews finished. The College Club needs to be repurposed. I believe its passage serves the greater good.”

Council Member Janine Boyd stated that she lives on the north side of the city and envisioned CRAs there, too. “I don’t see why we couldn’t have tax abatement in our area,” she said.

Council Member Melissa Yasinow said, “I believe this is in the best interest of the entire city.” Speaking of the need to increase city revenues, she said, “The CRA is one of the few ways we can achieve these goals.”

Vice Mayor Cheryl Stephens said, “Residents must either face a tax increase or do development regularly.”

Jeff Coryell, the dissenting vote on council, said, “This 15-year, 100 percent tax abatement for high-end new construction goes far beyond anything we have done in the past. . . . In my opinion this is a major step for our community and is not warranted in this instance, especially not without a more robust community conversation about our priorities and values than has yet taken place.”

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

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



FEBRUARY 18, 2014
All council members were present.

Public comments
Candidacy: Carol Roe introduced herself as a candidate for County Council District 10, which includes University Heights. She is a nurse and an attorney, and currently works for a dialysis center. Her passion to make healthcare available for all is what she wants to run on. She was also a lobbyist for the Ohio Nurses Association.

Street repairs
Council approved implementation of road improvements in conjunction with Shaker Heights. Seven streets will be repaired in the summer. Belvoir Boulevard will also be repaired but through the City of Cleveland funds. Councilman Steven Sims recommended adding another street to the plan if there are extra funds after the bidding process. Joseph Ciuni, city engineer, said that although he liked the idea, leftover funds were unlikely.

Sewer repairs
Council approved the 2014–15 emergency sewer repair program at a cost of \$150,830. The work will be covered by an existing contract with Febreezy so bidding out for the repairs will be unnecessary. The city has an option to add an additional year to the contract.

Road salt
Council approved the purchase of an additional 1,000 tons of road salt from Cargill. Jeff Pokorny, service director, explained that the contract from ODOT was not fulfilled and [its] company, Morton, would not be able to fulfill [it] due to this season's inclem-

ent weather. The cost per ton is \$65 as opposed to ODOT's price of \$29.40, but there is no choice. The city will continue to store the salt in the Cleveland Heights facility. Larry Heiser, finance director, assured [council] that the purchase would not endanger the budget.

Finance committee
The finance committee currently has the following lay leadership: Michael Bohan, Thomas Finucane, Frank Navratil, Patrick O'Shaughnessy and Win Weizer. Councilwoman Susan Pardee invited Michele Weiss to join the committee as well. Weiss has 17 years of accounting experience and is currently the controller for Hebrew Academy of Cleveland.

LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

MARCH 3, 2014
All council members were present.

New fire chief
Douglas Zook, the new fire chief, was sworn in. He had worked for 25 years previously at East Cleveland, Fairlawn and Chippewa Township, and has also served on his local school board.

JCU plaza renovation
Representatives of John Carroll University (JCU) requested council's approval of the planning commission's recommendation to renovate the university's St. Ignatius of Loyola Plaza. The plan is to add a small pool and seating area at the existing statue of St. Ignatius, to better unify the main quad. Construction should be completed by Aug. 20.

JCU access drive proposal
JCU also sought approval of the planning

commission's recommendation to convert a construction drive off of Washington Boulevard into a permanent emergency access drive. During the public comment portion of the meeting, two residents spoke against this proposal, citing heavy traffic from the proximity of a five-point intersection and Gesu Elementary School, and the improper use of other emergency access drives, which they claim tend to be heavily used for nonemergency purposes.

The university representative said that currently there is no access to campus from the north side, and emergency vehicles entering from the main front drive have to maneuver tight turns to access the Murphy Hall area. As at the other emergency entrances, there would be a gate, placed three feet back from the sidewalk (which is approximately 20 feet back from the road). The gate would be locked, accessible only to the University Heights police and fire departments. The police chief reported that no traffic complaints have resulted from the five-point intersection near the proposed drive, and that the addition of this drive would greatly improve access to the campus.

Councilman Phillip Ertel noted that he lives near another emergency entrance and that there are always cars parked in that driveway apron. A motion to table this decision, pending suggestions from JCU for addressing these safety concerns, was approved, with Councilwoman Pamela Cameron voting no.

Tree planting
Council approved seeking 2014 tree planting bids, signaling the start of the 2014 tree program. The city will plant 203 trees, primarily on the northeast and east side of town.

The options this year will include pear and pagoda trees that have small white flowers. Most of these 200 trees will replace trees that have been removed.

False alarms
Fire Chief Zook noted that University Heights had 392 alarms reported in 2013, only one of which was real. The city has begun issuing warnings for false alarms, and if an address reports three false alarms over a six-month period, [owners] will be cited with a minor misdemeanor charge and a fine. The two most frequent offenders in the city now use private response companies to respond to their alarms.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

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

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

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY 18, 2014

Council Member Janine R. Boyd was absent.

Public Comments

Turkey Ridge tax abatement: Six residents, from Kenilworth Mews, Brownstones at Derbyshire and other nearby private dwellings, protested the proposed extension of the tax abatement area beyond the 10 units being planned on Turkey Ridge, which would include their sections. They claim it would set up unequal and unfair taxation and create difficulty in selling nonabated dwellings. The legislation is having a second reading tonight.

2013 Public Safety Annual Reports

This new agenda item was added to improve communications with citizens by sharing staff reports. This evening the fire and police chiefs gave the 2013 Public Safety Annual Reports.

Fire Chief Dave Freeman's detailed report included useful charts and video demonstrations. Starting in 2009, a spike in calls is consistent with trends across the country. In 2013, 27 percent of calls were for fire and 73 percent for emergency medical services. He also discussed training, new equipment, and inspection services.

Police Chief Jeffrey E. Robertson reviewed the new departmental organization chart, juvenile diversion programs, and crime trend analysis; the latter provides "predictive policing." The approximately 30,000 calls for service per year have remained consistent. He urged citizens to attend meetings with police around the city and explained how to access police reports on the city website.

Turkey Ridge

Council Member Jason Stein stated that legislation establishing [the] boundaries of a Community Reinvestment Area in the Turkey Ridge would not be voted upon this evening.

There will be a third reading on March 3 after public input and additional discussion. Council is working with staff to place information on the city website to help the public understand why this legislation is being sought.

Outstanding Neighbor of the Month Award

Stein announced the establishment of Councilman Stein's Outstanding Neighbor of the Month Award. Nominations can be made through his blog at <http://councilmanstein.blogspot.com>.

Silver Sneakers

The Community Center fitness programs are now eligible for "Silver Sneakers" coverage through many seniors' insurance plans.

Snow removal issues

Cleveland Heights ordinances prohibit private plow services from depositing snow onto public areas. Residents should inform their contractors of this. The city website provides a list of registered snowplow contractors, but this is not a list of recommendations.

Chessie Bleick

Mayor Dennis Wilcox noted with sadness the passing of Chessie Bleick, a well-known citizen and staunch supporter of Cain Park and city recreation programs.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

MARCH 3, 2014

All council members were present.

Public comments

Turkey Ridge CRA: Seventeen residents of the Turkey Ridge, Derbyshire, Kenilworth and Kenilworth Mews areas, as well as residents from other parts of Cleveland Heights, rose to speak against the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA or tax abatement area) legislation having its third reading tonight. Two spoke in favor of the ordinance.



Most speakers protested extending the tax abatement area beyond the 10 units being planned on Turkey Ridge, which they said would set up unequal and unfair taxation and difficulty selling dwellings that are not abated.

Speakers stated that the area is one of the wealthiest and most stable in Cleveland Heights, with no blight to reduce, and that it would be a dangerous precedent to concentrate on a "bright, shiny, upscale" area instead of distressed neighborhoods. Speaking in favor of the proposal, Brendan Ring, owner of Nighttown and representing the Cedar Fairmount Business Association and Special Improvement District (SID), stated that SID members voted to support this measure because economic reality indicates a need for tax abatements.

Turkey Ridge development and CRAs

Richard Wong, planning director, made a PowerPoint presentation regarding CRAs, which is available on the city's website at www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=1569.

Council passed the Turkey Ridge Development/CRA legislation on third reading, with Council Member Jeff Coryell voting no. Before the vote, most members of council made statements explaining their votes. [Their comments can be read in the expanded online version of this summary.]

School Travel Plan

Council authorized application for Safe Route to School funding through ODOT to implement infrastructure portions of the School Travel Plan recommendations. If granted, the \$500,000 requested would pay for items such as bike racks and bike lane markings. Similar funding of \$30,000 through ODOT will pay for noninfrastructure portions of the School Travel Plan recommendations, such as education, enforcement, and encouragement of biking and walking.

HOME agreement with HRRC

Council authorized an agreement with the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) for the use of HOME funds in the amount of \$200,000, which will be transferred to the nonprofit agency to administer the down payment assistance loan program for Cleveland Heights. [HOME Investment Partnerships Program is a HUD program.]

Nuisance properties

Council declared three vacant properties to be nuisances:

- 13358 Cedar Road
- 3369 Desota Ave./1760 Compton Road
- 2260 South Taylor Road

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

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

See disclaimer on page 7.

SWEET MELISSA continued from page 1

dollars. "A lot of people from the East Side would come over to Rocky River for our brunch," Ullom said. "Now we will be able to save them the trip."

Just outside of the University Heights restaurant's entrance, in the lobby of the Fairmount Circle Medical and Office Building, there's a takeout counter where customers can order pastries and other desserts, as well as coffee.

The lunch and dinner menus feature a wide variety of options, including salads, fish, tacos, tofu, gnocchi, steaks and other entrees. The restaurant offers vegan and gluten-free items, and Ullom is himself a vegetarian.

Sweet Melissa is also known for its desserts, and the original location has won five Silver Spoon Awards for best desserts in Cleveland. It also has won awards for best chocolate cake, best brunch on the West Side and best healthy place to eat.

"We don't have a microwave in the kitchen," Ullom said, "so we don't use a microwave for cooking or reheating. We also use stainless-steel frying pans, not ones made of aluminum. All of the seafood we serve is sustainable, and the chicken is all organic. And all of the packaging materials we use are recyclable. Most of the food is also locally grown or produced."

Sweet Melissa caters to families, and its children's menu offers an entrée, side dish, drink and a treat, all for just six dollars.

Ullom spent several months getting the restaurant ready to open. "We spent a lot of time, energy and money to make sure the community is proud of it," he said. Jen Graham, operations manager for all three of Ullom's restaurants, added, "We want to bring you the best possible food in a great atmosphere. I think people will be very pleasantly surprised."

"There's no other place like this," Ullom said. "It doesn't matter what you are in the mood for, because you'll always find something you like here."

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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Register in April for May preservation month events

Kara Hamley O'Donnell

May is National Preservation Month and this year's theme, chosen by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is "New Age of Preservation: Embark, Inspire, Engage."

The annual May event is observed by small towns and big cities across the country, and the 2014 theme, according to the National Trust, "is meant to excite current supporters and introduce new audiences" to the work being done to enrich and preserve what makes a community special.

In Cleveland Heights, the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Heights Libraries partner to present the city's preservation month. This year, five programs are designed to inform attendees about the history of this community and Greater Cleveland, and provide information on how to protect and preserve the architecture and homes that make the Heights special.

The events are free, but space is limited, and advance registration is required for all events.

Dugway Brook Walking Tour, Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. to noon, starting at the CH Community Center

Local experts Roy Larick, Korbi Roberts and Jim Miller will lead a tour through the east branch of Dugway Brook, where early settlers once quarried sandstone, milled timber and grew grapes for wine. Learn how Cumberland and Forest Hill parks began as spring-fed water cure destinations, and contemplate the future of Dugway Brook, a conservation-reliant urban stream. Registration for this event begins April 1; call 216-291-4878 to register.

Historic Preservation in Cleveland Heights: Why it's Important and How it's Done panel discussion, Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m. at the Lee Road Library

The evening's panelists—Ken Goldberg, librarian/art historian and president of Cleveland Heights Historical Society; Chuck Miller, architect and chair of Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission; and Marian Morton, professor of history and writer on Cleveland Heights history—will discuss the development, and gauge the success, of historic preservation efforts in Cleveland Heights.

Attendees are invited to contribute ideas regarding appropriate guidelines and future directions for the community to consider. Registration begins April 23; register at www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Millionaires Row presentation, Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m., at the Lee Road Library

Dan Ruminski, a local historian, will share stories about the grand mansions and fascinating characters of Millionaires Row. At its height of grandeur, Millionaires Row in Cleveland stretched for four miles along Euclid Avenue, from Public Square. Approximately 250 mansions comprised what was once known as "the most beautiful street in America." Registration begins April 23; register at www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Coventry Walking Tour, Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to noon, starting at Coventry Village Library

Michael Rotman, executive director of the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, will lead this walking tour of the Coventry commercial district,

enhanced by use of the Cleveland Historical app created by CSU. Learn how Coventry evolved from sleepy farmland into the diverse, high-energy neighborhood it is today, and hear stories about some of the hippies, motorcycle gangs, kosher butchers, and everyday people who have played a role in shaping the neighborhood's fascinating history. Registration begins April 23; register at www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Fixing your Wood Windows, Wednesday, May 21, 7 p.m. at the Lee Road Library

There are plenty of replacement windows, manufacturers, and deals on the market ("Buy three new windows, get one free!"), but what is the truth about window replacement vs. repair? If there were an ad for window repair, it might read, "Keep all your windows and repair them for 50 percent less than quality replacement windows!" Mary Ogle of the Cleveland Restoration Society leads this workshop, and will review window efficiency, window materials, appropriate architectural style and cost analysis of repair vs. replacement, and



Carroll Drug once occupied the Hunan Coventry space at the corner of Coventry and Hampshire roads.

provide tips on how to tackle window restoration or replacement in older homes. Registration begins April 23; register at www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Kara Hamley O'Donnell is the historic preservation planner in the Cleveland Heights Department of Planning and Development.



"There was no question—Judson was it!"

—Don and Dottie Kuhn, Judson Park residents since 2012

University Circle played a pivotal role in Don and Dottie Kuhn's lives together. The couple, now residents of Judson Park, met in 1974 at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

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

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

Deciding where they'd spend their later years was easy.

"There was no question—Judson was it," says Don. "We knew the place and the people really well."

"Not much has changed," adds Dottie. "We continue to enjoy the things we've always loved to do. We're practically in the same Cleveland Heights neighborhood where we lived before."

"The transition was seamless," continues Don. "Judson was home from day one!"

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Heights historical photo of the month



CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

The view looking up the hill to Fairmount Boulevard from Cedar Road hasn't changed much since this photo was taken on a snowy day in 1919. The house, built by real estate developer Barton R. Deming in 1914, still stands today, though some adjoining structures are now gone. Also gone are the streetcar tracks running through the median. Bus service replaced the Fairmount Boulevard streetcar line in the late 1940s.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. For more information and to view additional historical images, visit www.chhistory.org or www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical.

Cleveland Heights programs encourage bicycling

Mary Dunbar

Over the past several years, Cleveland Heights has become measurably more bicycle-friendly according to the League of American Bicyclists, which recognized the city as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community in autumn 2013, up from an honorable mention grade in 2010.

In the future, the City of Cleveland Heights plans to continue improving infrastructure for bicyclists. The Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) will encourage bicycling with group rides and other programs, while the city, the schools and HBC will educate Heights residents of all ages on bicycling and its benefits as a healthy and environmentally friendly activity.

On May 17 and June 14, the city and HBC jointly offer done-in-a-morning "Smart Cycling" classes for bicyclists of all experience levels. Taught by League of American Bicyclists certified instructors, the classes are for adults and teens 14 or older. For those just taking up bicycling, a smart-cycling class helps build the confidence to ride while providing connections with other bicyclists and advocates, and experienced riders report gaining new insights as well. More information and registration is available at www.bikesintheheights.org, or by calling Jennifer Kuzma at 216-291-2854.

Thanks to physical education teachers, parents and the Cleveland Heights Police Bicycle Unit, some schools are offering bike rodeos as well as bicycle- and pedestrian-safety instruction in physical education classes: Canterbury, Roxboro, Fairfax, Gearity and Monticello schools have all been involved this year; Canterbury and Fairfax have had after-school bike clubs as well.

In March, the City of Cleveland Heights and HBC completed a Cleveland Heights school travel plan and

applied to the Ohio Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School program for infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants. Awards will be announced in May.

Recognizing the importance of alternative modes of transportation, the city recently initiated a 12-member Transportation Advisory Committee, which has been meeting monthly since January. Members represent pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, the physically challenged, school and business communities, the city's police, planning and public works departments, and the RTA. The committee aims to serve as a civic forum to improve conditions for walking, bicycling and riding public transit for residents of all ages and abilities, and to find optimal solutions for transportation issues facing the city. It will report to CH City Council.

May is Bike Month in Cleveland Heights and many other cities nationwide. HBC will offer related Bike Month programs to include a bike fix-up, group rides, walk or bike to school day, bike to work week and day, and more.

Cleveland Heights residents can help take the city to the next level as a Bicycle Friendly Community by embracing the national trend toward bicycling for commuting, recreation or just to get around town. Many residents already bicycle for recreation and errands, but just 1.04 percent commute to work by bicycle, according to recent data. Still, the city's bicycle commuting rate is high compared with the Ohio average of just 0.3 percent. Cleveland Heights is poised to make its roads safer and its community stronger through an array of bicycle-related programs.

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

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Saturday, April 19: Holy Saturday

8 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter with first Eucharist of Easter
Joint service at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 2555 Euclid Heights Blvd, Cleve Hts.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Festival Eucharist with choirs, trumpet and organ, interpreted for the Deaf community
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Heights St. Baldrick's event far surpasses organizers' goals

Andrea C. Turner

According to Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, organizer of the Cleveland Heights St. Baldrick's event, the Heights community banded together to raise nearly \$109,000 for this volunteer-driven charity, far exceeding the original goal of \$60,000. St. Baldrick's funds the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long, healthy lives.

Gallagher encouraged students and teachers to participate as teams for the head-shaving event which took place on March 16, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Boys and girls of all ages from CH-UH and Shaker Heights public and parochial schools joined the effort.

Gallagher's son Austin, a two-time cancer survivor and a first-grader at Fairfax Elementary School, helped garner support for the Fairfax team, which led the pack in fundraising, with \$25,495.

Local salon owner Alex Quintana and his crew from Quintana's Barber & Dream spa, as well as Shawn Paul Gustafson, owner of Shawn Paul Salon, and his enthusiastic staff, worked the better part of the day shaving and cutting off locks. Much of the shorn hair was donated to organizations that make wigs for cancer patients who have lost their own hair.

Some children were so moved by the heartfelt effort that they spontaneously decided to have their heads shaved that day.

Those in attendance also raised money through bake sales and an American Girl doll raffle. The winner of the raffle, Rachel Hren, is the sister of one of the shavees. Simone Quartell, a Heights High graduate who works for American Girl, donated the doll.

Shavees walked away with a button that said, "Ask me why I'm bald," to help continue the conversation. Gallagher succinctly expressed her gratitude by encouraging the community to "hug a bald person today!"

This year's event raised more than twice as much money as last year. It was held in honor of three CH-UH students: Austin Gallagher; Fairfax kindergartner Becca Meyer, who is battling a brain tumor; and Roxboro Middle School seventh grader Garrett Gulden, who is battling leukemia. Each of the honorees had family members who participated in the shaving, including Gulden's father and brother and Meyer's younger brother Josh and fourth-grade sister, Carolyn, the event's top fundraiser.

Greater Cleveland is a national leader in St. Baldrick's events and is expected to raise more than \$700,000 this year. The Heights community raised an additional \$15,000 on Sunday at a separate event held at the New Heights Grill in honor of the late Seamus O'Connor.

Read more about the participating teams at www.chub.org/news/detail/2014/3/13/students-and-teachers-shave-heads-for-cancer-research.

Andrea C. Turner owns ACT One Communications LLC, a marketing and communications consulting firm.



The Fairfax Team celebrates its new look. Honorees Austin Gallagher and Becca Meyer are in the front row.



Roxboro Elementary student Griffin Gulden shaving his father George's head, in honor of his brother Garrett, who is a seventh-grader at Roxboro Middle School.



Gabe and Charlie Roberto from Team Gesu.



Heights High student Eve Bedwell.



Krissy and Mark Gallagher with sons Braedan (a fourth-grader at Fairfax Elementary) and Austin (a first-grader at Fairfax Elementary).



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Heights resident publishes potty training book

Jenn Lonzer

Potty training can be among the most stressful times for parents, according to longtime Cleveland Heights resident and pediatrician Deb Lonzer. At the request of one of her patients, Lonzer has published her first children's book to help toddlers and parents view toilet training as a natural—and even fun—process. Lonzer collaborated with illustrator and Wickliffe native John Cairns, and said she wrote *The Flushville Four* “to help toddlers and parents relax a bit about potty training.”

“It seems to me that parents and kids can take potty training too seriously,” said Lonzer. “Potty training has become increasingly important, as parents try to train their kids as early

as possible to get them into preschool, to save money on diapers, to reduce the weight of that diaper bag, or to keep up with neighbors who swear that their daughter was fully trained by 13 months. The truth is, I’ve never heard of a kid going to the prom in diapers.”

Named after her pets, Lonzer’s characters want to feel like big kids. They have accidents, they practice holding it during play and they race to the potty chair. They also play outside, help set the table, eat healthy meals, learn about the importance of hand washing and celebrate small victories.

The Flushville Four is part of Lonzer’s larger effort to reach out to parents with educational tools that fit their busy lifestyles. While this is her only formally printed tool to date,



Deb Lonzer reading to her son Noah.

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at 7:15 pm) and 30

Sunday

10 a.m. – Community Eucharist
April 6, 13, 20 and 27

Compline & Evensong

5 p.m. April 6 at St. Paul's
5 p.m. April 13, 20 and 27 at St. Alban's

Holy Week Services

April 13 – Palm Sunday
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

April 17 – Maundy Thursday
5:30 p.m. Agape Meal,
Stripping of Altar and
beginning of The Watch

April 17 – Good Friday
7 a.m. Stations of The Cross;
7:30 p.m. Good Friday
Chanted Service

April 18 – Holy Saturday
8 p.m. Easter Vigil

April 20 – Easter Sunday
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

2555 Euclid Hts. Boulevard, Cleveland Heights (at the corner of Edgehill)

HEIGHTS GUITARS continued from page 1

One of Heights Guitars' original owners was Greg Stiles, who became sole owner in 2002. After he died from pancreatic cancer in February 2010, his widow decided to sell the store. It was purchased by former Cleveland Heights resident John Carden and his partner, Jim Ross. Carden, who now lives in the Sandusky area, operates another Heights Guitar store in Toledo, and owns four retail record stores called Allied Records, also in Toledo. The Toledo guitar store remains open.

Despite its name, Heights Guitars didn't just sell guitars. It also offered keyboards, brass instruments, percussion instruments, accordions, PA gear and sound equipment. Guitars were the store's focus, though, and it carried four major brands: Alvarez, Gretsch, G&L and Guild. In addition to new guitars, the store also sold used instruments. “We always had a lot of vintage Gibson and Fender guitars,” said Branch.

In addition to its retail business, Heights Guitars offered guitar, bass, drum and mandolin lessons, held in one of the back rooms of the store. The shop also employed expert guitar techs who could repair broken or damaged instruments. “Our turnaround was usually about three days,” said Branch. “That's a lot quicker than the big-box stores.”

Last year, Heights Guitars began having open-mic nights, which were hosted by local musician Charlie Mosbrook. Those ended after a few months, but the store had planned to resume the open-mic sessions sometime in April.

Over the years, Heights Guitars had its fair share of well-known musicians come by and purchase instruments. Blues guitarist and singer Joe Bonamassa bought a vintage banjo and a ukulele at the store. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams bought a guitar, and legendary jazz bassist Stanley Jordan also purchased some instruments there. “Tons of bands would come through here,” Wandtke said. “With the Grog Shop and other venues located nearby, the artists playing there often came to our store.”

Both Wandtke and Branch live in Cleveland, but love the Heights area. “There's something special about this community,” Branch said. “With the diversity and all of the art and entertainment, this is a really special area. And we loved to support local businesses and the residents as much as we could. We often donated guitars and other musical instruments to charities and other organizations to help them out.” The store once gave a 13-year-old boy a guitar because he wanted to learn how to play the instrument, and the guitar that was used in the play “Aliens” at Dobama Theatre also came from the shop.

It's that personal touch that made Heights Guitars special. “We always encouraged people to not just play anything,” Branch said. “We tried to help them find the right instrument that worked for them. And if someone couldn't afford a certain guitar, I would try my best to help them out.”

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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Cedar Taylor merchants study streetscape improvements

Kevin Smith

The Cedar Taylor Business District is taking a proactive role in creating the next great neighborhood commercial district in the Heights.

In 2013, after several years of planning, the Cedar Taylor Development Association (CTDA) was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. CTDA's first initiative has been to undertake a streetscape study to identify a range of initiatives aimed at creating a more cohesive neighborhood district.

CTDA comprises residents, business owners and property owners who have a vested interest in the Cedar Taylor neighborhood that spans both Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Its mission is broadly defined as "initiating activities that will foster a supportive and engaging environment for both commercial and residential stakeholders."

CTDA was awarded funds from the City of Cleveland Heights Community Development Block Grant, and the group engaged local planner Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris to develop the streetscape study.

Bandy-Zalatoris presented a set of preliminary concepts to neighborhood stakeholders on March 18, which explored a wide range of topics, including traffic pattern changes, parking, and streetscape improvements such as plantings, signage, public art and lighting.

"One of the greatest assets of this district," said Bandy-Zalatoris, "is that so much of it is intact. It has an authentic feel and is populated with a good mix of independent businesses, with very few vacancies."

The feedback from those in attendance was positive, and CTDA has many new ideas to consider.

"Initially, one of the biggest impact projects would be a better approach to traffic management," said Bandy-Zalatoris. "A dedicated left-turn lane, bike lanes, and pulling parking back from the intersection would simplify the traffic pattern and create a lane of continuous traffic going through the district."

CTDA plans to finalize the study by the end of April and then present it to both cities for feedback in May. Bandy-Zalatoris will assist CTDA in incorporating feedback from local stake-



holders and prioritizing both short- and long-term initiatives. CTDA plans to fund the improvements from a variety of sources: donations from businesses and property owners, donations from local residents, funds from the municipal governments and grants from local organizations.

"The merchants here are very proactive," said Bandy-Zalatoris. "They are very excited about working together to make positive change."

For more information about the streetscape study or CTDA, contact Kevin Smith at smithkp@gmail.com.

Kevin Smith is president of the board of directors of the Cedar Taylor Development Association and a board member of Future-Heights.

Krista Hawthorne to lead Reaching Heights

Patrick Mullen

Reaching Heights has selected Krista Hawthorne as the next leader of the 25-year-old citizen support organization for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. Hawthorne has been on the staff of Reaching Heights since 2006, most recently as assistant director. She will assume her duties as executive director on April 15.

"Krista combines an exciting sense of the future for Reaching Heights with a deep awareness of the organization's history, which she's helped shape over the last eight years, most recently as assistant director," said John Hubbard, Reaching Heights board president. "She brings a deep understanding of our community and a demonstrated ability to connect with a wide range of people. We were fortunate to interview other remarkable candidates, whom I'm confident will continue to share their gifts on behalf of excellent public education in our community."

"I look forward to working with our many volunteers and talented board, who share my optimism and dedication to our teachers, students and community," Hawthorne said. "My goal is to help focus greater resources in support of powerful learning, effective teaching,



Krista Hawthorne is the new Reaching Heights executive director.

and a broader understanding of the good work happening in our schools. I know our district educates the whole child. My daughters are among many Heights students who have excelled as athletes, artists, musicians and scholars."

Hawthorne, a graduate of Kent State University and a Heights resident since 1988, thanked her predecessors for their service. [Patrick Mullen had served as executive director of the organization since 2007, following the retirement of founding director Susie Kaeser.]

Patrick Mullen is the former executive director of Reaching Heights.

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Snow, sidewalks and shovels: FutureHeights hosts public safety forum April 1

Patti Carlyle

Spring is finally upon us, but this winter has proven especially memorable. Record snowfall, weather-related school closures, and discussions about civic responsibility dominated conversations and media for months. Lengthy and severe conditions have left some lingering questions: What can we do better? How can we plan more effectively? Where do city services end and residents' responsibility begin? Can we cooperate as a community to maintain superior public safety for all of our residents and visitors? How can we align our civic policies and individual actions to look beyond clear roads for cars to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, traveling by foot, bike, bus or car?

In the Heights, some residents are committed to a low-carbon lifestyle, choosing to walk or bike, even in the most inclement weather. Some walk and rely on public transportation, lacking or forgoing a personal vehicle. Many school children walk to school everyday. Those with strollers or in wheelchairs require thoughtful and careful navigation. All of these people rely on clear sidewalks to get where they need to go.

FutureNow has organized the first event of its 2014 Speaker Series to



COURTESY PATTI CARLYLE

address these concerns, with a public discussion of snow removal, winter walking conditions and public safety.

At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, at the Wine Spot, 2271 Lee Road, representatives from Cleveland Heights City Council, University Heights City Council, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and Heights Libraries will address their goals and challenges in providing safe passage for students, commuters, and residents in winter, and how residents must help.

Seating is limited. Civil public discourse welcome.

Patti Carlyle is FutureHeights board member, and Chair of the FutureNow committee. She lives in University Heights.

Annual Bremec fundraiser will benefit HRRC

Rebecca Stager

After this very long, cold winter, yards and gardens here in the Heights will undoubtedly need some spring sprucing up. Those in need of lawn and garden supplies—or just in search of something green—can support Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) of Cleveland Heights by shopping at Bremec on the Heights between Monday, April 21 and Sunday, May 4.

When shoppers present an HRRC voucher at the register, Bremec on the Heights Garden Center, 13410 Cedar Road, will donate a portion of those purchases to HRRC. Even those shoppers who may not yet be ready to take home plants and supplies can benefit HRRC by purchasing gift cards using a voucher during the two-week fundraising period. They can then use the gift cards at a later date.

HRRC trustees and volunteers will be at Bremec the weekends of April 26 and May 3, to hand out vouchers and information about HRRC, as well as answer questions and provide assistance to shoppers.

Shoppers can clip the voucher on page 20 of this issue of the *Observer*, and



Mike Gaynier of HRRC receives a check from Debi Jenks of Bremec on the Heights Garden Center.

bring it with them to Bremec. Vouchers are also available on HRRC's website, www.hrhc-ch.org.

This is the fifth year that Bremec on the Heights has supported HRRC's work to help keep older homes in good repair.

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

Postponed adult spelling bee set for April 2

Kim Sergio Inglis

The annual Reaching Heights Adult Spelling Bee has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 2 at 7 p.m., and will take place at Wiley Middle School, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Teams of three will compete for the "Coveted Big Plastic Bee Trophy" in this community event, now in its 23rd year, that raises funds to support academic and music programs in CH-UH public schools.

Each year, the Bee honors a Friend of Public education. This year's honoree is Carla Bailey, who Krista Hawthorne, Reaching Heights assistant director, describes as "a parent, PTA leader, vocal mu-

sic volunteer, AFS International student exchange host parent, refugee student advisor, social justice monitor, lifelong learner and public school champion."

Originally scheduled for March 12, the Bee was postponed due to strong winds and snow on that day.

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



April 5 is annual Home Remodeling Fair

Rebecca Stager

Looking for home remodeling ideas and repair advice? Come to this year's Home Remodeling Fair, presented by Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) in cooperation with the City of Cleveland Heights.

The fair will be held on Saturday, April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle. The fair is free, and is open to residents of all communities.

The fair will feature "Ask an Expert" tables, where professionals from many repair specialties will answer questions and give advice. In addition, representatives from local banks, community organizations and the City of Cleveland Heights will be available to discuss how they can help homeowners

complete renovation projects.

Fair attendees can also attend free workshops on the following topics:

- "Wood Windows: Repair or Replace?" with Mary Ogle from the Cleveland Restoration Society and Art Engleman from Western Window Service, at 10 a.m.
- "Getting Your Roof Done Right" with Chris Kamis from Absolute Roofing at 11:15 a.m.
- "Why Do I Have a Wet Basement?" with Wesley Walker of HRRC at 12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Palm Sunday APRIL 13, 10 AM

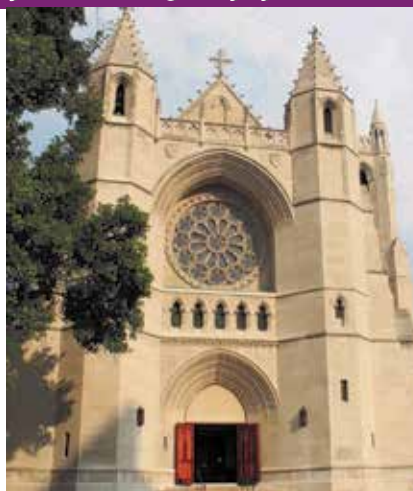
Celebrate Jesus' entry into Holy Week. Witness the majestic procession of palms led by children.

Holy Week Vespers APRIL 13, 5 PM

Featuring the Baldwin Wallace Motet Choir performing J.S. Bach's Cantata *Wie schön leucht uns der Morgenstern*.

Maundy Thursday APRIL 17, 7:30 PM

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



Good Friday APRIL 18, 12 NOON

Meditate on the Seven Last Words of Christ accompanied by organ music.

Easter Sunday APRIL 20, 10 AM

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Heights High student embarks on a year abroad

Joy Henderson

Heights High junior Emoni Brown-Bey always wanted to go to Japan. On March 16, with the help of the AFS Exchange Program and support of her family, Brown-Bey boarded a plane and set off for the Land of the Rising Sun. In Japan, she will live with her host family—a mother, father, and teenage sister and brother—in the eastern coastal city of Toyoshi.

Before she left, Brown-Bey said that while she was a little nervous about speaking Japanese, she was excited about the opportunity. “I am really interested in learning more about Japanese art, fashion and culture while I am there,” said Brown-Bey. She has spent the last several years researching and

learning about Japan. A few months ago, she found an app that helped her to learn the Japanese language.

She said e-mail exchanges with her host family made her feel more comfortable about the trip, adding, “They seem really nice and I think they will be great for me.”

The first stop on her journey was Los Angeles for an AFS predeparture orientation with the 31 other U.S. students going to Japan. Once she arrived in Japan, Brown-Bey participated in an AFS multi-day arrival orientation for exchange students.

After settling in with her host family, Brown-Bey will attend the high school in Toyoshi. A Cleveland scholastic art winner, she plans to study art at



Heights High junior Emoni Brown-Bey will spend a year in Japan as an exchange student.

her new school, and also hopes to play on the school’s volleyball team.

At Heights High, Brown-Bey was

a member of the AFS club where she met exchange students from other countries. They helped her prepare for her own exchange year.

Brown-Bey will return to Heights High in February 2015 to finish her senior year. After that, she plans to attend an art school.

Host families are needed in Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Beachwood, Solon, Shaker Heights, Euclid and South Euclid-Lyndhurst. For information about hosting an AFS student next school year, or about sending a student on an AFS exchange, contact Carla Bailey at seabail@aol.com.

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



Keystone Tigers (from left) Marcus Hilson, assistant director; Cameron Steele; Kyle Washington-Ross; Aaron Hemphill; Sheryl Kelley; Kyla Washington-Ross; and Brandon Delk, HYC staff.

Keystone Tigers explore teen issues at youth awareness fair

Anne McFarland

The Keystone Tigers, the leadership arm of the Heights Youth Club (HYC), addressed depression and suicide at the Saving Us Youth Awareness Fair on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Several organizations serving Heights communities were present to introduce fair attendees to their programs. Participating organizations included: Avenues for Positive Changes, empowering girls and strengthening self-image; C.H.O.I.C.E.S., specializing in treatment for substance abuse and behavioral health; Jewish Family Services; Northern Ohio Recovery Association, offering adolescent substance use treatment; Ohio Guidestone, providing solutions for children, families and communities; Suicide Prevention Education Alliance (SPEA); and University Hospitals Discovery and Wellness Center for Children.

Three speakers addressed the audience of teens and parents. In his talk on entrepreneurship, Tory Coates compared the cost of education (\$10,000 per student per year in public school, plus \$20,000 per year for a state college) to the cost of keeping someone in prison (\$30,000). He noted that the average test scores of prison inmates are in the third- and fourth-grade range. He then urged students to increase their personal wealth by “investing” in education and themselves.

Paul Ernst of SPEA distributed handouts with phone numbers and websites to use in crisis situations, along with information about depression and suicide. He encouraged the audience to put these

numbers and sites on their phones.

SPEA works in 140 schools. Its free program provides information and direction to first-line help. He encouraged audience members to ask the tough question—“Are you having thoughts about suicide?”—of someone they are concerned about.

Ernst spoke about assessing the danger of a person’s thoughts of suicide and advised young people to contact a trusted adult if they think a friend is at risk for hurting him- or herself.

LaToyia Jones, co-founder of Alive on Purpose, a program partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, shared her own journey, which included abandonment by both parents, sexual molestation, two suicide attempts, and the realization that “your story is your résumé.”

Jones said that a person’s story “made you what you are,” adding that “you can either figuratively write it on a blackboard and stare at it each day, or face in the other direction and look forward. The blackboard is still behind you, but it no longer determines your outlook.”

The Keystone Tigers are proud to have attained the gold level in the Boys & Girls Clubs. It is the highest level for teen leadership groups. For more information about Keystone Tigers and the Heights Youth Club, go to www.heightsyouthclub.org, or call 216-321-2582.

Anne McFarland is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a lawyer acting as guardian ad litem in the Juvenile Court of Cuyahoga County, and a member of HYC’s board of directors.



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April 17th at 7 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th
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CH-UH Board of Education

Meeting highlights



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FEBRUARY 12, 2014

[Joint meeting of the BOE and CH City Council]
City Council Member Janine Boyd was absent.

Facilities update

Stephen Shergalis, director of business services for the school district, described the consultant team and construction manager put in place for the upcoming remodeling of Wiley Middle School. Wiley will be adapted into a swing school to accommodate students during construction at the high school and, subsequently, at Monticello and Roxboro middle schools. High school bidding and construction will begin the summer of 2015 and be completed by the start of school in 2017. Middle school design, bidding and construction will be during 2018-19.

Vacant school properties

Millikin: Transportation, grounds, trades, and storage functions currently at Wiley would be moved, possibly to the Millikin School building. Locations are being considered for school bus parking. Modular classrooms will be needed at Wiley. Housing vocational and technical classes presents a special problem. Heights Youth Theatre may move to Millikin.

Coventry tenants: The Open Office has not been successful and will move out of Coventry by the end of February. Current tenants include Family Connections, Waldorf School, Coventry Day Care, Ensemble Theatre and Lake Erie Ink. The board is conferring with FutureHeights and Reaching Heights about taking space in Coventry.

Superintendent search

The firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates has been selected to design a profile of the person to be sought. This firm did the same work with Shaker Heights and a number of other "minority majority" school systems in Ohio. Public input will come from an open community forum on Feb. 17 and an online survey regarding the "desired characteristics" of a new superintendent.

CH development projects

Mayor Dennis Wilcox described the Turkey Ridge project to build high-end homes on the border with Cleveland at Edgehill and Overlook roads. The unique geology of the site will require pylons driven into the bedrock. Tax abatement is necessary because of competition with similar developments in Cleveland. Another developer is interested in the empty lot at Coventry and Cedar roads as a site for four units with five-year tax abatement.

Future meetings

All in attendance agreed to hold joint meetings regularly, but the next meeting was not scheduled.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

FEBRUARY 18, 2014

Board member Eric Coble was absent.

Ohio Improvement Process

Andrea Celico, assistant superintendent, reported on the district's plan and work on the Ohio Improvement Process. This plan is based on research, collaboration and collective responsibility. The district has chosen goals for improvement in both language arts and mathematics.

Phase 1 high school facilities

Steve Zannoni from Project Management Consultants/Regency Construction, the owners' representative, reported on the high school facilities phase 1 progress. The work needed to make Wiley Middle School ready for high school students is in the planning stage.

Facilities Accountability Committee

The Facilities Accountability Committee selected officers, with Seku Sahibs as chair and Jim Cull as vice chair.

Football stadium

The board discussed draft plans for the football stadium, including whether to use grass or artificial turf. The decision on the type of turf does not have to be made until April.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

FEBRUARY 26, 2014

All board members were present.

Special superintendent search meeting

Ted Blaesing of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, search consultant, presented results from 459 interviews and online surveys regarding desired characteristics of the next superintendent.

For district and community strengths, frequently mentioned items were: student college preparation; quality of life in the community; the number of organizations committed to the district; and Nylajeane McDaniel, current interim superintendent.

Challenges and concerns included: the gap

between reality and public perception, and media coverage of the district; an increasing number of poor, transient students with disengaged families; recruitment and retention of staff that reflect the student body; the frequent shifting among different approaches to academic achievement; and state testing.

The most frequently cited desirable characteristics describe a person who would make a long-term commitment to the district and who would understand, take pride in, and be visibly engaged in the community and the district. Those surveyed also want a superintendent who is polished, well-spoken, politically savvy, visionary, collegial, dynamic, intelligent and an educator. They want a person who can develop positive relations with the two cities and employee unions, foster teamwork, put students' needs first, meet the demands of multiple constituencies, nurture relationships, communicate well, set high standards, foster a positive professional climate, and represent the interests of students, parents, staff and community members.

Blaesing said interview questions will be based on the survey results. He will advise whomever is hired to respect the survey results and focus on them.

Board members recommended that candidates be informed that the district is 80 to 82 percent minority, that the achievement gap needs to be addressed, and that the superintendent needs to be courageous in setting high expectations for students, staff, families and school board members.

Blaesing will report to the board in early April on the final stages of the search and on interviewing the final five candidates. There will be more opportunity for the community to be involved. Also in April, the three final candidates will have daylong visits to the district and community.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

MARCH 4, 2014

All board members were present.

Public comments

Artificial turf: Several speakers, including coaches and football players, spoke in support of artificial turf for the football field. Resident Laura Marks spoke against artificial turf and asked the board to get more information.

Race to the Top update

Alison Byrd, director of data and research, provided information about the new data information system the district will start using. Cleveland Heights-University Heights is a pilot district. Race to the Top will pay for the system for two years.

Superintendent search

Ron Register, board president, reported on the superintendent search. He said 10 people had completed the application process, seven have started it, and there have been about 23 inquiries.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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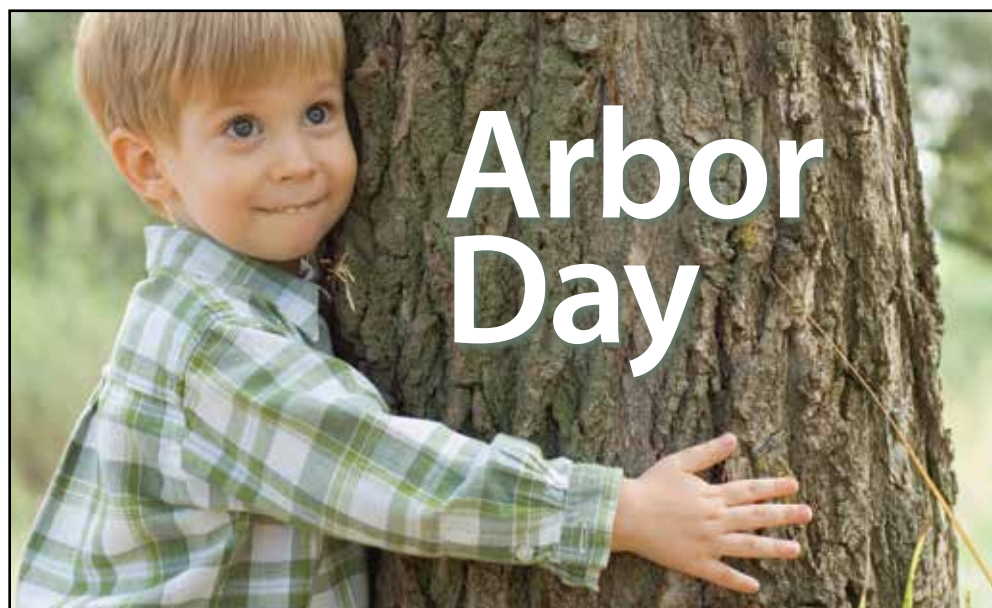
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CH-UH City School District launches facilities blog

Camilla Welsch

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has launched a new Phase 1 Facilities Plan blog, www.createfutureheightsschools.org, to communicate new developments during the facilities renovations process.

"We're so excited to share the progress of these extraordinary five years to come. We want the community to stay informed by checking our blog regularly—it's even easier if you 'follow' the blog to get new posts e-mailed to you straight away. Readers can also contact us, ask questions and make suggestions for improving the blog," said Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement for the district.

"On our 'Create the Future Heights Schools Blog' you will find updated posts about community meetings, the Facilities Accountability Committee, working groups, the design progress, construction, swing space development and more," Shaker explained.

As Phase 1 of the facilities plan unfolds, the district will post photos and videos of new developments, as well as presentation documents and handouts from important meetings.

Camilla Welsch is the communications and community engagement department assistant for the CH-UH City School District.



Teacher Jeff Porter, students Maxx Marshall and Michael Hancock, and Jay Hobbs, career and technical education coordinator (from left). Hancock is holding the damaged cart piece that was removed from a broken school utility cart. The repaired cart is behind the students.

Heights Auto Tech program provides hands-on learning

Joy Henderson

When Heights High assistant head custodian Chris Canter needed to repair the school's utility cart, he called on the Heights High Auto Tech program. Juniors Michael Hancock and Maxx Marshall, both auto tech students, volunteered to do the work. Canter secured the necessary parts and a donation from Southeast Golf Car Company, and the students did the rest—with the guidance of their teacher Jeff Porter.

"The utility cart is basically a golf cart that carries cargo," said Porter. "Many of the systems are the same as cars, with some differences of course."

While the auto tech students repair about 20 cars a month, they occasionally work on golf carts.

The front end of the school's util-

ity cart was damaged, including the headlight. "We removed the damaged parts, replaced the light, wired it in and replaced the front end," said Hancock. The donated front end was not the same color, so the students also sanded and painted the new piece. "The guys spent quite a bit of time working on this, and they did a fantastic job," said Porter.

Both of the students praised their teacher for offering the opportunity. "Mr. Porter is the kind of teacher who offers extra opportunities," said Marshall. "Having experience on golf carts helps us and it was fun doing the auto body work."

"This was definitely a win-win," said Canter. "Students learned more about golf cart repair and the school's cart was repaired at no cost to the district."

Canter also expressed gratitude to

James Slaughenhaupt, the parts manager at Southeast Golf Car Company, for donating the parts.

Hancock plans to attend Ohio Technical College to learn more about auto technology. Marshall plans to use his high school certification to work while he attends college to study engineering or architecture.

Students in the auto tech program are eligible to earn the national General Maintenance Certification, the first step in a professional certification process for automotive technicians. Auto Tech is one of 13 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Heights High, overseen by Jay Hobbs, CTE coordinator.

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

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The Ohio Continuous Improvement Process at work

Joy Henderson

The CH-UH City School District is using the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) to identify areas that need improving, identify academic goals and define the work needed to reach the goals. With the support of the U.S. Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Education developed the OIP. The process is a unified state system intended to improve academic achievement for all students.

Teacher-Based Teams (TBTs) are using the process in the classrooms to ensure that students learn the concepts outlined in the curriculum, also known as the Common Core Standards. Heights High math teachers Becky McDonald, Rachel Martinez and Joyce Bukovac teach six sections of mathematical decision making for seniors. McDonald

and Martinez each have several years of teaching experience, but are grateful to be on a team with Joyce Bukovac, a veteran teacher with 23 years of experience.

Bukovac sees the OIP as an extension of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC), which has been used in the district for several years. PLCs were groups of subject area, grade level or small school teachers who worked together to improve teaching and learning. "However, the OIP provides more detailed tools and gives us feedback from outside our small team," Bukovac said.

Lending expertise and feedback to the TBTs are Building Leadership Teams (BLTs) led by the principal, and the District Leadership Team (DLT) led by the district administrator. The BLTs and DLT review the OIP protocol charts completed by teachers and give their input to guide classroom instruction.

The work of every TBT is broadly defined by the results from an OIP district analysis of student performance data. The CH-UH DLT used a "decision framework" to identify the main goals: improve student achievement in both math and reading, and provide a more respectful and safer school environment.

Once the goals were created and articulated by the members of the DLT, the TBTs began addressing those goals by taking a closer look at their current practices.

TBTs develop their teaching protocol using the following five-step process:

- 1) Collect and chart formative assessment data aligned to the standards.
- 2) Analyze student work specific to the data (what students did well and why;



Heights High math teachers Rachel Martinez, Joyce Bukovac and Becky McDonald are using the Ohio Continuous Improvement Process.

what students did poorly and why).

- 3) Establish shared expectations.
- 4) Implement (who will implement; how often; observations of selected strategies).
- 5) Collect and analyze performance data.

The BLTs and the DLT will review the TBT protocol and provide the teacher teams with brief, supportive and objective feedback based on evidence. Periodic feedback gives classroom teachers the input of experienced educators who are trained in the OIP protocols.

Andrea Celico, assistant superintendent, is pleased with the progress of the teams. "It should come as no surprise to know that teachers working together rather than in isolation improves classroom instruction," she said. "And the OIP helps us ground our discussions in evidence rather than opinion and encourages collective responsibility for student success."

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

BOE's Ron Register wins state award

Angee Shaker

The The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) has awarded Ron Register, president of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education (BOE), its Award of Achievement. The award is given to fewer than 2 percent of the more than 2,400 school board members in Ohio. Register has served on the CH-UH board for more than 10 years.

"OSBA couldn't have made a better choice for their Award of Achievement than Ron Register," said Nylajeane McDaniel, CH-UH City School District superintendent. "Ron has been an immense asset to our district, and to this community, for years. He always lends a calm and thoughtful voice to our proceedings and few people have done more than Ron to help bring the diverse parts of our district together. We're very fortunate to have him and we're thrilled that he's received this recognition."

The OSBA Award of Achievement is given for demonstrations of dedi-

cation to self-improvement, service to the association, and work on behalf of the school board.

"I'm honored to receive this award, especially since it recognizes service to our CH-UH School Board, which is something that has always been my utmost priority," said Register. "Serving on the CH-UH School Board has been challenging, gratifying, educational, and inspiring. I'm grateful to our community for continuing to put its trust in me and allowing me to serve. I want to recognize the contribution of my fellow school board members, along with our district leaders and staff, without whom this award would not have happened."

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



Ron Register

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SENIOR SOLOISTS continued from page 1

This very romantic work was composed on themes from Vincenzo Bellini's opera "La Sonnambula," which means "the sleepwalker." Bottesini, a 19th-century double bass virtuoso, embellishes four distinct themes from the opera in the solo part.

Also on May 2, jazz tenor saxophonist Josh Perelman-Hall will perform Jimmy Van Heusen's "But Beautiful," arranged by Bill Holman for big band. He will be accompanied by the Heights High Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Brett Baker.

Perelman-Hall considered several pieces before deciding on the Holman arrangement. "I thought it was pretty cool how Holman took what is normally a long, slow ballad and made it a medium-up jazz waltz," he said. "Holman lets the tenor sax carry the melody throughout the whole piece." The work also appealed to him because it offers the challenge of a large segment where he will improvise a solo with the backing of the rhythm section.

Sperl and Perelman-Hall have been working on their solos with private instructors since early autumn.

As the spring semester unfolds, a collaborative process gets underway. Soloists discuss the composition with IMD directors Daniel Heim and Brett Baker, and begin rehearsing the student ensembles. At this stage, private instructors are invited to make comments during rehearsals.

Both soloists play multiple instruments and are involved in many musical activities at Heights, as well as throughout Cleveland's performance community. Sperl and Perelman-Hall both have played with several jazz combos.

At Heights, Sperl performs with Symphony and Jazz Ensemble. Although classical piano was his first instrument, he has recently begun to study jazz piano in earnest. Since freshman year, he has been a member of the Church of the Savior Praise Band. In addition, for two years he was a member of the bass section of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

Perelman-Hall performs at Heights High with the Symphonic Winds and Jazz Ensemble. He is also a member of the award-winning Heights Barber-shoppers.

The May 2 concert also includes performances by Cleveland Heights High Symphony and Symphonic Winds.

The spring concert season includes

a concert on Wednesday, April 30 and concludes with the annual Jazz Nite on Friday, May 9, featuring the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo.

Chamber Ensemble performances will precede the concerts on April 30 and May 2, from 6:30-7 p.m. in the Heights High Social Room.

Chamber groups range in size from two to six musicians. The students select their own repertoire and are coached by professional musicians throughout the school year. Music selections include both classical and contemporary compositions.

All concerts take place at the Cleveland Heights High School Dina Rees Evans Performing Arts Center. The April 30 and May 2 concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Jazz Nite on May 9 begins at 7 p.m. Tickets for Jazz Nite are \$5. Tickets for all concerts are available the day of the show.

For more information, go to www.cbub.org/schools/cbhs/about/instrumental-music or call 216-320-3112.

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



Wiley Middle School ELA students learned about Anne Frank through reading and presentations.

Eighth-graders' diorama project explores Anne Frank's story

Angee Shaker

The eighth-grade students from Anisha Mahone and Christy Lemano-wicz's English Language Arts (ELA) classes recently read *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

The Wiley Middle School students then created and presented visual displays, including dioramas, to their classmates, as part of a discussion of cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices.

Anne Frank, who would later perish in a concentration camp, was roughly the same age as the Wiley eighth-

graders when she wrote her diary, in hiding, during two years of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

The students related to Frank's struggle, and learned how the Holocaust had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole. The project connected Common Core history with an International Baccalaureate (IB) Area of Interaction: Approaches to Learning and Human Ingenuity.

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

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Programs for teen job seekers begin in April

Sheryl Banks

With the national teen jobless rate at 24.2 percent last May, local teens looking for summer jobs this year will face stiff competition. They can get a leg up with Heights Libraries' Teen Job Prep program, a three-part series offered at the University Heights Library, 13866 Cedar Road.

The series is the brainchild of Shenee King, Heights Libraries youth services associate. "When I first started working at the library, I helped a few teens fill out job applications," said King. "I quickly realized they needed help with their job-hunting skills, especially the kids who need jobs to help their families."

King will present the first program, "Gather Your Skills," on April 19 at 11 a.m. King will teach teens how to write effective résumés and accurately fill out job applications.

That résumé and application will be used during the next program on April 26, also at 11 a.m., called "Presentation – First Impressions Matter." Taught by

Michelle Phelps, career development coordinator for Tri-Heights Career Development Program, the program will teach teens how to dress and speak during a job interview. Participants are encouraged to wear their best potential job search interview outfits.

The series culminates on May 3 with a Teen Job Fair, starting at 11 a.m. The fair is presented in partnership with Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a Cleveland-based youth-serving non-profit agency that provides teenagers and young adults with job training, mentoring opportunities and other job programs.

The fair will feature local employers who are looking to hire teens for the summer, and also provide teens with a chance to practice their interviewing skills.

For more information visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-321-4700.

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



Believe it or not, the Book Bike has already made appearances in 2014; on a blustery February day, all-weather-warrior Eric Litschel rode to John Carroll University.

Book Bike seeking more riders to fill demand

Julia Murphy

The Book Bike, a three-wheeled cart stocked with free books, was a common sight around Cleveland Heights and University Heights last summer, appearing at festivals and parades, on campus at John Carroll University and other locations in the area. The Book Bike was started in 2013 by Sam Lapides, special projects coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. Tasked with finding creative ways to expand outreach efforts, Lapides got the idea for a human-powered outreach vehicle from the Pima County Public Library in Arizona.

"It felt like a nice fit with the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, both of which are manageable by bicycle and have a history of supporting 'out there' ideas," said Lapides. He e-mailed the idea to Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director, who responded with an image of an old ice cream vending bicycle and the words, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

In 2013, the Book Bike made appearances at 19 community venues. Volunteers and library staff members rode

the bike to events such as Cain Park children's concerts and summer family literacy events. "With one successful summer season already under its belt, the Book Bike is going to have a busy calendar this summer," said Lapides.

With the bike sponsored by the Friends of the Heights Libraries and books supplied by the Friends and other outlets, including Half-Priced Books, the only thing the program needs is riders. For those interested in manning the Book Bike, or anyone looking for more information, Eric Litschel and Sam Lapides will be on the first floor of the Lee Road Library's HKIC building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, to provide information about the project. The Book Bike will also be there for training rides for anyone interested in volunteering.

For more information, call Sam Lapides at 216-932-3600, ext. 290, or e-mail slapides@heightslibrary.org. Register for the Book Bike information session at www.heightslibrary.org.

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



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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY 17, 2014

All board members were present.



New streaming service

The board approved an initial subscription to a streaming service called Hoopla, which will enable customers to download audiobooks, movies, full-length music albums and television episodes. Each time a cardholder uses the service, a deduction is made against the \$15,000 deposit the library will make with Midwest Tape, the library's primary audio-visual vendor. Each cardholder will be limited to 10 downloads per month.

Help for small business owners

The Small Business Development Center, located in the Heights Knowledge and Information Center, has been hosting "Fireside Chats" for the public, to discuss the five things anyone should know before starting a small business. John Finley, who has been in charge of that program, reported that seven clients have now been able to secure funding for their businesses.

Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries

Sue Pardee, president of the fund's board, made a report to the board. The fund currently has seven directors but can add two more. Receipts in 2013 were \$21,587. Cleveland Foundation staff will hold a training session for the fund's board on March 11. The fund has completed a memorandum of understanding with the Friends of the Heights Libraries.

January public service report highlights

- Wireless printing through Google Cloud was instituted in the adult services area.

Google Cloud enables the library to limit printing and is easier for customers to use.

- Much of January's programming featured the "greatest detective who never lived"—Sherlock Holmes. More related programs will follow in February.
- Noble Neighborhood Library hosted Private Eye Academy, another Sherlock Holmes-related program, and graduates received an official certificate.
- The preschool/daycare fair featured 14 local daycare centers; 120 parents attended.
- The 15th Annual Teen Poetry Slam was promoted and funded by Lake Erie Ink and the high school library. Fourteen participants read their poetry to 73 attendees.
- The "Mystery of the Missing Mammal" arose from an elaborate hoax where the mascot statue of the youth services division, Peter Potamus, went missing. One hundred eighty people were involved in following clues and reporting a secret password to be entered in a grand-prize drawing.
- A partnership with the Harold T. Clark Library at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History provides programs for the Science and Nature Study Group.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 6.

New library card will give all kids access to books

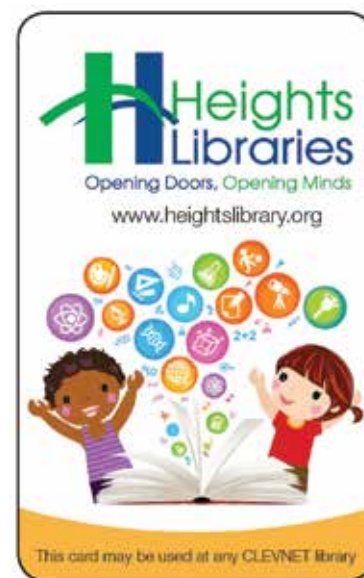
Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library will celebrate National Library Week, April 13-19, by introducing a new library card just for kids age 12 and under, the "Three for Me card."

Unlike a traditional library card, which requires a parent's or guardian's signature, the Three for Me card has no such requirement. Children 12 and under can get the card themselves with just an address and a birthdate, and check out up to three children's books at a time.

"We understand that it is not always possible for a parent or guardian to come to the library to sign a library card application for a child," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "The Three for Me card ensures that all children are able to check out books, no matter what their circumstances may be." The card also supports literacy by focusing on books; children cannot check out DVDs or other audio-visual items with the card.

Levin noted that the Ohio Department of Education's Third Grade Reading Guarantee program has put pressure on kids and their teachers to get kids reading at grade level by the end of third grade. "The Three for Me card guarantees that every kid in our community will have access to books,



and our youth librarians can help them find books at their reading level that will interest them."

Children can sign up for a Three for Me card at any Heights Libraries location (Lee Road, Coventry Village, Noble Neighborhood or University Heights) starting April 14. The card carries no overdue fines, but children must return items before they can check out more. Children can still acquire a regular library card with the signature of a parent or guardian.

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

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What's going on at your library?

If April showers are keeping you inside, come to the library for refreshing new programs, including a month-long celebration of Shakespeare's 450th birthday. Visit www.heightslibrary.org for a full list of events, and to register.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Saturday, April 19, 2 p.m.

Coventry Baby Signs. Avoid frustration, and have fun communicating with your prelingual baby. Join Melissa O'Grady for an introduction to baby signs and the philosophy behind them. Registration begins April 5.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Sunday, April 27, 1:30 p.m.

7th Annual Lee Road Library Crossword Competition. Spend a puzzling afternoon solving unpublished crosswords provided by Will Shortz, editor of *The New York Times Crossword*. The puzzles begin easy and become progressively harder; all levels of crossword enthusiast are encouraged to participate. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Registration began Jan. 27.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Wednesday, April 9, 3:30 p.m.

Noble Spring Talent Show Tryouts. The first Noble Spring Talent Show will take place on April 10 at 3:30 p.m. All would-be participants, ages 11-18, must attend these tryouts the day before the show.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Family Flash Mob. All community members are welcome to participate in our University Heights Memorial Day Parade Flash Mob on May 26. We will be promoting our Rock Out and Read (ROAR) summer reading program. Learn the choreography in our monthly lessons held at the University Heights Library. All participants must attend two rehearsals in order to participate; another rehearsal will be held on May 22. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Special needs participants are welcome. Registration is required for this event.

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Cain Park announces its 2014 summer schedule

James Henke

Cain Park has announced its summer concert series and, as usual, several major artists are scheduled to perform. Judy Collins, The Average White Band, Arlo Guthrie, Tori Amos and Michael Stanley are among the headliners who will be appearing at the Cleveland Heights venue this summer.

Judy Collins will appear at the Evans Amphitheater on June 14. Now 74 years old, she was a major force in 1960s folk-rock and had such major hits as “Both Sides Now,” “Send in the Clowns” and “Amazing Grace.”

The Average White Band, the Scottish band best-known for its hit “Pick Up the Pieces,” will perform at the amphitheater on June 20. The opening act will be the Family Stone, with a lineup of hits that includes “I Want to Take You Higher,” “Hot Fun in the Summertime” and “Everyday People.”

Jim Brickman, a Shaker Heights native, is a songwriter and pianist who has earned six gold and platinum albums. He is also the most-charted male adult-contemporary artist to date. Brickman will appear at the Evans Amphitheater on July 19.

Arlo Guthrie, son of Woody Guthrie, made a name for himself in folk-rock. He has scored numerous hits over the years, including “Alice’s Restaurant” and “The City of New Orleans.” His Cain Park show will take place on July 27.



A crowd enjoys the Yes concert at Cain Park’s Evans Ampitheater in 2013.

Tori Amos began her career in 1992 with the album *Little Earthquakes*, which went gold in both the U.S. and Britain. She has been nominated for eight Grammy Awards over the years, and her latest album is *Unrepentant Geraldines*. She will perform at Evans Amphitheater on Aug. 7.

On Aug. 9, Cleveland native Michael Stanley will hit the amphitheater stage.

Several other shows have been

scheduled, and more will be announced in the future.

The annual Cain Park Arts Festival is scheduled for the weekend of July 11. More than 150 artists from around the country will be showing their artwork, and there will also be music and food.

The park will host \$5 Fridays, with shows at the Alma Theater, and \$2 Tuesdays at the Evans Amphitheater. In addition, there will be free Sunday performances, featuring music by various artists, and a free chamber-music series on Tuesday nights at the Alma Theater.

Cleveland Heights residents will be able to purchase tickets starting May 24. Residents must show up in person at the Cain Park box office and bring a photo ID, as well as two proofs of current residency, such as a utility bill.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public on May 31. More information is available at www.cainpark.com.

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.

Internationally known gospel singer Willie-Mae Wright to perform

Peg Weissbrod

Cleveland gospel singer Mother Willie-Mae Wright will perform her first concert in more than 10 years at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights.

The internationally known singer has been performing, and advocating for the poor, since the 1960s. She sang for Pope John VI at the Vatican in 1975 and has opened for many famous names in gospel music, including the legendary Mahalia Jackson. Wright is the matriarch of the Wright Family Singers, featuring seven of her eight children. The group performed for President Bill Clinton at the White House in 1994.

The 80-year-old Wright has lived a long and exhilarating life, singing, praising God and fighting to eradicate poverty. Her performance will combine her gift of song with personal stories of the trials and triumphs of her remarkable life.

Forest Hill Church is located at 3031 Monticello Blvd. More information is



International gospel singer Willie-Mae Wright

available at www.fhcbpresh.org or by calling 216-321-2660. The concert is free and open to the public.

Peg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and content manager for Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.



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Good Friday, April 18
7:00 p.m. Led by the Confirmation Class

Holy Saturday, April 19
7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil



Easter Sunday, April 20
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Heights Observer April 1, 2014

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Mamaí's second season: classic and innovative

Jewel Moulthrop

Following its award-winning inaugural season, Mamaí Theatre Company announces its expanded second year, which begins on June 16 with a benefit staged reading of the rarely performed James Joyce's "Ulysses in Nighttown" at—of all places—Nighttown in Cleveland Heights.

June 16 has special meaning for Joyce fans. Bloomsday, as it's called, celebrates June 16, 1904 as depicted in James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The day is named for Leopold Bloom, the central character in the novel, and follows his life and thoughts from 8 a.m. to the early hours of the next morning. The benefit evening begins at 5:30 p.m. sharp with a three-course Joycean-inspired dinner, designed by Brendan Ring, Nighttown's

proprietor. The reading will follow.

Also in June, Mamaí (pronounced Mah' may) plans to host a rare theater event. Ten members of Actors Equity Association will gather to self-produce George Bernard Shaw's "Heartbreak House." A popular 20th-century masterpiece, this eclectic drama features an ensemble cast of unexpected visitors to an unusual home. Shaw pays tribute to pre-World War I innocence with a script that plays out like a haunting symphony, championing human wonder in the face of fear and change. "Heartbreak House" runs June 12–29. Tickets will be sold at the door only. With the exception of "Ulysses at Nighttown," all of the group's productions will be at Pilgrim Church, 2592 W. 14th St., Tremont.

Next in Mamaí's season will be a regional premiere of Eric Coble's

"Stranded on Earth," a co-production with Theatre Ninjas; Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia;" and Marina Carr's "Woman and Scarecrow."

"Stranded on Earth" is the second play in Cleveland Heights playwright Eric Coble's Alexandra trilogy. It tells the story of Alexa, a visual artist, as she contemplates the exchange between personal freedom and putting down roots against the backdrop of a personal tragedy. This extraordinary one-woman show runs June 5–22.

"Arcadia," written in 1993, concerns the relationship between past and present, between order and disorder, and the certainty of knowledge. Cited by many critics as the finest play from one of the most significant

contemporary playwrights in the English language, "Arcadia" is set in an English country house and takes place in both the early 1800s and the present day (1993 in the original production). The activities of two modern scholars and the house's current residents are juxtaposed with the lives of those who lived there 180 years earlier. Part detective story, part love story, part comedy of manners, the play runs from July 17 through Aug. 3.

Mamaí Theatre Company was founded in 2010 by Bernadette Clemens, Wendy Kriss, Christine McBurney and Derdriu Ring. Mamaí, the Gaelic word for "mother," comprises four working mothers, theater artists, colleagues and friends who all felt it was time to create opportunities for themselves and their community. "Don't wait to create" became the inspiration for the company. Their mission is to create intelligent, relevant classical theater for Cleveland's theatrical artists, and equal opportunity for women in the profes-

sional theater community.

Mamaí's final offering this season is the regional premiere of "Woman and Scarecrow," written by Irish playwright Marina Carr. In a play critics describe as "brilliant" and "imaginative," a dying woman is visited by a figure called Scarecrow, an enigmatic character that might be her alter ego, a morphine-induced hallucination, or the very thing keeping death at bay. An Irish journey of magical realism, mythology and transformation, the play runs from Oct. 30 through Nov. 16.

For more information about Mamaí's upcoming season, and to purchase tickets, go to www.mamaitheatreco.org. Season subscriptions and sponsorships are available. Unless otherwise noted, shows run Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

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



Mamaí's summer season includes "Stranded on Earth," a one-woman play by Cleveland Heights playwright Eric Coble (above).

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Mickie McGraw, pioneering art therapist



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Peggy Spaeth

Mickie McGraw had no plans to be a pioneer. Nevertheless, not by putting one foot in front of another but by the sheer momentum of her life on wheels, she became one.

As McGraw puts it, she's been on wheels her whole life. Growing up on the East Side of Cleveland she was a tomboy, always on a bike or roller skates. In 1953, at the age of 11, she contracted polio and has wheeled in a chair ever since.

McGraw was tutored at home through high school. Through the Society for Crippled Children, now more aptly named The Achievement Centers for Children, professional artists volunteered to come to her house. Painter Martha Horvath, enamelist and photographer John Puskas, and a ceramic artist she remembers as Mrs. Boorse nurtured McGraw's innate talent and interest. As a result, she embarked on an arts-centered life and enrolled in the five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts program at the Cleveland Institute of Art, where strong young men would lift McGraw and her wheelchair into the building.

McGraw majored in graphic arts, a practical application of her talents intended as an entryway to the workforce. However, a serendipitous meeting with psychiatrist George Streeter on the very last day of a graphic arts internship at Highland View Hospital opened the door to a pioneering field: art therapy. Streeter was talking to anyone who would listen about opening an art studio at the hospital. He had spent two years confined to a bed after contracting tuberculosis, and as a lifelong painter he knew that the arts provided a life-affirming activity to those physically confined.

After graduation in 1966, McGraw realized that she was neither physically nor psychologically suited to the competitive graphic arts field. Remembering her conversation with Streeter, she contacted him the following year. Together they created what is now the oldest medical art therapy program in the country by establishing The Art



Mickie McGraw as a high school artist.

Therapy Studio (ATS) at Highland View Hospital, a rehab hospital for those in long-term care.

Initially McGraw did not consider herself an art therapist. Indeed, at the time, there were few art therapy programs, and she simply thought of herself as an artist teacher. However, as McGraw began to adapt media and tools for disabled patients, witnessed art as a transformative and healing process, and found herself addressing patients' emotional and psychological issues as she worked with them, her awareness that the art studio provided a therapeutic setting began to grow.

Subsequently McGraw earned a master's degree in counseling at John Carroll University to round out her approach in working with patients. She served as an advisor to help build Ursuline College's art therapy program in 1973, as well as Northeast Ohio art therapy programs, and mentored countless students through the years.

McGraw has had the pleasure of watching ATS grow for almost 47 years. Services now include open studio programs for patients and their families, as well as those targeted to individual patients' physical or psychological needs. The initial art studio housed at Highland View was an unprecedented collaboration between a county hospital and a nonprofit art studio. Highland View eventually was absorbed into the MetroHealth system, and ATS established a facility at Fairhill Center in 1987. At the request of patients, ATS developed outpatient programs when



Mickie McGraw

hospital stays became shorter. Today ATS provides services at its Fairhill campus, Ursuline College, Metro-Health Medical Center, River's Edge, the VA Medical Center, University Hospitals and The Cleveland Clinic.

McGraw, who "retired" in 2000, serves on the advisory board and the fundraising and program committees at ATS, teaches at Ursuline College and consults with the Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine art therapy program. On Fridays, this 2010 Cleveland Arts Prize winner can be found in ATS's "Discover the Artist Within You" classes at Ursuline, taking collage in the morning and painting in the afternoon, continuing to discover herself and others through making art.

Peggy Spaeth was the founding director of Heights Arts. Currently she is imagining and exploring new projects.

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SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Older couples and single people living on their own often have trouble making nutritious meals for themselves. Understanding nutritional needs and appropriate calorie intake can be confusing. Fresh ingredients are frequently sold in packages that are too large to finish before they go bad. Eating healthfully can also cost more, and the time required to cook sometimes doesn't seem worth the effort. Following are some tips to help you eat in a healthy way without a lot of effort.

In 2011, the USDA updated the Food Pyramid of healthy eating guidelines and created a new initiative called Healthy Plate. The guidelines are based on the USDA publication "2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans" (DGA), and have been revised to make it easier to make better food choices. The guidelines suggest how to balance calories; add more healthy foods, such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains, to your diet; and decrease the amount of unhealthy foods, such as those with high-sugar and high-sodium ingredients.

Appendix 6 in the DGA outlines the number of calories per day that one needs based on age, gender and level of activity. Appendix 7 describes the five basic food groups, and the number of servings from each group a person needs for his or her target calorie intake. By following these guidelines, you will automatically take in the appropriate amount and variety of nutrients your body needs.

One easy way to eat the recommended servings of fresh vegetables, and finish them before they go bad, is to cut several servings of various vegetables into bite-size pieces and store them in plastic containers. You can then quickly add them to soups,

salads and other dishes. You can also steam vegetables and add them to baked potatoes, rice and pasta; or eat them as a side dish.

Some leftover fruits and vegetables can be frozen and preserved for later use. Muffins and breads also freeze well. Frozen fruits and vegetables are often just as healthy as fresh, because nutrients are preserved when they are frozen.

Healthy options sometimes cost a little more than convenience foods, but they are better for you, and may therefore decrease your healthcare and medication costs in the long run. You feel better and function better when your body has the vitamins and nutrients that it needs, which helps you stay physically stronger and able to fight off illness and disease.

Because appetite tends to decrease as we age, you may wonder why it's important to make the extra effort to eat well. Government research emphasizes the importance of keeping ourselves healthy throughout our lifetimes. To find inspiration and make cooking and eating fun, consider trying new recipes, setting the table with your good china, or inviting company over for a meal.

You can receive a copy of the DGA by calling the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion at 703-305-7600 (leave your name, address and phone number on the USDA's voicemail) or visit www.cnpp.usda.gov/DGAs2010-PolicyDocument.html. For a free pamphlet of recipes, call The Loving Hands Group at 216-408-5578 or visit www.lovinghandsgroup.com/cooking.html. Remember to consult with your doctor before beginning any new nutrition program.

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

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. 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.

April 3: Sanford Herskovitz, aka Mister Brisket, traces his unique odyssey, which includes Army service and stints as a stockbroker and teacher, as well as degrees in zoology, psychology and education. Nothing satisfied the white-bearded, gregarious world traveler like his family's meat business on South Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights, which his father founded and which he has maintained for 37 years.

April 10: Susan Kane, Oberlin College professor of classical archaeology and art history, reflects on a career that began in the 1970s with doctoral research

at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cyrene, Libya. When 2011 revolution threatened lives and property, she earned a NATO honor for compiling a comprehensive list of Libyan sites not to be targeted in its military operations.

April 17: Colleen Fitzgibbons, certified health education specialist with Recovery Resources, shows how that nonprofit organization raises awareness, dispels myths, and eliminates shame about various illnesses, to help people lead fulfilling and productive lives.

April 24: With glorious clips from the best of traditional operetta and musical theater, Laura Neill, executive director of Ohio Light Opera, unveils the lineup for its 36th season, June 14 through Aug. 9, at the College of Wooster. Enjoy a preview of the 2014 productions, including "My Fair Lady," "Call Me Madam," "Die Fledermaus" and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Heights independent restaurants featured in new marketing campaign



Cleveland Heights and University Heights members of Cleveland Independents revisit their elementary school days at Superior Schoolhouse.

Myra Orenstein

In an effort to put a face on its members and encourage guests to visit locally owned, independent restaurants throughout Northeast Ohio, Cleveland Independents—the largest group of independent restaurants in the country—introduced a Passport Promotion on March 1.

The first stop on this culinary journey is the Heights, where local restaurateurs and chefs posed for an advertisement slated to appear in the upcoming issue of *Edible Cleveland*.

Kara O'Donnell, Cleveland Heights city planner, worked with the group to gain access to the Superior School Building at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Superior Road.

"Our goal was to showcase the many incredible Heights restaurants in a light-hearted way while featuring an historically significant backdrop," said Jonathan Bennett, vice president and executive chef of Red Restaurant Group and president of Cleveland Independents. "After posting the photograph on Facebook, the response to this tongue-in-cheek approach has been extremely positive."

Featured in the advertisement are

Douglas Katz (Katz Club Diner), Bridget Thiebault (Luna Bakery & Cafe), Robin Schulze (Rockefeller's), Brendan Ring (Nighttown), Brian Linihan (Marotta's), Tatyana Rehn (The Stone Oven Bakery), Fran Geraci (Geraci's), Elio Orzco (Taste), Turan Yildirim (Anatolia Cafe) and Kevin Brennan (Melt Bar and Grilled). Marc-Aurele Buholzer of Vero Bistro is not in the photograph, although his restaurant is participating in the passport.

The launch of the advertisement marks the introduction of Cleveland Independents' Culinary Passport Promotion. Passports are available at all 90-plus member restaurants, but only Heights members have stamps.

"Our goal is to drive new guests to these neighborhoods," Bennett explained. "We shall introduce recipes on our website and eventually create three recipe books. By year-end, every restaurant will be equipped with a stamp." Recipe books will be available for sale at www.clevelandindependents.com later this year, and a boxed set of three will be available for the holiday season.

Guests who obtain 15 unique stamps (the organization is allowing for one repeat visit) can redeem the Passport for a free copy of The Deck 2014—a deck

of cards with 49 offers, each offering approximately \$10 off a \$30 restaurant tab. Redemption details are outlined in the Passport. The offer expires Oct. 1.

Following the appearance of the Heights restaurateurs' advertisement, an ad will be created for restaurants south of Cleveland, and then for Beachwood restaurants.

For more information about the program, sign up for Cleveland Independents' e-mails at www.clevelandindependents.com or 'like' its page on Facebook.

Myra Orenstein is president of CATV Inc., a networking marketing/advertising firm located in Cleveland Heights. A resident of Cleveland Heights, she is executive director of Cleveland Independents, and was formerly executive director of the Coventry Village SID.

Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival planned for Aug. 10

The Cedar Fairmount Business District's 14th Annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival is set to take place on Sunday, Aug. 10.

The popular neighborhood festival is a free event, and features family-friendly activities, including rides on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, children's games, live music and an arts and crafts sale. Potential vendors and nonprofit groups who wish to participate in the festival are invited to visit www.cedarfairmount.org or call 216-791-3172 for information.

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Rockefeller's adds music to its menu

James Henke

If you're looking for a place to hear live music, there's a new venue in Cleveland Heights. Rockefeller's, the restaurant in the historic Heights Rockefeller Building at the corner of Mayfield and Lee roads, now presents live music every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.

The focus is on jazz and blues, and some artists—including Hot Djang!, Anita Keys and Tom Letiza—appear every month. "We're getting good turnouts for the music," said Mike Adams, the restaurant's owner. "There's a nice eclectic mix of live music in Cleveland Heights, with the Grog Shop, the Wine Spot, Nighttown, and now us. It's great for Cleveland Heights to have this mix of music."

Adams, who is 43, opened the restaurant in 2011. Prior to that, he was an attorney for a medical-records firm. He grew up in New Jersey, then attended Kenyon College in Ohio. His wife, Mazie, grew up in Cleveland Heights, and after they married, they moved here. Adams said he has had a "lifelong interest in how restaurants operate."

The restaurant is located on the second floor of the building, in a space that, from 1930 to 1998, was occupied by a Cleveland Trust bank and, later, a Key Bank. It's a strikingly beautiful space, with medieval arches, a hand-painted ceiling and leaded glass windows. The bank's vault doors still take up part of the room, serving as the entrance to the

kitchen's prep room.

After the bank closed, John Barr, who owned the building, used the space as a party center. In 2010, he sold the building to Jim Barle, who also owns Barle Soup and Sandwich, located on the lower level.

It was after Barle bought the space that Adams decided to open the restaurant. "I had to go through a lot of work to get the space ready to open," he said. "But it worked out great in the end."

Adams hired Jill Vedaa, who previously worked at Lola and the Flying Fig, as his executive chef. "She had a strong culinary background, and she created the menu and the wine list for me," Adams said. The menu changes seasonally so the entrees can always be made up of freshly grown ingredients. The restaurant gets its bread from the Stone Oven, and the ice cream comes from Jeni's in Columbus. Some dishes, such as calamari and mussels, are available year-round.

Rockefeller's offers late-night specials on Friday and Saturday nights, from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. Those include panini sandwiches, house chips with wasabi dip, macaroni and cheese, and cheese boards. Music is provided by deejay Noah Peele during these later hours.

In addition to adding music to the restaurant's offerings, Adams also hired a new general manager, Robin Schulze. She runs the front of the house and books the music, while Vedaa is in charge of the kitchen.

Rockefeller's
216-321-0477

3099 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights
Tuesday through Thursday, 4–10 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 4 p.m. to midnight
www.rockfellerscleveland.com



Kevin Richards, Brad Smedley and Bryan Thomas of Hot Djang! performing at Rockefeller's.

Adams has three children—Charlie, 15, David, 12, and Cecilia, 10—and lives off of Mayfield Road. All three children attend Heights schools, and Adams loves the city.

As for the music, Adams said the public's reception has been great. "It's become very popular," he said, "and we

often get e-mails asking when the different groups are coming back to play."

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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