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FutureHeights  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## May is CH Preservation Month

Kim Sergio Inglis

For more than 20 years, the city of Cleveland Heights has celebrated preservation month, recognizing its rich history through a series of tours and lectures.

“Cleveland Heights is a community that values its history, historic architecture and stunning natural features,” said Kara Hamley O’Donnell, city planner and historic preservation planner. “Taking a month to celebrate all our community has to offer forces us to step back and reflect on how special Cleveland Heights really is.”

Mary Dunbar, CH city council member, and a co-leader of one of this month’s tours, commented, “Historic homes and business districts are among our greatest assets in Cleveland Heights, but not enough appreciate that. People who have



John Long Severance’s “Longwood” Estate.

lived here, across the nation and around the world, say that our homes, neighborhoods and business districts are unique and of exceptional quality—world class, in fact. The number of historic districts we have listed on the National Register of Historic Places recognizes and testifies to the

amazing legacy Heights residents have inherited—and we have more historic districts coming!”

The Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, Cleveland Heights Historical Society, Heights Bicycle Coalition and Heights Librar-

*continued on page 4*



Dewey’s Decimators team members Aurora Martinez, Kathy Farago and Victor Rosenberg, with Reaching Heights Executive Director Krista Hawthorne, and the plastic bee trophy.

## Dewey’s Decimators triumph at Reaching Heights Spelling Bee

Krista Hawthorne

By correctly spelling “harridan,” Dewey’s Decimators, the team from the Heights Libraries—Kathy Farago, Aurora Martinez and Victor Rosenberg—became champions of the 24th annual Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee, held at Heights High on April 15. The event raised \$11,000 for the nonprofit Reaching Heights.

The competition was fierce, and

started strong with a perfect first round in which every team spelled its first word correctly. All but three of the original 20 teams held on until the fourth and fifth rounds, when a total of 11 teams misspelled their words and left the stage. When three more teams fell in Round 6, three final teams remained: the defending champions, the Know Nothings, representing the Heights High PTA; Upper Case, representing faculty and

*continued on page 4*

## Oral history project is underway for Noble neighborhood

Jeff Coryell

When residents of the northeastern quadrant of Cleveland Heights created the grassroots organization Noble Neighbors, in response to a random violent attack on one of their neighbors last year, their goal was to improve their area by attracting new residents, increasing safety, expanding beautification efforts and creating community-building events such as last month’s Noble Community-Wide Home and Yard Sale. Early on, participants recognized that a major part of revitalizing their neighborhood would be changing its narrative by telling a story of a beautiful, welcoming, inclusive community.

Among the neighbors involved in this effort is one for whom storytelling is an abiding passion and lifelong pursuit. Mary E. Weems, a member of Noble Neighbors, is a poet, playwright, imagination-intellect theorist and former CH poet laureate. Her many published poems, plays and other works, including her new book, *Blackeyed: Plays and Monologues*, draw upon storytelling as a powerful vehicle for conveying insights into culture and experience. She immediately recognized the importance of collecting the stories of Noble Neighbors members to advance their cause.

“The lives of people are shared through our stories,” Weems explained. “Telling our stories of how and why we came to live here and what our community means to us is vital to reclaiming the narrative of Cleveland Heights as a place for people to live in a welcoming, cultur-

*continued on page 5*

## Meet Heights musicians May 19 at Rockefeller’s

Deanna Bremer Fisher

There are more musicians per capita in the Heights than anywhere else. That’s what people say. Come and find out if that’s true on Tuesday, May 19, as Heights-based nonprofits FutureHeights, Friends of Heights Libraries and Reaching Heights present Welcome Home: Heights Musicians, the third in a series of events highlighting the interesting people who live in the Heights.

Welcome Home: Heights Musicians takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Rockefeller’s restaurant, 3099 Mayfield Road.

Panelists include Scott Haigh, Cleveland Orchestra bassist; Charlie Mosbrook, folk singer; Brendan O’Malley, mandolin player for Honeybucket, Cleveland’s newgrass band; Beth Woodside, Cleveland Orchestra violinist; and Willie J. Wright of the Wright Family Singers.

Longtime professional musician, music journalist and author, and lifelong Heights resident David Budin will moderate the panel. Enjoy complimentary nibbles and a cash bar. There will be door prizes for new Heights residents, and community

leaders will be on hand to provide information on Heights schools, businesses and civic organizations.

This free event is generously supported by Simply Charming and Rockefeller’s. RSVP online at <http://bit.ly/1EjxtLG>, send an e-mail to [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org), or call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423.

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





## Letters Policy

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

## HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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## About the Observer

The *Heights Observer* is not an ordinary newspaper; it is a nonprofit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The *Observer* has no writing staff; it is written by you—the readers.

Individuals throughout the community decide what stories they want to write, then submit them for publication. Anyone in University Heights or Cleveland Heights is welcome to contribute regularly, occasionally or even just once.

Is there something you think should be covered in the *Heights Observer*? If so, please write it on your own, or with friends, neighbors or colleagues. Our volunteer editors will make sure it's ready to publish and contact you with any questions.

If you're writing a news article, it should be clear and factual. If you want to express an opinion, submit it as a letter to the editor or an opinion piece. Either way, make sure it's about something specific to our two cities.

- To make a submission of any kind, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on "Member Center" at the left.
- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

Articles to be considered for the June issue must be submitted by May 12. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

# 'What does a city need in order to thrive instead of languish?'



OPENING  
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

At the 2015 FutureHeights annual meeting in April, we asked our keynote speaker, Bill Traynor, this question because at FutureHeights we are committed to building a vibrant and sustainable future for the Heights, and we are launching our new community-building program.

Traynor's answer was simple and intuitive. He said that the first step is to acknowledge that everyone in our community is interconnected and choose to do something about it. Whether we want to be or not, we are all part of this place we call the Heights. We can either choose to build on our connections or try to ignore them and pretend that we are separate and different.

"Local communities today are complex ecosystems," said Traynor, "and the capacity for reinvention and resilience can only happen when thousands of people start interacting in new ways, with the entrepreneurial energy to take risks, build new

relationships, ask better questions, give of their time and resources and, ultimately, have enough fun and see enough progress to stay in the game."

Traynor was born in Lawrence, Mass., a struggling post-industrial city near Boston. Through his experience with Lawrence Community Works, a nonprofit he headed for 11 years, he learned that what his community needed most was to create diverse networks of people who could work together to build on the skills, talents and aspirations they already had.

Traynor came to feel that many public meetings and gatherings—which he thinks of as "community rooms"—are boring, hostile, and sap the energy of those who attend.

"People are, by and large, not apathetic. They are discerning," Traynor remarked. "And thousands of people in Lawrence were discerning—correctly—that these 'community rooms' were not worth their time." He envisioned instead "rooms" that would function like a marketplace where people could bring things to share with one another and where they would make exchanges that would be mutually beneficial.

"We needed time to have fun, connect, exchange and explore the kinds of change that we were willing to work together on," said Traynor.

"We felt that if we could shape and sustain enough of these 'rooms,' we could mobilize the kind of energy, value, talent and time that the city needed to thrive."

On May 3, the inaugural class of Heights community builders will meet for the first of four workshops that will hone their skills on engaging neighbors, leveraging community resources, analyzing neighborhood data, and formulating neighborhood action plans.

The workshop series is part of FutureHeights's new Community Capacity-Building Program, which will also include topic-specific sessions open to all residents. They will create a focused "room" where we can gather to learn about a topic and exchange ideas. The first of those sessions, which will focus on crime, will take place June 9.

FutureHeights will also provide one-on-one coaching for neighborhood leaders, and a mini-grants program to help fund neighborhood-specific projects.

We hope you will find the "rooms" that we create rewarding, and we and look forward to your participation. To find out more, visit [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org), call 216-320-1423 or e-mail [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

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

## LWV endorses May ballot Issue 2

To the Editor:

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland (LWV) has voted to endorse Issue 2, the 5.9 mill operating levy for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. The district has consistently been recognized for its careful stewardship of taxpayer money.

The LWV's positions support the role of the local community in levying local taxes to assume a reasonable share of the financial burden to support local public schools.

Passage of Issue 2 will allow our schools to keep the critical programs that are helping students achieve, and to retain the teachers and staff members who make these programs successful. At 5.9 mills, it is the smallest request in decades. Nothing can be accomplished without basic operating funds.

It is for these reasons that our chapter endorses the levy set out in Issue 2 for the support of the CH-UH City School District.

Blanche B. Valancy,  
Chair of the CH-UH Chapter  
LWV of Greater Cleveland  
Cleveland Heights

## Remembering Bill Lahman, former CH city manager

To the Editor:

Cleveland Heights lost a longtime resident at the beginning of February—William C. Lahman. He had been city manager from 1964 to 1975. I first heard of Bill when our family moved here in 1965; I didn't meet him then, but felt that he was an excellent city manager. He left to become secretary-treasurer of RTA and, in 1981, became its general manager. When he retired in 1985, I still had not met him but, because I was a regular RTA rider, I was aware of some of his accomplishments.

Sometime after his wife, B.J., retired from teaching, she became a member of the Embroiderers' Guild of Greater Cleveland, an organization in which I was quite active. Those of us in a small stitching group invited her to join us. When she hosted us at her home, I finally got to meet Bill! He was soft-spoken and willing to share his knowledge of various subjects. I thought of him as a kind gentleman, and over the years I got to know more about him.

B.J. would tell us about going to SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force)

reunions and about Bill's editing a newsletter for the alumni. SHAEF was General Eisenhower's headquarters for the cross-channel invasion of Europe in World War II.

Bill had been one of the young, intelligent college men chosen by Eisenhower. In 1943, his ability to type was likely instrumental in his being assigned to SHAEF Headquarters Command, where he was assigned to process large numbers of soldiers returning home from Europe.

On a lighter note, occasionally I got to enjoy the delicious produce from the family farm located in the Bucyrus, Ohio area, as well as from the garden in the Lahman backyard. (Sometimes squirrels and rabbits also treated themselves to the goodies in there!)

Bill and B.J. were longtime subscribers to the Cleveland Orchestra. He was a voracious reader, concentrating on books about Eisenhower and WWII in Europe. Following retirement he was a consultant for independent investments and property management.

In a way, he was a Renaissance man. I shall miss his answering the phone when I call B.J. I am sure that there are many in Cleveland Heights who will remember him and his part in our city's history.

Donalene Poduska  
Cleveland Heights



# Relationships: the mainline to learning



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

“Each of my students wants to be noticed as a person. We all do,” observed Roxboro Elementary School’s Lynne Maragliano, a 32-year kindergarten teacher.

At the start of each day, Maragliano welcomes each child with a handshake as they pass through the door into her long rectangular classroom divided into nooks and crannies full of enriching and engaging materials. “It’s a golden time to make a connection. I can tell from this encounter where they are and if anything special is going on with them that I need to know about,” she said.

Within these four walls Maragliano builds a community, a safe space for learning. “Students must feel comfortable before they can engage. When they feel connected they want to be there for you,” she observed.

Maragliano isn’t the only one who thinks relationships are important.

At a January forum, Myth of Failing Teachers, sponsored by the Heights Coalition for Public

Education, the audience was asked to identify the qualities of the best teachers that had taught them or their children. Most of the more than 100 responses honed in on relationships and a teacher’s personal interest—interest that made them feel special, important, happy, valued, motivated, determined.

Passion about subject matter and instructional expertise were also valued, but favorite teachers had attributes that supported positive interaction and relationships with their students. They were caring, kind, approachable, challenging, compassionate, encouraging, engaging, fair, firm, friendly, flexible, gentle, demanding, honest. They were listeners, communicators, and connected.

Classrooms are human spaces. Teachers and students create their own worlds, where teaching takes place through human exchange. It’s all about relationships.

Maragliano’s top priority at the start of the school year is to get to know her young students and to create a bond that will help them blossom in their new surroundings. Relationships are not a sideline. They are the mainline to learning.

“I need to know my kids,” said Maragliano. Interacting with them as they plan and tackle school tasks is the prime avenue for both building relationships and gaining insight to their individual strengths and needs.

This year, though, trust-building and authentic assessment took a backseat to testing. In the first month of school, Maragliano spent 27 hours away from her classroom community, administering state-mandated tests, one child at a time.

“Assessing students—some of whom have never been in school before—is sterile,” said Maragliano. “When you are doing it you have to be calm and encouraging, make a lot of eye contact.”

Going through a publisher’s test book is not the best way to build a comforting relationship. The tests “set me back,” Maragliano said. Not only did they take her away from her classroom and the work of building a community, they did not provide her with any better information than what she can collect through classroom interaction, district assessments, and tools created by her and her colleagues.

State-mandated testing is supposed to provide evidence that teachers are doing their jobs, but testing takes time away from learning and the trust-building process that is so crucial to full engagement. Measurement and accountability now supersede and undermine exploration, discovery, expression, creativity, learning and relationships.

Accountability not only requires standardized performance, it also ignores what is developmentally

appropriate. The new standards, for example, raise reading levels by a whole grade, which means that children are now expected to learn to read in kindergarten.

“The most important way to support kids to be their best is to give them the time to grow,” said Maragliano, whose philosophy has been validated by a career with children. “You can’t rush kids.”

But state policy is rushing kids. The demand for fast-track measurable academic outcomes makes children winners and losers when they need time and emotional space to experiment, learn through play, take risks, fail and grow.

By building public policy around mistrust of educators, unrealistic expectations and lockstep performance, children lose out on some of the ingredients that lead to real development, such as the chance to feel at home, safe and connected to a caring adult.

Maragliano will retire at the end of this school year. We owe her a debt of gratitude for helping to shape hundreds of lives by welcoming her students each morning with a handshake, an open mind, and a caring heart.

As a community, we can thank her and her colleagues by fighting to maintain humanity in the classroom. This is what matters.

*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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# Pedestrian power promotes positive community

Mark Walters

Those of us of a certain age will recall our grandparents adamantly declaring, “Back in our day, we used to walk everywhere!” Well, call me a throwback, but I love walking, for the humble act of putting one foot in front of the other is indeed a powerful endeavor that speaks volumes about us as individuals and as a society. Walking is not only good for the heart but the mind, too, for how many countless revelations, moments of eureka, and problems have been solved when creative thoughts arise in the midst of an endorphin-producing stroll.

Wanting to realize all these benefits, one Saturday evening I decided to combine my fitness and shopping needs by walking up to Cedar Center. Needless to say, I was a bit thrown off balance when, as I neared my destination, I found myself nearly struck by cars in three separate incidents—pulling out of parking lots and not paying attention to humble little me, the passing pedestrian.

Having survived these close encounters, my adrenaline started flowing, and, perhaps fueled too by my angst that my meditative space could be so abruptly intruded upon, I continued my stroll into the police department to air my concerns. I told the nice and attentive officer that I am sure you guys have bigger concerns to worry about, but I think there is a matter of concern when one cannot walk safely down the street to the store. We started talking about proper lighting and signage, and I expressed a wish that the route could be made safer for us ambulatory warriors. He explained that a lot of that area is private property, and there is not much from their end that could be done. I understand the way things are and, as a product of the suburbs, I am not against driving, believing it to be a valuable way for us to get to work, to school, and to all the great events around our city.

Still, I wondered if more could be done to encourage a safer pedestrian atmosphere. I thought of the prominent yellow flashing crosswalk lights in use in front of Ruffing Montessori

on Fairmount Boulevard. Such lights illuminate after a pedestrian presses a button, reminding drivers in no subtle terms that they are required under state law to give pedestrians the right of way in crosswalks. Such lights have been used successfully in such pedestrian-friendly cities as Boulder, Colo., and could be put to greater use throughout this region.

In addition to adding a park to University Heights, perhaps the council will consider implementing safe and effective pedestrian walkways. I believe it is really an “if you build it, they will come” mentality. Many people, I feel, do not walk or ride bicycles these days simply because it is too dangerous. The lack of walkers means drivers are less likely to expect walkers would be in their way, which only compounds the problem.

The recent push by bicycling organizations in Cleveland for more bike lanes throughout the city has made it safer for families to get out and enjoy the simple pleasure and healthy activity of cycling in their own separate designated lanes. Recently, too, efforts by University Heights Mayor Infeld to put the topic of designated bicycle lanes and improved walkways on the agenda definitely shows the community is on the right path. These efforts will help residents feel greater comfort and safety in getting out for a walk or riding a bike, and not feel that they are competing with automobile traffic. Municipalities more welcoming to other modes of transportation are also working to attract the next generation of homeowners—millennials, who are shown in various surveys to prefer living in communities that have better access to public transit and are less reliant on automobiles.

So, I will continue to bravely step out onto the walkway and exercise my right to walk and to enjoy my simple steps. I have since mapped out a safer route to Cedar Center so I can continue my satisfying strolls. If you see me, feel free to give a smile.

*University Heights resident Mark Walters is a paralegal student at Cuyahoga Community College and the co-founder of Sand-PrintMemoirs.com and TrackerBook.net.*

SPELLING BEE continued from page 1

staff at Case Western Reserve University; and Dewey’s Decimators.

Round 7 was another perfect round leading to an intense eighth round and, finally, Dewey’s Decimators claimed victory—and the coveted plastic bee trophy. The prize for Best Cheering Section went to Noble Elementary School fans, who cheered on their team, Ain’t Mis-BEE-Havin’.

This annual community-building event brings together teams representing school and community groups for a campy yet serious spelling competition. It is also a fundraiser that supports the programs of Reaching Heights, the local nonprofit whose mission is to mobilize community resources to foster highly valued public schools.

Reaching Heights programs include elementary school tutoring; role models who speak to fifth-grade classes; ECAG, a program that supports families whose children have special needs; several programs that encourage high quality school music and arts programs; and recognition programs to honor the CH-UH City School District’s teachers and other staff.

Steve Presser celebrated his 20th year as the Bee’s Master of Ceremonies, and donned his famous “letter jacket”—a sports coat with letters of the alphabet attached to it. He joked with the spellers that all the answers were on his jacket. Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director, was the Pronouncer, and the three judges were Tony Zupancic, retired Notre Dame College professor; Bob Swaggard, coordinator of educational services for the CH-UH City School District, and the honorable Judge Michael Ryan, a 1989 Heights High graduate and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judge.

Competing teams represented

families at Boulevard, Canterbury, Fairfax, Noble, and Roxboro elementary schools. Roxboro Middle School and two teams of students represented Cleveland Heights High School. Other teams represented the Coventry businesses and neighborhood, CH-UH Board of Education, Cleveland Heights City Council, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, FutureHeights, Cleveland Orchestra, Forest Hill Church, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, the Squires Sanders & Dempsey Foundation, and Perennial Spellers—a team sponsored by Nancy Dietrich, who was competing in her 23rd Spelling Bee!

Each year, at its annual Spelling Bee, Reaching Heights bestows its Friend of Public Education Award on a citizen who embraces our shared responsibility for the success of our public schools. This year’s Friend of Public Education is Alvin Saafir, a former board member and treasurer of Reaching Heights, a key member of the committee that successfully promoted the bond issue being used to remodel and update the district’s schools, and a current member of the May 5 school levy campaign. Saafir and his wife are proud parents of three Heights High graduates.

Reaching Heights appreciates the school district staff who helped promote the Spelling Bee and prepare the Heights High Social Room and auditorium for the event. It also extends thanks to the local businesses that supported the Bee with items for the raffle, advertisements in the program, and prizes for the winning team. To see a complete list of sponsors, visit the Reaching Heights website, [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org).

*Krista Hawthorne is the executive director of Reaching Heights.*

PRESERVATION continued from page 1

ies all partner to present preservation month events.

“Heights Libraries has a long history in Cleveland Heights, stretching back to 1916 when the first library board was formed,” noted Sheryl Banks, Heights Libraries marketing manager. “So we not only have a deep and enthusiastic interest in the history of our region—we feel we are a big part of it.”

Two lectures, held at the Lee Road Library, require no reservations, while two other events, a tour of GE’s Nela Park and a walking tour

of Dugway Brook’s west branch, filled up with early registrants. “Though registration is full for two events, we want to let people know that they are part of the month’s activities, as there is a chance that we may try to offer the tours again in the future,” said O’Donnell. Below is a list of preservation month events, including the two that are already full:

**May 7, 7 p.m., The Several Lives of Severance Town Center, 1890 to 2015**

It was first farmland; then the site

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PRESERVATION *continued from page 4*

of John L. Severance's mansion, Longwood; then an upscale indoor mall—one of Ohio's earliest; then a refurbished strip mall. Today, Severance Town Center also comprises two medical facilities, three high-rise apartments, a U.S. Post Office, a cluster of new condominiums, and Cleveland Heights City Hall. This talk, by Marian Morton, illustrates these changes that signal larger changes in the city itself. [Lee Road Library; no registration required.]

**May 16, Tour of Nela Park – Registration is full for this event.**

**May 21, 7 p.m., Landscaping by Style**

Landscapes help define our sense of place. Join a discussion, led by Mary Ogle and Colin Compton of the Cleveland Restoration Society, on a brief history of landscape design. The program will explore traditional yards and gardens for the various architectural styles found in Northeast Ohio, with a focus on residential architecture. [Lee Road Library; no registration required.]

**May 23, 9:30–10 a.m. lecture and 10 a.m. to @noon tour, Cycle Through Our History: Lecture and Bicycle Tour Highlighting Four Heights Historic Districts** This event begins with a short lecture to help participants identify popular architectural features and styles in four historic districts: Herrick Mews, Euclid Heights, Grant Deming's Forest Hill and Mayfield Heights. A leisurely bike tour follows, exploring historic district attractions within about a mile radius of the Coventry

Village Library. [Ensemble Theatre at Coventry School building, 2843 Washington Blvd. Space is limited; reservations required (call 216-291-4878). Bike tour participants must sign a waiver; bike parking is available east of the library. Rain date is June 6.]

**May 30, Walking tour of Dugway Brook West Branch – Registration is full for this event.**

"Our events are more popular every year," said O'Donnell. "I think if we had the time to double the number of events, we'd still fill them up. We do videotape most of the lectures, and past lectures can be found on the city's Cleveland Heights Historical YouTube station ([www.youtube.com/user/ClvHtsHistorical](http://www.youtube.com/user/ClvHtsHistorical))."

"One thing that thrills me every year is how excited people are to come to these events," said O'Donnell. "We see a lot of our regular 'history groupies,' but also get first-timers interested in expanding their knowledge of the place they call home. We welcome everyone to come out and explore Cleveland Heights history and architecture in May and every month of the year!"

For more information on CH Preservation Month events, visit [www.clevelandheights.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=5109](http://www.clevelandheights.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=5109).

For information on CH's historic districts, visit [www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=505](http://www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=505).

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

NOBLE *continued from page 1*

ally diverse community."

At one of the monthly meetings of Noble Neighbors, Weems discussed her idea for inviting residents to share their stories. Out of that discussion came the oral history project, titled "Telling Our Stories: Noble Neighbors Remember," that is now underway.

The project is designed to collect stories in a convenient way and then synthesize them into a collection that can be archived online and serve as a basis for future artistic projects, such as an exhibition or performance piece. "We are encouraging any of my neighbors who live in the Noble community to take the time to share their story before July 1," said Weems. "Participants should orient their stories to three questions: why they or their families live in Cleveland Heights, when they moved here and what they think are the best features of Cleveland Heights." Weems will edit and arrange submitted material to create an oral history collection.

Stories should be submitted as a Word document of 500–1,000 words, or a two- to three-minute video clip of one or more people telling a story. Video submissions should be uploaded to YouTube or a similar online video service. Submissions should be sent to [mweems45@yahoo.com](mailto:mweems45@yahoo.com).

In addition to written stories, participants may also submit a photograph of themselves or an object that is important to their story. Residents who submit a video may include objects or photographs pertinent to their story within the video clip. Al-

though all submissions must include the full name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the contact person for the story, stories selected for inclusion on the Noble Neighbors website will include only the first name and last initial of the author. In videos, submitters should either not state their names or state only their first names and last initials. Stories will be used only for non-commercial purposes, such as informing people about the neighborhood or attracting new residents and businesses to the area. A release will be required for participation.

Although this oral history project is focused on the Noble neighborhood—the portion of Cleveland Heights north of Mayfield Road and east of Taylor Road—and will include only stories from its residents, the project's design could be applied to other neighborhoods in the future. "There is great value in collecting the stories of our fellow residents," said Weems. "It is how we understand each other and our history, reach across our cultural boundaries and work together to achieve our common goals."

For more information, contact Mary E. Weems at [mweems45@yahoo.com](mailto:mweems45@yahoo.com) or Jeff Coryell at [jeffcoryell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffcoryell@sbcglobal.net).

*Jeff Coryell is a Cleveland Heights City Council Member and former board member of FutureHeights and Reaching Heights. The idea for the Noble Neighbors oral history project emerged from a conversation between Mary Weems and him.*

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## 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](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

**May 7:** Matthew Pierce, assistant professor of English as a Second Language at Cuyahoga Community College, discusses “Language and the People Around Us,” and the adventure of relating to people from other cultures, countries and customs. This program includes some interactive role playing, to increase understanding and skills in communication.

**May 14:** Christopher Kinsella, assistant professor of history at Cuyahoga Community College, traces the history of the American

presidency, and the role of the nation’s chief executive officer—commander-in-chief of all armed forces, chief architect of national legislation, and designer of foreign policy. He’ll discuss the fascinating interplay of personalities at the highest level of government, and the impact of some of the first ladies.

**May 21:** Thomas Kruczek was inaugurated as the 14th president of Notre Dame College on Nov. 14, 2014. He will share his vision of the college’s vital role in our community and its liberal arts education, that enriches the lives of its students.

**May 28:** James Lewis, history teacher at University School, explores “The Civil War in History and Memory” on the 150th anniversary of this cataclysmic event, which led to the assassination of President Lincoln. Over four years, 1861–65, more than 2,200 battles claimed almost 150,000 lives; another 325,000 died of wounds or disease.

# University Heights City Council



## Meeting highlights

MARCH 16, 2015

NOTE: No LWV observer was available to cover the March 16 city council meeting.

APRIL 6, 2015

All council members were present.

### Mayor’s report

Annual county health report: The annual report from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health is available in the lobby of city hall and details the various reasons why the board of health visited and/or provided services to the City of University Heights in 2014.

Tree City USA: The city has received another Tree City USA designation—seemingly the 37th consecutive year for the honor.

Fair Housing Month: Mayor Susan Infield issued a proclamation proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in the City of University Heights.

### Medical director

Council once again tabled a motion authorizing an agreement with Dr. Arnold Feltoon to serve as the medical director of the city jail, at the rate of \$500 per month, because the contract was not included with the documentation, although it did include a copy of his insurance policy. The city is required by law to provide access to medical care for detainees. Feltoon, who currently serves as the medical director, triages patients who complain of ailments and determines the best course of action. The language of the contract requires him to carry liability insurance, and has added wording to allow for the termination of the contract if necessary.

### Purvis Park

The pricing of activities at Purvis Park was presented on first reading. Changes for 2015 include increased prices for tennis and swim teams and swim lessons, and use of price ranges for the snack bar items instead of prices for specific individual types of candies and treats.

### Staffing contracts

Two contracts, one for arborist and one for city engineer, were presented on first reading:

Thomas Morgan would provide professional services as the city’s arborist. Morgan is certified by the International Society of Arborists, and has worked with University Heights since 2011. The contract would be for

two years with a possible third-year extension at the discretion of the mayor.

Joseph Ciuni, of GPD Group, would serve as the city’s engineer. Ciuni’s time and services are included in the retainer, but any additional services such as survey crews or architectural drawings are charged as additional services under the contract. Ciuni declines all private contracts for work within University Heights but is available to provide consultation and referrals to residents.

### Braun & Steidl Architects

Council approved a contract with Braun & Steidl Architects to provide professional design and planning services for a community park, and a payment of \$29,000 for work completed in 2014 for the concept plans and drawings of the park on Fenwick Road.

### Cedar Road resurfacing

Council authorized an agreement with Cuyahoga County for the resurfacing of Cedar Road from I-271 to South Green Road. The University Heights portion of the project is only about 500 feet. The other cities involved in this project are Lyndhurst, South Euclid and Beachwood. The county will pay for 20 percent of the paving plus design costs. This project is planned for the 2019 fiscal year, which begins in July 2018.

### Playground project

Council authorized submission of a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to help fund the community park playground project. This is the same grant fund that provided funding for repaving and repairs of the tennis courts in 2014. These funds would be used to pay for the playground at the park on Fenwick Road, thereby shortening the collection period for the bond funds.

### Meritech

Council authorized an agreement with Meritech for IT help desk services. After concerns were raised last year about a University Heights employee being related to the contractor at Meritech, the city hired a person to review all of the city’s IT needs and sought bids from many different contractors, but Meritech still provided the closest match to what the city needed.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://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](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or join through Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer reports” as a search phrase.

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



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# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



CLEVELAND  
HEIGHTS  
LANDMARKS

Mark Souther

One of five properties added to Cleveland Heights's Landmark registry in 1976, just two years after its inception, the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Group is a familiar presence at the intersection of Coventry Road and Fairmount Boulevard.

St. Paul's congregation, like that of many longtime congregations, predates its current home. It emerged in 1846, occupying rented space until its first dedicated building opened two years later at the corner of Sheriff Street (now East 4th) and Euclid Avenue, on the site of the present-day Corner Alley Bowling Lanes.

Following a devastating fire, the church rebuilt a brick Gothic edifice that opened in 1849.

As commercial expansion accompanied the emergence of downtown Cleveland in what had formerly been a compact walking city, St. Paul's moved in 1876 to a newly built Gothic church at the corner of Case Street (now East 40th) and Euclid, eventually bordering Cleveland's famed Millionaires' Row. This church was designed by Gordon W. Lloyd, an English-born Detroit architect who also designed many other Episcopal churches in the Midwest.

At its new location, St. Paul's expanded impressively and spawned several other new congregations as it grew.

By the 1920s, many St. Paul's parishioners had moved into the nearby suburbs of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights. In 1928 the church followed suit, choosing a site on the eastern edge of Barton Deming's Euclid Golf allotment on Fairmount Boulevard, the "Euclid Avenue of the Heights."

The new building, designed in the English Gothic style by J. Byers Hayes of the Cleveland architecture firm Walker & Weeks, was erected of Indiana limestone.

St. Paul's previous building was sold to the Cleveland Catholic Diocese and reopened in 1931 as St. Paul's Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. In recent years that building has served as home to multiple Catholic orders rather than as a diocesan church.

In Cleveland Heights, St. Paul's continued to grow, but its building remained unfinished, a casualty of the Great Depression. Originally to include a large nave for worship services, St. Paul's made do with holding services in its parish hall until 1951.

By the time the church raised sufficient funds to build the Gothic nave envisioned back in the 1920s, its leaders opted instead to follow



The new McCracken Entrance, named for one of St. Paul's rectors, blends well with the original architecture, an example of sensitive additions and alterations that the CH Landmark Commission approved.

an emerging trend toward fashioning naves in the manner of the early Christian church, in which ornamentation was spare and the altar was moved closer to the congregation.

By the early 1960s, St. Paul's flourished under the energetic leadership of Dr. Chave McCracken. During his tenure as rector, St. Paul's became more consciously inclusive. In spring 1963 it hosted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who gave one of the speeches that led up to his famed Lincoln Memorial address later that year.

Church membership reached its peak in the 1960s, with the main Sunday service splitting into two services to handle the growing parish.

Years later, following a downward trend in both Heights population and in membership in mainline Protestant denominations, St. Paul's returned for a time to a single service. More recently, it restored the separate services as part of a determined effort to attract young families.

Today, St. Paul's remains a vibrant part of Cleveland Heights and, with some 1,800 parishioners, is the largest Episcopal congregation in the Diocese of Ohio.

The recent restoration of Tucker Hall (the original 1928 sanctuary) and addition of the new McCracken Entrance, on the church group's north side, earned St. Paul's a City of Cleveland Heights Preservation Award in 2013.

[Adapted from Mark Souther, "St. Paul's Episcopal Church," Cleveland Historical, [www.clevelandhistorical.org/items/show/564](http://www.clevelandhistorical.org/items/show/564).]

*Mark Souther, a member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, wrote this article. This column is produced by members of the CH Landmark Commission, to highlight historically significant buildings in Cleveland Heights, and share its mission of preserving and protecting buildings, works of art and other objects of historical or architectural value to the community.*

## Heights historical photo of the month



The Demington Drive Memorial Day Parade is a Cleveland Heights tradition that goes back decades. This photo is from the 1967 parade and was taken by Richard Pierce, who lived on the street.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the heritage of Cleveland Heights. For more information, and to view additional historical images, visit [www.chhistory.org](http://www.chhistory.org) or [www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical](https://www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical).

## May 16 is spring clean-up at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park

Joanne Campbell

The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. garden and playground spring clean-up and work day is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to join in and spend as much time as they can spare to help get the garden ready for summer by clearing out the remnants of winter.

Bring your own tools and gloves,

or use some that will be on-hand and available.

Beverages and snacks will also be provided for all who volunteer. Everyone's help is needed to keep Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park a beautiful place.

*Joanne Campbell has been a Cleveland Heights resident for more than 40 years, and involved with Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park for 20 years.*

### cinco 2015

if you are able to read this note  
you are either planning your ensemble for cinco de mayo, or  
recovering and trying to remember where you left your car.  
oh, the grace you displayed was memorable and rare.  
so, you're wondering why it's been so long  
since you last attempted a sober celebration at 44118's  
most daring, creative, and successful food joint.

how many years have passed since you were so  
entertaining, clever and adoring?  
how did you get to this?  
maybe age, maybe loves lost.  
maybe new interests.  
maybe it was because you never wanted to see or be seen  
by that schmegegge ever again.  
or, maybe any other kind of stupid excuse.

the truth is – lopez IS a lot of fun!  
the attention to detail: how they remember when you  
last enjoyed scallops at that particular table.  
oh, did i mention something about the great food – yada, yada.

but you might have only about forty good years left.  
don't deprive yourself.  
every moment is an opportunity to make a memory –  
(some might even be worth remembering)  
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The Euclid Beach Rocket Car at the 2014 Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival.

# Plans are underway for 14th annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival

Kaye Lowe

Plans are progressing for the 14th annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival, to be held on Sunday, Aug. 9, from noon to 5 p.m. The festival committee has added more entertainment and venues this year.

The ever-popular Arts and Crafts Sale, featuring space for local artists, crafters and vendors to sell their work, will be located on Lennox and Surrey roads, and in the Zoss the Swiss Baker's parking lot.

Returning entertainers lined up so far for this year include Eclectic Vision and Get Back Duo.

The festival committee is adding a stage this year, to highlight some of the entertainment, and is still seeking entertainers and musicians for this year's festival. Those interested should contact the Cedar Fairmount

Special Improvement District office at 216-791-3172 or cedarfairmount@aol.com.

Musical Mark and Whipples the Clown will return to delight little ones, and the Cleveland Heights Church will convert the India Community Center into a playland for kids. Ten Thousand Villages and Open Doors will also offer kids' activities during the festival.

Other festival features include the popular Euclid Beach Rocket Car, which will offer rides throughout the day, thanks to Dave's Market, and Fifth Third Bank will sponsor the festival's bounce house.

For more information about the festival, visit [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org).

*Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.*

# Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



MARCH 16, 2015

Council Member Jeff Coryell was absent.

## Public comments

Resident Ditte Wolin, representing the Northeast Ohio Fair Trade Network, thanked council for considering the designation of Cleveland Heights as a Fair Trade Town. She introduced other members of the network who were present, and noted that World Fair Trade Day is May 9, and that a Fair Trade Expo will be held at John Carroll University on Oct. 10. Lisa Dunn, owner of Revive, a fair trade store on Lee Road, also thanked council. Later in the meeting, council approved the ordinance designating Cleveland Heights as a Fair Trade Town, which will prioritize purchase of fair trade-certified products, when available.

## Steering committee for master plan

Council specified the membership of a council-appointed steering committee for the city's new master plan, which will lead to an overall vision for the city going forward. Undertaken with financial assistance from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, the planning process will include review of land use and policy, economic development, housing and neighborhoods, parks and recreation, and transportation and public infrastructure. The committee will have 11 members comprising three city residents-at-large, one planning commission member, one transportation advisory committee member, one citizens advisory committee member, one recreation advisory board member, one member of the commission on aging, one FutureHeights board member, one person to represent the interests of the educational community within the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, and one person to represent the general interests of the Cleveland Heights business community. An application form will be posted on the city's website.

## Nuisance properties

Council declared two residential properties in the city to be nuisances and authorized abatement by demolition. The properties are at 1000 Woodview Road and 1083 Pembroke Road.

## Rising home values

Citing the March 15 *Plain Dealer* article on rising home prices in most of Cuyahoga County, Council Member Mary Dunbar noted that realtors have been reporting that sales are going well in Cleveland Heights. The article indicates a 16 percent increase in the value of houses being sold.

## Winter potholes

Noting the emergence of litter and potholes left over from the winter, Mayor Dennis Wilcox asked for patience as the city gears up to make repairs. He urged residents to report problems, but also observed that asphalt plants do not open until the middle of April, so patches being done now would be temporary. Real road repair and construction begins in about 30 days.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

APRIL 6, 2015

All council members were present.

## Public comments

Rachel Bernstein, executive director of Heights Arts, introduced the 2015 Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate, Meredith Holmes, and bid farewell to outgoing poet laureate Kathleen Cerveney. Holmes was the first CH Poet Laureate in 2005 and is now the seventh to occupy the position. Each poet read a poem; Holmes' poem was composed for this occasion.

## Bonds issued

Council heard a first reading of 12 ordinances to issue bonds for the following maximum amounts and purposes:

- \$75,000 for renovation and other improvements of the city hall complex.
- \$165,000 for renovation and other improvements of the city's fire station facilities.
- \$30,000 for the purchase of motor vehicles and related equipment for the fire department.
- \$300,000 for the costs of resurfacing and other improvements to city surface parking areas.
- \$205,000 for the purchase of motor vehicles and related equipment for the police department.
- \$635,000 for the purchase of motor vehicles and equipment for the city's department of public works.
- \$185,000 for renovation and other improvements of the city service garage.
- \$315,000 for improvements to the Cedar Lee Business District including sidewalk, curbing, and pavement removal; construction of concrete sidewalks and medians; new curbing and pavement; stormwater improvements; landscaping; sidewalk lighting; signage and seating; trash receptacles; bike racks; and other streetscape amenities. This money will match \$3.2 million in funds from other sources.
- \$155,000 for the purchase of computer hardware, software, and related equipment for the city's management and administrative functions.
- \$205,000 for the installation of traffic signalization and security cameras.
- \$110,000 for renovation and other improvements to the city's solid waste transfer station.
- \$4.65 million for refinancing, at a lower interest cost, certain of the city's outstanding Parking Deck Improvement General Obligation Bonds dated Aug. 5, 2008.

## Solid waste district consortium

Council authorized the city's participation in a consortium set up by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to obtain recycling services.

## Cooperative salt purchasing

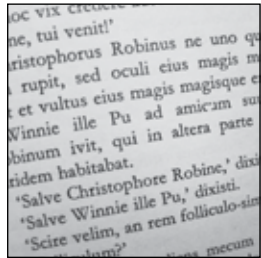
Council also authorized participation in the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program for rock salt for the 2015-16 winter season.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 6.

# Observe!

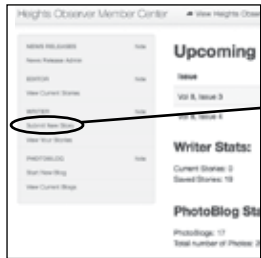
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# May is Bike Month



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

On May 4, for the fifth year in a row, Cleveland Heights City Council will pass a resolution declaring May Bike Month in the community. That bit of business will kick off numerous events in May highlighting the growth of bicycling in the city.

May 6 is **Walk or Bike to School Day**. In the spring and fall, Walk or Bike to School Day encourages children and their parents to use the trip to school for some of the 60 minutes of exercise children need every day to be fit and ready to learn when they arrive in their classrooms. The dates are listed on the CH-UH City School District calendar and school websites. The City of Cleveland Heights uses some of the Safe Routes to School funds received last year from the Ohio Department of Transportation to produce flyers. Ruffing Montessori School also joins the fun.

May 11-15 is **Bike to Work Week**, culminating on May 15 in **Bike to Work Day**. For four years, Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) has collaborated with the City of Cleveland Heights, FutureHeights, Phoenix Coffee and Zagara's Marketplace to host a popular "energizer station" for bicyclists at the intersection of Edgemoor and Overlook roads. This will once again be the site of free coffee, pastries, conversation and information on Friday, May 15, 7-9:30 a.m. More bicyclists pass this intersection every day than any other location in Northeast Ohio, according to traffic counts by the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA).

New this year, Canterbury Elementary School at 2530 Canterbury Road is offering a free communitywide family bicycling event, **All Geared Up**, on Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to noon. Enjoy family bicycle rides through surrounding neighborhoods in University Heights and Cleveland Heights, a bike rodeo to teach safe cycling to children, a bicycle swap and more.

Wednesday, May 20, is the annual **Ride of Silence**, a silent, slow-paced ride in honor of those

injured or killed while bicycling on public roadways. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motorist sometimes isn't aware of these rights or fails to notice cyclists on the roads. Gathering at 5:45 p.m. in the parking lot on the southwest side of John Carroll University, participating bicyclists will start riding west at 6 p.m. via Fairmount Boulevard to University Hospitals on Adelbert Road in University Circle. At 7 p.m., a contingent starting from the Free



Bicycle parking at Heights High in September 2014 illustrates the growing popularity of biking to school.

Stamp in Cleveland will meet with the Heights riders for discussion.

May is also Preservation Month, and HBC is collaborating with the Cleveland Heights Historical Society for a **Bike Tour of Four Historic Districts** on Saturday, May 23. The event starts at 9:30 a.m., at Ensemble Theatre in the former Coventry School building, with a lecture by Cleveland State University history professor Mark Souther on the architectural features and landmarks to be seen on the bike tour, which begins at 10 a.m. The four historic districts are Herrick Mews, Euclid Heights, Mayfield Heights and Grant Deming's Forest Hill. [Reservations are required; call 216-291-4878.]

Finally, Saturday, May 30 is **Bike Tune-up Day**, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Coventry Courtyard, on the northwest corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. In this collaborative effort of Hiobel LLC, Coventry Village Special Improvement District and HBC, bicycle mechanics and trained volunteers will provide free bike safety inspections and make minor repairs.

For more information, visit [www.bikesintheheights.org](http://www.bikesintheheights.org).

*The Heights Bicycle Coalition was formed in the spring of 2010 and works to encourage citizens to ride their bicycles for fun, fitness and transportation. HBC member Mary Dunbar wrote this month's column.*

## Officer West scholarship fundraiser is set for May 3

Lita Gonzalez

On May 26, 2007, Cleveland Heights Police Officer Jason West responded to a routine disturbance call and was shot as he was getting out of his car. His death shocked and angered the community. In response, Cleveland Heights residents, together with West's family, friends, local business owners and fellow officers, established a scholarship fund in his memory. This year, 11 graduating seniors from the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement program at Cleveland Heights High School have applied for the scholarship.

To help raise money for the award, the scholarship committee is hosting its Annual Great Cleveland Heights Mega Raffle on Sunday, May 3, at the New Heights Grill on Lee Road. Tickets for the raffle are \$2 and can be purchased at several local businesses: Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa on Taylor Road, Shawn Paul Salon on Lee Road, New Heights Grill on Lee Road, and Blush Boutique on Coventry Road. Tickets are also available from any committee member and on the night of the event. Last year's Mega Raffle raised more than \$8,000 for the scholarship.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship is awarded in two parts: \$500 is awarded to a graduating senior who exemplifies Officer West's honesty, sincerity, and dedication to and work, and who plans to pursue a



Officer Jason D. West

career in law enforcement or criminal justice. The second \$500 portion of the scholarship is awarded to the recipient after successful completion of his or her first year in college.

Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to: The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund; c/o the Treasurer's Office; Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District; 2155 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, 44118. Checks should be made payable to "Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District," and should include "Jason D. West Scholarship" on the memo line. Visit the Officer Jason West Scholarship Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/pages/Officer-Jason-D-West-Memorial-Scholarship/117013488325636?v=wall](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Officer-Jason-D-West-Memorial-Scholarship/117013488325636?v=wall).

[Note: The man charged with killing Jason West was sentenced to life in prison in October 2009.]

*Lita Gonzalez is co-chairperson of the Officer Jason West Memorial Scholarship Committee. She has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1995. She recently published her family's history (1800-1917), Meeting the Ghosts Inside Me.*

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# Third annual RoxEl Run is May 30

Andrea C. Turner

A sobering reality is that today's young people are often sedentary in front of computer screens and eating processed food, a combination that may lead to an unhealthy lifestyle. Parents often struggle to keep healthy, active options and exciting alternatives available to their children. Organizers at Roxboro Elementary School hope to combat this trend by hosting the third annual RoxEl Run, a community foot race, on Saturday, May 30, at 9 a.m., to encourage young people to "run like it's recess," and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

The original goal of the event was to introduce running and fitness to students in grades K-5, but it has evolved to become a wider community event for students, parents, teachers, neighbors, and competitive runners from Greater Cleveland. Runners can choose to compete in a 4-mile, 2-mile, or Kids Fun Run. The 4- and 2-mile loops begin at the Roxboro Middle School track and wind



Participants race in the 2014 RoxEl Run.

through surrounding neighborhoods.

Awards are given for best times based on age group and gender. Younger children can run the Kids Fun Run around the track, where everyone is a winner.

Roxboro students in grades 3-5 are preparing for the race as members of the Rox Run Club, training twice a week during their lunch hour with Jennifer Kubic, parent volunteer and marathon runner. Kubic and other volunteers help students develop good running technique and stamina. Each student sets personal

goals and commits to running in the race.

This family event encourages parents to run alongside their children or push them in strollers. School teaching staff and administrators enjoy the friendly competition and children are inspired to have their role models running alongside them.

Following the race, runners and families can relax on their own chairs or blankets and enjoy refreshments, a DJ and fun field games.

More than 300 runners are expected this year. All proceeds benefit Roxboro Elementary School's playground fund and other improvements to continue the school's commitment to fitness.

For full event details, including registration and course information, and to see a photo gallery of last year's event, visit the Roxboro Elementary PTA website, [www.roxelpta.org/roxel-run-event](http://www.roxelpta.org/roxel-run-event). Contact one of the event co-chairs with questions: Kate Pophal, [kate.pophal@gmail.com](mailto:kate.pophal@gmail.com), Christine Atkins, [cpatkins@mac.com](mailto:cpatkins@mac.com); or Jennifer Kubic, [jennifer@gallopinginn.com](mailto:jennifer@gallopinginn.com), and follow event updates on Facebook.

The event is made possible through the support of The Galloping Inn; Cleveland Clinic Children's Be Well Kids Clinic; Cleveland Indians; The Zuik Company Inc.; Chestnut Hills Realty; Big Fun; Justin Horton; Nancy and Richard Dietrich; Kirk, Sarah, Van and Hill Dietrich; and the Zuik Family.

*Andrea C. Turner owns ACT One Communications LLC, a marketing and communications consulting firm. She is the Heights Observer e-news editor.*

## Family bike event is planned for May 16

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris

All Geared Up, a new community cycling event, will take place on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. until noon, at Canterbury Elementary School in Cleveland Heights.

The free event will include one- and two-mile family fun rides, a bike rodeo for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, safety demonstrations by bike police officers, a used bike sale, a father and child Big Wheel relay race, health and fitness displays, refreshments and giveaways.

Organizer and University Heights resident Darren W. Carter had a vision for a family-friendly event that would encourage parents and kids to explore cycling together. He connected with community leaders in both University Heights and Cleveland Heights to help develop his vision, and partnered with Canterbury Elementary School to host the event on and around its grounds.

Organizers have been pleased with the positive reception and support for the event so far.

"We have had numerous community organizations join this event as a way to promote healthy living and fitness. Both cities and the CH-UH school district have been tremendously supportive," said Carter. "We are looking forward to a very successful first year and expanded activities in years to come."

All Geared Up will add a family-focused activity to the region's extensive Bike Month calendar of events this May.

The event is free, and will be held rain or shine, but registration is required. Visit [www.allgearedup.info](http://www.allgearedup.info) for additional information and to register.

Participants are strongly encouraged to bike to the event, but parking will be available on the street, as well as in the First Baptist Church parking lot on Fairmount Boulevard.

*Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris is a Cleveland Heights resident, a city planner and a local food advocate.*



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Heights High senior quarterback Taylor Jones (#5) in 2008, when he was 11, and a star player for the Tigers Youth Football Program.

## Fast-growing youth sports organization restores the roar to CH-UH athletics

Michael Payne

While the City of Cleveland Heights offers a wide variety of youth sports activities, it does not offer some staple programs that many families look for, such as tackle football, cheerleading, wrestling, and track and field. The Cleveland Heights Tigers Youth Sports Association (CHTYSA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization serving children within the CH-UH school district, will soon change that.

CHTYSA's mission is to serve as a feeder system to the local school district's middle school and high school athletic programs by providing youth athletes an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of each sport in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.

In 2008, Jeff Rotsky, former Heights High football coach, secured funding from the NFL and Heights alum Barry Cofield to establish youth football here—CHTYSA's first program. Later that year, Nellie Basit, varsity cheerleading coach at Heights, established the youth cheer program. Together, these two activities serve nearly 300 children and comprise one of Northeast Ohio's largest youth sports programs.

In 2012, the fifth- and sixth-grade Gold Team won the North Coast Youth Football Conference Championship and advanced to regionals in Michigan—going on to play in the national tournament in Orlando, Fla.

Last year, with help from Nick Continenza, Heights High's varsity track and field coach, CHTYSA established a track and field program, which sent 11 athletes to Kentucky to compete in the USA Track & Field Regional Championships, and five to Texas for the Junior Olympics. In the winter, CHTYSA will launch a youth wrestling program for boys ages 5–12,

under the direction of Willie Newton, Heights varsity wrestling coach.

The CHTYSA Tigers are currently recruiting new participants for its track and field club (ages 6–14), and its youth cheer and tackle football programs (ages 5–11), for the 2015 season.

To register for youth track and field, contact Derrick Fair at 216-773-6075 or Alana Williams at 216-659-1224. Registration for youth football and cheer will take place in the cafeteria at Cleveland Heights High School on May 9 and 23, and June 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit [www.heightstigersyouthsports.org](http://www.heightstigersyouthsports.org) for more information and details, or e-mail [heightstigersyouthfootball@gmail.com](mailto:heightstigersyouthfootball@gmail.com).

*Michael Payne, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a biomedical researcher at Case Western Reserve University. He is president/executive director for the Cleveland Heights Tigers Youth Sports Association Inc., and vice president of North Coast Youth Football Conference.*

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## Mac Stephens is new CHHS football coach

Angee Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, with the help of a volunteer search committee, selected Mac Stephens as its new head football coach, from 51 applicants. He replaces Jeff Rotsky, who recently accepted the head football coach position for Euclid.

A former NFL player, Stephens has 12 years of experience coaching high school football. Most recently, Stephens served as the defensive line/outside linebacker coach for Euclid High School (2008–14). He was also defensive line/defensive coordinator for Glenville High School (2006–07), linebacker coach for Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School (2005), assistant offensive line coach for Euclid High School (2004), and head coach of Lutheran High School East (2003).

Currently, Stephens serves as the director of recreation for the City of Euclid—a position he's held since 2004, and he is also president of North Coast Youth Football Conference. Stephens coaches Amateur Athletic Union track and basketball at the middle school level.

"Mr. Stephens exemplifies all of the characteristics and qualifications we sought when we began our search for a coach: he has many years of leadership and managerial experience, he is passionate about mentoring players both on and off the field, and, most importantly, he knows the game and



Mac Stephens, new Heights High head football coach.

is ready to take our team to the next level," said Kristin Hughes, athletic director.

Stephens began playing football at the age of 8, and continued to play at the NFL level. He was drafted, but eventually cut, by the New England Patriots, and went on to play one year with the New York Jets and then one year with the Minnesota Vikings. He is a graduate of Firestone High School in Akron.

"Since the time I was a young child, football has been an extremely important part of my life, so accepting the head coach position at this district is a dream come true," said Stephens. "I look forward to leading this team to new heights and serving young people like so many coaches did for me as a young man."

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

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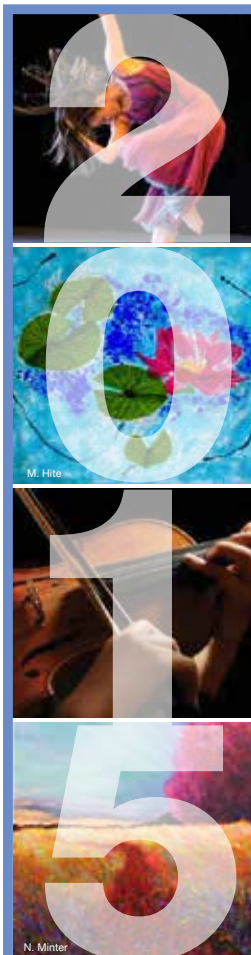
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Rehearsing for "Once Upon A Mattress" (from left) are: Victoria Skok, Rosie Daher, Devon Cutri, Jenna Gordon, Greta Westrop, Della Daher, Spencer Skok, Bridget Mathias, Maya Jacobs, Elle Warshawsky, Michael Price and Nicholas Bislich.

## Communion of Saints School presents 'Once Upon a Mattress' May 8 and 9

Amy Fischer

The Communion of Saints drama program presents "Once Upon a Mattress," May 8 and 9, at 7 p.m. The production is a new twist, set to music, on the age-old tale of a boy whose brother finds him the perfect girl. Enter the meddling mother, the Queen, and the Silent King. The Silent King has much to say, silently of course, while the Queen tries to deter anyone from marrying their son, Prince Dauntless. She has devised many tests that each possible wife must complete; the latest one involves a pea placed under a stack of mattresses. All the while, his brother has found his true love and cannot marry until Dauntless does. Come and see the antics of the cast members as they play these fairy-tale roles.

The production is an ensemble effort, involving more than 50 children in grades K-8. The drama

program is among the enrichment programs available to students at Communion of Saints School. Under the direction of Lydia Chenenka, and music director Maria Botti-Lodovico, this is the school's sixth production.

Performances will take place in Powers Hall. Admission is \$5 for those aged 13 and older, and free for those 12 and under. Baked goods and water will be available for purchase before the show and during intermission.

Communion of Saints School, 2160 Stillman Road (at Cedar Road), was established in 2010 with the merger of four parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland. The school was formerly known as Saint Ann School, established in 1916.

*Amy Fischer is a member of the School Advisory Committee at Communion of Saints School. For more information call 216-932-4177 or visit [www.communionofsaintsschool.org](http://www.communionofsaintsschool.org).*



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## RoxArts rustles up community support for students at May 9 auction and benefit

Lance Godard

It's not often that you can support Roxboro Elementary and Middle School students in jeans and cowboy boots. But that's what guests will be wearing on Saturday May 9, at the annual RoxArts Auction & Benefit, held at Coventry's B-Side Lounge (2785 Euclid Heights Blvd.), 6:30-10 p.m. So grab your boots, throw on a ten-gallon hat, and show your support for the Roxboro schools. You'll get beer and wine; great food from Mister Brisket, Soho Kitchen, and Chef Jason Brust; a raffle and silent auction featuring art and jewelry by local artists, sports and arts venue tickets, and other great packages; and more fun than you can shake a stick at.

This is the primary fundraiser for the education programs of RoxArts, a nonprofit organization bringing together parents, teachers and community volunteers dedicated to enhancing the performing and visual arts education at Roxboro schools.

"There are nearly 1,000 students on the Roxboro campus," explained Rosemary Pierce, event co-chair. "Every child is touched by RoxArts and its programs, and it's been that way for nearly 35 years."

RoxArts funds artists-in-residence, dance and music performances, and capital projects, and has provided students with opportunities to learn about diverse art forms, including poetry, quilting, hip-hop dance, and

puppet theater. Over the past year, the organization provided support for the all-district band and orchestra performance at Severance Hall, brought Sister Salima in to work with children in both schools during Black History Month, brought in Verb Ballets to work with elementary school students, and helped fund jazz week at Roxboro Middle School.

Other projects underwritten by RoxArts include theatrical lighting, a state-of-the-art sound system, a ceramic-firing kiln, and African drums.

Tickets for the May 9 benefit can be purchased online for \$35 per person at [www.roxarts.org](http://www.roxarts.org), or for \$40 at the door. VIP tickets, which include unique raffle opportunities and a signature cocktail, are available for \$75. Teachers can purchase tickets for \$25. Ticket holders can begin online bidding for specific items prior to the event. Get more information, and an advance look at auction items, at [www.facebook.com/roxarts.org](http://www.facebook.com/roxarts.org).

To donate auction items or purchase ads in this year's auction catalog, contact co-chairs Rosemary Pierce ([rracklpierce@yahoo.com](mailto:rracklpierce@yahoo.com)) or Jennifer Young ([jyoung@elevationgroup.com](mailto:jyoung@elevationgroup.com)).

*Lance Godard is communications chair of the 2015 RoxArts Auction & Benefit. He has lived in Cleveland Heights for nearly 20 years, and is the proud parent of two Cleveland Heights students.*

## Fight children's heart disease at 10th annual wine and beer fundraiser on May 30

Corey Rossen

Heart disease is the #1 birth defect in the nation, affecting children at a rate of nearly 1 in 100 births. Each year more than 300 distinguished members of the community and medical field gather at Jordan's Family Foundation's Healthy Starts, Happy Hearts Charity Wine and Beer Tasting. The event raises awareness and funding for research into the causes and treatment of congenital heart diseases.

This year's tasting, the 10th annual event, is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, from 1 to 4 p.m., at The Wine Spot, 2271 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. This is the second year that Adam and Susan Fleisher, owners of The Wine Spot and residents of Cleveland Heights, have hosted the event.

The band Smiley Baldazar will provide live music for the event,

which will also feature a silent auction and chances to win valuable raffle prizes.

Proceeds will benefit such organizations as the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, Cardiac Research Division; and the American Heart Association. The money is also used for other foundation events, such as Fitness Fits Everyone, in which more than 3,000 people and 75 organizations come together to learn about eating healthy, staying active and having fun.

For more information about Jordan's Family Foundation, visit [www.jordansfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.jordansfamilyfoundation.org). Tickets for this year's wine and beer tasting are \$25, and can be purchased by contacting Corey Rossen at 216-704-9194 or by sending an e-mail to [jordansfamilyfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:jordansfamilyfoundation@yahoo.com).

*Corey Rossen is president and co-founder of Jordan's Family Foundation.*

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This rendering depicts how the new Heights High will look when renovations are finished in summer 2017.

## Major construction at CHHS to begin at school year's end

Angee Shaker

After years of planning, meetings and passage of Issue 81, construction is slated to begin this June on a comprehensive renovation of Cleveland Heights High School. All of the additions made since 1926 will be removed and the original historic core will be renovated.

The most dramatic change will be removal of the Science Wing and the return of the front lawn. The façade will be restored to its original appearance. A hybrid geothermal system will be located under the East Field.

**Washington Level:** What is currently referred to as “the tunnels” (but is really the basement) will become the “Washington Level.” A mishmash of halls and rooms cobbled together over the last 80 years will become an orderly collection of athletic spaces. All gym and team spaces will be located on this level, with rooms designed for the functions they will house. The South Gym will be replaced with a new gym seating 1,800, with a new auxiliary gym replacing the East and West gyms. The new pool will have eight full-size lanes as opposed to the current six undersized ones, along with new locker rooms and family changing rooms. The pool is being designed with community use in mind.

**Cedar Level:** The first floor, or “Cedar Level,” will house almost all of the school’s public spaces. While the main historic entrance will be renovated to restore more of the original details, a new visitors entrance will be located off of the east drive. Most of the administrative offices will be to the left of this foyer. To the right will be a 250-seat auditorium, for lectures, recitals, community events and distance learning. Where the Social Room currently sits will be the library, next to a new cafeteria with lots of natural light. On the west side of the building will be special education classrooms. Along the north corridor, the Instrumental Music Department will have access to the restored auditorium.

**Second floor:** The second floor will be all academic spaces with new classrooms. These larger rooms are designed for current technology and can easily be upgraded in the future. Bigger project labs will have room for special projects and interdisciplinary

teaching. Wrapping around the auditorium will be additional classrooms, with science classes no longer in a separate wing.

**Third floor:** The third floor will match the second in layout and design. Art classrooms will sit above the auditorium in a loft-like space with natural light on both sides. The compact design of the second and third floors will make the building easier to navigate. The symmetry provides flexibility in how Heights High will function in the future. Classes can be assigned by grade level, academic concentration or other methodologies, changing over time as education methods evolve.

**Crews and staff prepare for move to Wiley:** Construction crews are preparing the former Wiley Middle School site to accommodate Heights High for the next two academic years. High school staff members are beginning to pack boxes in preparation for the move. In the fall of 2017, students will return to the corner of Cedar and Lee roads, to the renovated high school building.

The physical work at Wiley includes modifications to the inside of the current building (including a larger cafeteria), installation of modular classroom space on the former football field, and altering the driveway and parking lot surface areas to accommodate a new traffic-flow pattern.

**Facilities Accountability Committee (FAC):** Members of the FAC continue to meet monthly to receive updates on the Heights High Renovation Project. All FAC meetings are open to the community.

A Historic Preservation Committee has formed to identify items to be archived or repurposed for the renovated Heights High.

A consultant has been hired to assist with fundraising in expansion areas that fall outside of the bond issue around athletics, arts, applied science and public spaces.

The mission of the FAC is to monitor and regularly report to the board of education regarding the status, progress and expenditure of funds for phase one of the district’s comprehensive plan, as authorized by voters as Issue 81 in November 2013.

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

## Heights High to hold farewell ceremony and groundbreaking on May 12

Angee Shaker

Students, staff, alumni, area leaders and the Heights community will gather on Tuesday, May 12, in the Cleveland Heights High School courtyard, to celebrate the school’s history and break ground for major renovations set to begin this summer.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. with refreshments and music from the Instrumental Music Department. Presentations and remarks will begin at 6:30 p.m., after a welcome address from Superintendent Talisa L. Dixon. The program will include a brief overview of Heights High’s present and future, followed by a retrospective with a slideshow and student-produced video interviews with alumni. Next, the high school principals and student ambassadors will place hand-picked items into a time capsule, joined by the oldest Heights High alumni in the audience.

“This event will be a fitting tribute to Heights High’s rich history and an exciting preview of the plans for the 21st-century renovations to come. I’m sure attendees will leave feeling both sentimental about the school’s past and energized for its future,” said Nancy Peppler, board of education president.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Dennis Wilcox is slated to speak about the value of strong public schools in a community.

After Gary Balog, lead architect, provides an overview of the renovation plans, Dave Tabor, bond issue levy committee co-chair, will lead the groundbreaking ceremony.

“This is a community celebration. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We’re expecting a beautiful evening in the Heights High courtyard. Bring the kids—this is about their future. Refreshments and face painting will also be available,” stated Zoraba Ross, CHHS administrative principal.

In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved inside to the auditorium.

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



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## Meet Bryan Loretz, district coordinator of safety and security

Joy Henderson

*A conversation with Bryan Loretz, coordinator of safety and security at Cleveland Heights High School and for the CH-UH district:*

**The work:** We patrol and monitor the building and property, diffuse escalating situations, connect to students to encourage their best behavior, mediate conflict between students, and provide security for athletic and other school events.

**The team:** There are 15 security monitors at Heights High who work during the school day and at evening events. All of the team members have the following certifications: Private Security Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy, first aid,



Bryan Loretz, CH-UH City School District's coordinator of safety and security.

automatic external defibrillator and C.P.R. They recently received certification in National Incident Management Systems and Incident Command Systems and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.

**You might not know:** A very important part of our work is mediating disagreements between students.

We often assign a mediation session to two or more students who are currently in a conflict situation or may be headed that way. In more than 95 percent of the circumstances, the situation is de-escalated and the students involved leave the session feeling that someone listened to them, and they often gain an understanding of the other person's viewpoint. Kids don't want to fight, but sometimes they feel they don't have another option. Mediation is that other option. Michael Carter is our lead mediator and he has a gift for this work.

**Strength of the team:** We have a multi-pronged approach. We form relationships with students so they are comfortable with us, but when

we need to be tough and enforce the rules that support a learning-focused environment, we do that. Our team works very well together, we know that we are all working for the same goal—to help kids get an education.

**Favorite moments:** Our team works the commencement ceremony, and every year after the event I always hear stories of pride and excitement from our team. They often get teary-eyed when talking about the students who cross the stage as seniors but who were once immature freshmen who needed prodding and mediation and sometimes punishment just four years before. But there they are, smiling and wearing a graduation robe, accepting a diploma. Those are great moments.

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

## CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights

MARCH 24, 2015

Board Member Ron Register was absent.

### High school construction

Though the number of classrooms will be reduced by seven each period, there will be enough space to handle student enrollment. There were 1,699 students in 2012-13. The projection for 2017-18 is 1,551 students. The new school will have room for 2,000 students.

### Career tech

Health science and pharmacy tech classes will be held at the high school; auto tech will be at Delisle.

### Construction details

Drawings of the high school exterior were presented to the board. Care was taken to blend new and old parts of the building. Some decisions on materials were based on cost.

### EDGE and bidding

In the EDGE (Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity) program, businesses, including contractors, are certified by the state and identified to be socially and economically disadvantaged. In May, there will be an outreach session for contractors to meet and review the project before they bid.

Meetings with the contractors will include students, thus providing a good opportunity for students in the trades courses to observe real-world construction.

The Gateway project at the football field will be bid with the rest of the project in order to save \$200,000. This fall, trailers and modular locker rooms will be used.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

MARCH 30, 2015



[Joint meeting with CH City Council]

Board of Education Members Kal Zucker and Eric Coble and Council Member Jason Stein were absent.

### City council update

Cleveland Heights Master Plan Initiative: Out of 20 applicants, Cleveland Heights was one of four cities awarded a grant to form an 11-member citizen steering committee to study the city for land use, economic development and neighborhoods.

Cedar Lee Streetscape: Changes to the Lee Road streetscape will include islands and modified crosswalks, LED lights, and an RTA bus stop near the high school. The project will begin in May and finish by early 2016. The \$3.9 million estimated cost will be funded by NOACA, the county, the Ohio EPA, and the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District.

Cleveland Heights Development: Forty new businesses opened in Cleveland Heights in 2014. A receiver is in charge of Severance Town Center and is looking for a new operator for the movie theater and the Walmart space. City Manager Talisa Briley attended the Mayors and Managers Association meeting in Columbus, where participants discussed municipal financial shortfalls and were assured that local governments would share in Ohio's recovery. Cleveland Heights will have a \$2.5 million shortfall in 2016.

### School facilities update

Plans to be presented: About 60 percent of the architectural documents are ready and all plans will be presented at the May 4 school board meeting.

Gateway project: The high school gateway project at Lee and Cedar roads has been delayed because \$200,000 can be saved if the high school and the gateway project materials are bid together. The demolition of the high school science wing should start this summer.

Wiley swing space: The construction at Wiley for housing a temporary high school is beginning and will be completed this summer. The modular

units have been ordered. The board is not providing transportation to the school, and RTA has been notified about the changes.

### Levy

Issue 2, the 5.9 mill school levy, will be on the May 5 ballot.

### Intern program

Area businesses will provide 20-week internships (200 hours of training) to high school students through the Ohio Career Intern program.

LWV Observers: Lillian Houser and Blanche Valancy.

APRIL 7, 2015

All board members were present.

### Awards and recognitions

Two board members earned awards from Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA): Kal Zucker, a 10-year service award, and Ron Register, an award of achievement. This is the second time Register has received this award.

### Public comments

Patti Carlisle, co-chair of the May 5 operating levy committee, stressed the importance of the 5.9 mill operations levy. It is the smallest levy request in decades, the only issue on the ballot, and its passing is crucial.

### Students of Promise

Bob Ivory, program director, gave an update on the program, which provides extended support for ninth-graders identified to need help. Thirty-seven students (15 males; 22 females) are presently enrolled, referred either by teachers, parents or the students themselves. All students are tracked weekly, and parents are notified weekly of their progress. After-school tutoring is included. Out-of-school experiences include field trips. Ten students will be visiting Morehouse College, and other field trips are being considered. There will be a year-end program and summer experience.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

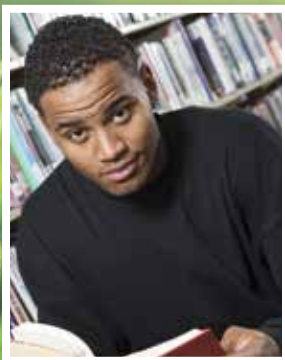
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See disclaimer on page 6.

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# Beaumont students receive 38 science fair awards

Anna Beyerle

Sixteen Beaumont School students demonstrated their aptitude in science and engineering and were awarded 38 accolades during the annual Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair and the University of Akron's BEST Medicine Engineering Fair in March.

At the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair's award ceremony on March 12, senior Grace Mascha was named one of four high school grand prize winners, the fair's highest honor. Her project, entered in the biological science category, studied indecisiveness and its effect on one's self-esteem. In May, Mascha will represent Northeast Ohio at the Intel International Science and

Engineering Fair, the world's largest pre-college science competition, in Pittsburgh.

Twelve students were recognized at the award ceremony, held at Cleveland State University (CSU). In addition to being named grand prize winner, Mascha was awarded a gold medal, as was junior Francesca Fabe. Silver medals were awarded to senior Molly Cogan; juniors Lysia Cook and Holly Sirk; sophomores Mackenzie Allen and Lauren Zipp; and freshman Megan Pophal. Senior Julie Schiffer and sophomores Martha Blatt and Emily Salomone earned bronze medals, and sophomore Ella Mascia received an honorable mention.

During the awards ceremony, 83 professional and local science and engineering organizations

bestowed special awards. Beaumont students received 23 of these awards from organizations that included the American Society of Civil Engineers, Cleveland Clinic, CSU and FirstEnergy Corporation.

At the BEST (Bridging Engineering, Science and Technology) Medicine Engineering Fair, Fabe was awarded the top prize in the competition's Value-Driven Engineering category—a gold medal and \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Akron. Freshman Juliana Rowane was awarded a silver medal in the Health and Medicine category, and freshman Megan Pophal earned a bronze medal in Health and Medicine. Senior Rachel Graf, junior Elizabeth Poland and sophomore Margaret Schiffer also participated and were recognized dur-

ing the award ceremony on March 14.

Beaumont, located in Cleveland Heights, is committed to excellence in education and dedicated to preparing young women for life, leadership and service. Beaumont opened a 25,000 square foot addition to its main building in January that houses eight science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classrooms, as well as a career and guidance center. The STEM addition provides greater access to technology, accommodates rapid changes in critical subjects and creates a learning environment that fosters creative thinking and collaboration.

*Anna Beyerle is the public relations and marketing manager at the Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights.*



Juniors in Heights High's CHC program learn to use personal protective equipment (from left): Amber Rainey, Niya Mack, Janae Laird, Jon'nae Jackson, Vanessa Stewart and Nancy Ballou, instructor.

## Gearing up for future healthcare careers

Joy Henderson

Juniors in the Heights High Clinical Health Careers (CHC) class wear personal protective equipment in preparation for their clinical experience at HealthSpan on Severance Circle. "Learning the proper way to apply, use and take off the protective equipment is just one of the skills that students learn before the clinical rotations," said Nancy Ballou, R.N., CHC teacher.

The CHC program is housed at the Delisle Center and features a lab for practicing the procedures and skills needed for real-world clinical

settings.

The clinical experience is an opportunity for students to put the skills they have learned in the lab to use in the field, as they work with clients and medical professionals for 2.5 hours a day for four weeks. Rotations include oncology, gastroenterology lab, emergency, outpatient surgery and podiatry.

In their senior year, CHC students complete 16 hours of direct patient care at McGregor Nursing Home as part of their Nurse Aide Training.

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

## Spring festival celebrates the whole child

Adele DiMarco Kious

New schools come with new traditions. Urban Oak School—now in its second year in Cleveland Heights, serving preschoolers and kindergarten through third-graders—wants to be an integral part of the Heights community. With this goal in mind, it will launch its first annual Spring Festival on May 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the lawn of the Coventry School building at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry Road. Everyone is welcome to join in a new tradition that celebrates the season and brings the philosophy of Waldorf learning to life.

"Our aim is for the festival to become a Heights family tradition—engaging and delighting all families of our home community," said Amy Marquit Renwald, the school's co-founder and a Heights High alumna. "We chose to start a school in Cleveland Heights because we believe the values of Waldorf education are deeply aligned with the values of so many who choose to live here—the importance of the arts in daily life, a connection to and reverence for nature, and an appreciation of inclusive community living."

The festival will feature free music and ticketed activities to help raise money for the school, which is the only one in Greater Cleveland

inspired by the Waldorf philosophy, and which is part of a fast-growing international independent educational movement. Activities will include watercolor painting, spring planting, puppet shows, a bake sale, a cake walk and fiber arts demonstrations. Each activity will be hosted by students and families, and is designed to share aspects of the school's philosophy, educating the whole child—head, heart and hands.

To find out more, visit [www.urbandoakschool.org](http://www.urbandoakschool.org) or find the school on Facebook.

*Adele DiMarco Kious is co-founder and board president of Urban Oak School, which her five-year-old son, Cablel, attends.*

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## Eastside Kickers

### 2015-2016 Season Player Assessments

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**6-7 p.m.** Tryouts for players born ON/AFTER 8/1/06, (ages 7-9)

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

**7-8 p.m.** Tryouts for players born ON/PRIOR to 7/31/06, (ages 9-13)

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# World languages enrich lives of Heights High students

Joy Henderson

At Cleveland Heights High School, many students are preparing for success by becoming multilingual. Speaking more than one language can give students an advantage in employment, travel opportunities and the ability to connect to people from other cultures.

This is part of the school district's vision: Preparing All Students for Success in a Global Economy (PAS-SAGE). This goal recognizes that the world is increasingly interconnected.

"Students who are learning more than one language are training their brains to recognize patterns in languages," said David Stewart, chair of the world languages department. "That makes it easier for them to learn several languages." Stewart is also one of the American Sign Language (ASL) teachers.

For some of the multi-lingual students, English is their mother tongue, but they are intrigued with learning about the cultures and languages of other countries. Some students have moved here from an-



A few of the bilingual students at Heights High. Back row, from left: Deyanna Bohanon, Faith Morris, Linden Wike and Hanae Chaffag; front row: Gwendolyn Wright, Max Tobehn, David Stewart, world languages department chair, and Kat Craps.

other country and learned English as a second language, while others are exchange students for a year.

The world languages department includes ASL, French, Spanish and a small Chinese class that will build as more Chinese language learners arrive from the middle schools.

Here are some of the multi-lingual students at Heights High:

**Deyanna Bohanon** is studying Spanish and French and enjoys learn-

ing words that mean the same thing in different languages.

**Aiwyn Brock** likes learning the similar roots of words in different languages and especially likes learning those words that are very different from English.

**Hanae Chaffag** was born in Morocco and is fluent in Arabic, French and English. She is now studying Spanish. She feels that being fluent in several languages will

open opportunities for her.

**Linden Wike** is studying French and Spanish and is intrigued with the evolution of languages. Her mother is a French professor and Linden has been exposed to different languages and cultures all her life.

**Max Tobehn** is an exchange student from Germany who also speaks Dutch and is studying French and Spanish. He enjoys making friends from other countries.

**Faith Morris** is studying French and ASL. She is drawn to the beauty of languages, such as the sound of French words and the movement of hands while signing.

**Jenna Dent** is studying French and ASL. She is interested in traveling and communicating with people from different cultures.

**Kat Craps** is an exchange student from Belgium. She speaks Dutch, French and English fluently, and is studying Spanish. She says it is fun to learn about the cultures of different people.

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

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## Ladies of Leadership club welcomes women in law



Investigator Falisa Berry from the Cleveland Heights Juvenile Diversion Program and Assistant Law Director Tiffany Hill with students.

Cynthia Barnes

On March 16, the Ladies of Leadership club (LOL) at Roxboro Middle School heard inspiring stories from two women in law. The goal of LOL is to assist middle school-age girls with developing self-esteem, enhancing their global perspective and fulfilling civic responsibilities.

Falisa Berry, an investigator from the Cleveland Heights Juvenile Diversion Program, and Tiffany Hill, assistant law director, shared their backgrounds with the students.

Hill said she considered herself a "nerd" who balanced a well-rounded social and academic life while growing up. She said her middle school study habits played a huge role in her later academic success. Hill empathized with today's high stakes testing and shared her experience taking the two-and-a-half day Ohio Bar Examination.

Investigator Berry spoke about treating others with respect as a key quality needed to be successful at her job. She also shared simple safety tips. Berry holds a master's degree and is now working on her Ph.D.

Through workshops, community

service and hearing guest speakers, participants in LOL become skilled decision makers who value themselves and others as well as giving back to their community. The girls participate in field trips, fundraising, dress-up days and LOL T-shirt days. The club is yearlong club and is filled with fun, learning, service, bonding with others and personal growth.

Roxboro's Ladies of Leadership is open to all girls in grades 6-8 who meet and maintain the LOL criteria. The requirements for participation are:

- Two letters of recommendation,
- a signed letter of commitment,
- evidence of first quarter grades,
- maintain a 2.5 grade point average,
- 80 percent participation in meetings and activities, and
- no disciplinary referrals.

LOL advisors are Anna Gregory, Wendy Ward Price, Tiffany Jordan-Shaw and Shenisha Austin.

*Cynthia Barnes is the public relations liaison in the Communications and Community Engagement Department at Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*



# Heights Libraries works to combat summer learning loss

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries is teaming up with six other Cuyahoga County public library systems this summer to help local children and teens avoid summer learning loss, and to collect useful data about the most effective ways to do so.

Called “Make Your Summer Count,” this summer learning and research initiative is a first-time cooperative effort among Cleveland Public Library, Heights Libraries, Cuyahoga County Public Library, East Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library and Westlake Public Library.

“We all have the same goal—helping our kids keep their academic skills sharp over the summer, especially reading skills,” said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. “Academic research shows time and again that kids who participate in some kind of educational activity

over the summer do much better academically when school starts up again in the fall. The kids who don’t have a much harder time getting back up to speed—that’s summer learning loss.”

Directors from the participating libraries met in October to explore the possibility of turning each library’s separate summer reading program into something more cooperative and data-driven by creating program guidelines and testing the effectiveness of the programs by gathering data from participating children.

The result of that cooperation is a nine-week summer learning program (June 8 through Aug. 7) that enables individual libraries to meet the unique needs of their specific communities while adhering to a framework that will enable research partner Baldwin Wallace University Community Research Institute (CRI) to effectively gather and analyze data to determine

whether the program is effective at preventing, or at least slowing, learning loss. CRI will gather data by interviewing children and their parents or legal guardians at three points during the program: the beginning, the halfway point, and the end of the program.

“It was crucial that the programs have enough similarities to allow us to gather information consistently,” said Levin. “This will allow us to start making data-driven decisions about how public libraries can best help the kids in our communities.”

The guidelines for children and teens that each library’s program will follow include a reading requirement of 16 hours total over the nine weeks, completion of two math-related activities, and completion of one volunteer activity (which could be something as simple as helping a neighbor or donating food to a shelter).

The programs are designed to inspire kids and make participation

fun. Heights Libraries’ programs will feature superhero themes: “Every Hero has a Story” for grades K–5, and “Unmasked” for grades 6–12. Each child will get a colorful log sheet to track progress; a chance to participate in entertaining, superhero-themed programs at Heights Libraries branches throughout the summer; and multiple opportunities to win prizes, such as backpacks, books, gift cards for local restaurants, and passes to area cultural institutions, including the Great Lakes Science Center, the Children’s Museum of Cleveland, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Preregistration begins this month—check [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) for details.

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

## Library programs tell a larger story

Julia Murphy

Heights Libraries adult services staff L.P. Coladangelo and Carole Wallencheck spend a lot of time together: at adjoining desks, working reference, planning programs, and, most recently, at the Ohio Library Council’s (OLC) Northeast Chapter Conference. Together they put on a presentation about how they create compelling library programs by using a narrative structure.

“Humans are hardwired to remember stories much better than raw information, so when we plan programs we aren’t just picking a subject; we try to tell a larger story in our programming,” said Wallencheck.

The library’s programming schedule runs on a quarterly basis, and, each season, staff plan programs around a particular theme. This spring’s focus was “Springtime in Paris,” and this past winter was “Tales and Chronicles of the Civil War.” By building programs around a specific theme, Coladangelo and Wallencheck access the subject from every angle and create a community of curious and eager participants.

An example of this is the Science and Nature Study Group. Most recently, the subject was extinction, and the three programs in the series focused on the past, present and future of extinction. “Tales and Chronicles of the Civil War” wasn’t about the battles and politics, but rather the personal stories of individuals living in that era, including a program about Civil War love letters.

Library surveys from 2015 have shown thus far that these series-based programs exceeded participants’ expectations 86 percent of the time. These survey statistics also imply that programs pique a new interest in the people who attend. When asked what else



Heights Libraries staff members Carole Wallencheck and L.P. Coladangelo.

they would like to see happening at their library, participants mentioned similar subjects within the given theme.

This system really started to gel in the spring of 2013 when library staff planned programming around the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant required that the library put on a few programs around the theme, but Wallencheck and Coladangelo took the idea and ran with it. They created an extensive series of programs at the library, and offered trips to the Cleveland Museum of Art, a mosque in Parma, and Cleveland State University.

At the OLC Chapter Conference, Coladangelo explained how they keep coming up with ideas for programs, and included a proverb that summed it up well: “All is grist for the mill,” meaning, they look for ideas everywhere.

This year’s adult summer reading theme will be “Heroes and Legends,” and fall programming will focus around Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*.

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

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MARCH 16, 2015

Ron Holland and Abby Botnick were absent.

### Library levy aids revenue

Due to the passage of the library levy in November 2014, revenue was \$4.3 million at the end of February 2015, as opposed to \$3.2 million at the same time in 2014.

### Traffic-calming coming to Lee Road

Construction will begin on the Lee Road Streetscape near the library in April. Attention will be given to a traffic-calming island and redesign of the intersection of Lee and Corydon roads. Sidewalks in front of the Lee Road Library may be closed during the construction.

### Friends Mega Sale coming April 30

Louisa Oliver, Friends board president, congratulated the entire board on joining Friends. A mega sale is planned for May 1–3, with a members’ preview sale on April 30. Memberships can be purchased at the door.

### Staff changes

There were three resignations: Julie Lehtinen, assistant finance manager; Shenee King, youth services associate at the University Heights Library; and Leslie Malnar, circulation services manager, who was hired in October.

### Balanced Scorecard Measures of Success

Highlights of the Balanced Scorecard Measures of Success for 2014–15 focused on the increased frequency of the book bike’s twice-monthly visits to John Carroll University, no matter the weather; free tax help provided by AARP members at University Heights and Lee Road libraries; and Whole Foods’ sponsorship of the Coventry Village Library garden.

### Book-a-Room software

Sheryl Banks, marketing manager, published an article in the spring edition of *Ohio Libraries Quarterly* newsletter about the Book-a-Room software system her department has developed. She also praised the new calendaring system for enabling quick notice about closures due to weather to those who had scheduled meetings.

### Local history task force formed

A local history task force has been established to help the library assess the needs of the community. The library’s history will be updated for the coming centennial.

### Public Service Report highlights

- The Cleveland Play House facilitated the Script Club’s discussion of the book *The Children of Willesden Lane* by Mona Golabek, the basis for the recent Play House production of “The Pianist of Willesden Lane.”
- Seattle film critic Robert Horton presented Movie Mashup: Wild Literary Adaptations on Film at the Lee Road Library.
- Fifteen listeners braved one of the coldest nights of the year to attend Coventry Concert Night with CIM for an hour of classical guitar.
- Noble Neighborhood Library’s Black History Month programming included West African Music and Dance, and Beats and Sounds of Hip Hop.
- Noble Neighborhood Library hosted Picture Book Madness.
- University Heights Library hosted calligrapher Jim Williams, who demonstrated the basics of his art to nine attendees, who have requested more classes.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 6.

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# Getting a good night's sleep as we age



## SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Getting a good night's sleep is important for good health. According to Mayo Clinic, adults need to get seven to nine hours of sleep per night for optimum health. Although some may claim to feel rested on less sleep, studies show that people who regularly sleep less than seven hours per night do not perform as well on mental tasks as those who do. They also tend to have a higher mortality rate.

Sleeping patterns change as people age, and this can make it more difficult to sleep through the night. Older adults tend to sleep more lightly and for shorter time spans, go to sleep earlier and wake up earlier, and often nap more during the day, which can

make it harder to fall asleep at night. They may also be less physically and socially active, both of which contribute to more napping. As people age, they also tend to spend less time in natural deep-sleep stages, making them lighter sleepers.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) notes that other reasons older adults may not sleep well include illness or pain, medications that cause insomnia, and worries that occupy the mind. More serious issues, such as sleep apnea, involuntary movement disorders and Alzheimer's Disease, can also affect sleep patterns. The NIA warns that lack of sleep can cause a person to feel irritable, become forgetful, feel depressed and be more prone to falls or accidents.

Following a regular sleep schedule is one way to help get good sleep. Going to bed and getting up at the same time every day, including weekends, will train a body to follow a rhythm. Developing a relaxing bedtime routine, such as listening to soothing music, reading a book, or taking a bath, can also help.

The NIA recommends reserving the bedroom only for sleeping and sex. Watch television, read and do hobbies in another room. It recommends keeping a bedroom dark, quiet and at a comfortable temperature. Avoid television, computer and phone use just before bedtime and don't sleep with them on. Keep a lamp near the bed to see and move safely at night.

Eating and exercise habits can also contribute to good sleep. Have a regular daily exercise routine, but try not to exercise within three hours of going to sleep. Get a little bit of natural sunlight every day and do not eat a large meal close to bedtime. Also avoid caffeine, alcohol and beverages later in the day. These can affect the ability to fall and stay asleep.

If naps are needed to make up lost sleep, avoid napping in the late afternoon and evening. Deep breathing exercises, prayer or meditation can help calm the mind at bedtime. Turn clocks to

face away from the bed to avoid seeing and worrying about the time. Another trick is to keep a notebook near the bed and write down any worries before going to sleep each night. Let the notebook keep the worries instead of the mind.

People who have trouble sleeping should consult their doctor, who can help identify the causes and suggest a plan to help them get a better night's sleep.

*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](http://www.lovinghandsgroup.com). She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or [judith@lovinghands-group.com](mailto:judith@lovinghands-group.com).*

## HRRC to celebrate seniors on May 13

Rebecca Stager

Home Repair  
Resource Center  
(HRRC) invites



seniors from all communities to its Celebrate Seniors Day, on Wednesday, May 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees can enjoy a light lunch and learn about all the services that HRRC provides to help people repair and maintain their homes, and especially the special programs HRRC offers for homeowners age 62 and older.

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wesley Walker, HRRC's senior program coordinator, will present "When the Job Goes Wrong: How to Resolve Problems with Contractors," and discuss the steps one can take to get things back on track—and what to do if problems persist.

The May 13 event is free, but reservations are requested. To reserve a spot, call 216-381-6100, ext. 22. HRRC is located at 2520 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights.

*Rebecca Stager has been HRRC's home repair education coordinator since 1989. Visit [www.hrcc-ch.org](http://www.hrcc-ch.org) or call 216-381-6100 for more information on programs and services.*



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—Cleveland Heights resident Marilyn Cunin

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A longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, Marilyn was never far from home. "I had a good experience and would recommend Bruening to anyone," she says, "but I certainly was tickled to go home when my stay was over!"

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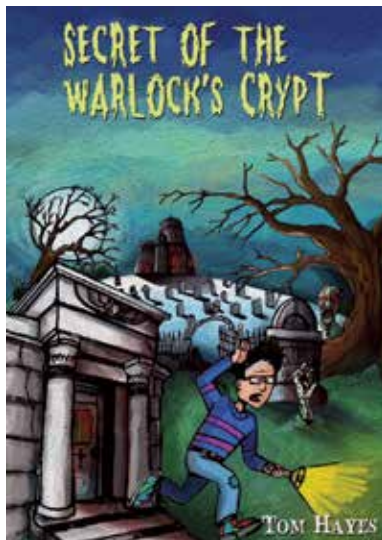


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## Local playwright pens YA mystery



Kirsten Rosebrock

Tom Hayes—whose website identifies him as “brewer, librarian, playwright”—can now add novelist to that list. This Cleveland Heights resident’s debut novel for young adults, *Secret of the Warlock’s Crypt*, is a historical thriller that takes place in Northeast Ohio.

Cryptic drawings, maps and strange symbols are what 12-year-old Mike Hilliard discovers when he investigates the long-dead, ruthless millionaire Titus Morley. As these strange symbols and drawings occupy his dreams, Mike rambles through the listless Cleveland Heights summer with Billy Hayworth, a photography intern at the Western Reserve Historical Society, where Mike’s uncle, Robert “Otto” Hilliard, is a historian.

Titus Morley died in a refinery explosion in 1872, after which his treasure trove of rare *grimoires* (books of magic) and ancient masks disappeared. Could the drawings and maps provide clues? Mike and Billy are determined to find out. But after wandering through a nearby cemetery at midnight, Mike’s confidence is shaken, Billy is not the same, and a soul-stirring horror has been awakened.

Hayes wrote *Secret of the Warlock’s Crypt* for middle-grade readers (10–15 years of age), but adult readers will enjoy it, too.

Hayes dedicated the book to John Bellairs, author of the Gothic mystery novels that fascinated him while he was growing up. Now a librarian in Northeast Ohio, Hayes has adapted his love for research, history and writing fictional stories to creating a sinister history about Cleveland and its surroundings.

Hayes is an award-winning playwright who received his MFA from Cleveland State University and the Northeast Ohio Masters of Fine Arts program. His thesis play, “Patterns” was staged at Cleveland Public Theatre. Other playwriting credits include “The Appalachian Trail, Only Sing for Me,” and “A Howl in the Wood.” The latter, now renamed “Lord of the Burgeoning Lumber,” was awarded Best Original Script by a Local Playwright in 2008 by *Rave and Pan*, a theatre blog site.

*Kirsten Rosebrock, wife of Tom Hayes, has lived in Cleveland Heights for 15 years. She is the librarian for the upper/middle school at Laurel.*

## Raymond Bugelski’s art is on the streets



CREATIVE  
NEIGHBORS

Peggy Spaeth

One idea in the minds of Heights Arts’s founders 15 years ago was that a city of creative residents should reflect that creativity in its streetscape. Today, Cleveland Heights is unique in the region, with murals, signage, fences and benches designed and implemented by artists who live here. One such artist is Raymond Bugelski, who designed the iconic Coventry benches and street signs, as well as the signage in the Cedar Fairmount Business District.

Bugelski first encountered the concept of public art at Cleveland State University in the 1970s, when he organized an ice sculpture competition at a public library as a class assignment. He quickly realized that public art was a lot more than art. The project involved organization and involved the public, not just aesthetically, but “from the heart.” It even necessitated buying gloves for the 60 children who joined professional artists in participating.

Bugelski said that, for many years, he “misplaced where my creativity was coming from,” and



Raymond Bugelski and Steve Presser (of Big Fun) on the Coventry “Peace” bench.

embodied the romanticized figure of a drug-addicted artist. “One of the things I needed to see was if I could be creative” without drugs, he said. Now, clean and sober for 23 years, Bugelski credits getting back into the arts as part of his recovery.

One of his first professional public art projects was the skate park fence built for the 2002 Gravity Games held in downtown Cleveland. He particularly enjoyed the irony of a flame design on a fence positioned at the mouth of the now-healthy Cuyahoga River that famously caught fire from pollution in 1969.

Bugelski has also worked as a fine artist in the studio, where his aesthetic is his own. “But public art is not about me,” he said. “I have to be considerate of the environment, the public, and the budget. It’s not about Raymond making a statement.” Perhaps that is why the projects he’s done in different

neighborhoods bear no resemblance to one another, except for being well-designed, distinctive and site-specific.

For example, the signage that he designed for the Cedar Fairmount intersection is based on its unique Tudor architecture, while the benches on Coventry Road look like they stepped out of its colorful 1960s past. “The idea of neighborhoods makes me smile, and especially that each has its own identity,” said Bugelski.

Bugelski works in a Cleveland Heights home studio as a fine artist and as a freelance designer, creating public art, websites, logos and identity packages for small businesses. Bugelski and his wife, artist Haley Cavotta, moved here from Tremont in 2002 to buy a home, not expecting that the Heights would provide opportunities to be creative. Within two weeks, recalled Bugelski, “this lady” called him from Heights Arts to discuss the Coventry bench project, based on his reputation as the Gravity Games skate park fence artist. And today, Cleveland Heights’s most vibrant streetscapes reflect the creativity of the community through Bugelski’s vision and talent.

*Peggy Spaeth writes about Heights residents and their impact locally, regionally and worldwide.*

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# Heights Arts highlights May programs

Mary Ryan

In medicine, the noun “syncope” (SINGkuhpee) refers to a fleeting loss of consciousness. In phonetics, it’s when sounds or letters are not pronounced aloud (“probably” becomes “proibly”). On view through June 6, Heights Arts’s new exhibition, Syncope, pairs works by Cleveland artists Rachel Beamer and Achala Wali that suggest the moments between loss and what remains.

In Beamer’s color photographs, themes of space, surface and memory are explored through compositions that hint at elements not present. Wali’s abstract drawings bring forth buried thoughts and memories of landscapes from her Indian childhood. Using pencil, pen and ink, brushes, and sometimes pastel and acrylics in nontraditional ways, Wali’s work combines color with black-and-white fields to effect subtle moments and passages, or sparks of feeling.

On Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m., the community is invited to EK-PHRASTACY, an evening of conversation with Beamer and Wali, plus a reading of original poems created in response to the art on view by invited regional poets. Each free EK-PHRASTACY talk grows in popularity, so it’s recommended that all come early for seating and refreshments.

The Cleveland Bluegrass Orchestra (formerly Academy of Bluegrass in the Fields) presents the finale to

Heights Arts’s Close Encounters chamber music series on Sunday, May 17, on a downtown Cleveland rooftop with 360-degree views. Five musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra with exceptional but little-known bluegrass talents, will perform a program of light classical and traditional bluegrass favorites on instruments which they don’t normally play in concert—fiddle, mandolin, saxophone, guitar, string bass, viola and banjo.

“We like to mix a lot of things together and enjoy surprising people,” said Mark Dumm, who will play fiddle, mandolin and banjo in the concert. “We like validating the bluegrass music, which is earthy and authentic. And people love seeing orchestra members letting down their hair!” Besides perennial favorites such as “Foggy Mountain Breakdown” and “Orange Blossom Special,” concertgoers can expect to hear some exciting hybridizations of music composed by bluegrass artists performed in a classical style and vice-versa—think “Bach does bluegrass.”

The five-member Cleveland Bluegrass Orchestra comprises Cleveland Orchestra members Mark Dumm,



Resonance (detail), by Achala Wali.

Jeff Zehngut, Trina Struble, Henry Peyrebrune and Derek Zadinsky. Orchestra members Isabel Trautwein and Tanya Ell join for the classical portion. Tickets (\$40–\$50) are available in advance at Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, or online at [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org). Discounted \$15 tickets are available for students, age 8–23, and an accompanying parent (if the student is younger than 16). For more information about May events, contact Heights Arts at 216-371-3457.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization.

## Concert to benefit Liberian school



The award-winning choir of Disciples Christian Church.

Ronald Werman

The Agape National Academy of Music (ANAM) in Monrovia, Liberia, is an after-school music program for children in a country ravaged by civil war and Ebola. ANAM needs money.

When Adam Kukuk, music director at Disciples Christian Church, learned this, he decided to arrange a concert fundraiser to help the school.

Kukuk has organized Sing for Liberia!, an evening of great music and an opportunity to help young musicians. The event will take place on Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m., at Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. All proceeds from this event will go to ANAM.

The church’s award-winning choir, soloists and house band will perform. Guest musicians Brian Thornton, from the Cleveland Orchestra, and Jen Woda, from Opera per Tutti, will also join in the festivities.

The concert will feature three out-of-print arrangements of Liberian songs by Agnes Nebo von Ballmoos, noted ethnomusicologist and music educator, and a pillar of music making and community building in

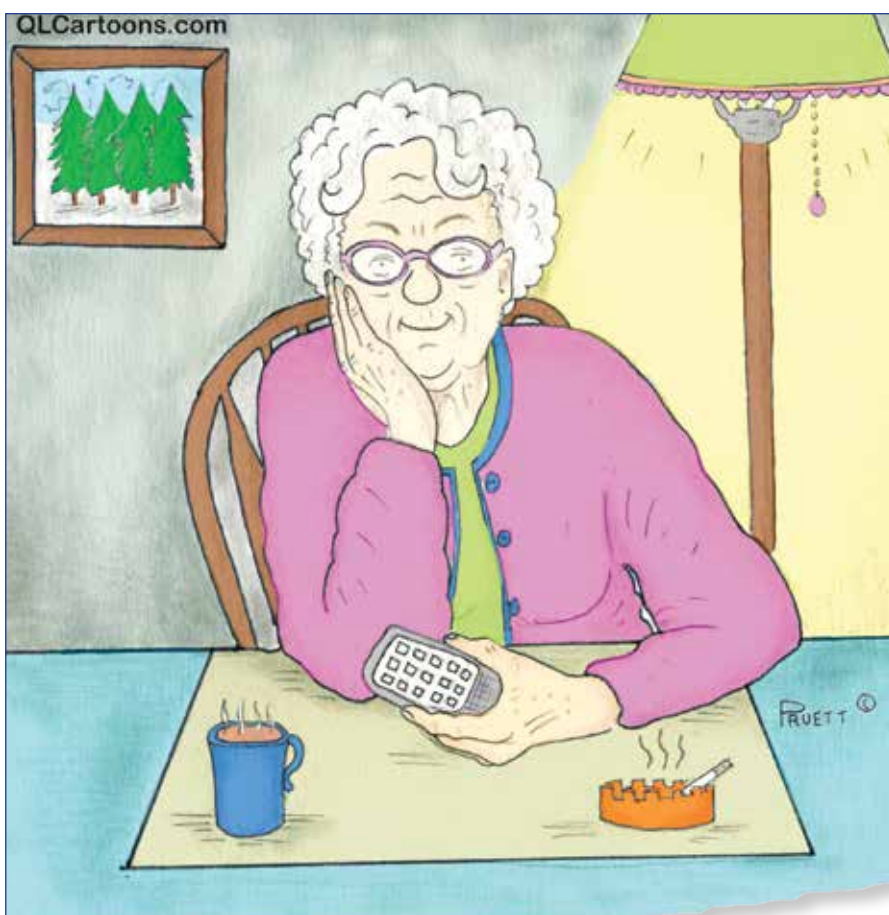
post-civil war Liberia. It’s a rare opportunity to hear these songs in their original languages.

ANAM was founded by Samson Tarpeh in 2008. His vision was for the school to be a peaceful alternative in the lives of its students. Its mission is to provide formal music instruction for children at the preparatory level, and to collect, preserve and teach the indigenous tribal music of Liberia. When the Ebola crisis closed the school in 2014, Tarpeh’s goal was to raise funds to reopen it.

Singers of all abilities are invited to join the choir for this concert. Those interested in participating are encouraged to attend at least one of two rehearsals at Disciples Christian Church on Thursday, May 14, 7:15 p.m., and Sunday, May 17, 7 p.m. For more information, contact Adam Kukuk at [adam@discipleschristian.org](mailto:adam@discipleschristian.org).

Tickets for Sing for Liberia! can be purchased at [www.singforliberia.eventbrite.com](http://www.singforliberia.eventbrite.com) or at the Sing for Liberia! Facebook page.

Ronald Werman is an elder and communications chairperson of Disciples Christian Church.



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The band on the move down Noble Road, May 1990.

## Celebrate Memorial Day in CH with the All Generations Band

Mazie Adams

For the past 60 years, the All Generations Band has participated in the Cleveland Heights Memorial Day celebration. The band had its origins in the Oxford neighborhood, when it originally formed to participate in Oxford Elementary School's annual Father's Night program. Soon, the band joined the annual Memorial Day parade that traveled from Oxford to Denison Park, capped with celebratory ice cream cones at Rukasin's Drug Store on Noble Road. Past leaders include Bob Coppedge and David Adamson.

In 2002, the All Generations Band received a proclamation from the City of Cleveland Heights, celebrating its many years of music. Today, band members range in age from 15–80, and include residents from Cleveland Heights as well as neighboring communities and states.

Under the able leadership of Chris Brandt, the intrepid crew plays a repertoire of marches and American classics, including "You're A Grand Old Flag," "God Bless America," "The Yankee Doodle Boy" and several Sousa marches.

The band always welcomes new members. The commitment is small—just come to the Memorial Day celebration in Cumberland Park. The group practices that morning and has its one annual performance during the celebration. If you are interested in joining, contact [allgenerationsband@gmail.com](mailto:allgenerationsband@gmail.com), or just grab your instrument and meet the band in Cumberland Park.

*Mazie Adams is an active member of the Cleveland Heights community and enjoys dusting off her clarinet for the All Generations Band at the Memorial Day celebration.*

## Heights-based chorus presents Holocaust memorial concert

Marge Geiger

The Choral Arts Society of Cleveland's (CASC) 2014–15 season could be titled "a season of anniversaries." The Cleveland Heights-based community chorus has so far this season performed two concerts celebrating its 40 years of music making. CASC will cap the anniversary year with the Cleveland premiere of British composer James Whitbourn's *Annelies*, a choral setting of excerpts from *Diary of a Young Girl*. This concert will commemorate the death of Anne Frank in a concentration camp 70 years ago, as well as the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

*Annelies*, a Holocaust tribute concert, will take place Sunday, May 31, at 4 p.m., at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Beachwood. Presented in collaboration with the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and host Fairmount Temple, the performance is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation.

World-class soprano Arianna Zukerman will sing the soprano solo. Zukerman sang the world premiere of the work and recorded the Grammy-

nominated piece for Naxos.

The libretto for the oratorio highlights excerpts from the diary written by Annelies Marie Frank from 1942, when she and her family went into hiding from the Gestapo, until August 1944, when the family was betrayed and taken into custody. In the midst of devastation and hopelessness, Frank communicates insights and an equanimity beyond her years. Her diary dramatizes her loves, her hopes and her longings. Whitbourn makes these musings and emotions palpable in the haunting and complex music of his 2005 oratorio that conveys a universal message of hope, resilience and the redemptive power of music.

The concert also honors the six million who died during the Holocaust and the three million Jews and other minorities who survived, but were traumatized, many of whose children carry forth the burden of their parents' trauma. The musical performance will be preceded at 3 p.m. by a Holocaust education session led by Cantor Sarah J. Sager of Fairmount Temple.

Consideration of the impact on survivors will be reflected in a focus on Betty Gold (1930–2014), one of Cleveland's most beloved survivors, prominent speaker on behalf of the Maltz Museum, co-author of two books and subject of a documentary

## Ensemble and Dobama theaters present their season finales

Jewel Moulthrop

With signs of spring everywhere (finally!), Ensemble Theatre and Dobama Theatre are preparing to mount the final productions of their 2014–15 seasons. These last main stage productions promise to be memorable.

"Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo," by Rajiv Joseph, runs through May 17 at Ensemble; "Superior Donuts," by Tracy Letts, runs through May 24 at Dobama.

"Bengal Tiger" is set in the first days of the American invasion of Iraq and highlights the lives of two U.S. Marines and an Iraqi translator, which are forever changed by an encounter with a quick-witted tiger. The tiger, played on Broadway by Robin Williams, haunts the streets of war-torn Baghdad attempting to find meaning, forgiveness and redemption amid the city's ruins. Joseph's groundbreaking American play explores both the power and the perils of human nature.

Playwright Rajiv Joseph was raised in Cleveland Heights and graduated from Cleveland Heights High School. His theater ambitions may have started at age 10, when he won a small role in the musical "Nine" at Cain Park. He credits his experience in the Peace Corps in Senegal with helping him to become a writer.

Joseph's plays have been produced in numerous U.S. cities, as well as in Sydney, Australia, and Bangalore,

India. He has received many awards for his work, including being named a Pulitzer Prize for Drama finalist in 2010 for "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo."

For more information, and to purchase tickets, call Ensemble's box office at 216-321-2930.

"Superior Donuts," at Dobama, features Arthur Przybyszewski, whose donut shop in the uptown neighborhood of Chicago is vandalized. Arthur, an uninspired ex-hippie, seems indifferent. But when Franco Wicks, an African-American college student, enters the shop, both men are changed forever. This comedy-drama by Tracy Letts explores the redemptive power of friendship.

If the name Tracy Letts sounds familiar, it should. Letts is an actor, screenwriter and playwright who received the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for "August: Osage County."

His acting credits include the ongoing portrayal of Andrew Lockhart in seasons 3 and 4 of Showtime's "Homeland," for which he was nominated for two Screen Actors Guild awards. Letts wrote the screenplays for "August: Osage County," "Killer Joe" and "Bug."

For a complete schedule, and to purchase tickets for "Superior Donuts," call the Dobama box office at 216-932-3396.

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

film. Audience members will also benefit from program annotation provided by Rabbi Roger Klein, of The Temple Tifereth Israel.

Regarding the significance of this Cleveland premiere, Choral Arts director Martin Kessler, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, said, "This choral masterpiece needs to be heard in a music capital such as Cleveland. Although it has been performed at least 30 times all over the world, it has never been done in Northeast Ohio. About the Grammy-nominated recording, *Choir and Organ Magazine* wrote, 'Whitbourn's

devastatingly beautiful and restrained treatment of the subject makes it all the more poignant.'"

Both the concert and the pre-concert talk are free and open to the public. For further details about *Annelies*, and information on Sponsorship Patron levels, visit [www.choralartscleveland.com](http://www.choralartscleveland.com).

*Marge Geiger is a board member and singer for Choral Arts Society of Cleveland, an English professor at Tri-C East Campus, and a Cleveland Heights resident for 25 years, married to Joe Geiger, retired Heights High English teacher.*

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# Why people don't come to my shows



## SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

I think I understand why people who have never heard me play music don't want to come to hear me play music.

I mentioned in last month's column that I had lots of musical training while growing up in Cleveland Heights, at music schools, music stores and in Heights public schools—Coventry Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High and Heights High. I didn't mention that I quit high school, toward the end of my 12th-grade year in 1967, to pursue a career in music.

I moved to New York City and got into a rock band right away. That band eventually—a few years later and after many personnel changes—evolved into Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

In 1969 I signed as a folky solo artist with Sire Records, which was on the verge of becoming a major label (later signing the Talking Heads, the Ramones, the Pretenders, Madonna and many others).

In the process, I was lucky enough to play onstage with Jimi Hendrix and other legendary rock musicians; open shows for Linda Ronstadt, Tim Buckley, and many more artists who were well known at that time; and perform in major venues such as the Bitter End, the Scene, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. I returned to Cleveland and played all around the area with various bands and as a solo artist.

I changed my stage name to Baxter Shadowfield. A major label became interested in signing my last Baxter Shadowfield band—in an era when the only way to get a record out was to sign with a label—but I was burned out by then and I quit the music business. I thought I should take a stab at real life.

I had come relatively close to achieving fame and fortune, but

the music business is tough and the vast majority of people who try do not become rich and famous. I didn't play any music for 18 years. In that time I got married, had two kids, and worked as a writer and editor for magazines.

My generation, the Baby Boom, was the first one in which a large percentage became musicians—amateur, professional; rock, folk, jazz, classical, religious—and performed in clubs, bars, concert halls and houses of worship. After the incredible commercial success of Bob Dylan and the Beatles, it became socially acceptable and fairly feasible to perform as a folky singer-songwriter or as a member of a rock band, so a great many people did.

Then a great many stopped at around the age of 30 because they were now members of families of their own and needed to make a more dependable living. Then, 20 years later, everyone's kids grew up and we all “got the band back together.”

That's why people who never knew me or heard me play music before I quit don't get excited when I tell them that I'm in a band and we're playing at this or that venue. I'm just another old guy in a band.

I see it in people's faces—people who never knew me as a musician, but who do know me as a writer, or

as that guy who cooks at the Murray Hill Market, or as somebody's father or brother, etc.—when I invite them to come and hear my group. I can tell they're thinking: How good could this guy be? He's standing there cooking vegetable soup.

The other side of that weird coin is that when they finally do come and hear me, they actually tell me how surprised they are that the band is so good. I say, “I told you we were good.” And they say, “Yeah, but . . .” And, as I said, I get that. But, little by little, Long Road has amassed those surprised listeners into a loyal(ish) following.

I put together this '60s-style folk-pop group Long Road in 2007 to play one concert at Cain Park. People liked it so much that we decided to repeat the show at Nighttown a few months later. People liked that show so much that we did it again at the Kent Stage. Then Cain Park, Nighttown and the Kent Stage all invited us back within the next few months. That's when we realized we were actually a group.

We play a small number of shows—maybe five or six a year. They're all sit-down-and-listen shows—at places such as Nighttown, the Music Box Supper Club, the Barn in Avon Lake, and Cain

Park's Alma Theater; and we've played at the Beachland Tavern, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Lake View Cemetery, and other venues. We're playing for the first time at the new Bevy in Birdtown (the former Winchester, in Lakewood) this month—May 14.

We draw our biggest audiences at locations in the Heights area. As I often say, Long Road fans will come and hear us anywhere we play—in Cleveland Heights. But if you're a little adventurous you could travel to Lakewood, which is the Cleveland Heights of the West Side, to hear us. And this place is on the east side of Lakewood. I think you'll like us, and the totally redesigned venue, too.

And when your friend who's a lawyer or carpenter or doctor or steelworker asks you to come and hear his or her band, keep an open mind and don't automatically dismiss the idea. At least until you've heard them. You might be surprised.

*David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Live, an author, and a professional musician and comedian. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop-music history.*

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## Brent Kirby makes music full time

James Henke

Cleveland Heights resident Brent Kirby has been playing music since he was three years old. Now 43, Kirby is a full-time musician. Over the years, he has played in several bands, including the Jack Fords, the New Soft Shoe, the Lost Fortunes, the Flashing 12's and Hey Mavis. And he recently formed a new group called His Luck.

His father was a composer, and his family had a piano in their house. As a young child, Kirby played the piano and drums. By the time he was a teenager, he was a pretty accomplished pianist, and he began writing songs. His first song was about his grandfather, who had recently died. When he was 14 years old, he joined his first band and started playing in bars.

Kirby grew up in a small town called Oconomowoc, in Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh and received a bachelor's degree, with majors in recording engineering and music merchandising and a minor in business. After graduation, he moved to St. Louis, where he had an internship at a recording studio and managed a vintage guitar store. A few years later, he moved to Nashville and began playing with the band Mavis. He also started working for Sam Ash Music, a musical-instrument retail store, and, after two years, relocated to Chicago, where he helped run a Sam Ash store.

In 2001, Kirby was named general manager of Sam Ash and transferred to Cleveland. He became more and more involved with the local music scene and, in 2003, he released his first solo album, *The Mean Days*. He recorded the album with his group, the Flashing 12's.

Kirby decided to leave Sam Ash in 2004, to focus on his music full time. The following year, he formed the Jack Fords, and the group began playing regular gigs at a club called the Town Fryer, which was located at East 39th Street and Superior Avenue. In 2005 and 2007, the Cleveland *Free Times* named the Jack Fords Cleveland's best rock band. The group has released three albums, including *There It Is*, which just came out on March 6.

In 2009, Kirby formed another band, the Lost Fortunes, which played more Americana-style songs. That band released an album called *Last Song on the Soundtrack*. Two years later, Kirby formed the New Soft Shoe, a group devoted to the music of Gram Parsons, one of the fathers of country rock, who performed with the Byrds and the Flying Burrito Brothers. That band plays at the Happy Dog restaurant and bar, located at West 58th Street and Detroit



Brent Kirby

Avenue, on the second Thursday of every month.

Kirby's latest album, *Patience Worth*, will be released on May 16. He recorded the album with his new band, His Luck, and a CD release party will take place at the Music Box Supper Club, the new music venue located on the west bank of the Flats. The album was recorded at a friend's house in Willoughby Hills. Kirby produced the CD, which features a wide array of styles, from punk to folk. The album also features horn sections, back-up singers, string sections and a variety of musical sounds.

"I'm happy that I can play whatever style of music I want to play," Kirby said. "I am also happy that I have reached a point in my life where I am not worried about trying to be big. I write songs that mean something to me and that people can relate to. I feel much more spiritual about my music."

Kirby, who is divorced, is the father of a six-year-old daughter named Mira. He moved to Cleveland Heights about a year ago, and lives on Grandview Avenue. He loves the area. "I like the fact that all of the houses are unique and different," he said. "I also love the diversity of the city, and I like the restaurants. I love the Inn on Coventry and Tommy's. And I like the fact that we are so close to the Shaker Lakes and that it is a walking city."

In addition to his CD release party at the Music Box, Kirby has several other gigs coming up this month. The Jack Fords will be playing at Brothers Lounge, at West 117th Street and Detroit Avenue, on May 9, and the New Soft Shoe will play at Happy Dog at the Euclid Tavern on May 14. In addition, Kirby hosts a songwriter's showcase every week at Brothers Lounge. Called "10 x 3," the shows feature 10 singer-songwriters, each of whom performs three songs, including two original compositions.

Over the years, Kirby has received numerous awards. In 2012, *Scene* magazine named him Cleveland's best musician, and in 2013, *Scene* named him best singer and best male vocalist.

*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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# Bon Appetit plans new restaurant in Coventry

James Henke

Café Bon Appetit—a restaurant that specializes in healthy food, including organic and vegetarian items—is poised for an early May opening on Euclid Heights Boulevard, at the south end of Coventry Road. This will be the restaurant's second location. The first opened in 2010, at 1900 Euclid Ave., near Cleveland State University (CSU).

Cleveland Heights residents Jay Novak and his wife, Jade Novak, own both restaurants. They have lived on Superior Avenue near Euclid Heights Boulevard since 2009, and both are immigrants from southeastern Europe. Jade, 31, moved here when she was a teenager, and Jay, 39, moved here about 15 years ago. They met in Cleveland, and their first date was at

La Cave du Vin on Coventry Road.

Jay is a civil engineer by profession, who learned about cooking as a child. His mother taught cooking classes, and that inspired him to get involved with food and cooking.

Jade, who teaches biology at Cuyahoga Community College, attended CSU. While a student there, she realized that “there were no healthy restaurants near the campus. Just pizza places, fast-food places. But there was nothing that served healthy food or organic food.”

So, she and Jay decided to open a restaurant near the campus. Their first idea was to open one in Cleveland Heights, but they could not find an appropriate location then. “We would come to Cleveland Heights all the time,” Jay said. “We would

go to the restaurants on Coventry, to the Grog Shop and to the Cedar Lee Theatre.” At the time, they were living in Mentor.

The success of their restaurant near Cleveland State enabled them to plan a second restaurant. “Financially, we were able to make a move,” Jay said. “And our first thought was to open a restaurant in Cleveland Heights.”

The restaurant is located at 2767 Euclid Heights Blvd., in the space previously occupied by a restaurant called the Dog House, which specialized in hot dogs.

Bon Appetit's menu features a variety of organic salads, including a Greek salad with tabouli, cucumbers and feta cheese; and a Mediterranean salad that includes dried apricots, plums, cranberries, almonds and fresh mozzarella. Most of the salads are priced at \$6.99. The restaurant also serves several different wraps, most of which cost \$5.99. The Italy wrap includes ham, cheese, cucumbers, tabouli, spring mix and balsamic vinaigrette. The smoked salmon wrap features cream cheese, spring mix, tabouli and avocados, and the turkey wrap includes tabouli, cucumbers and spring mix.

With the new restaurant's opening, the Novaks are adding some new items to the menu, including \$9.99 dinner plates. One dinner plate will consist of grilled chicken breast, portobello mushroom and an organic side salad. Another will be the tomato-basil-mozzarella plate.



Jade and Jay Novak at their new restaurant.

In addition to lunch and dinner items, Bon Appetit also serves breakfast. The “breakfast deluxe” features two eggs, two slices of French toast and four pieces of sausage or bacon, for \$5.99. Croissants and bagels are also available for breakfast.

Bon Appetit has just started serving organic coffee, and the owners plan to add more vegan and vegetarian items to their Cleveland Heights menu. “Our main goal is to serve high-quality food at a reasonable price,” Jay said. “Everything we serve is oven-baked or grilled. Nothing is fried.”

The Novaks are extremely excited about the opening of their new restaurant, and they love Cleveland Heights. “If Cleveland Heights didn't exist,” Jay said, laughing, “I would probably move away from Cleveland.”

*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.*

## Best of the Heights voting now open

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Heights residents can vote for their favorite Heights businesses in the 11th annual FutureHeights Best of the Heights awards program. The 2015 survey begins May 1 and runs through Aug. 31.

Since 2005, FutureHeights—a nonprofit that inspires and facilitates collaboration and empowerment in our community—has conducted this public opinion survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned Heights businesses, and their contributions to the local economy.

Ballots for Best of the Heights awards will be available in the May,

June, July and

August issues

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FutureHeights will announce the winners at a celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 7. For more information call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or visit [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org).

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



## Mac's Backs hosts noodle party with Chef Sawyer

Angela Hetrick

In celebration of award-winning chef Jonathon Sawyer's book, *Noodle Kids: Around the World in 50 Fun, Healthy, Creative Recipes the Whole Family Can Cook Together*, Mac's Back's-Books on Coventry invites noodle lovers and families to join in a Noodle Kids Ramen Party, promising “oodles of noodles” and family fun.

The special pop-up party will take place on Friday, May 8, 7-9 p.m., at 1854 Coventry Road (upstairs, in the former Burgers N Beer space). At the party, Sawyer—a Cleveland Heights resident—will help parents and their

kids construct a ramen bowl, host a Q&A, and sign copies of his book.

Tickets for the event are required and space is limited. A single adult ticket is \$30, and includes admission to the party and a copy of *Noodle Kids* (retail price \$24.99). Additional adult tickets and children's tickets are \$10 each, and are for party admission only.

Tickets can be purchased at Mac's Backs (216-321-2665), 1820 Coventry Road, or online at [www.macsbacks.com](http://www.macsbacks.com).

*Angela Hetrick is the executive director of the Coventry Village Special Improvements District.*

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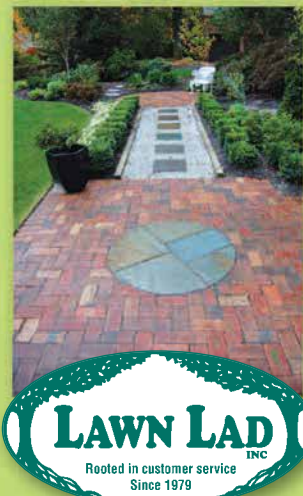
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# Black Box Fix restaurant opens on Lee Road

James Henke

Black Box Fix, a restaurant that features a variety of unique sandwiches, opened on March 27 on Lee Road, in the space previously occupied by Sweetie Fry. Eric Rogers and his wife, LaToya Rogers, own the new restaurant. Eric is the chef, while LaToya focuses on customer service. The Rogers previously ran Nevaeh Cuisine and Catering on South Green Road in South Euclid.

The couple has lived in South Euclid for the past five years, and have three children: two boys, ages 12 and 14, and a nine-month-old daughter. Eric, who's 36, was born and raised in Cleveland, and graduated from Collinwood High School in 1997. After graduating, he took a job at University Hospitals, where he started as a clerk in the mailroom and kept moving up the ranks until he became the hospital's supervisor of finance.

While at the hospital, Rogers did some catering on the side, working out of the kitchen at his house. He had gotten interested in food as a child. His grandparents owned a restaurant



Chef Eric Rogers, the owner of Black Box Fix.

called Parkway Carry-Out, at East 123rd Street and Lakeview Road in Cleveland. Rogers began working there when he was 10 years old, and by the time he was 13, he was the lead cook.

In July 2011, Rogers decided to leave the hospital and focus on cooking. Initially, he focused on catering, then he decided to open his own restaurant. "I took a leap of faith," he said. "I had a passion and a

dream, and I followed it. I knew there would be some ups and downs, but I stayed firm in my belief."

In March 2013, he opened Neveah, which is the word "heaven" spelled backwards. The restaurant was located in the Glengate Plaza on South Green Road. Neveah's menu included a variety of sandwiches, as well as fresh fish and other entrees. The restaurant also featured special menu items every day. "We had a salmon and tilapia croquette, and an 'LBJ' sandwich, named after LeBron James, which was made of filet mignon," Rogers said. "I have always loved creating things that are very unique."

The restaurant closed last November. "We outgrew the place very quickly, and that location was not really a dining destination," Rogers explained. "Also, I was working 80 to 90 hours a week, and it took its toll."

Initially, Rogers planned to focus on private catering, then a friend told him about the closing of Sweetie Fry and suggested he check out the space. "I did some market research, and I put a business plan together," he said. Based on his research, he decided to open Black Box Fix. "I love all of the different restaurants in Cleveland Heights, and I love the diversity of the area," he said.

The restaurant's name refers to the black, recycled, compostable boxes the food is served in, and on social media posts Rogers saw when he ran Neveah. "People would always say that they came to the restaurant to get their 'fix,'" said Rogers, who is a big believer in power of social media. "It's the way of the world now, with

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everyone on their phones. Everything unfolds on social media." Rogers has more than 19,000 followers on Instagram.

Black Box Fix's menu offers nine sandwiches. The top-selling sandwich is the OMG Philly—grilled chicken and jumbo shrimp on a toasted brioche roll. Also popular is the Hibachi Burger, which features grilled shrimp and hibachi-seasoned beef topped with mozzarella and provolone cheese. It's served on a toasted Kaiser bun.

"My food is always well-seasoned," Rogers said. "I want people to taste all of the different layers of the sandwiches, from the bread to the meat and other items." All of the bread Black Box Fix serves is made locally, and all of the beef and chicken is fresh, never frozen.

Rogers also likes to give back to the community. One dollar from the sale of every Lee Road Hobo sandwich, Rogers' version of a Polish boy, goes to the Ginn Academy Youth Support Program, which provides programs for inner-city children in Greater Cleveland. Paintings by local artists are exhibited on the restaurant's walls.

In addition to opening his new restaurant, Rogers also made a recent appearance on the Food Network. He represented the Midwest in the Guy Fieri show "Guy's Grocery Games."

Since its opening, Black Box Fix has been drawing huge crowds. "We've had overwhelming support," Rogers said, adding that on the restaurant's first two days of business, it sold out all of its food. "I love this neighborhood, and I am very happy that I have followed my dream."

*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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# FutureHeights workshop seeks to help business owners access capital

Nicole Stika

Small businesses are the backbone to a strong and flourishing community. They are destinations and landmarks that make our neighborhoods vibrant. As our local businesses prosper, we all prosper.

FutureHeights invites Heights businesses to attend the Accessing Capital Workshop on Monday, May 4, 4-6 p.m., at Motorcars Honda, 2953 Mayfield Road.

FutureHeights strives to recognize the investment of time, energy and money our small businesses make in the local economy, boosting the neighborhoods and improving the quality of life for those who live here.

Access to capital, however, is an

issue for many small businesses. In fact, the presumed upfront costs for upgrades or other expenses often prevent businesses from even analyzing their opportunities for improvement and growth.

As business owners make plans to grow their businesses, FutureHeights wants to support them in making the most of the resources they have, as well as gaining access to the capital that is available. This workshop is designed to assist business owners in identifying resources and shifting their mindset to imagine the possibilities. The presenting organizations will highlight the tools, technical assistance and support that is available to help businesses succeed.

This free workshop is focused on

current capital challenges, questions, and projects, with the goal of walking business owners through a range of available options.

Join FutureHeights to discuss your business's challenges, questions, ideas and projects with local experts who include: Greg Zucca, vice president of lending and lending operations at Economic Community Development Institute (ECDI), and former economic development director for Cleveland Heights; Ray Graves, lender relations specialist at the U.S. Small Business Administration; Brian Rosenfelt, CPA, CGMA vice president and senior business banking relationship manager at Key Bank; Kara Hamley O'Donnell, Cleveland Heights city planner; and

Matt Fish, owner of Melt Restaurant.

These experts will discuss how their organizations support businesses on the pathway to accessing capital for new and established businesses, as well as other services that can help develop a new business into a loan-ready client.

RSVP online at <http://futureheights.givezooks.com/events/accessing-capital-workshop>.

For more information and questions, e-mail FutureHeights Board Member Julia Kious Zabell at [julia@beinvinogated.com](mailto:julia@beinvinogated.com).

*Nicole Stika is a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors and is the senior director of energy services for the Council for Smaller Enterprises.*

## Cedar Fairmount to honor oldest businesses on May 14

Kaye Lowe

The Cedar Fairmount Business District lies 150 feet beyond the border of Cleveland, and is known as the "Gateway to the Heights." In the early 1900s, real estate developers turned Cedar Fairmount into the first planned neighborhood shopping area in Cleveland Heights, and streetcars traveled the route between downtown Cleveland and the district.

Among the district's enduring landmarks are The Barton Deming House (more than 100 years old), Heights Center Building (a Cleveland Heights Landmark), Heights Medical Building (a CH Historical Preservation Award recipient), and the Cedar Grandview Building, all of which have maintained the district's historic, predominantly Tudor style. One of Cedar Fairmount's oldest buildings, The Alcazar, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic district has attracted many long-term businesses and professionals, and on May 14, 6-7:30 p.m., the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District will honor the longest-tenured among them—those that have called the district home for 25 years or more—with a Celebration of Spring at Nighttown.

The businesses and professionals to be honored are:

- Bridgestone Firestone, 85 years

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- Nighttown Restaurant, 50 years
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- Jack Valancy Consulting, 35 years
- Mad Greek Restaurant, 34 years
- Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, 32 years
- Dr. Maureen Kriek, 31 years
- Reflections, 30 years
- Abstract Hair Salon, 30 years
- JPMorgan Chase Bank, 27 years
- Stan Harris Insurance, 27 years
- Roth Stanley & Associates Therapy Practice, 27 years
- Dr. Terry Tobias, 25 years

Cleveland Heights Mayor Dennis Wilcox will participate in the celebration's presentation ceremony, at 7:15 p.m.

Sponsors of the event are Jack Valancy Consulting, Howard Hanna Real Estate, Cedar Hill Sunoco, Nighttown Restaurant and the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (CFSID).

The event is open to all who reserve a spot by May 10. To make a reservation, call the CFSID office at 216-791-3172.

*Kaye Lowe is executive director of the Cedar Fairmount SID.*

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- Hanging Baskets

*\*Lowest Priced Item is Free*

**May Hours**  
Monday-Friday 8am-8pm  
Saturday 8am-6pm, Sunday 10am-5pm

**BREMEC on the Heights Garden Center**

13410 Cedar Rd.  
Cleveland Hts.  
216-932-0039  
[www.bremec.com](http://www.bremec.com)





Best New Business
Best University Heights Business
Best Cleveland Heights Business
Best Date Night Venue
Best Customer Service
Best Burger
Best Bar, Pub or Tavern
Best Place for Health & Fitness
Best Automotive Business

Best Home Repair/Maintenance Business
Best Hairstylist (individual's name and place of business)
Best Barber (individual's name and place of business)
Best Place to Enjoy a Family Outing
Best Interior Decor
Best Place to Purchase a Gift
Best African-American-Owned Business
Best Professional Service Business
Best Longstanding CH-UH Business (15+ years)
Best Restaurant
<b>Bonus Question:</b>
What New Business Would You Like to See in the Heights?

**FutureHeights**

**Cast your ballot today for Best of the Heights!**

Complete this ballot or go online to: [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org)

Deadline for ballot submission: August 31, 2015

**Please Note!**  
Voting is for Cleveland Heights and University Heights localities only.

One ballot per person.

In order for your ballot to be counted, you need to vote for at least half (10) of the ballot categories and include your name and contact information. Ballots not meeting these requirements will be considered invalid.

**Mail your ballot to:**  
FutureHeights  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Questions? Call 216-320-1423

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a business owner or operator, name of business: \_\_\_\_\_



# MOTORCARS

IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Customers for **Life.**

**Now Open Sundays For Sales & Service**

*Motorcars Honda Sales*  
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Motorcars Toyota Sales*  
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Motorcars Honda Service*  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Motorcars Toyota Service*  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Motorcars Honda & Toyota | 2950/53 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118**  
**MotorcarsCleveland.com | (216) 932-2400**