

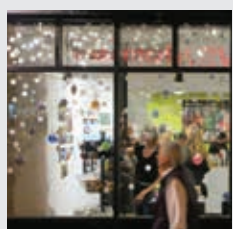
## INSIDE



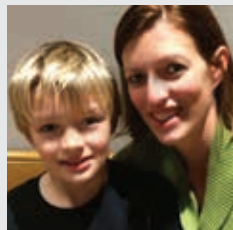
**10**  
Survey gathers ideas for Severance



**13**  
Longtime teacher Joe Mendes fulfills dream of owning summer camp



**28**  
Local artists fill Heights Arts for the holidays



**31**  
Mother and son perform in classic Christmas opera

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

## Heights merchants celebrate season with Holiday Stroll

James Henke

The holiday season is upon us, and three Cleveland Heights shopping districts are planning a celebration. On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Coventry Village, Cedar Lee and Cedar Fairmount business districts will all take part in the second-annual Holiday Stroll.

The stroll will run from noon to 8 p.m., and from 4 to 8 p.m. shoppers can hop on Lolly the Trolley, at designated stops, to travel between the three districts and partake of the activities. All of the neighborhoods will offer shopping deals, plus music, movies and other entertainment. Some bars and restaurants will offer music later in the evening.

In addition, the City of Cleveland Heights will offer free parking at all city parking meters on Dec. 12.

The old Centrum Theater in Coventry Village will show the movie “Elf,” starring Will Ferrell, Bob Newhart, Ed Asner and Zooey De-



Lolly the Trolley will run between the three districts from 4 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 12.

schanel, at 2 p.m., and the Gateway Heights Church will provide free drinks, popcorn and other snacks during the free movie showing.

“The Santa Clause,” which stars Tim Allen, will be shown at 1 p.m. (free showing) at the Alcazar in the Cedar Fairmount district, and the Cedar Lee Theatre will screen “A Christmas Story” at 10 a.m. (\$1 admission).

The BottleHouse Brewery on Lee Road will present “The Nightmare Before Christmas” at 8 p.m.

Several of the restaurants and businesses in the Cedar Lee neighborhood will feature live music throughout the day, including the Social Room, Parnell’s Pub and Heights Arts.

*continued on page 9*

## CH teen’s music is attracting national attention



Fox 8 Cleveland’s Wayne Dawson (from left) interviewing Heights senior Brycen Hunt and Malcolm White, who have performed together.

James Henke

Malcolm White is only 15 years old, but he is already attracting the attention of some major figures in the music world. White, who lives in Cleveland Heights, is a singer who uses the name Malcupnext. His first single, “This Feeling,” is available on iTunes and Spotify, and the video for the song, which was filmed at Heights High, has been aired on MTV.

White said he has been singing since he was a toddler. “I started singing in church,” he said. “Then I started joining the choirs in school. I always

listened to a lot of music, and I was really into R&B and gospel. When I was 13, I started listening to more pop and hip-hop.” When he was five years old, White got involved with the Heights Youth Theatre. The first play he appeared in was “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” and when he was 11 years old, he starred in “The Wiz.”

His music and videos are on his website, [www.malcupnext.com](http://www.malcupnext.com), and on Instagram and Twitter. Earlier this year, Big Boi—the rapper, songwriter and record producer who is perhaps best-known for his work with the

*continued on page 8*

## CH Council Member Jeff Coryell announces resignation

Deanna Bremer Fisher

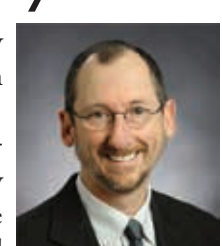
Cleveland Heights Council Member Jeff Coryell announced his resignation from council, effective Dec. 31, at the Cleveland Heights Council Committee of the Whole meeting on Nov. 9.

“I will be stepping down from city council effective the end of 2015 so that I can move to Detroit and be reunited with my spouse, Phyllis L. Crocker, who was appointed Dean of the School of Law at University of Detroit Mercy in early 2014,” said Coryell.

Coryell will have completed two years of a four-year term on Cleve-

land Heights City Council that began in January 2014.

“This decision was extremely difficult because I love Cleveland Heights and consider it my true home, especially since my 21 years of residence here is far longer than any other place I have lived,” he said. “Sadly, however, no place can long be a happy home for me when my wife and I do not live there together. It has been a delight to reside here and a great honor



Cleveland Heights Council Member Jeff Coryell.

and privilege to serve this wonderful community on council over the past two years, but the time has come for me to step down and move on.”

Coryell had been active with many community groups prior to his election to council. He had served as a board member for both FutureHeights and Reaching Heights, and as a steering committee member for Sustainable Heights Network. He was the founder of Heights Community Garden Network, which is now called Growing Heights. He had also served as president of the Cleveland Heights Democrats.

*continued on page 8*

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

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life. 2843 Washington Blvd. #105, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216-320-1423 Copyright 2015 FutureHeights, All rights reserved. Reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

PUBLISHER

Deanna Bremer Fisher  
[dbfisher@futureheights.org](mailto:dbfisher@futureheights.org)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Sergio Inglis  
[city.editor@heightsobserver.org](mailto:city.editor@heightsobserver.org)

E-NEWS EDITOR

Andrea C. Turner  
[act\\_one@sbcglobal.net](mailto:act_one@sbcglobal.net)

ADVERTISING

Bob Rosenbaum  
216-401-9342  
[brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org](mailto:brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Patti Carlisle, Susan Christopher Riethmiller, Greg Donley, Judith Eugene, James Henke, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Richard Stewart, Andrea C. Turner

EDITORS

Jamison Babb, Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Christine Brucker, Daniel Budin, David Budin, Greg Donley, Eleanor Mallet, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Clare Taft

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Temma Collins, Diane Roberto

DISTRIBUTION

Hannah Baldwin

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the *Heights Observer*, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

Seed funding for the *Heights Observer* generously provided by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, the Dominion Foundation, and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation. Powered by the 9th Estate.

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 January issue must be submitted by Dec. 7. 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.

After the tax increase: An agenda for CH City Hall

Bob Rosenbaum

Congratulations Cleveland Heights. We've voted ourselves a tax increase.

I happen to believe it was the smart thing to do. But here's a message for the city manager, members of city council, and all the rest of us, as residents, who are responsible for keeping them focused: The successful campaign buys us time, but it doesn't solve our real problems.

It doesn't change the fact that:

- Cleveland Heights is perceived by many across the region as a place to avoid—either to visit or live.
- Our city government is considered by many to be bureaucratic and frustrating.
- It's an expensive place to live and work.
- The population is still declining.
- Cleveland Heights is fighting to stand its ground amid rising waters, when it should be fighting to occupy higher, dryer and better ground.

Most of us have made a choice to live here for a variety of reasons that together create a quality of life you can only find in an old, inner-ring suburb. But old suburbs are expensive. Water lines rust, sewers crumble, homes need to be repaired, schools need to be reconfigured . . .

The truth is that we've been losing ground for years in the effort to maintain quality of life here. When I was a kid, city employees rode scooters to bring your garbage to the curb each week—as they still do

in neighboring communities.

Until the last recession, we had an animal control officer who would respond to calls about skunks and raccoons and stray dogs.

We had two swimming pools, multiple leaf pickups, four fire stations. Over the years, we've given up dozens of amenities in the effort to manage costs. We barely miss most of them, but at some point you realize the amenities matter, too.

I'm not calling for a return of backyard garbage pickup. The point I'm trying to make is that the tax increase we just passed doesn't change the trajectory. It merely puts off the next round of cuts—which were inevitable even before Gov. Kasich balanced Ohio's budget on the backs of cities.

But we can change this. Across the nation, inner-ring suburbs like Cleveland Heights are being rediscovered—hailed as the frontier of "new urbanism." Everything we have to offer—population density, high-quality homes, walkability, diversity, access to population centers—is a hallmark of areas that are once again cool, desirable and investment-grade.

We already have active move-

*continued on page 3*



This article originally appeared as a blog at [blogs.heightsobserver.org](http://blogs.heightsobserver.org), where it attracted many comments. To view the original blog, and comments, use the QR code or visit the *Observer's* blog site.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
**FRESH FRASER FIRS**  
3630 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118

**(216)932-7480**

CHURCH PARKING LOT

6FT TO 10FT PREMIUM GRADE  
**CHRISTMAS TREES**

FROM THE HILLS OF BOONE  
NORTH CAROLINA

UNBELIEVABLE PRICES!!

**\$60 - \$85**

OPEN DAILY STARTING NOVEMBER 21ST  
11:00 AM - 8:30 PM

**WE WILL  
DELIVER**



NORTH UNION FARMERS MARKET  
EVERY SATURDAY  
AT SHAKER SQUARE  
[NORTHUNIONFARMERSMARKET.ORG](http://NORTHUNIONFARMERSMARKET.ORG)



EAT *Local*  
YEAR ROUND.



TAX INCREASE continued from page 2

ments, led by high-quality nonprofits, that attract new urbanists—sustainability, fair housing, bicycling, community-building, arts, public education. The people who seek cities like Cleveland Heights aren't necessarily looking for cheap living; they'll pay the taxes to live in the right place.

But being that right place isn't just a function of a city's age and location. To attract more than a trickle of visitors, home buyers and businesses requires our leaders in City Hall to step out of crisis mode, where they've been stuck since at least 2009, and start occupying that higher ground.

Here's the agenda for a 21st-century Cleveland Heights:

**Stop scaring visitors away.**

People from beyond our adjacent communities tend to avoid Cleveland Heights from fear that they'll either be mugged or ticketed. I've written about this a lot, and since educating myself about policing in the city, my thoughts on what to do about it have evolved. But the problem remains unchanged.

Solutions exist and they've been talking about some of them in City Hall. But improvements cost money, and they need to be applied holistically—not just solving one problem at a time, but working together to making the city a destination. For instance:

- Parking meters that allow payment by credit card and smart phone.
- Restructuring time limits on meters in key parking lots, so people can pay for their entire visit without, say, leaving in the middle of a movie at Cedar Lee to feed the meter.

- Take parking enforcement away from the police department. Assign the job instead to a small group of parking enforcement officers dressed in any color other than blue. People will still complain about the tickets, but they won't be able to make the case the police are doing the wrong work.

**Increase transparency.**

There is a pervasive mistrust of City Hall that is out of place in a community of this size. I don't believe it's because of corruption or mismanagement. It has been earned over years of calcified management.

But if you haven't noticed, we've turned over the entire leadership of our city in the last four or five years. The people who earned this reputation aren't in charge anymore. So now's the moment at City Hall to proactively and aggressively root out old cultural habits that still exist—unnecessary executive sessions, unanimous council votes on controversial issues, administrators who would rather say no than risk supporting innovation, etc.

These aren't easy changes to make, so it's up to residents to insist—with civility, because we're all on the same side—that city leaders get it done.

**Be easy to do business with.**

For every business owner who enjoys working with the city (and there are some), many others will tell you it's dogmatic, dictatorial, mercurial and frustrating. The city's last two economic development directors have come and gone without making a mark. I don't know if it's because they didn't know what to do, or because they were stonewalled by the old

culture in trying to make it easier for businesses to set up and operate here. But we need to fix it.

**Reinvigorate housing investments.**

Our housing department fights to maintain an old housing stock while defending against absentee landlords and unscrupulous real-estate flippers. But the policies employed to do this also make it uneconomical for the right kind of investors to work here.

I spoke at length with a guy who rehabs houses for a living. He does high-end work and saved a beautiful home in my neighborhood from rotting in foreclosure. Regulations here required him to tie up about \$75,000 in cash for most of a year. It took another six months to sell the house. "There are a dozen homes here I'd like to do," he told me. "But . . . there are other places where I can do the same work without tying up all my cash."

I don't have a solution, but protecting our housing stock even while welcoming the right kind of real estate investment needs to be high on the agenda.

**Shape up our public schools.**

This is not City Hall's responsibility, but it's a problem for the city. Young families won't move here for a school district that doesn't have a great reputation. Ours doesn't. All of my children have gone through the public schools here and have received a fine education. The facilities project that's underway should create schools that look like a place you want to send your kids.

At the same time, I've seen five or six superintendents during my children's journey through the district—and just as many educational

visions. I've seen administrators' heads spin as they reinvent entire curricula on the fly. We don't need a STEM district, or an International Baccalaureate district or an arts district; we need a good, urban school district that is exceptional in its management, accountable to the community, and exciting to parents of young children.

**Promote our assets.**

Cleveland Heights is home to the most vibrant art community in Ohio. Some of the region's most admired personalities live here—from celebrity chefs to musicians to architects to novelists to academic stars. It is a city of diversity, of culture, of ideas, of action. It has nightlife and neighborhoods, independent businesses and innovative nonprofits.

So why do we allow our city to be defined by negative stories from drive-by journalists? Why are we passive in telling the world what Cleveland Heights is all about? We need to invest in our own reputation. Other cities do it all the time.

Instead, we let people think our city is beleaguered. Maybe it is.

But it's less so than before we voted for an income tax increase. As I said, that bought us time. City Hall's challenge is to use that time well, by leading us to higher ground.

*Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is co-chairman of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development. The perspective expressed here is his own. The Heights Observer does not take editorial positions.*

yoga roots™

yoga | barre | kids yoga | restorative

**NEW STUDENTS**  
First Week  
Unlimited Yoga  
**\$20**

 **www.yogaroots.com**  
3459 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Hts, OH  
(behind Paysage)

## Geraci's Restaurant

As seen on  
Diners,  
Drive-ins  
and Dives

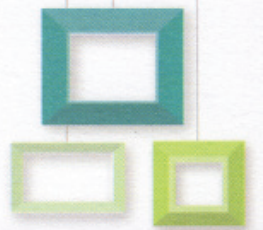
2266 Warrensville Center Road  
University Heights, Ohio 44118  
216 371-5643  
216 382-5333 *Award winning pizza*  
[www.geracisrestaurant.net](http://www.geracisrestaurant.net)

## HEIGHTS FRAME & ART

### Custom Picture Framing

2243 Warrensville Center Road  
University Heights, Ohio 44118  
216-371-3711

[heightsframe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heightsframe@sbcglobal.net)



Protect your family.

Prepare for their future.

Betsy Warner, Agent  
2491 Lee Blvd  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
Bus: 216-932-6900  
[betsy@betsywarner.com](mailto:betsy@betsywarner.com)

I can help with both.

Stop by for your free State Farm Insurance and Financial Review®. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®  
CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.



1001386.1

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

*Celebrate  
the Season*



**FRESH CUT TREES**

**WREATHS • ARRANGEMENTS**

**HOLIDAY DÉCOR • UNIQUE GIFTS**

**AMARYLLIS • PAPERWHITES • POINSETTIAS**

**BREMEC**  
*on the Heights*  
Garden Center

Home & Garden  
SHOWPLACE®

**DECEMBER HOURS:**

**MON-FRI 10AM-7PM • SAT 9AM-6PM • SUN 10AM-5PM**  
**DECEMBER 24 10AM-2PM • DECEMBER 26-30 10AM-5PM**  
**CLOSED DECEMBER 25, 31 & JANUARY 1**

**13410 CEDAR ROAD • 216-932-0039 • [WWW.BREMEC.COM](http://WWW.BREMEC.COM)**

## CH-UH schools to offer more wrap-around services

Ari Klein

When I was growing up in Cleveland Heights in the 1960s, I remember that Taylor Elementary was not only a school my older siblings attended, but also a place where the Cub Scouts met, I attended summer day camp, and my family played volleyball one night a week.

Students and families in the CH-UH public schools have access to a treasure trove of services outside of the normal curriculum, including after-school programs, partnerships with community agencies, referrals to health and mental health services, free- or reduced-price lunch programs through the federal government, and countless others.

On Oct. 28, Superintendent Dixon and I took a small team of community members and district staff to Columbus, to learn how Cincinnati has coordinated “wrap-around” services into its schools. Cincinnati has been working for the last dozen years on creating partnerships that serve each [school] building’s unique needs. These coordinated efforts are called Community Learning Centers (CLC), or wrap-around services.

We listened to CLC coordinators, a board member, the president of the teachers union, and some of the partners who work in the schools, to learn how these learning centers have evolved in Cincinnati and how they have helped make public schools hubs for each community.

I was struck by how far along CH-UH is toward realizing the benefits of having CLCs. What we need to do is coordinate our efforts and be much more intentional about how we decide what services are needed and offered at our various school buildings.

Those of us who attended the Oct. 28 meeting will hold a debriefing in November, after this article is written. My hope is that we can start to have deep conversations about how CLCs would look in CH-UH. CLCs can include all sorts of different services, such as enrichment, tutoring, medical and eye

exams, mental health professionals, adult classes and more. CH-UH has a few of these types of services, but tailoring the services to the needs of the building, and having someone at the building responsible for coordinating services, makes so much sense.

Many like-minded educators and community leaders around Ohio saw a need for a statewide CLC initiative. During this past legislative season, the Ohio Federation of Teachers helped craft and support the Community Learning Centers House Bill 70, which had widespread support and passed both chambers with amendments. During the conference committee meetings to find resolution between these two versions of the bill, there was a last-minute 60-page amendment added that allows for a state takeover of school systems deemed ineffective for a period of time—mostly based on test scores.

This is the basis of legal challenges for the state takeover of Youngstown City Schools in October. This is also the basis of the CH-UH Board of Education’s resolution against this egregious part of HB 70. How CLCs got lost in this amendment is beyond understanding. What started out as a bill that promised support in creating and refining services turned into something that school districts like ours, Youngstown’s, Lorain’s, and others that serve high-poverty populations, will fear—a loss of local control by a state that can barely run itself.

Members of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union will likely hold few of the potential positions in CLCs, but we are strong advocates of these types of services for our students and their families. We know that we will have a better chance of teaching students if other important aspects of their lives are supported. Try teaching a child to read when he has a dental infection, needs glasses, or has not eaten in several days. It just does not work. The concept of wrap-around services is an old one—the school is a hub of the community where families and community come together. Schools are community assets that should be accessible to more people for extended hours, offering a safe place, with a library, meeting rooms, a gymnasium, and other resources. It is time we back away from the narrow test-test-test focus that schools have had forced on them by an unreasonable “accountability” system, and broaden our reach to the whole child and family in building a stronger community.

*Ari Klein is a lifelong community member, math teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, and president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union.*

**Experience the  
Atma Center  
Difference!**



**30 DAYS UNLIMITED YOGA  
& BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP  
\$59  
(NEW LOCAL STUDENTS ONLY)**

**2319 Lee Road, Cleveland  
Hts. 44118  
(216) 371-9760  
[www.atmacenter.com](http://www.atmacenter.com)**





More stories online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)



**WOOD  
TRADER  
FRAMING**

13429 Cedar Road  
Cleveland Heights  
216-397-7671  
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5

woodtraderframing.com

## Need the perfect gift?

We can frame almost anything – artwork, photos, memorabilia, jewelry and all your other treasures

**Save \$20 on framing over \$100**  
(One discount per visit)



**Buy Local**



The Fairmount Cocktail Bar  
2448 Fairmount Boulevard  
Cleveland Heights | 229.9463

## Christmas eve SERVICE

4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service AND  
**LIVE NATIVITY**

11:00 p.m.

candlelight service,  
**CHANCEL choir, BELL choir**  
AND String quartet

Rev. Judy Wismar Claycomb  
Lead Pastor



*Church of the Saviour*  
2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights  
216.321.8880 [www.chsaviour.org](http://www.chsaviour.org)

## JCU football player David Porter earns national award for community service

Andrea Simon

On Oct. 29, a large group gathered at John Carroll University (JCU) to surprise defensive lineman David Porter with an Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® trophy—a national award and a prestigious off-the-field honor.

Porter arrived at Don Shula Stadium under the assumption that he was attending a typical football practice in preparation for the weekend's game against Muskingum University.

Shortly after the team warm-up, however, Coach Tom Arth asked the team to take a knee as representatives from Allstate and JCU; the Blue Streaks mascot, Lobo; and family [and] friends all stormed the field to surprise Porter.

The event was orchestrated to present Porter with his Allstate AFCA Good Works Team trophy, honoring his outstanding community service involvement.

Coach Arth kicked off the surprise with a few words about Porter's strong leadership on and off the field, and Richard Prude, local Allstate agency owner, presented Porter with his trophy. Mike Cleary, emeritus executive director of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, was also present.

Porter is one of 22 college football players from across the country to



David Porter, JCU defensive lineman, celebrates his Allstate AFCA Good Works Team trophy at a surprise event on Oct. 29.

be named to the 2015 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team.

He is the first-ever JCU Blue Streak to be named to the team in the award's 24-year history.

*Andrea Simon is a representative for Allstate's AFCA Good Works Team program.*

## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 19, 2015

All council members were present.

### Leaf season

Leaf pickup has begun. The same trucks are used for leaf collection and snow removal.

### County public health services

Council approved the Cuyahoga County Board of Health 2016 contract for public health services in an amount not to exceed \$53,073. This rate is calculated on a per-person rate of \$3.92, which is unchanged from last year. The rate is standard for all cities that use the county board's services, which include home visits to newborns, restaurant inspections, travel clinics, lead paint exposure and rabies control.

### Sewer camera system

Council accepted the \$9,800 quote from Jack Doheny Companies for a lateral sewer camera system with locator. This is for a small Viewtech camera, which can be pushed into

a sewer line for inspections, is self-leveling, and includes a locator to show where the camera is within the pipe. Viewtech was the optimal camera for the need, and Jack Doheny is the local distributor. Previously, an outside contractor was used to inspect sewers, or the pipe was dug up if the obstruction couldn't be identified. Savings in outside contractors and unnecessary digging will offset the cost of the camera.

### Sanitary and storm sewer systems

City Engineer Joe Ciuni, along with Service Director Jeff Pokorny, will be attending a meeting of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) to learn about the upcoming study of the sanitary and storm sewer systems for the Heights/Hilltop Interceptor sewer. The goal is to find ways to keep stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer system. Councilman Steven Sims expressed concern regarding the high cost of the external study, as well as the probable improvement costs that are likely to be borne by the local communities in spite of extensive rate increases by the sewer district. Councilman Mark Wiseman asked Ciuni to find out if the district was considering green methods for water abatement instead of just laying more pipe.

### Council committee meetings

The building committee will be meeting to discuss the issue of the backyard day camps. The civic affairs committee will meet this week to discuss possible changes to the city's legislation regarding women and minority business contracts.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

No observer was available to report on this meeting.

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

See disclaimer on page 18.

## MAC'S BACKS BOOKSTORE

MACSBACKS.COM 216-321-2665 1820 COVENTRY RD. CLV HTS

AUTHOR TALKS,  
WRITING WORKSHOPS,  
LECTURES, BOOK  
CLUBS, FREE COMMUNITY  
MEETING SPACE,  
LOCAL AUTHORS,  
POETRY READINGS,  
SPECIAL EVENTS,  
GREETING CARDS,  
JOURNALS, SPECIAL  
ORDERS, AND OVER  
35,000 NEW AND USED  
BOOKS!



★TRADE IN YOUR BOOKS★

UPCOMING  
Events

SAT, DEC 12th ALL DAY!  
**Coventry Village  
Holiday Festival**  
FREE gift wrap & personal  
shopping assistance  
★ at Mac's Backs! ★  
More info  
[coventryvillage.org](http://coventryvillage.org)

# Elected officials comment on Nov. 3 results

Andrea C. Turner

On Nov. 3, Cleveland Heights voters approved Issue 53—raising the city's income tax to 2.25 percent, from 2 percent—with 59.59 percent (7,573) voting in favor. The ordinance goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2016, to support general municipal functions and replace revenue lost through cuts by the State of Ohio.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Dennis Wilcox, who did not seek re-election, stated, "I am thankful to the city's voters for passing Issue 53; it's gratifying to know people understood the issue and are willing to invest in our future. This is a victory for our [city] and for the people here. The city can continue to provide the quality of services that citizens deserve."

Wilcox added, "Council still has to be a good guardian of taxpayers' money, and must work to try to expand the tax base through business development and housing."

Wilcox's term expires Dec. 31; he announced in late July that he would not run for re-election. He has served

four consecutive four-year terms on council, and was elected president of council—mayor of Cleveland Heights—in 2014. In Cleveland Heights, city council members elect the city council president.

Mary Dunbar, an incumbent Cleveland Heights City Council member, received the largest share of the vote—26.17 percent—in her successful bid for re-election.

"Voters with passionate political views played a more active role in the city council election this time than has been the case in the past," said Dunbar. "My personal view is that, at the municipal level of government, we are mostly dealing with ensuring the most cost-effective basic services we can to meet the needs of the community, including police, fire, EMS, road repairs, garbage and leaf pickup, removal of snow from roadways, recreational programs, and so on. These should not be particularly partisan issues."

She added, "Passage of Issue 53 was far more important than my candidacy. Passing this issue was imperative to maintaining basic city services

and financial stability. Our firefighters made an amazing commitment to the campaign; they took a lot of their own personal time to make the case to voters, going door-to-door, serving on phone banks and much more. I have always been impressed by the dedication of our firefighters—now more than ever."

Carol Roe, newly elected to Cleveland Heights City Council, received the second largest share of the votes, 22.78 percent, behind Dunbar, and ahead of Kahlil Seren, who garnered 19.47 percent. Seren has served on council since February 2015, when he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Janine Boyd upon her election to the Ohio State legislature.

"I found campaigning for city council exhilarating," said Roe. "I learned so much from studying the issues to be prepared for candidate forums and interacting with voters. I was thrilled by my win, but also humbled by the number of people who helped me. One of my goals is to look for ways to enhance communication between our citizens and government, so that we may together move the city forward."

In University Heights, where three candidates ran for four open council seats, voters elected newcomer Michele Weiss and incumbents Pamela T. Cameron and Steven Sims. According to the city charter,

University Heights City Council will have 30 days to fill the council vacancy, after Jan. 1, 2016. If it does not, the mayor is responsible for the appointment. Council began accepting letters of interest and resumes to fill the council vacancy beginning Nov. 5; the deadline for applying was Nov. 19.

In addition to council members, Heights voters elected two new members to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education: James Posch and Beverly R. Wright. Both Posch and Wright were elected to four-year terms.

Board members Eric Coble and Nancy Pepler did not run for re-election; each served two four-year terms since being elected in 2007.

Posch, who garnered the most votes (41.34 percent), thanked the community for its support: "This was a big win and we worked really hard. But the real work is ahead of us. We have many challenges to address, but we have many things going for us. We're in the middle of a world-class facilities upgrade project and our superintendent is a great leader. I'm looking forward to serving and working hard to bring excellence to this district—excellence our students and community deserve."

*Andrea C. Turner is the Heights Observer e-news editor.*

## Cleveland Heights voters approve tax increase; elect Carol Roe to city council

Kim Sergio Inglis

In the Nov. 3 general election, Cleveland Heights voters approved an additional .25 percent income tax (Issue 53), with 59.59 percent (7,573) voting in favor of the increase, and 40.41 percent (5,135) voting against it. The increase raises the city income tax rate from 2 percent to 2.25 percent.

Cleveland Heights voters elected three council members, out of a field of six candidates. They re-elected Mary Dunbar to CH City Council, and elected Kahlil Seren and Carol Roe. Seren, who had previously been appointed to council (in February 2015), to serve out the unexpired term vacated by former council member Janine Boyd, was elected with 5,080 votes. Dunbar received 6,827 votes, and Roe garnered 5,943.

In University Heights, where three candidates were running for four open council seats, the results were: Michele Weiss, 1,332 votes; Pamela T. Cameron, 1,138 votes; and Steven Sims, 1,093 votes.

Both Cameron and Sims currently serve on UH City Council. According to UH City Charter, UH City Council will have 30 days to fill the council vacancy, after Jan. 1, 2016. If it does not, the mayor is responsible for the appointment.

Heights voters also elected two candidates—James Posch, and Beverly R. Wright—to serve on the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education, out of a field of three.

Posch received 7,339 votes (41.34 percent), and Wright received 5,397 (30.40 percent), narrowly edging out candidate Katura Simmons, who

received 5,015 (28.25 percent) votes.

Cuyahoga County voters overwhelmingly approved renewal of Issue 8, the county tax on cigarettes which provides arts funding to county arts programs and organizations, including many based here in the Heights. Issue 8 passed with 75.26 percent of the vote.

Election results for Heights candidates and issues are as follows:

**Issue 53:** 7,573 (59.59 percent) for / 5,135 (40.41 percent) opposed

**CH City Council** (\* three elected):

\*Mary Dunbar - 6,827 (26.17 percent)  
\*Carol Roe - 5,943 (22.78 percent)  
\*Kahlil Seren - 5,080 (19.47 percent)  
Julie Love - 3,532 (13.54 percent)  
T. Nadas - 2,380 (9.12 percent)  
Keba Sylla - 2,330 (8.93 percent)

**UH City Council** (\* three elected; four open seats)

\*Michele Weiss - 1,332 (37.38 percent)  
\*Pamela T. Cameron - 1,138 (31.94 percent)  
\*Steven Sims - 1,093 (30.68 percent)

**CH-UH BOE** (\* two elected):

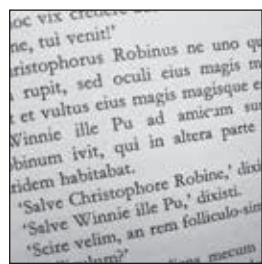
\*James Posch - 7,339 (41.34 percent)  
\*Beverly R. Wright - 5,397 (30.40 percent)  
Katura Simmons - 5,015 (28.25 percent)

To view a complete list of election results, visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website, [www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us).

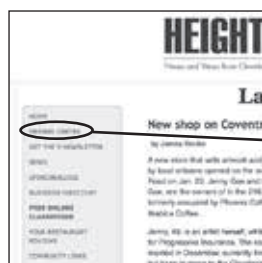
*Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.*

## Observe!

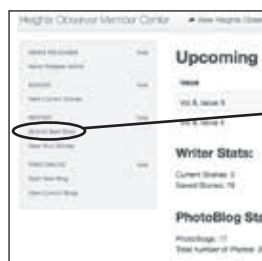
Submitting an article to the *Heights Observer* is a piece of cake!



1. The *Heights Observer* is written by people like you. So **write something**. Use a computer.



2. **Register/log in** at the Member Center ([www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)).



3. After logging in, click the **Submit New Story** button in the left-hand column (Don't see it? It's nested under "Writer"). Then follow the prompts. Hint: keep your original file open so you can easily copy and paste into the text box.



4. **Reward yourself**; you're about to be published. We'll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.

JEFF CORYELL continued from page 1

# Cleveland Heights City Council

## Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 19, 2015

Council Member Mary Dunbar was absent.

### Public comments

**Home-based businesses:** Jason Boarde of Yorkshire Road, owner of Burnt Toast Farms and Studio, asked council to consider revising the city code to reflect current values of the community regarding home-based businesses. He referred to “regressive” sections of the city code that prohibit business in a yard and that regulate hours, employees, parking and other aspects. Resident Steve Warner, who would like to start a home-schooling support and tutoring business in his home, also asked council to look at the current rules. He feels that respectful, unique home businesses could contribute to community pride and image. Tom Gibson of Wilton Road supported the previous two speakers, praising their creativity. Gibson, who noted his history with multiple civic organizations and boards, and who currently runs the Oxford Permaculture gardening project, said that the main hope for the future lies with artisans.

**Boulevard Neighbors:** On behalf of Boulevard Neighbors, Paul Greenberg of Euclid Heights Boulevard commended the city for street improvements and cleanup of debris in that neighborhood. He also commended the fire department for swift containment of a house fire on Colonial Drive. However, he pointed out that 3344 Beachwood Ave., long slated for demolition, still stands.

### Liquor license opposed

Council passed a motion opposing an application to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control for a new permit for Art Petroleum, 2603 Noble Road. Council Member Jason Stein, who made the motion, noted that Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson objects because the neighborhood has been saturated with existing permits. Council Member Jeff Coryell also noted that residents of the neighborhood are sensitive to the number of businesses serving alcohol there.

### NeuroWave loan

Council authorized a second amendment to

the Commercial Revolving Loan Agreement with NeuroWave Systems Inc. The city had authorized an addendum to this agreement on April 3, 2013, which extended the term of the agreement from 60 months to 84 months in exchange for a personal guarantee on the loan of \$30,000 by NeuroWave’s chief officer. The company now requests that the agreement be amended again so that payment for the balance due may extend over the term of 10 years, rather than a single lump sum, in exchange for payment of principal and interest at an interest rate of 1 percent. The loan would no longer be a forgivable loan.

### County public health services

Council renewed the agreement with the Cuyahoga County General Health District for public health services to the city and its residents at a fee of \$180,794 for one year, commencing Jan. 1, 2016. These services have been in place for many years. The cost will be the same as the previous three years.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

All council members were present.

### Public comments

**Noble neighborhood and litter:** Resident Gail Larson spoke representing Noble Neighbors, an organization working to improve its neighborhood. Current issues include vacant and neglected homes and litter; loose *Plain Dealer* advertisement packets especially concern her. Mayor Dennis Wilcox said that the city manager and law director have taken steps to try to solve this problem all over the city. The *Plain Dealer* has claimed a first amendment right to distribute this literature.

### Nuisance code changes

Council amended the city code chapter for nuisance abatement to correct or eliminate issues in the current code. Mayor Wilcox thanked Law Director Jim Juliano and his staff for making the ordinance easier to understand and “giving it more teeth.”

### Nuisance properties

Council declared six vacant properties to be nuisances and authorized abatement. Except

for the last property listed below, funds for demolition will come from the county:

- 3812 Delmore Road, which has had violation citations since 2009.
- 2252 Oakdale Road, with numerous violations since 2012.
- 3554 Randolph Road, with numerous violations since 2009.
- 926 Helmsdale Road, with numerous violations since 2011. The owners are deceased.
- 14586 Superior Road, both vacant and uninhabitable, with no water usage since 2004.
- 1687 Colonial Drive, which is structurally unsound and hazardous due to severe damage from a fire on Sept. 30. Immediate demolition is requested with hope that the cost of demolition can be recovered from insurance proceeds due to the owner.

Council Member Mary Dunbar noted that about 50 demolitions are expected during 2015, the same as in 2014.

### CDBG funds

Council authorized submission of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding application for the year beginning Jan. 1, 2016. Details may be found at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com) concerning the plans to disperse \$14 million in 2016.

### HRRC agreement

Council authorized an agreement with the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), a nonprofit corporation, for the use of HOME Funds to administer its down-payment-assistance loan program. Up to \$10,000 will be made available to loan.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Please note: YouTube videos of Cleveland Heights City Council meetings may be accessed at [youtube.com/clevelandheightsoh](http://youtube.com/clevelandheightsoh).

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

See disclaimer on page 18.

“Through his leadership, Jeff has brought many areas of the community together,” said Richard Stewart, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors. “Most recently, he’s been involved with the formation of the Heights Community Development Alliance, a group of residents and merchants who are working to market the city and fill storefront vacancies. His leadership will be missed.”

“Although we are a great and unique city, and I am confident that we have a very bright future, I also am aware that our community faces significant challenges and I deeply regret that I will not continue to be a part of working to overcome them in the coming years,” said Coryell. “I want to thank the many friends, neighbors, colleagues and constituents who have made living here and representing this community on city council a wonderful and rewarding experience.”

According to the city’s charter, Cleveland Heights City Council must appoint someone to fill Coryell’s unexpired term. Vice Mayor Cheryl Stephens said that although council has not yet decided on a timeline, it will solicit applications for the position. “We are looking for someone who loves Cleveland Heights as much we do,” said Stephens. “someone who values diversity and who will work toward the best future for our community.”

Whomever council chooses to fill the vacancy will serve the two years of the unexpired term. The seat will be up for election in the next municipal election, which will take place in November 2017.

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

TEEN continued from page 1

band Outkast—saw White on the Internet and contacted him. Big Boi flew White down to Atlanta this summer, and they recorded seven songs. He then signed White to his new label, Camp Purple, making him the first artist signed to the label.

“It’s a feel-good song,” Big Boi said about “This Feeling” in a story about White that appeared in *Rolling Stone* magazine. “It reminds me of a young Michael Jackson or New Edition. There aren’t any kid artists that are being kids that are really soulful. Everybody wants to be grown. Everything doesn’t have to be raunchy or too adult. We want his music to

reflect the adolescent stage that he’s going through right now.”

White’s second single, “I Got a Lot of It,” is due to be released before the end of the year. He and Big Boi hope to complete an album soon, as well.

*Vibe* magazine has also published an article about White. He has appeared on two local television stations, Fox 8 and WKYC, and his music can be heard on the local radio station Z 107.9-F.M.

“All of this happened accidentally,” White’s mother, Jamie White, said. “We weren’t trying to promote him. But the videos on the Internet went viral, and suddenly everyone was approaching us.” White has 203,000

followers on Instagram and 37,000 followers on Twitter.

White has also been making more and more live appearances. This past Labor Day weekend, he performed at the Summer Jam at Quicken Loans Arena. He also sang the national anthem at a Cleveland Gladiators game at the Q. And he is scheduled to sing the national anthem, as well as one of his own songs, at the third-annual Cleveland Rocks New Year’s Eve Celebration, which will be held at Public Auditorium.

White is being home-schooled, but is involved in several programs at Heights High, including those of the Vocal Music Department. How

does he feel about Cleveland Heights? “I love the city,” he said, “and I look forward to performing live on New Year’s Eve.” He loves the fact that he has been able to accomplish so much in his life, and said, “I want teens to reach for their dreams and be up next in whatever they want to do—sing, act, play sports, whatever.”

*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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.*

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever.”\*

Beauty you can taste.

\*We’re sure Keats would have agreed.

A Cleveland Heights  
Holiday Tradition for 76 Years

*Mitchell's*  
FINE CHOCOLATES  
since 1939



2285 Lee Road • 216.932.3200  
[www.mitchellschocolates.com](http://www.mitchellschocolates.com)



**Brennan's Colony**  
2299 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

**Voted ‘Best of the Heights’**

**[brennanscolony.com](http://brennanscolony.com)**  
**216.371.1010**

## FutureHeights takes on new grassroots economic development effort as official program

Jinida Doba

The FutureHeights Board of Directors voted in October to make a newly formed Cleveland Heights community and economic development group one of its official programs.

The group, the Heights Community Development Alliance (HCDA), was formed out of an effort to gather merchants, institutions and residents in the Cedar Lee area to discuss ways to strengthen relationships to promote economic vitality and quality of life in the business district.

HCDA plans to operate with a citywide focus, but is initially concentrating in the Cedar Lee Business District to develop successful programs that can then be rolled out to other areas.

HCDA will initially focus on three core areas: cross-promoting Cleveland Heights events; marketing Cleveland Heights to outsiders and residents; and economic development, primarily around commercial vacancies.

The organizational priorities of HCDA fall right in line with the mission of FutureHeights and its reason for being, making the decision to designate HCDA an official program of FutureHeights an easy one, said Richard Stewart, FutureHeights board president.

"The more engaged citizens working toward a common goal, the brighter future Cleveland Heights and University Heights have, so we see this new program as a strong step in that direction and toward fulfilling our mission," Stewart said.



A PROGRAM OF **FutureHeights**

"Everything we do is for Cleveland Heights and University Heights," noted Stewart, "but Cleveland Heights is the larger suburb and where (the most) business districts are located. It makes sense to initially focus efforts on areas that attract residents and sustain business owners."

The third area of concentration—commercial vacancies—is of particular interest to FutureHeights, said Executive Director Deanna Bremer Fisher. A recent FutureHeights study reported 15 commercial vacancies in Cleveland Heights's Cedar Lee Business District alone.

"FutureHeights has long had programs targeted at supporting our local economy—a shop local program, Best of the Heights, the *Heights Observer*—and has conducted two storefront vacancy studies in Cleveland Heights," she said. "Our mission is to promote a vibrant and sustainable future for the Heights, and we see the vitality of our business districts as a key part of achieving this goal. The goals of HCDA are in alignment with these strategic goals."

The group was born out of an initial gathering that took place at Cleveland Heights eatery New Heights Grill in May, which was initiated by Cleveland Heights resident Julius C. Dorsey Jr., president of Dorsey & Company, Strategic Consultants to Management.

After that, a working steering committee formed to develop a vision and mission, set organizational priorities and areas of concentration, and decide what the group would stand for.

The steering committee has been meeting weekly since the spring, and the group has presented updates to the community twice since.

Aside from Bremer Fisher and Dorsey, other subcommittee members are: Charley Bach, owner of PC Handyman and a Dorsey & Company associate; Sheryl Banks, marketing director for Heights Libraries; Sruti Basu, director of community-building programs for FutureHeights; Rachel Bernstein, executive director of Heights Arts; Tanisha Briley, city manager for the City of Cleveland Heights; Jeff Coryell, a member of Cleveland Heights City Council; David Dale of Dorsey & Company; Jinida Doba of Dorsey & Company; Lisa Dunn, owner of Revive; Adam Faller, owner of New Heights Grill; Karen Grealis of Sanctuary by Joyce; Karen Kearney, an intern with FutureHeights; Deanna Nechitilo of HERBCO; Joy Roller of WCPN; Zoraba Ross, principal of Cleveland Heights High School; and John Zagara, owner of Zagara's Marketplace and president of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District.

As he looks back on what prompted him to call the initial

gathering last spring, Dorsey credits his professional inclination to exploit competitive advantage in order to win—as he counsels his clients.

"As I walk my Cedar Lee neighborhood," Dorsey said, "it occurred to me that we have a lot to be proud of just along the Lee Road corridor alone—not to mention all of the assets in the city, like Cain Park, Coventry, Cedar Lee Theatre, Heights High, and so much more."

"There's no reason why the residents, business owners and anchor institutions can't use their collective voice to sing the praises of Cedar Lee and the city, and tell others to shop, visit or plant roots here, all the while improving the quality of life in our community."

HCDA program leadership has not yet been named, but Stewart sees great things for the city to come from the program in the long run.

"Robust economic development is critical to the long-term viability of any suburb," Stewart said. "It's our goal to partner with the city's efforts to fill storefronts, attract business and build a tax base."

The next communitywide HCDA meeting is planned for Jan. 20 at New Heights Grill.

For more information and updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/HeightsCDA>.

*Jinida Doba is an associate with Dorsey & Company Strategic Consultants to Management, a Cleveland Heights competitive and marketing strategy firm founded in 1987. Originally from Akron, Doba has called Cleveland Heights home since 2010.*

HOLIDAY STROLL continued from page 1

A deejay will perform at the BottleHouse Brewery at 9:30 p.m., and the Wine Spot will offer live music after 8 p.m. Classical Revolution Cleveland will perform at the Grog Shop on Coventry, 5:30–6:30 p.m. The group will play music from the Disney movie "Frozen" and from "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Coventry Village will offer community caroling. "Everyone can participate," said Angela Hetrick, executive director of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District. "They're going to be going door-to-door along all of the shops and restaurants on Coventry." In the Cedar Fairmount district, Cleveland Heights Church Carolers will perform, starting at 2 p.m.

Two of the neighborhoods are featuring "ugly sweater" parties, for those 21 and older. Cedar Lee's will take place at the BottleHouse Brewery starting at 9:30 p.m., with a prize going to the ugliest sweater with an 1980s theme. Coventry Village will host an "ugly holiday sweater" bar crawl starting at 8 p.m., and most of the bars along the street will offer drink specials.

Some famous and familiar holiday characters will also be coming to town on Dec. 12. Mr. Jingeling—who's been keeper of the keys to Santa's workshop since 1956, and is currently portrayed by Cleveland Heights resident



Mr. Jingeling will appear in the Cedar Lee district on Dec. 12, 5–7 p.m.

Greg Benedetto—will be in the Cedar Lee neighborhood from 5 to 7 p.m. Coventry Claus, the hippie Santa who wears a beret and has a peace sign on

his suit, will be in Coventry Village for much of the day.

The Coventry Village district will feature something new this year—a "Coventry cash" machine, 12–4 p.m. Shoppers spin a wheel, which tells them how much time they have to step into the machine and grab as much "cash" as they can. They can use the "cash"—that day only—at any of the participating locations in Coventry Village.

"We're really excited," Hetrick said. "This is always a great day in the neighborhood. It's our way of giving back to the people who love Coventry, and we're excited to spend another day with all of these families." Hetrick noted that all of the stores in Coventry Village will have special deals throughout the day, and many will offer treats for the customers.

Kaye Lowe, executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, said that many of the restaurants and stores in her neighborhood will offer refreshments, coffee and cookies throughout the day. "I think it's wonderful that there is a collaboration between the three districts that allows visitors to experience the diversity of each district in a holiday atmosphere," Lowe said. "The collaboration is fantastic." Lowe added that all of Cedar Fairmount's stores will be open until 8 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Both the Coventry Village and Cedar Fairmount districts will offer free gift wrapping for shoppers. The Coventry gift-wrapping location had not been determined at press time, but signs will be posted along the street on Dec. 12, informing shoppers where to go. In Cedar Fairmount, members of the Roxboro PTA, who will be accepting donations, will wrap gifts from noon to 4 p.m., at 12433 Cedar Road (the space formerly occupied by Four and Twenty Mercantile).

Kelley Robinson, executive director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, said she loves the event. "It promotes good cheer in our community," she said. "People can gather with their friends and family and explore the unique vibe in each of our business districts."

Many Holiday Stroll details and events were still to come, at press time. For updates, visit the websites of the three participating business districts: [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org), [www.cedarlee.org](http://www.cedarlee.org) and [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org).

*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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.*

# Residents participate in survey on future of Severance

Vince Reddy

A preliminary tally of responses to a survey undertaken in association with the recent FutureHeights community forum on the future of Severance Town Center showed results that most will not find surprising.

Of the 318 completing the survey, about one in 10 reported having attended the forum, and a slightly higher number said they watched the video of the event that is viewable at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org). Nearly 80 percent reported going to Severance at least monthly (42 percent reported going there at least weekly), and, though the focus of both the forum and the survey was the future of the retail center inside Severance Circle, both were set in the context of the entire district, which includes the struggling center and the mostly viable properties outside the circle.

More than 90 percent said they went to Severance to shop, and more than 70 percent cited government services as reasons for going there. Forty-one percent reported going there to shop for groceries at Dave's, and smaller percentages of respondents reported going there to eat, for medical services, or to bank.

More than nine of every 10 participants lived within a 10-minute drive of Severance, with about half of those living within five minutes.

Seventy-one percent agreed that

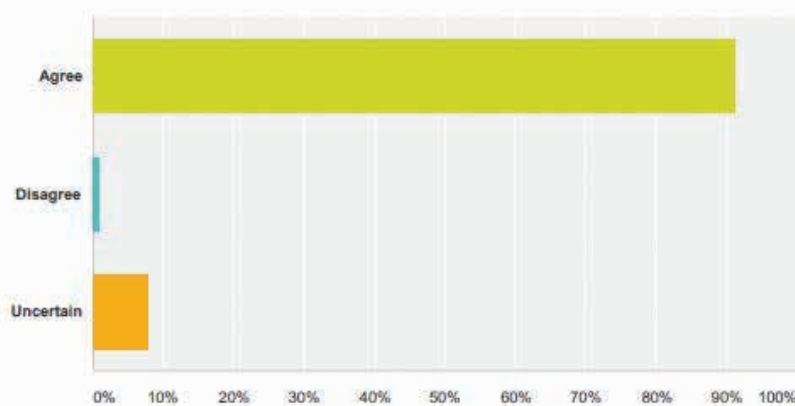


Participants share their ideas for Severance in breakout groups at the October forum.

DEANNA BREWER FISHER

## Q9 A plan for solving the problems with Severance should be included in the City Master Plan.

Answered: 314 Skipped: 7



Participants were nearly unanimous in their support of considering Severance in the city's upcoming master plan.

it was "very urgent" for the community to set a direction and state priorities for the district, with less than 2 percent saying it was not at all so. More than half of those taking the survey thought the vitality of Severance was critical to the community as a whole, and all but a handful thought it was at least somewhat critical.

In response to the question of whether the part of Severance inside Severance Circle should be reconfigured to better fit into the character of Cleveland Heights, 69 percent answered in the affirmative, though more than one in four expressed uncertainty in that regard. Fewer than 6 percent of respondents did not see the importance of Severance as a revenue generator for the city.

Most survey participants—91 percent—were in agreement with the idea of including planning for Severance in the city's master planning process, which is currently underway. Two-thirds thought public investment in partnership with a private developer would be essential for creating a positive outcome for the district, though close to 30 percent expressed uncertainty on that question.

Three open-ended questions were also included in the survey. The first queried participants on what they believed were the most promising ideas for all or part of the Sever-

*continued on page 11*

SEVERANCE continued from page 1

1995, closed them. Later that year, the anchor stores were demolished. Then, in 1998, the enclosed mall was also demolished, and Severance became an open-air "power center."

Recently, many more stores have closed, including Walmart, which closed its store at Severance in 2013 and relocated to Warrensville Center Road in South Euclid. In 2011, the Borders bookstore chain closed all of its stores, including one at Severance, and in March 2015, Regal Cinemas closed its movie theater at the shopping center.

The mall went into foreclosure on Dec. 31, 2014, and is currently \$38 million in debt.

Only a handful of stores are still located at Severance, including Home Depot, OfficeMax, Marshall's and Dave's Market. Cleveland Heights City Hall is on the property,

as is a U.S. Postal Service office and a couple of medical buildings.

After Reddy's presentation, Roger Bliss, a builder and developer who specializes in pedestrian-scale urban design and mixed-use projects, talked about what has been done with other shopping centers across the country that have undergone the same problems Severance is going through. He started by talking about a project in Lakewood, Colo., and also talked about Parmatown Mall, which has been redeveloped over the last two years. "These projects are very complicated, and they can take a long time, but it can be done," Bliss said.

Bob Brown, a former planning director for the City of Cleveland and a resident of Cleveland Heights, then presented ideas for the future of Severance. He discussed a 2007 project of the Kent State University (KSU) Urban Design School.

The KSU students recommended improving the interface between Severance and adjacent neighborhoods and improving the interface with Mayfield and Taylor roads. He also discussed ideas that have been suggested on the Next Door website, including replacing Severance with a sustainable farmers market, creating a technology business that could be located in the space, and developing a mixed-use center with retail stores and restaurants, as well as housing. Other suggestions included focusing on arts and culture by creating a center for artists, building studios and galleries and using the vacant theater as a performing-arts center; starting a flea market; building an outlet mall, and using the space for more recreational activities, such as roller skating and bowling.

The next speaker was Peter Rubin, president and CEO of the Coral Company, which developed the Courtyards Townhomes in Cleveland Heights. "This is an amazing opportunity to change the landscape of Cleveland Heights for many generations," he said. "It's a fantastic opportunity." He added that the city and its residents must determine what they want to express through the re-development of Severance. "We must have a set of values," he said, adding that "no project of this scale can be accomplished without public investment—the city, the county and the state must all invest in this project. Now is the time to think big."

Finally, the audience divided into

small groups and was asked to answer three questions: What is the best use of Severance that will enhance Cleveland Heights and build its character? What ideas from other cities might work for Severance? What questions need to be asked in considering the future of Severance?

Many members of the audience said they thought that the area should be a walkable, inter-generational, self-contained village. Other ideas included meeting the needs of senior citizens by developing one-story townhouses, and making the area walkable and bikeable with places to sit. Members of the audience also liked the idea of creating an area with more recreational activities, including a roller-skating rink, an ice-skating rink and a dog-walking park.

FutureHeights has placed a video of the entire forum on its website, [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org). Results of a survey in which residents shared thoughts about Severance is summarized in the article above.

FutureHeights plans to follow up with the Cleveland Heights Master Plan Steering Committee, which is working with city staff and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to develop a master plan for the city.

*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.*

**PHOENIX**  
COFFEE

**EAST 9TH**  
1700 EAST 9TH ST  
CLEVELAND, OH 44114  
216.771.5282

**COVENTRY**  
1854-A COVENTRY ROAD  
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44118  
216.932.5282

**LEE**  
2287 LEE ROAD  
CLEVELAND HTS, OH 44118  
216.932.8227

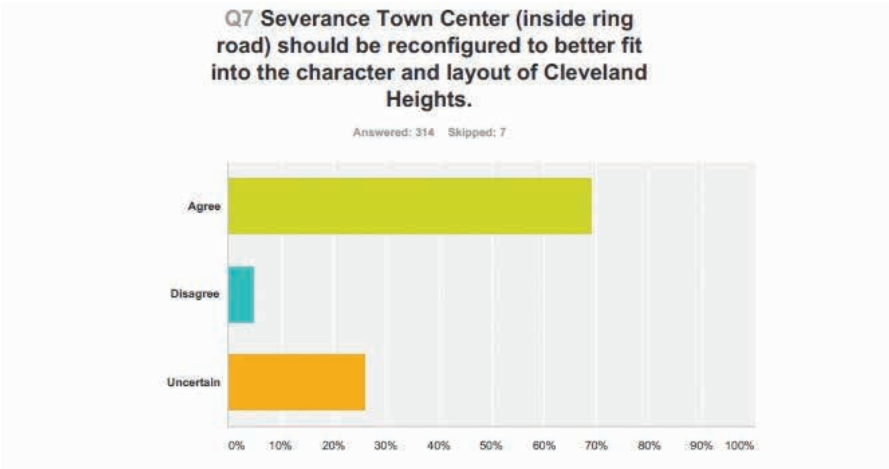
**LOCAL**  
COFFEE  
TASTES  
BETTER

ROASTED IN THE 216

PHOENIXCOFFEE.COM

LOCALLY ROASTED IN CLEVELAND OHIO

SURVEY continued from page 10



ance property. Nearly a third liked the idea of mixed-use development that could include residential, retail, dining, entertainment and recreation components. More retail offerings, parks, farming, and senior housing were also popular ideas, and a few suggested office or start-up activities, and education- and arts-oriented establishments. Thirteen respondents (5.5 percent of those responding to this question) said a private developer should make the decisions about the property’s future uses.

In response to a question about what could be done within the next six months to improve Severance, the most popular response (17 percent) was to recruit new retail, followed by developing a long-term master plan (14 percent), improving the center’s physical appearance (11 percent), and finding a new use for the recently vacated Walmart space (10 percent). Four respondents suggested complete demolition of the retail center.

The last of the open-ended questions asked respondents to state what strengths and values of Cleveland Heights should be expressed in the future Severance. Nearly half of those responding to this question (45 percent) mentioned diversity, with arts and culture, green space, and community and civic engagement (all more than 20 percent) also getting strong support.

Over the next few weeks, results of the survey will be refined and made available for public perusal. As with the entire FutureHeights initiative on the future of Severance, the activities to-date have been designed to get the conversation started.

FutureHeights recognizes that many participants—private and public—will be involved in planning for the future of this important and storied property, and, regardless of what happens at Severance, it should

be noted that at least some see it as a critical indicator of whether Cleveland Heights will prosper or decline.

“Whatever is decided for the future of Severance will determine whether I remain living in Cleveland Heights,” wrote one respondent. “I am open to possibilities and want to be trusting and optimistic, but need to experience thoughtful, strong, intelligent proposals fused with the commitment, honesty and integrity for carrying them out.”

*Vince Reddy is a FutureHeights board member and a 19-year resident of Cleveland Heights.*

**DOGGY DAYCARE & OVERNIGHT BOARDING**

**PLAYTIME!**  
8000 square feet

480 S. GREEN RD., SOUTH EUCLID, OH 44121

**216.291.0605** **WWW.DOGTROPOLIS.NET**

**Celebrate the Christmas season at Disciples Christian Church**

**Live Nativity**  
**Sunday December 13th**  
**2pm - 5pm**  
See the Holy Family, King Herod, wisemen and shepherds.  
See live animals including a camel.

**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight and Communion Service**  
Join us at 7:00pm for traditional and contemporary pre-worship music  
Worship begins at 7:30pm

**Sponsors**  
AFLAC  
Home Depot  
Howard Hanna  
Mason Mechanical  
Subway  
Walmart  
Heights Emergency Food Center  
Nicol-Wells-Kloss-Murphy Funeral Homes

**Contemporary Service - Sunday at 9am**  
**Traditions Service - Sunday at 11am**

**Disciples Christian Church**  
(216) 382-5344

3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone) CH  
[www.discipleschristian.org](http://www.discipleschristian.org)



“You’re never too young to begin planning for your future. Why wait for a crisis?”

—Bill Jones, Judson Smart Living at Home member since 2006

When a friend challenged Bill Jones to hike a portion of Spain’s Camino de Santiago last summer, he utilized his membership in Judson’s Smart Living at Home program to give him a leg up.

Bill and his wife, Susan, became members because they needed home care support for Susan. Eventually she moved to Judson’s Bruening Health Center, where Bill visits her every day with their dog, Oliver.

With Susan’s healthcare needs taken care of, Bill focused on nurturing his own wellness. With the help of Judson wellness staff he developed a fitness program that simulated the trail in Spain. Bill left in August and spent several weeks on the trail—about 165 miles overall.

“Judson inspired me to take charge of my own health, with a focus on prevention. I have a plan in place to get the care I need when I need it.”

**Take charge of your health and wellness. Join Judson Smart Living at Home today. Call (216) 791-3211 for more information.**

Visit [www.judsonsmartliving.org](http://www.judsonsmartliving.org) and click Smart Living at Home

**The Heights’ #1 choice**  
for interior and exterior painting

Serving Northeast Ohio Homeowners since 1975

**Quality Painting.**  
**THAT’S ALL WE DO!**

Call us at  
**216-529-0360**  
for a Free Consultation!

[neubertpainting.com](http://neubertpainting.com)

Join us for Christmas Worship!

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Story for the Very Young with Communion
- 3:30 p.m. Organ Noëls and Carol Sing-a-long
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant, Communion (interpreted for Deaf)
- 8:00 p.m. Music: From Advent to Christmas
- 9:00 p.m. A Choral Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
- 10:30 p.m. Festival Eucharist of Christmas

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with organ and vocal solos

Sunday, December 27: The First Sunday after Christmas Day

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols with Communion

Friday, January 1: The Feast of the Holy Name

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist



St. Paul's Episcopal Church welcomes you!

2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106 (216) 932-5815 • www.stpauls-church.org  
The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach, Rector Karel Paukert, Organist/Choirmaster



Decorate for the holidays!

Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and cookies while creating your own gingerbread house masterpiece. We supply all the sweet trimmings for you to create the house of your dreams.

\$65/house (includes 2 home decorators)

CLASS DATES:

- Fri, Dec 4, 5-6 pm
- Sat, Dec 5, 11am-12pm
- Sat, Dec 19, 1-2 pm
- Sat, Dec 19, 3-4 pm

216.231.8585

lunabakerycafe.com

2482 Fairmount Blvd • Cleve Hts, OH 44106



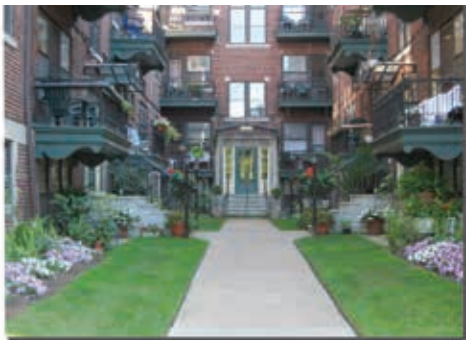
SUITES AVAILABLE



Shaker Heights  
Cleveland Heights  
Lakewood  
Cleveland



- Large 1, 2 and 3 Bedrooms
- Walking distance to CWRU, Shaker Square and RTA
- Refinished Kitchens
- Hardwood Floors
- Parking
- Laundry Facilities
- Dishwasher and Disposal



"All together  
sunny, spacious,  
superbly  
maintained  
and well  
located  
apartments!"

CALL NOW (216) 421-8400

12000 Fairhill Road  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
office@montlackrealty.com

www.montlackrealty.com



Liberty Oaks along North Park Boulevard.

CHRISTOPHER ROY

The Liberty Oaks



CLEVELAND  
HEIGHTS  
LANDMARKS

Christopher Roy

North Park Boulevard between Coventry Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive is popular with commuters heading into Cleveland. There are no stoplights on this stretch of road, allowing drivers to quickly get to the hill that descends from the Heights down into University Circle. Even at 35 mph, it's easy to notice the tall oak trees that line the south side of North Park Boulevard. To see the nearly 100-year-old pieces of history that lie at the base of a number of these trees, however, one must exit the car and take a closer look to find the cement stones with little bronze plates, each bearing an individual man's name. Who are these men, and why are they being honored on the side of a busy road in Cleveland Heights?

Following the armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, American Legion posts, garden clubs, schoolchildren, communities and families around the country planted trees to honor fallen soldiers.

In an August 1918 issue of *American Forestry*, editor Percival Sheldon Ridsdale praised the concept of "trees for the dead," stating that the fallen soldiers "are to have living monuments. Their memory will literally be kept green." He claimed that these "Victory Oaks" would doubtlessly be preferable to "marble columns." And he noted that "there will be an oak tree planted there for each soldier who makes the supreme sacrifice. It will bear a bronze tablet inscribed with his name and military record. The trees will be, in their very greenness and robust strength, reminders of the youth who gave their vigor to win the war."

Greater Clevelanders lost little time in making Ridsdale's vision a reality. They mobilized to such a forceful extent that by Memorial Day 1919, the planting of a long chain of "Liberty Oaks" was already underway. In fact, the plan for Cleveland's memorial actually began before the war ended. Cleveland Councilman Jerry R. Zmunt, in a July 7, 1918 article in the *Plain Dealer*, noted: "This is a splendid way of honoring our boys. It is particularly fitting that one of our finest boulevards in the city be chosen. The naming of trees after our dead heroes is the best

tribute we can pay them, and their names will thus be perpetuated in a living thing."

Under the leadership of Zmunt, Cleveland Director of Parks and Public Property Floyd E. Waite, and City Forester Harry C. Hyatt, a path was selected. On July 15, 1918, Ordinance 47590 was passed: "relative to changing North Park Boulevard, running through Ambler Park, Rockefeller Park and Shaker Heights Park from Cedar to Center (Warrensville) Road, to 'Liberty Row.'" Liberty Row was to begin at Gordon Park by Lake Erie; move down what had been Lower Boulevard through Gordon, Rockefeller, and Wade parks; wind up Ambler Drive into Cleveland Heights; and then continue along North Park Boulevard through Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights. This path would take advantage of Cleveland's east side chain of parkland. Additional memorials would be planted and installed later in other areas, including oaks around Sterling Playground at East 31st Street and St. Clair Avenue, and sycamores in front of the Tom Johnson monument on Public Square.

Almost 100 years later, a surprising number of North Park's Liberty Oaks and plaques are intact. You can also see quite a few along Shelburne Road in Shaker Heights, southeast of Shelburne's intersection with North Park Boulevard, near Horsehoe Lake. Unfortunately, the trees and plaques along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive have fared less well, succumbing to theft and sudden encounters with out-of-control automobiles. Nevertheless, the spirit of the oaks and the majesty they bring to the area is uncompromised. For many years, the American Legion Glenville Post 130 decorated the plaques. On patriotic holidays, flags are still placed by at least some of the remaining markers.

The City of Cleveland Heights has installed signage to draw attention to the Liberty Row Oaks, which are located in Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and Cleveland. To start, two signs will be installed along North Park Boulevard in Cleveland Heights. Additional signs may be installed at a later date, and the hope is that signs can be placed in all three cities in which the Liberty Row Oaks are located, educating the public about the legacy of these oaks and their importance in remembering fallen World War I soldiers.

*Christopher Roy is a former president of the Cleveland Heights Historical Society.*

Local teacher realizes dream with purchase of summer camp

Bob Rosenbaum

Cleveland Heights native Joe Mendes has left his teaching job in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District to realize a lifelong dream to run a summer camp. He is the new owner of Camp Firebird-Roosevelt on Leesville Lake, 90 miles south of here.

Many Heights residents have fond memories of the overnight camp, which for years has hosted a steady stream of children from the area. But Mendes will have his work cut out for him—attendance has dwindled in the past decade under an absentee owner.

Mendes is undaunted. “That’s why I was able to afford to buy it,” he said, adding that he’s been able to assemble a team of expert advisors to guide him.

The deal was struck quickly. Mendes learned on Sept. 9 that the camp was for sale, after the unexpected death of owner Andrew Schwartz—who turned out to be a childhood friend of Mendes from their own shared camp experience in northern Wisconsin. The transaction was done by early November.

“In every way, this was just meant to be,” Mendes said. “When I first went to look at the property, I was prepared for the worst. But I’m standing there looking at the trees, the lake, the barn . . . I knew it was right.”

Mendes graduated from Heights High in 1980 and, after college, taught in Colorado, California and East Cleveland’s Shaw High School. Along the way, he directed a teen pregnancy program; worked in a Cambodian/Vietnamese refugee camp in Thailand; directed the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps camp; and participated in the founding of Camp For All Kids, a nonprofit in St. Louis that promotes racial diversity by sending disadvantaged children to summer camp.

In the mid-1990s, at about the same time he met his future wife Cynthia Larsen—co-founder of the Lake Erie Ink youth writing program—Mendes began a five-year quest to own and operate a summer camp.

“My first job pursuing the camp dream was cleaning toilets at a summer camp—on my honeymoon,” he said.

After five years though, the right



Joe Mendes is in contact with Camp Firebird-Roosevelt alumni through an active Facebook page.

opportunity hadn’t appeared. So in 2000, Mendes brought his young family home, and was hired to teach at Coventry Elementary School. He later moved to Gearity Professional Development School in University Heights, teaching fourth grade and, among other projects, establishing the Seeds of Success learning garden.

“The dream was still here,” to own a camp, he said, “but I had moved on. I didn’t expect at this point that it would ever happen. I’m as surprised as anyone.”

The co-ed camp will cost \$900 a week next summer, and campers can attend for two, four, six or eight weeks. A ninth week will be offered for families with children who aren’t yet ready to attend on their own.

The camp’s focus will be on leadership, citizenship and service. “Camp is fun, but it’s more than that,” Mendes said. “Its activities are a context for how to get along in the world—how to be independent, make healthy relationships, resolve conflicts and develop a sense of greater good.”

Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is co-chairman of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development.

**Be prepared to Bundle up... or get your Heating Tune-Up/Safety Inspection NOW and be prepared... \$104**

Mention this discount when scheduling. Tune-up allows for 45 minutes of labor per system, parts additional. Discount valid during normal workday hours only (M-F; 8-3:30). Payment must be given to technician at time of service. Must be scheduled prior to 12/31/15.

**VERNE & ELLSWORTH HANN INC.**

Owned and operated by 4th generation Hann brothers.

**Carrier**

turn to the experts

**216-932-9755**

Bonded • Insured • OH LIC #24462

Heating / Cooling / Plumbing / Specializing in Steam & Hot Water Systems **Hannheatingcooling.com**

**LUNCH SPECIALS** starting at **\$4<sup>95</sup>**

**SUN LUCK GARDEN**

Chinese & Cantonese Cuisine

Open for Lunch!

**1901 S. Taylor Rd. Cleveland Hts. 44118**  
**216.397.7676**

**Monday: Closed**  
Tues.- Fri. 11am - 9:30pm  
Sat. 12pm - 9:30pm  
Sun. 3pm - 9:30pm

**\*UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT\***

Your old favorites are back on the menu.

Bring in this ad for 15% off your food bill.

Happy Hour!

Mon thru Sat starting at 4 p.m.

\$6 Appetizers \$5 Cocktails  
\$6 Martinis \$2.50 Domestic Beers  
\$6 Wines \$3.50 Imports

Expires 12/31/15. Alcohol excluded. Not valid with happy hour discounts or other offers/discounts.

**the mad GREEK**

At Cedar & Fairmount in Cleve. Hts. 216-421-3333  
www.madgreekcleveland.com

**CEDAR FAIRMOUNT BUSINESS DISTRICT**

**SHOP CEDAR FAIRMOUNT FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**

**Holiday Stroll**  
**Saturday December 12th**

Holiday Drawing at Participating Merchants  
FREE Movie at the Alcazar: “The Santa Clause” - 1:00 pm Doors open at 12:30 pm  
Cleveland Heights Carolers - 2:00 pm  
Gingerbread Cookie Decorations - Luna Cake Shop  
Meet Jewelry Designer, Gena Page - 3 pm at Appletree Books  
Roxboro PTA Gift Wrapping Station - Noon - 4:00 pm  
at 12433 Cedar Road (between Ten Thousand Villages and Howard Hanna Realty)  
Restaurant & Merchants’ Specials  
Free Rides on Lolly the Trolley 4 - 8 pm  
between Cedar Fairmount, Coventry, and Cedar Lee  
(stops at Luna Café & Bakery & Buffalo Wild Wings)

**Unique Gifts**  
Children & Adult Books  
Advent Calendars • English Antiques  
Holiday Baked Goods, Cookies & Pastry Trays from Zoss Bakery & Luna Café & Bakery  
One of a Kind Custom Jewelry • Fashion Accessories • Handmade Cards • Tolerities

**Fair Trade Handicrafts**  
Baskets • Pottery • Phoenician Glass • Jewelry • Scarves • Hats • Mittens

**Cedar Fairmount Merchant & Restaurant Gift Cards**  
Hair Salons • Manicure / Pedicures / Massages  
Pilates / Yoga • Groceries / Restaurants

**Cedar Fairmount Business District**  
**Top of the Hill at Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard**  
visit [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org) or call 216 791-3172 for more info

# Heights barbershoppers give back

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

As Cleveland Heights City Council Member Melissa Yasinow drove to work on the morning of Friday, Nov. 6, her mind was on her grandfather. Stuck in a hospital, hooked to machines, what would cheer him up? Blind for several years, he couldn't watch a Cavs game or enjoy a new book. What would bring some joy to this beloved old man's day?

Meanwhile, across town, Cleveland Heights High School musicians were sitting in class, exhausted from weeks of intense rehearsals for the musical "Grease" and gearing up for a weekend with four full-length performances. If

anyone had asked them to find an extra couple of hours in their day, the students would have thought they were crazy.

But then Yasinow was struck with an idea: Her Papa may not be able to see, but he could definitely hear. After a few quick phone calls, and the willing approval of school administrators, four members of the nationally recognized Heights Barbershoppers were pulled from their classes to rehearse for another type of show altogether.

It was all to honor their hero, James Yasinow, a 1949 Heights graduate and a member of the CHHS Alumni Hall of Fame. Yasinow didn't participate in music when he was a student at Heights because there wasn't much of a program



Grant Heineman, Orion Brock, Maurice Powers and Graham Ball, gathered around James Yasinow.

in those days. But as a longtime resident of the community, he had followed the impressive rise of the music department over the years, and reached out to share his own passion in 2006. As a member of the Cleveland East Suburbanaires, he wanted to encourage the school's vocal music director, Craig McGaughey, to start an a cappella barbershop group. But McGaughey was busy and the musicians were fully booked already, so he put off Yasinow's repeated phone calls for weeks on end. Finally broken by Yasinow's persistence, the Suburbanaires were invited in for a visit.

Current high school senior Graham Ball described the visit, a story that has been passed down as part of the lore of the Heights music department. "Picture four bald, old white guys walking into the fourth-floor music room, filled with mostly black teenagers. Everyone looked around like, 'Really?' But then they started singing, and the students were mesmerized by what they could do." Inspired by the intricacies of mixed harmonies, McGaughey and the students quickly established the Heights Barbershoppers, who have been guided and supported by the Suburbanaires ever since. Yasinow's group has provided scholarships for students to attend Harmony Camp at The Ohio State University, and the two groups have performed in each other's shows.

So, Ball and fellow Barbershoppers Maurice Powers and Orion Brock, both seniors, and sophomore Grant Heineman were eager to give back, and spent Friday rehearsing some songs they had heard Yasinow sing. By 2 p.m. that afternoon, the

impromptu quartet was on its way to Ahuja Medical Center in Beachwood for the big reveal. Melissa Yasinow, her husband, Matt, and her aunt, Debbie Yasinow, wheeled an unsuspecting James Yasinow out to the lobby, where the boys gathered in front of him. He couldn't see them and it wasn't until they started singing that a big smile spread over his face. "I watched his whole face light up," said Melissa. When she told him who was there, he shook his head in wonder and said, "Well, how about that!"

Nurses and other patients gathered around to enjoy the show, which comprised five songs, including "Coney Island Baby," which the boys had learned just that afternoon as a special tribute. Yasinow sang along, tapping his feet, tubes attached to an IV pole at his side. [To view the video, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ifu97eEoPjo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ifu97eEoPjo).]

"It felt really good to be able to make him so happy," said Ball. "It was one small way to thank him for all he's given to us."

Khesha King was working on the floor that day and said the performance moved her to tears. "This needs to happen in the hospital more often," she said. "Music and laughter are the best medicine."

Yasinow agreed: "I think music is a great way to enhance your life. Even if you're just an audience member."

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. She is active in the Fairfax PTA, and is proud to raise her two sons in this community. She blogs at <http://krissygallagher.wordpress.com>.

## Overwhelmed by Medicare options?

### I Can Help!



**Kathleen G. Carvin**  
Licensed Insurance Agent  
HealthMarkets Insurance Agency

health  
markets

Call me today

**216-375-5902**

for a free consultation to  
learn about your options

MEDICARE | LIFE | DENTAL & VISION | LONG TERM CARE



# SGRO'S BARBERSHOP

Since 1964

"A traditional barbershop for today's man"

3237 Warrensville Rd.  
Shaker Hts, OH 44122  
tel. 216-295-1092

Walk-in Shop

Tue, Wed, Fri 8:00-5:30

Thurs 8:00-6:30

Saturday 8:00-2:30

Sun, Mon Closed



[www.sgrosbarbershop.com](http://www.sgrosbarbershop.com)



## Our Grandfathers' boiler is nothing like OURS today!

Verne & Ellsworth

VERNE & ELLSWORTH HANN INC.

Bill & Chris

Owned and operated by 4th generation Hann brothers.



Call for pricing  
now...and save!

919-932-9755

Heating / Cooling / Plumbing / Boilers [Hannheatingcooling.com](http://Hannheatingcooling.com) OH LIC #24462

## Noble Presbyterian welcomes new pastor



Meredith Anne White preaches at Noble Road Presbyterian Church.

Joanne Westin

Noble Road Presbyterian Church (NRPC) has announced that Meredith Anne White has been called to serve as its new pastor. In a way, White is returning home—she grew up in Cleveland Heights, and even attended Girl Scouts at the church. She is one of those rare individuals who has successfully managed to make the transition from east side to west side, and now lives with her partner, Susan Strohm, in Lakewood.

White earned a B.A. in peace and conflict studies from Kent State University in 1996, and received a Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2003. Underscoring her versatility, White has worked as a church secretary at Fairmount Presbyterian, coordinator of a women's center, a Hebrew tutor, and a chaplain intern in a hospital. She served for seven years as organizing pastor for the Phoenix Project New Church Development, a storefront church in Lakewood that provides a safe space for worship for people "on the fringe of society."

Most recently, White has held the position of praise and worship leader for the Sunday evening service at Old Stone Church in Cleveland. She plays the guitar during worship and joins other NRPC musicians to accompany hymns. She has been preaching at NRPC since the previous pastor left, and is very willing to roll up her sleeves and jump right in to help with the church's multiple ministries. According to parishioners, White is warm and compassionate, and fits in well with the longstanding progressive activist spirit at NRPC, the first open and welcoming Presbyterian church in northern Ohio.

*Joanne Westin is a retired biology instructor at CWRU, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, and 35-year member of the Noble Road Presbyterian Church.*

**french FRIES**  
50

**DELICIOUS**  
you'll go  
**CROSS-EYED**

**#1 tommy's restaurant**

**Best French Fries in NE Ohio**  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

**Best Milk Shake East of Mississippi**  
Rolling Stone Magazine

**Best Vegetarian & Family Friendly Restaurant**

## Disciples Christian Church invites community to live Nativity on Dec. 13

Ronald Werman

To help everyone get into the Christmas spirit, and as a gift to the community, Disciples Christian Church is hosting a live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2-5 p.m.

Attendees will see the Holy Family, and have an audience with King Herod.

There will also be wise men and shepherds, as well as live animals, including a camel.

Afterward, guests are invited to listen to music performed by members of the church's music ministry, and enjoy refreshments.

Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone Road, across from Severance Town Center) in Cleveland Heights.

For more information, call 216-382-5344 or visit [www.discipleschristian.org](http://www.discipleschristian.org).

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



King Herod (portrayed here by Cy McFarlin) will be a part of the live Nativity at Disciples Christian Church.

**SWEDISH SOLUTION GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE**

VOLVO • SUBARU • VW • AUDI • BMW • SAAB

1815 S. Taylor Road, Cleveland Hts. • 216-371-5100 • [swedishsolution.com](http://swedishsolution.com)

**\$20 OFF**

Any service of \$60 or more with this ad

Cannot be combined with other offers

# THANKS!

**VERNE & ELLSWORTH HANN INC.**

Owned and operated by  
4th generation Hann brothers.

**FIRST PLACE**  
**Best Home Repair Business**

**Save \$25**  
**on any Plumbing or Heating Service Call**

Coupon must be presented with your payment during normal working hours. Not valid with any other offers or discounts.  
Expires 2/28/2016

FutureHeights  
**2015**  
**BEST OF THE**  
**HEIGHTS**  
**AWARDS**  
**WINNER**

Heating / Cooling / Plumbing / Specializing in Steam & Hot Water Systems

# 216.932.9755

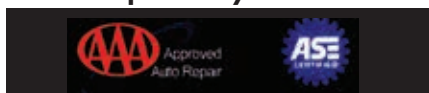
*The only Hann Family owned heating and cooling business in Cleveland.*

Bonded • Insured • OH LIC #24462

[www.hannheatingcooling.com](http://www.hannheatingcooling.com)



**Washington & Lee Service, Inc**  
 2080 Lee Road,  
 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
**(216) 371-2850**  
 Chip Ramsey Owner



**Uston**  
**216-371-5944**

- Slate and tile repairs & replacement
- Custom copper flashings installed
- Gutters and downspouts installed
- Chimney and step tuck-pointing
- Flat roof specialists

MASTERCARD/VISA

**USTON ROOF RESTORATION INC.**  
 USTONROOFRESTORATION@YAHOO.COM

# ShopCLE hits streets—misses actual target

Lee Batdorff

Each Wednesday for the past few months, ShopCLE, a free “shopper” publication produced by the *Plain Dealer* and Cleveland.com, has literally hit the streets in Cleveland Heights. It’s raising ire among residents because many copies, wrapped in thin plastic bags, don’t land on private property, perhaps violating the city’s littering law.

Residents have complained to city administrators and council members, saying the papers sit for days or weeks on streets and treelawns.

Section 527.09 of the littering ordinance states: “No person shall throw or deposit any commercial or noncommercial handbill in or upon any sidewalk, street or other public property.”

On Nov. 2, residents Gail Larson and Carla Rautenberg complained about the haphazard distribution of ShopCLE to Cleveland Heights City Council. “If these bagged papers are not picked up and are carried into the sewers, the plastic of the bags will eventually break down and pollute Lake Erie, our drinking water,” Rautenberg said.

Mayor Dennis Wilcox asked city staff if the *Plain Dealer* could be cited for littering. City Law Director Jim Juliano replied: “The *Plain Dealer* will rely every time on its First Amendment rights [to free speech], but we also have litter ordinances, so we’re in discussion [with them].”

An inquiry to the *Plain Dealer* was referred to Cathy McBride, who said she is president of Brunswick-based



In some places, more copies of ShopCLE seem to be dropped on the street than on private property, as the law requires.

AOZ Trucking, but whose LinkedIn profile says she is depot manager at Plain Dealer Publishing. Talking from an office phone at the *Plain Dealer*, McBride said it’s a new product and acknowledged “bumps in the road.”

“The delivery standard for ShopCLE is to place them in a home’s driveway closer than the sidewalk,” McBride said. “It is silly that they are landing in the streets.”

She said AOA hires subcontractors who do the delivery. “[Because] the deliverers are independent contractors,

we don’t tell them exactly how to do their job,” she said. “We are addressing each complaint swiftly. We take the delivery of ShopCLE seriously.”

By mid-November there were some signs of change. Writing on Facebook, Gail Draxton Larson, who lives in the Monticello neighborhood, said one delivery driver told her they had been instructed to drive into each driveway to ensure papers landed on private property. But spotters the following week found other instances where delivery accuracy had not improved.

The issue likely isn’t limited to Cleveland Heights. Cleveland.com’s online media kit says ShopCLE is distributed “to 645,000 Cleveland-area non-subscriber households.” Streets in University Heights have been littered as well.

Some Cleveland Heights residents are working with the Northeast Ohio chapter of the Sierra Club to address the concern about papers entering the sewers. There have been active discussions on the Nextdoor.com social media site; and a public Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/shopcle/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/shopcle/)) is documenting complaints.

To opt out of receiving ShopCLE at your address, call 888-440-4216 or visit [www.shopgreatercleveland.com](http://www.shopgreatercleveland.com).

*Lee Batdorff is a Cleveland Heights resident.*

**kellernational**  
 Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Insurance

For all your personal and business insurance needs

**An independent agent**  
 Dedicated to your unique needs

3109 Mayfield Road, Suite 203  
 Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
**216-965-0646**

**Call Jared Lavender**

**www.KellerNational.com**

**RIPLEY ENTERPRISES TREE SERVICE**

Careful, reliable and respectful of your yard

Call for a free quote  
 Mention this ad for 20% off

**440-463-7379**  
[www.ripleytreeservice.com](http://www.ripleytreeservice.com)  
[www.facebook.com/ripleyenterprises](https://www.facebook.com/ripleyenterprises)



**Ruffing Montessori School**  
 Engage. Emerge. Learn for life

## Parent Open Houses January 6, 7 and 8

9-10 am: Tours & Observations

10:15 am: Q&A with Head of School

Come see Ruffing in action to learn more about Montessori education and how Ruffing will prepare your child for success! To schedule your Tour & Observation contact our Admissions Office at 216-321-7571 or [info@ruffingmontessori.net](mailto:info@ruffingmontessori.net).

3380 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
 Visit us at [ruffingmontessori.net](http://ruffingmontessori.net)



# *More time to pass along the family recipe.*

Our doctor recommended calling Hospice of the Western Reserve after Mom's illness caused frequent trips to the hospital. Now we have 24/7 in-person and phone support for her bad days and many more good ones. **I'm so glad we called when we did.**

Hospice of the Western Reserve's compassionate care can reduce stressful hospital visits so you can spend more time together as a family. **It isn't about giving up, it's about taking control.** If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a serious illness, **ask for us by name.** We can make our first visit the same day. **Call 800.707.8922 to get started.**



**HOSPICE OF THE  
WESTERN RESERVE**

NORTHERN OHIO'S HOSPICE OF CHOICE

800.707.8922 | hospicewr.org | f/hospicewr

# Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education

## Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 20, 2015

Board Member Eric Coble was absent.

### Educational services update

Assistant Superintendent Felisha Gould provided an educational services update.

**District enrollment:** District enrollment has decreased by 500 students, or 8.4 percent, in the past five years. The high school has lost 12.5 percent of its students. Gearity, Fairfax and Oxford elementary schools have lost 20 percent, 17 percent, and 12 percent, respectively. Boulevard and Roxboro elementary school enrollments have increased while Noble and Canterbury elementary schools have remained stable. With the closing of Wiley middle school, Monticello and Roxboro middle school enrollments have increased. Across the district, kindergarten enrollment has dropped 17 percent. Sixth grade has the lowest enrollment of all grades. Students who leave the district often do so after kindergarten, fifth grade, eighth grade, or ninth grade. The percentage of enrolled minority students has changed little. Superintendent Talisa Dixon stated that schools nationally are having trouble keeping students engaged and that career tech and other non-traditional op-

tions can be helpful.

**State accountability results:** The state indicators which measure districts have changed frequently. A recently added indicator tracks literacy test results in students from kindergarten through third grade. So far, Cleveland Heights-University Heights scores on this indicator have been below average except at Canterbury and Roxboro elementary schools, but the administration is hopeful to see improvement by the spring of 2016, when students will have been exposed to new supports and interventions for all four years.

**Performance gap:** The district has yet to close the performance gap. Caucasian students still outperform other groups in reading, math and graduation rate. The district's large number of special needs students, 18 percent as compared to the state average of 12 percent, may impact performance, although some special needs students are assessed in alternative ways. CH-UH schools also have the second highest number of foster care students in the state, behind only Cleveland. This causes high mobility, which negatively affects test scores.

**Other indicators:** The district's gradu-

ation rate improved in 2013-14, and is in line with the state average on the five-year graduation rate. ACT scores and college-ready assessment results are below state averages. However, the district's Advanced Placement test scores compare well with districts around the state, indicating college readiness among students testing in that category. Dixon commented that students need a more-solid foundation in math before reaching high school.

**Focus areas:** Three major focus areas are reading instruction, math instruction, and school climate, with emphasis on teacher development and providing teacher resources for classroom use. The curriculum advisory committee will be reconstituted, and communication to families strengthened. Board Member Kal Zucker suggested several steps: learning what successful districts are doing in areas where CH-UH needs to improve; evaluating all initiatives currently in place and continuing only those that are demonstrating success; and integrating aspects of career tech along with academic offerings.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Board Member Ron Register was absent.

### Awards and recognitions

The board recognized National Merit commended scholars Graham Ball, Aviva Klein and Hannah Smith. The board recognized CTE (Career Technical Education) student of the month, Tapash Sharma. The audio engineering program was recognized as a CTE program of the month. Three Heights Options Student Global Ambassadors were recognized: Nathan Jolly, Cheron Hodges and Aaron Hemphill. In February, they will travel to London to study for a week at Evelyn Grace Academy. They will also visit Oxford University.

### Field trips

The board approved the following field trips:

- Heights High Students of Promise to Washington, D.C., scheduled for Nov. 5-7.
- Heights High girls' varsity basketball team to the Newark High Holiday Basketball Tournament, Newark, N.J. scheduled for Dec. 27-28.
- Monticello Middle School eighth grade to Washington, D.C., scheduled for May 11-13.

### Gifted programs

Toia Robinson, gifted coordinator, gave an update on enrollment in gifted programs. The identification of gifted students is up, but enrollment is down. Ohio policy identifies gifted students based on test scores, not other criteria. Not all of the students identified at the elementary level are enrolling in classes, based on data from the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

### Contract award

The board approved a contract with Moody Nolan architects for architectural services related to the reconstruction of Monticello and Roxboro middle schools.

### Change order for Wiley

The board approved a change order for the Wiley enabling projects, with a total value of \$282,153. This is one of the last series of additional supporting programs for the high school's move to Wiley.

### Donations

The board accepted donations of \$100 to Oxford Elementary School and \$1,550 to the Delisle Options Center.

### Facilities Accountability Committee

Board Member Eric Silverman met with the Facilities Accountability Committee, which discussed the high school swimming pool and sharing it with the city. The committee has two vacancies; applications will be reviewed.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

## Coventry Village Holiday Festival

**Saturday, December 12**  
**FREE Holiday Fun for Everyone!**

Photos with Santa & Coventry Claus  
 Music from Classical Revolution Cleveland  
 Watch "Elf" in the Centrum Theater w FREE popcorn and drinks  
 Community Caroling • Poets & Storytellers  
 Ugly Holiday Sweater Crawl • Kids Crafts • Free Gift Wrapping  
 Win "Coventry Cash" to help with your holiday shopping  
 Ride Lolly the Trolley looping Coventry, Cedar Lee & Cedar Fairmount

**Schedule Of Events: [Coventryvillage.org](http://Coventryvillage.org)**

**FREE PARKING All Day!**

## Cleveland Bazaar

Shop over 70 local artisans and Coventry merchants, together for one fabulous day!

**Cleveland Bazaar on Coventry**  
**Saturday, December 5th**  
**10:00AM - 8:00PM**  
**1854 Coventry Road & Grog Shop**  
**Cleveland Heights**

**Cleveland Bazaar is North East Ohio's longest running handmade show.**

For more information:  
[f /clevelandbazaar](https://www.facebook.com/clevelandbazaar) [/clevelandbazaar](https://twitter.com/clevelandbazaar) [/clebazaar/](https://www.instagram.com/clebazaar/)

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 of Greater Cleveland. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

# Heights High student to serve on philanthropic panel



Heights High junior, David Fleischer.

Joy Henderson

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland has selected David Fleischer, a Heights High junior, to serve on the Saltzman Youth Panel. Fleischer is one of 40 students who will meet weekly this school year to learn about the Cleveland Jewish commu-

nity. "We will participate in service projects, leadership development and community building," said Fleischer.

The culminating experience for the panel will be to allocate \$50,000 to local charities. The panel brings together Jewish students of different backgrounds, and provides them with the opportunity to learn about the philanthropic process, responding to community needs, and the obligation to do what is just and right.

The Saltzman Youth Panel was established through the Maurice Saltzman Youth Grant Program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland to educate young members of the Jewish community about the importance of communal decision-making, philanthropy and community engagement.

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

## CH-UH school district hosts partnership event for businesses and community organizations



Canterbury Elementary School students Tiana Crosby and Josephine Naypauer presented to area business and community organizations.

Scott Wortman

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District hosted businesses, community organizations and partners for a Celebration of a New Era of CH-UH Schools event on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Heights High.

Each school in the district was represented by the principal and two students, including Heights High students in early college, art, music and career tech programs. They shared the schools' programming and successes with businesses and community organizations, and told their stories of development and future aspirations.

Superintendent Talisa Dixon also spoke about the district's facilities plan and its new strategic plan, and goals for the future.

Dixon and Desiree Caliguire-Maier, the districtwide coordinator of business and community partnerships and enrichment programs, recognized five organizations for their key contributions to the development of the strategic plan, and ongoing support of districtwide programming.

Dixon presented recognition plaques to representatives from the Cleveland Clinic, John Carroll University, Lake Erie Ink, Reaching Heights and the Cleveland Orchestra—all of whom provided important insight during the strategic planning

process.

Additionally, the district received forward-thinking and supportive proposals from the College of Engineering of Cleveland State University and the Cleveland Museum of Art on Oct. 20, to leverage school programs and student development.

With this event and other ongoing initiatives, the CH-UH City School District is placing an emphasis on creating and strengthening business and community partnerships. The district is seeking to enhance its connections and collaboration with community partners, and expand and improve resources, communities, labor and markets.

"This is a new era for not only the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District but also for public educational organizations in the U.S. in which visionary yet effective operational and collaborative partnerships with businesses, higher academic institutions, organizations, and nonprofits are key in order to provide an engaging, yet more importantly, challenging education for students and generations to come of labor and markets," said Caliguire-Maier.

*Scott Wortman is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

### Coit Road Farmers' Market

Fresh Local Food  
In Your Neighborhood

Healthy Produce.  
Healthy People.  
Healthy Connections.

Open Saturdays

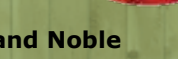
Year Round

8:00AM to 1:00PM

Call 216-249-5455

or go to [www.coitmarket.org](http://www.coitmarket.org)

15000 Woodworth Rd near East 152nd and Noble



(216) 392-1335

WINTER SPECIALS

class1pavers@sbcglobal.net

### Class 1 Pavers & Remodelers



- Residential Driveways
- Asphalt/Concrete/Masonry
- Kitchens & Baths
- Sit-In Tubs/Handicap Showers our specialty
- Roofing
- Sealcoating
- Siding & Windows

Ask for Gary or Mike  
(216) 397-6349

Need money?  
Great Financing

1481 Warrensville Ctr. Road  
[www.class1pavers.com](http://www.class1pavers.com)

SELLS ALL THE HEIGHTS

NEW ON THE MARKET...  
TWO INCREDIBLE SHAKER LISTINGS!

Beautiful Classic Colonial 6 bedroom... 3 full baths and 2 half baths. Great flow on first floor with beautiful light-filled sunroom and white kitchen with stainless appliances. Terrific family home in an in-demand neighborhood.

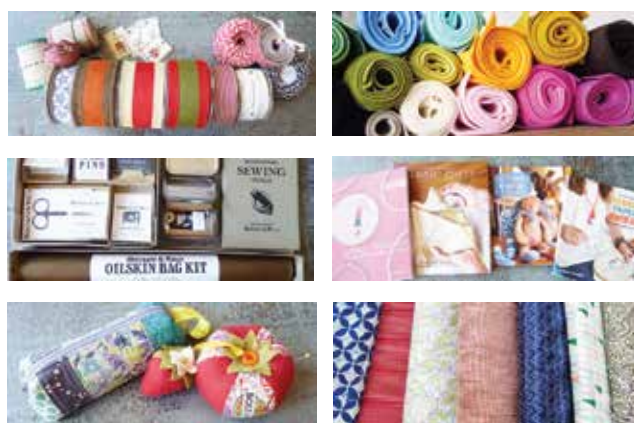
Absolutely close to perfection. This home will knock your socks off! Open floor plan with a wonderful flow. Light, bright and kicky this home works for today's lifestyle. 4 bedrooms, 3 full updated baths. One of the best in Shaker at this price!

**SUSAN DELANEY**, ABR®, RRS, CNE®  
Homes of Distinction Specialist  
OAR Award of Distinction  
Mega Million Dollar Producer  
216-577-8700  
Email: [susandelaney@howardhanna.com](mailto:susandelaney@howardhanna.com)  
Web: [susandelaney.howardhanna.com](http://susandelaney.howardhanna.com)

KNOWS ALL THE HEIGHTS

## Have a Handmade Holiday!

with  
MURRAY HILL  
**BOLT & SPOOL**  
FABRIC • PATTERNS • RIBBON • INSPIRATION



Schedule your holiday stitch party today!

See our website for more Bolt & Spool events

Shop Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 11 - 6pm

2026 Murray Hill Road

{the old schoolhouse : Historic Little Italy}

216.229.2220 [boltandspool.com](http://boltandspool.com)

Free books mailed  
to your young child!



If your child is  
**under 5 years old  
and lives in**  
Cleveland Hts., Shaker Hts.,  
or University Hts., visit

**heightsfamily.org**  
for registration information

**Support our  
local merchants.**



**Happy Holidays!**  
**Herb's Plumbing & Heating**

- Experts in old homes
- Water tanks & heating systems
- Eco-friendly updates
- Fully trained, licensed, bonded & insured
- Residential & commercial



1/2-off service charge (\$23 value)  
Good Dec. '15 - Feb. '16

**216-691-2300 • herbspumbingandheating.com**

**YOU THINK  
YOU KNOW US,  
BUT YOU DON'T**



**#THE NEW JAZZERCISE**

**9 weekly classes to choose from**

Contact Mary Beth: (440) 655-5394 marybethmccnn@gmail.com

# Future oncologists research cure for cancer

Joy Henderson

Nicole Miller, Heights High anatomy and physiology teacher, had a deceptively simple question for her students: How will you cure cancer? The assignment asked students to research a specific gene that is prone to mutation and the resulting cancer that occurs because of the mutation.

The project also asked the budding research oncologists to describe current treatments and design their own treatment and possible cure. The students then presented their research for peer review, in front of their classmates.

"I was very impressed with the students' level of focus, engagement and perseverance on this project," said Miller, who is co-advisor of Heights High's Science Olympiad club. "They were constantly asking



COURTESY CHURCH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Heights High seniors Dereese Cunningham and Joi Starks (from left) donned lab coats and stethoscopes as part of their oncology research project.

questions and digging for more information."

Some of the gene mutations and resulting cancers targeted by the students were: BRCA gene (breast cancer and ovarian cancer), KIT gene (gastrointestinal cancer, leukemia and lymphoma), APC gene (colon cancer), and Rb gene (retinoblastoma).

The assignment required students to apply their knowledge about cells, DNA and genetics—informa-

tion that was covered earlier in the school year and in the biology prerequisite.

Many students in the class have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in the medical field.

"Science is so cool," said Miller. "It is fun to see students drawn into the excitement of scientific research."

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

## Heights High demolition nears completion



COURTESY CHURCH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Selective interior demolition includes removing lockers, plaster and some walls. This photo was taken on the east end of the third floor, looking south to the former Legacy Student Think Tank area.

Joy Henderson

The demolition phase of the Cleveland Heights High School building, at the corner of Cedar and Lee roads, is nearly complete. External demolition, including the science wing, was completed in October, and the interior selective demolition will be complete by the end of December.

Inside the building, most of the interior walls will be eliminated to accommodate modern programming needs. However, the original red quarry tile on the hallway floors

will be re-used, as will some of the original brick that was removed, and several external stone architectural elements.

Many truckloads of fill-dirt have been used to fill the basement areas (tunnels) under the former science wing. New foundations were recently installed, marking the start of construction on the new additions to the original 1926 building.

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

*Give  
Meaning*

The magic of  
winter's frost,  
captured in  
faceted crystals by  
makers in India —  
a little glamour  
that does a  
lot of good.

ICE CRYSTAL  
JEWELRY SET



**TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES®**

12425 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights  
Holiday Hours: Mon-Sat 11-7, Sun 12-5  
216-575-1058  
clevelandheights.tenthousandvillages.com

Receive  
**25% OFF**  
one item with this coupon\*



\*Offer valid at participating stores until 12/31/15.  
Not valid with other discounts, gift card, Oriental rug or  
Traveler's Find purchases. One coupon per store per customer.

# CH-UH school district selects architect for middle school renovations

Scott Wortman

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has selected Moody Nolan as the architectural firm to handle the design of the Monticello and Roxboro middle school renovations.

Moody Nolan, which has received numerous awards for past design projects, was selected from a group of four firms that were interviewed by a committee of district representatives on Oct. 21. The CH-UH Board of Education officially awarded the contract to Moody Nolan at its Nov. 2 meeting.

“We are excited to work with Moody Nolan for our middle school renovations,” said Talisa Dixon, CH-UH superintendent. “It became evident very quickly during the interview process that they possessed the experience and the expertise that we were looking for when considering the building designs. Moody Nolan has an impressive track record of working with schools like ours, and we are certain they will deliver top-notch designs for us.”

Moody Nolan has done extensive work in designing facilities for other school districts and academic institutions. Most recently, the firm designed the new building for the Cleveland School of the Arts in University Circle and a new facility for New Albany-Plain Local Schools. That

enthusiasm to the project, as well as innovative ideas as we develop the right concept for Monticello and Roxboro middle schools. We feel very fortunate to have been selected for this project.”

Moody Nolan and the district have begun preliminary meetings to discuss the design of the middle school projects. The groups are planning to hold forums to gather input from community members, parents and students on the design process. More information will be disseminated once those forums have been scheduled.



Monticello Middle School

“I think the selection committee chose the best candidate in Moody Nolan because they will not only challenge us to create what we think is the best possible design for the school, but they will seek out stakeholders in the community to get their input in the process of school design and development,” said Paul Gustafson, a teacher at Roxboro Middle School and member of the interview committee.

“I am a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights, a Roxboro and Heights graduate. My wife—Roxboro Middle—and two children—Oxford and Monticello—are all Cleveland Heights High School graduates,” added Gustafson. “As an alum and a teacher at Roxboro Middle School, I was grateful to be included in the beginning of the middle school transformation process that will create the design for the school building to meet district goals for the coming decades.”

The district selected Moody Nolan after reviewing proposals and interviewing four architectural firms, all based in Ohio. The other three firms were BSHM Architects, which designed the current Cleveland Heights High School renovation project, GPD Group, and Richard L. Bowen and Associates.

Next, the district will conduct interviews to select a Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) for the middle schools project. Interviews were scheduled for mid-November.

The Monticello and Roxboro middle school renovations are slated to begin in 2017 following the completion of the Cleveland Heights High School project. The

middle schools will move into the Wiley building swing space (the former Wiley Middle School) for two years until construction is completed in 2019.


*Scott Wortman is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*



## Apple Construction

Residential Contractor  
Serving Greater Cleveland since 1980  
Kitchens, bathrooms, additions and more  
**216-321-6639**

[www.apple-construction.com](http://www.apple-construction.com) • email: [appleconstructioncle@gmail.com](mailto:appleconstructioncle@gmail.com)



12419 CEDAR AT FAIRMOUNT • CLEVELAND HTS., OH 44106  
INFO@APPLETREE-BOOKS.COM • PHONE: 216.791.2665  
WEB: WWW.APPLTREE-BOOKS.COM



## VOTED CLEVELAND'S BEST TOY STORE

### WE BUY OLD TOYS FOR CASH

Traditional Toys for Traditional Holidays! Funky Toys for Funky Holidays!

Collectibles • Cards • Nintendo • Cleveland Gear • Pop Culture • Ghoulardi T-Shirts • Baby Stuff • Classic Candy • Great Books (most at least 1/2 off) • Stocking Stuffers • Buttons and Magnets • Unique Toys • Great Gag Gifts

**1814 Coventry Road • Cleve. Hts**  
**216-371-4FUN • [www.bigfunbigfun.com](http://www.bigfunbigfun.com)**  
*Thanks for supporting local businesses!*



## Will your money retire before you do?

**Lee Bachman, Agent**  
Registered Representative  
Bus: 216-321-1422

The sooner you start investing, the more likely you are to reach your long-term goals. Ask me about State Farm Mutual Funds®.  
**Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.**  
**CALL ME TODAY.**



Before investing, consider the funds' investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Contact State Farm VP Management Corp (1-800-447-4930) for a prospectus or summary prospectus containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Securities are not FDIC insured, are not bank guaranteed and are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal. AP2013/03/0938 State Farm VP Management Corp. One State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, Illinois 61710-0001. Neither State Farm nor its agents provide investment, tax, or legal advice.



Roxboro Middle School

background gives the firm expertise in designing flexible, engaging and high-performing academic environments.

“We are deeply honored to be part of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school design team,” said Curt Moody, president and CEO of Moody Nolan. “We look forward to creating an exciting design that represents the school district and the community it serves. Our team brings a lot of



## 80+ local artists.

### SHOP THE 14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY STORE!

500+ original gifts.

## HEIGHTSARTS

2175 Lee Road • 216.371.3457 • [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org)



Open every day through December 30



## The Tavern Company

Mon. Burger Fries & Beer Night \$9  
Tues. Flatbread Pizza Beer /Wine  
Tues. Trivia starting at 10 pm  
Wed & Thurs: "5 for \$30"

2 Dine for the \$ of 1! Includes 2 small salads +  
2 select dinners + a pitcher of Moosehead beer  
OR a bottle of House wine = ONLY \$30

M-F Happy Hour 5-7 pm

Sunday Brunch 10:30 am-3 pm  
Sunday Karaoke 10 pm

Kitchen Open 5-10 pm Mon.-Thurs.  
5-11pm Fri. and Sat.

2260 Lee Road 216.321.6001

Shop local  
Shop Heights

# Heights Libraries earns top rating for seventh year

Sheryl Banks

For the seventh year in a row, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received the highest possible rating in *Library Journal's* 2015 Index of Public Library Service.

*Library Journal*—a national publication with a circulation of 100,000 that reports library news, emphasizing public libraries—awards it five-star rating to the top U.S. libraries each year.

Heights Libraries has earned five stars in seven out of the eight years that *Library Journal* has published the ratings, starting in 2008.

Libraries are categorized by yearly expenditure and rated on four criteria: circulation, visits, program attendance, and Internet terminal (public computer) use.

Heights Libraries circulation came in at 31 per capita, meaning that roughly 31 items were circulated for every resident in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights service area.

Visits per capita averaged 18.5 (down from 19.5 for 2014), program attendance averaged 1.3 (up from 1.1 in 2014), and public computer use held steady from 2014, at 5 per capita.

"We just passed a levy a year ago, but we never want to take our place in this community for granted, so we are absolutely delighted by the rating," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "These numbers make it clear that our community continues to need our services; that's one of the reasons we decided to upgrade and expand our University Heights branch next year. All of our

buildings are heavily used by customers of all ages, and they deserve a library that will continue to give five-star service."

Other Cuyahoga County libraries to receive five-star awards are Cleveland Public, Cuyahoga County, and Lakewood.

The entire state of Ohio did well in general, compared to the rest of the nation. Ohio was second only to New York in the number of state libraries that received star ratings: 28 for Ohio, and 39 for New York.

The entire report on America's star libraries can be found at *Library Journal's* website, [lj.libraryjournal.com](http://lj.libraryjournal.com).

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

Forest Hill Church  
presbyterian  
presents

**Amahl and the Night Visitors**

A Christmas opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti

**Sunday, Dec. 20 : 11:00 am and 7:00 pm**

Free admission 3031 Monticello Blvd  
216-321-2660 [www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org)

May your days  
be merry & bright!

Join us  
for the Holiday Stroll on Lee  
Dec. 12th • 4-8 p.m.

Experience tastings, dining;  
door prizes, specials,  
shopping, music,  
art & holiday cheer.

Courtesy  
Lolly the Trolley rides  
from 4-8 p.m., looping through  
Cedar-Fairmount, Coventry  
& Cedar Lee  
Business Districts

**cedarLEE DISTRICT**

Enjoy FREE parking  
at metered spaces, courtesy  
of the City of Cleveland Hts.  
(not valid in "permit only" spaces)

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

**QUINTANA'S**  
barber & dream spa

*Wishing you a safe and happy  
holiday season from our family to yours*

216.421.8380

barbershop (south bldg)  
2200 south taylor rd

spa (north bldg)  
2190 south taylor rd  
cleveland heights

stop by for  
a little  
hoiday cheer...  
**SPEAKEASY**  
open to all

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



OCTOBER 19, 2015

Board member Susan Beatty was absent.

Nov. 6-9. The 2016 officers are Linda Lopez, president; Vivian Pospisil, vice president; and Susan Ford, treasurer.

### Room named to honor Grace F. Brody

On Dec. 21 at 7 p.m., the Lee Road Library children's room will be named the Grace F. Brody Children's Room in honor of Professor Brody, who taught at CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences for 20 years, and left a \$500,000 bequest to the library. Her academic focus was the parent-child relationship. The children's room will contain an early literacy space to further language learning for children ages 5 and under, and similar spaces will be in all of the branches. The public is invited to attend, and light refreshments will be served.

### Sara Phillips to head the University Heights Library

Phillips had been the public services manager at the East Cleveland Public Library. Pam Spangler, the interim manager, will return to her position as youth services librarian at the University Heights Library.

### Book Bike in the news

On Sept. 4, "NBC Nightly News" featured a segment on the rising popularity of book bikes. Heights Libraries Book Bike was shown in a photograph representing the Cleveland area. On Sept. 8, Youth Services Manager Sam Lapides talked about the book bike on a WCPN "Sound of Ideas" program focused on literacy.

### Librarian blogs successful

Sheryl Banks, marketing and community relations manager, presented the quarterly report for the website and social media. Although most statistics held steady, she noted a 24 percent drop in visits to the research and database page. This drop seems to parallel the reduction in visits and circulation and will be monitored and checked with other library systems. A positive increase of 16 percent in the number of people reading the blog posts that librarians make on social media is a bright spot.

### Youth services outreach

Sam Lapides, youth services manager, along with Mary Looby and Peggy Hull, librarians, presented an overview of programs from September 2014 to September 2015. The total was 205 visits and 8,151 people reached. Examples of outreach programs are storytimes, preschool visits, deposit collections at seven schools, and visits to Heights High's Tiger Lab.

### Friends group has new officers

The group's annual meeting on Oct. 16 was followed by the Indigenous Peoples' Read-In, which attracted 40 students from John Hay High School. The mega sale was held

### Project manager for University Heights Library renovation

The board approved the hiring of Project Management Consultants, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Thompson Hine law firm, to oversee the renovation of the University Heights Library. The following duties and costs are: owner's representative (\$85,000), legal support during selection of construction manager (\$10,000), and additional hours if needed at an hourly rate.

### September public service report highlights

- The annual staff development day was held Sept. 18.
- The local history series continued with a House History workshop on Sept. 10.
- Programming for both adults and children continues in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. An all-ages scavenger hunt, The Hunt for the Hunting of the Snark, can be followed throughout the library.
- The circulation department issued the new eMedia cards as well as the "3 for Me" teen cards.
- The Friday morning Explorastory program returned to the Coventry Village Library with an immediate audience response.
- Youth Services Associate Terraya Lewis was invited to participate in Ward Shelley's The Last Library exhibit at SPACES Gallery. The exhibit is a walk-through installation. Lewis read stories, led a group in dance, and assisted in a craft project.
- Planning is taking place for On the Same Page, a communitywide read, in 2016.
- Technology Trainer Alyse Giannotti worked with Librarian Pam Spangler in the mobile classroom to teach computer/website coding to 21 children at a Sept. 8 program at University Heights Library. This popular program will be repeated at University Heights Library and will also be held at Noble Neighborhood Library.
- CWRU's School of Dental Medicine held its annual A Toothy Affair on Sept. 27. Dental students were on hand to provide free cleanings, answer questions, and give out packets to children.

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 18.

# Heights Libraries welcomes new branch manager



Sara Phillips

Julia Murphy

The University Heights Library welcomed its new manager, Sara Phillips, on Nov. 16. Phillips comes to University Heights from the East Cleveland Public Library, where she served as the public services manager. She takes over the position from Aurora Martinez, who is now director of the Morley Library in Painesville.

Phillips began her library career at Heights Libraries, in September 2006, as a reference substitute and then part-time library associate.

She received her Master of Library and Information Science from Kent State University, and is actively involved in committees of the American Library Association and the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System, as well as the Ohio Library Council's North Chapter

Action Council.

"These are exciting times for University Heights, since we'll be renovating the branch starting in 2016," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "We need a branch manager who is flexible and can handle logistics, among many other aspects of this extensive project."

Phillips said that the coming renovation is part of what attracted her to the job. She sees it as an exciting opportunity to be involved in a renovation project and to help ensure that the physical library building meets the needs of the University Heights community.

"I also fondly remembered my time as a library associate in the Heights Libraries system, so when I saw that the position was open, it seemed natural for me to apply," said Phillips. "I have always liked the customer-centered service model employed by Heights Libraries, and it aligns with my own views on customer service. I'm happy to be part of a system that places so much value on the customer."

Phillips has experience in community-building. In her previous position at East Cleveland Public Library, she worked with numerous community partners, including the Cleveland Clinic, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Legal Aid Society, and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

"I look forward to working with

staff members to continue the University Heights branch's existing programs and implement new programs. With the staff's help, I hope to make the University Heights Library a must-visit destination for

residents of all ages," said Phillips.

*Julia Murphy is the marketing and volunteer coordinator for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.*

## What's going on at your library?

Slow down and take some time for yourself this holiday season. The library offers a variety of programs that are the perfect combination of indulgent and educational. For more information, and to register, visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org).

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Thursday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

*Step Out of Time: Use Your New Year's Resolutions to Develop Happiness and Peace.* Tamar Geri, Reiki master and intuitive channeler, will guide participants in using spiritual awareness to achieve goals, improve relationships and create a better life.

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.

*Victorian Childhood: Fantasy, Fiction, and Fact.* Not every orphan goes to Neverland, and not every child becomes a character in a book. This program will fold back the pages on such beloved characters as Alice, Peter, and Oliver, to uncover the sometimes harsh

realities, idealized innocence, and complex nature of growing up in 19th-century Britain.

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m.

*Nonfiction@Noble Book Club: Driving Hungry by Layne Mosler.* After putting her dream of opening her own restaurant on hold, Layne Mosler moved to Buenos Aires to write about food. She was also in search of that elusive "something" that could give shape to her life. So began the gustatory adventure that became the basis for Mosler's cult blog, *Taxi Gourmet*.

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m.

*Cocoa Mug Decoration.* The weather outside is frightful, but with your very own cocoa mug, the long winter will be so delightful. Sign up to decorate your own mug with sharpies, and warm up with some cookies and cocoa. For kids in kindergarten through grade 5. (Registration began Nov. 24.)

# Are you or is someone you know diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease?

You might be able to help with a clinical research study looking at potential new treatment for mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's Disease

## Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

*The purpose of the study is to assess if adding investigational drug to donepezil will improve memory, thinking, reasoning when compared to donepezil and placebo.*

### Enrollment Criteria:

- Aged 50 years and older
- Diagnosed with probable Alzheimer's disease
- Able to communicate with study doctors
- Have a caregiver who can join you every study visit
- Taking a drug containing **donepezil** for at least 6 months

If this is you, or someone you know, we would like to hear from you.

For full details about what is involved and to find out if you might be suitable to take part in this study, please call: **216-445-9009** or email [cbhresearch@ccf.org](mailto:cbhresearch@ccf.org)



This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the Cleveland Clinic.

**www.heightsobserver.org** Call 216-320-1423 to find out how you can advertise your business for \$25/month

**Always Buying    Paying Cash**

**MICHAEL'S ANTIQUES**

- Gold
- Jewelry
- Glassware
- Paintings
- Pottery
- Military Items
- Sterling Silver
- Bronze Figures
- Clocks
- Swords
- Lamps
- Violins
- Porcelain
- Ivory Carvings
- Oriental Rugs
- Marble Figures

7 Days 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**440-461-4611**  
**FREE House Calls for SENIORS**  
 Buying anything unusual



**Green Tara**  
 YOGA & HEALING ARTS  
 Iyengar Yoga  
 Stability ♦ Vitality ♦ Clarity  
 2450 Fairmount, Cleveland Heights  
 (216) 382-0592 www.greentarayoga.com

### DEBT RELIEF ATTORNEY

Making debt to pay back debt?

Pursued and sued by  
debt collectors?

You need help.

Call Atty Gayle A. Belcher

216-242-9763

34 years of legal experience

### Ardmore Tree Service

Complete Tree Service  
Year-round

*We Sell and Plant  
Trees & Shrubs*

**(216) 486-5551**

• Pruning • Tree and Stump Removal • Feeding  
• Firewood • Brush Chipping • Snowplowing

*Member National Arborist Association*

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

### En Español, Por Favor Spanish Lessons

Beginner to Advanced  
Reasonable rates  
First lesson free!



Call or text Lili Rose  
(216) 470-5489



Fill-a-bag Sale  
the first Friday of  
each month. All  
proceeds support  
the library.

**HARVEY &  
FRIENDS**  
Bookshop  
2nd Floor of the  
Lee Road Library  
  
Great Used  
Books For Sale  
Every Day!

friends@heightslibrary.org  
216-932-3600 x234

**www.heightsobserver.org**

Call 216-320-1423

to find out how you can  
advertise your business  
for \$25/month



**RAYMOND J. WOHL, CPA**  
2121 South Green Rd.  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121  
PH: 216.382.9647

**Services Offered:**  
**Tax Preparation & Planning**  
**\*Investments**  
**IRA Accounts**  
**Mutual Funds**  
**College 529 Plans**  
**Insurance:**  
**Fixed & \*Variable Annuities**  
**Life Insurance**

\* Raymond J. Wohl, Registered Representative  
 \* Securities offered through IHD, Vest Investment Services<sup>SM</sup> Member SIPC  
 Investment & Insurance Products: Not FDIC Insured, No Bank Guarantee, May Lose Value.

### Eve's Painting & Home Repair

- Interior and exterior painting
- Wallpaper removal
- Housing code violations
- Tuck pointing
- Handyman services

*We are bonded, insured, and maintain an "A" rating on Angie's List.*

**216-387-0525**

llebles1@hotmail.com

### Heights Hardware SINCE 1911



Monday-Saturday 9-6 - Sunday 11-4

**1792 Coventry Road**  
**216-321-4701**

**www.heightshardware.com**

### FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

EDUCATING THE HEIGHTS SINCE 1988

3473 Fairmount Blvd.  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
216.321.5868

fairmountmusicschool@gmail.com  
www.fairmountmusic.com

### St. James Anglican Catholic Church



Sung Mass  
Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Catholic Faith in the  
Anglican Tradition

1861 East 55th St.  
at Payne Ave. in  
Cleveland, Ohio

www.saintjamescleveland.com 216-431-3252

### RIPLEY ENTERPRISES TREE SERVICE

COMPREHENSIVE TREE MANAGEMENT

Tree Removal • Yard Expansion  
Fertilization • Cable Support  
Pruning • Stump Grinding

(440) 463-7379 for free estimate

*Mention "Observer" and get 20% off*

Certified Arborist

Fully insured

### University Heights Apartment

Completely Remodeled \*  
Immaculate \* 2 Bedrooms  
Plus Study \* New Appliances  
\* Garage \* Ample Storage

**\$895 per month**

314-308-4176

simonabrahms@gmail.com

### MJM Window Restoration

Keep your historic windows  
and save thousands!

Sticky windows    Weather Stripping  
Broken ropes      Cracked Glass

**We'll make them work like new!**

(216) 321-7729

mjmwindowrestoration.com

\* 30 years in the Heights \*



# SHOP LOCAL

Support our community.

Please support  
our advertisers;  
they're your  
neighbors too.

GET YOUR BLOOM ON!



VIVIAN THE GARDEN COACH

VIVIAN VAIL 216.224.8789



Ohio Licences 12820 & 30281

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

LIGHT • SAFETY • COMFORT • EFFICIENCY  
Family Owned Since 1985

**(216) 932-2598**

www.skettleelectric.com

2012  
BEST OF THE HEIGHTS  
WINNER

"Best Contractor"

**First Ladies of Choice**  
The Pied Piper Fndn School of Health



Classes Start Jan. 11 through March 14

*Scholarships Available*

4-Week STNA Courses (\$200)

8-Week Nursing Course (\$300)

For more info. Call 1-844-683-4761

www.piedpiperschoolofhealth.com

### Simon's AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES, INC.

Complete Auto Repair  
& Maintenance  
Import & Domestic  
In Business Since 1972

www.simonautoservice.com  
SIMON DAHER, Manager



*Stop in to check out our  
brand new repair facility!*

(216) 371-2354

1830 Lee Road, CH

### PC HANDYMAN

PC and Mac Repair  
End your computer troubles for good

Our "Managed Services" contract offers:

- Microsoft Office 365
- Anti-virus protection
- Online support and maintenance

Just \$29.99/mo

216-236-8743

www.pchandy.net

Based in the Heights

### SEWING INSTRUCTION

**AGES 9 - ADULTS**

**Small classes**

**Experienced teacher**

**Barbara Seidel**

**216.371.3333**

baseidel@gmail.com

### FREE INSURANCE QUOTE

**AUTO OR CAR INSURANCE**  
**SR22 INSURANCE \*FR BOND**  
 \$35/Mo LIABILITY\*\*\$70/Mo Full Coverage

**PROPERTY INSURANCE**

Home \* Condo  
Fire, Dwelling, Rental

**COMMERCIAL INSURANCE**

Auto \* General Liability  
Business Owners

**(216) 691-9227**

Washington & Co Insurance Agency Inc.  
2565 Noble Road, Cleveland, OH 44121  
www.ohioinsurancequote.net

# Holiday events for Heights senior adults and their families



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Local businesses and organizations are offering fun holiday social and cultural activities for Heights seniors and their families. Events are free, unless otherwise noted. Please call ahead to confirm times, make reservations and inquire about handicapped accessibility if needed.

Happy holidays to all of our readers, and best wishes for a wonderful new year!

McGregor will present several holiday events: a Holiday Christmas Concert with the Hillcrest Band on Dec. 2, 7 p.m.; Music for Sam Fosh on Dec. 5, 2:30 p.m.; a Winter Choir Concert on Dec. 6, 2:30 p.m., a Market Bazaar offering holiday gifts, keepsakes and baked goods on Dec. 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and a performance by the McGregor Pace Choir on Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m. (14900 Private Drive, Cleveland, 216-851-8200)

On Dec. 5, Coventry Village will host the Cleveland Bazaar on Coventry, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., featuring wares from more than 70 artisan craft makers as well as Coventry shops. (1854 Coventry Road and 2785 Euclid Heights Blvd.,

Cleveland Heights, 216-556-0927)

Also on Dec. 5, Church of the Saviour will hold its annual Advent Festival, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a silent auction, food, live music and activities for children. (2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-8880)

The 22nd annual Holiday CircleFest will take place in University Circle on Dec. 6, 1-5:30 p.m. More than a dozen museums, gardens, galleries, churches and schools will provide activities—music, food, fun and shopping. From 1-7 p.m., the Rink at Wade Oval will be the site of ice skating and ice-carving demonstrations. Festivities will conclude with the Winter Lights Lantern Procession at The Cleveland Museum of Art, 5:30-6 p.m. (10820 East Blvd., Cleveland, 216-791-3900)

The Stone Gardens Assisted Living Residence will hold its annual Rock for All Ages Chanukah concert with Noah Budin on Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. (27090 Cedar Road, Beachwood, 216-292-0070)

Ten Thousand Villages will host a Shop to Support Heights Community Congress (HCC) event on Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m. The store will donate 15 percent of net sales to HCC. (12425 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-575-1058)

The Coventry Village Festival will be held Dec. 12, noon to 10 p.m., and is part of the second-annual Holiday Stroll, taking place in the Coventry Village, Cedar

Fairmount, and Cedar Lee shopping districts (see article on page one of this issue for details). Events include live music, community caroling, arts events, “ugly sweater” contests, holiday movie showings, and complimentary gift wrapping. Lolly the Trolley will provide free transportation between the three shopping districts, 4-8 p.m.

The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland will present A Festival of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 13, 4 p.m.; a Unified Service [featuring] Handel’s *Messiah* on Dec. 20, 10 a.m.; a Christmas Nativity Pageant with live animals on Dec. 24, 7 p.m., and a candlelight service on Dec. 24, 11 p.m. (3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, 216-932-7480)

At 7 p.m. on Dec. 13, 15 and 16, Nighttown will present its 10th annual Musical Theater Project performance of “A Christmas Cabaret in Cleveland.” This show features performances of well-known classics and hidden gems, as well as a few sing-alongs. Call 216-245-8687 for tickets (\$41 to \$45). (12387 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights)

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes will hold the 115th annual Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is the longest-running citizen science survey in the world that provides critical data on bird population trends. Bird walks will be held to locate and identify resident winter birds. Registration required.

(2600 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, 216-321-5935)

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center will host a Winter Centerpiece Workshop on Dec. 22, 11 a.m. Fresh greens will be provided to create decorations suitable for any holiday. Registration required; \$7 fee. (1 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 216-691-7377)

On Dec. 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Maltz Museum will offer “Give What You Can, Pay What You Can” admission. Bring a canned-good donation and/or pay what you can toward museum admission. There will be a screening of the film “Orchestra of Exiles” at 2 p.m., and a make-and-take craft project for kids (registration required). All canned goods will be donated to the Semach Sedek Kosher Food Bank and Pantry, and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. (2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood, 216-593-0575)

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center will hold its annual New Year’s party on Jan. 7, noon to 3 p.m. A catered lunch, musical entertainment and a raffle will be provided. Registration required; \$12 admission.

*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@lovinghandsgroup.com](mailto:judith@lovinghandsgroup.com).*

## CH Senior Center News



Earlene Starks Marshall, aka Ms. Duck.

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a wide variety of programming for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older.

Meet “Ms. Duck,” a vital senior center member and valued volunteer. Earlene Starks Marshall, known to all as Ms. Duck, volunteers to teach two free exercise classes each week: Walking Warm-Up and Workout

with Ms. Duck.

Held on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:15 p.m., these free, fun fitness classes are based on movement to music using weights, bands and balls. The classes are done using a chair, with participants seated or standing, and are appropriate for any fitness level.

Ms. Duck also acts as a host for the center’s Friday matinee movies (1 p.m.), making sure everyone has a seat and a generous snack.

Ms. Duck is an ambassador, helping to create the warm, friendly atmosphere that makes the senior center something special. Stop in and meet her for yourself. You’ll be glad you did!

The senior center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, which is available at Cleveland Heights City Hall, local libraries, the community center and online at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com). For more information and to register for any program, call 216-691-7377.

*Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by e-mail at [ajenkins@clvhts.com](mailto:ajenkins@clvhts.com).*

## Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. 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).

**Dec. 3:** Instrumentalists and vocalists from the Cleveland Institute of Music, one of the country’s distinguished music conservatories for both undergraduate and graduate students, will perform a concert.

**Dec. 10:** Caryn Candisky, district representative for U.S. Senator Robert Portman, will discuss

the senator’s work to bring child predators to justice, to end human trafficking, and to protect the most vulnerable among us.

**Dec. 17:** Baolu Chen, former music director at Nobel Road Presbyterian Church, is currently artist director at Cleveland International Cultural Center. The recipient of many awards from world-class piano competitions, Chen is pursuing a doctorate degree in musical arts at The Ohio State University. He’ll talk about his work teaching and performing, and his return to Carnegie Hall, next spring.

**Dec. 24** and **Dec. 31:** No senior events are scheduled. Best wishes for the holidays and New Year!

Do you like the

# Heights Observer?

## Your donation helps to keep it coming

The Observer is published as a non-profit project.

All proceeds are returned to the community through programming by FutureHeights.

Your donation is tax-deductible and helps sustain the Observer and other important projects.

Donate now by joining FutureHeights at [bit.ly/Observer-backer](http://bit.ly/Observer-backer)



## Filling the Void



HEIGHT OF  
COMPETITION

Jinida Doba

Who's going to fill the empty space?

More than predictable lyrics to a sappy pop ballad, these words may be close to a truthful pleading from many inner-ring suburbs across the country.

They're likely asking: Who's going to fill the vacant commercial spaces in our city?

With an estimated 89 vacant retail properties in the city of Cleveland Heights, according to the Commercial District Inventory of Cleveland Heights study published in 2013 by FutureHeights, the question is a legitimate one—and one that can be addressed with competitive strategy.

**If the matter is important, don't guess!** Cleveland Heights must identify and weigh crucial elements that define the contest. The place to start is with a measureable definition of the goal. Next, determine the competitive environment, and define the geographic area, participants and parties influential to the outcome. Define factors such as who, current positions held (on issues), resources, vested interests and related motivations.

**Define the market.** In the case of commercial vacancies, many influencing factors exist. The "givens," such as what's offered and where, help to define the next dimension: the target market segments (including competition), why and what we seek from each. Once we've collected and evaluated, we have a map; we have the landscape understood, and our current position and goal plotted.

With these factors and others in play, how can our city attract business operators (existing or start-up) to set up shop here when they could be lured by many others?

**Segment: Who do we want to convince?** Yes, the primary objective is for companies to stay, move back to, or start anew in our city. The plan to achieve this will not have every step aimed at the specific outcome. In other words, each step

is not a direct solicitation to move or stay here. If our city is not prepared, should we invite consideration before we are certain we can make a good impression? Premature action has lost many more battles than the absolute strength of the opposition.

So targeting is not just related to groups of individuals, businesses or institutions, but *issues* as well. For the immediate purposes of this column, the following groups seem to be the best high-level targets to start with: 1. Current commercial tenants and owners. (Our city needs to keep what it has. In order to accomplish this, current occupants' demands, needs and perceptions of fulfillment must be understood.); 2. Potential tenants and vacant-property owners. (Based on what our city has now, who would consider it? Who are possible secondary candidates?); and 3. Institutions (government and otherwise), regulators and other influencers. (Here, knowing the rules is necessary in order to know what can and can't be done with commercial properties.)

**What will we say?** In marketing terms, the case for acceptance and belief of what you are saying is often called the "value proposition." Naturally, any city has a generally accepted value proposition—a list of assets and benefits that make it appealing. Then, to be most effective, the value proposition is refined to points meaningful to each discreet targeted market segment and issue.

The above steps are necessary, even if we think we know all about our current assets. Nonetheless, we shouldn't guess or assume. Doing the work of appropriate analysis and planning—before competing—prevents undermining the confidence of those already on our side.

Prospects and even followers need to be recruited and given a picture of the situation, their role in it, high-level action expected of them and the timing, and what the general and individual benefits and risks may be.

**Make our case.** Once the value proposition and messages are developed, including the appeal to each audience, recognize that public relations are just the beginning. Each step in a full campaign to fill vacant commercial properties will need that same grounding and basis—with a start-to-finish outlook, quantified



Former theater at the Center Mayfield Building.

and timed outcomes, and measurement and evaluation phases to make the next cycle of effort even more productive.

**We've got them—now what?**

Whether the victories are found in returning operators, pioneers who ventured to the city for the first time (whether seasonal pop-up or permanent, by the way), or flexible property owners who see the big picture, their presence must be sustained.

If you'll pardon another cliché, any good relationship requires work from both sides. The relationship requires checking in to make sure everyone's "good," getting ahead of

future plans or ambitions, and seeking ways to work together for mutual benefit.

We may not fill *every* vacant commercial space, but when we account for and weigh the factors influencing our commercial districts, we can make ourselves much more visible, appealing and accessible to those unique prospects who can fill those empty spaces.

*Jinida Doba is an associate with Cleveland Heights-based Dorsey & Company Strategic Consultants to Management. Doba has called Cleveland Heights home since 2010.*

## NextStep offers small business owners tools for successful growth

Lisa Sands

Small business owners in the Heights are invited to apply to participate in NextStep: Strategies for Business Growth, a program of University Circle Inc., presented by KeyBank.

NextStep gives small business owners an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience through an award-winning curriculum that incorporates ready-to-apply tactics shared by fellow business owners and experts. Participants receive practical knowledge and implementation strategies on business development, finance and financial management, sales and marketing, human resources, access to new capital, and government and anchor-institution contracting. Using their own companies as in-depth case studies, business owners complete the program with a customized three-year strategic-growth action plan and new networks for business development.

NextStep graduate Brooks Jones is managing member of Grandview Place in Cleveland Heights, a business that provides furnished apartments for visitors to Cleveland Clinic and the University Circle area. With a rapidly expanding business, said Jones, "We couldn't plan because we were operating minute-to-minute. After completing the NextStep program, we are on fire with our books and are generating very viable numbers. We've hired three key people, and we've been able to delegate about 50 percent of the activities we used to

NextSTEP  
Strategies for Business Growth presented by KeyBank

handle ourselves, leaving us to focus on the strategic."

Beginning in January 2016, NextStep will offer three-hour classes, every other week, lasting approximately seven months. Class size is limited to 15 participants, to enable individualized instruction and close collaboration among peers. To be eligible, applicants must have owned their business for at least three years, have annual sales of at least \$250,000, and have at least one employee in addition to the owner.

University Circle Inc., which provides the NextStep program, is a service, development, and advocacy organization for University Circle—one of the fastest-growing employment districts in Northeast Ohio. University Circle Inc. is in a unique position to connect NextStep graduates with more than 40 nonprofit organizations in the education, medical and cultural sectors that may introduce them to new business opportunities.

Partial scholarships are available for business owners located in one of the Greater University Circle neighborhoods or who currently do business with University Circle organizations.

For more information and to access the application, visit [www.universitycircle.org/nextstep](http://www.universitycircle.org/nextstep).

*Lisa Sands is director of marketing for University Circle Inc.*

Do you like the  
**Heights Observer?**  
Your donation helps to keep it coming

The Observer is published as a non-profit project.

All proceeds are returned to the community through programming by FutureHeights.

Your donation is tax-deductible and helps sustain the Observer and other important projects.

**Donate now by joining FutureHeights at [bit.ly/Observer-backer](http://bit.ly/Observer-backer)**



# Coventry's Houde School is a home for aspiring actors



Jessica Houde Morris at her acting school on Coventry Road.

James Henke

The Houde School of Acting, at 1777 Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights, opened in 2007. The school offers classes for people of almost all ages, with three classes for children ages 6–13, and other classes for teens and adults.

Jessica Houde Morris, 37, founded the school. Born in Massachusetts, Morris moved to the Cleveland area with her family when she was 18. Shortly after they moved here, she was wondering what she should do with her life, and her parents suggested

that she look into acting or modeling. Eight months later, she moved to Los Angeles and began taking classes at the acting school Playhouse West.

Robert Carnegie, the founder of the school, worked with Sanford Meisner, who developed what's called the Meisner style of actor training. The Houde School focuses on the Meisner style. "His theory was that, in order to act, you have to live truthfully under imaginary circumstances," Morris said. "There are 10 levels of technique you have to go through to learn the entire thing." She noted that it can take up to four years for a student to learn the Meisner style.

After three and a half years of classes at Playhouse West, Morris began teaching at the school. Then, two years later, Morris returned to Cleveland to open her own school. Her father had died in 2004, and she decided to use her maiden name for the school's name.

Houde's students come from all over Ohio and neighboring states. "We have students from Mansfield, Lodi, Canton, Columbus, Wooster, Pennsyl-

vania and many other places," Morris said. She estimated that she has around 100 students enrolled in the school at any one time. Three months ago, she opened a second school, in Kent.

In addition to classes about the Meisner technique, Houde offers improv classes and "camera" classes, which focus on acting in commercials.

The school also offers audition technique classes. "I give the students a script for the first time," Morris said. "They act out that script, and I give them critiques and adjustments, and they come back the next week with those adjustments."

Over the course of her career, Morris has worked with several well-known actors, including James Franco, who has starred in many movies; Shawnee Smith, best-known for her role as Linda in the CBS sitcom "Becker," and Scott

Caan, a regular on "Hawaii Five-O."

Several of her students have gone on to pursue successful acting careers. One student, who is now in Los Angeles, will appear in two upcoming shows on NBC. Another student has appeared in commercials for Mr. Hero. Kurt Yue, an instructor at Houde, frequently appears in Ohio Lottery commercials.

Morris lives in Cleveland Heights. She is married and has a daughter, Esic, who is 17 months old.

For more information on classes at Houde, visit [www.houdeschoolofacting.org](http://www.houdeschoolofacting.org) or call 330-348-1106.

*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.*

## Cleveland Bazaar coming to Coventry Dec. 5

James Henke

More than 70 artists and crafts people will be on Coventry Road on Dec. 5, when the Cleveland Bazaar comes to Cleveland Heights for the first time. The bazaar is the longest-running indie crafts show in Cleveland. It started in 2004, and usually attracts thousands of people to its events.

The Cleveland Heights show will be indoors at 1854 Coventry Road, near Euclid Heights Boulevard. Crafts people and artists will be on the upper level, in spaces formerly occupied by Burgers-n-Beer and Kiwi Spoon. Artists will also be in the Grog Shop, which will be serving Bloody Marys. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Jenny Goe, who owns the In the 216 store with her husband, has taken part in the bazaar for many years. After opening her shop on Coventry, Goe contacted Shannon Okey, who runs the bazaar, and suggested she do an event there. Angela Hetrick, executive director of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District, helped secure the Grog Shop. In

addition to the artists and vendors, many Coventry Village merchants will also have displays.

"We really make an effort to get people out and shop in the neighborhood," Okey said. "So we invite the local merchants to have displays, and then we hope the people who come to the bazaar will also go to the other stores."

"I think it's going to be really, really great for the street," Goe said. "Thousands of people come to these shows, and they come from all over Cleveland. Some might not have been to Coventry before. And when they get here, they will go to all of the shops and buy additional items."

About half of the artists who have items at In the 216 will be taking part in the event. People attending the bazaar will be able to purchase T-shirts, jewelry, sports-themed art, photography, fine art, soap and other bath products. Most of the items being sold at the bazaar are handmade, one-of-a-kind pieces.

Hetrick said she is very optimistic that the bazaar will be an impetus for holding more events on the street.

**Forest Hill Church**  
presbyterian

invites you to celebrate  
Christmas Eve with us:

5:00 pm Family Worship  
11:00 pm Candlelight Service  
12:00 am Milk & Cookies Reception

[www.fhcpresb.org](http://www.fhcpresb.org) 3031 Monticello (at Lee) 216-321-2660

**STUDENT  
HOLIDAY SALE**

Fri Dec 4	Sat Dec 5	Sun Dec 6
6:30–9:00pm	9:00am–8:00pm	12:30–6:00pm

**Cleveland Institute of Art**  
11610 Euclid Avenue  
[cia.edu/holidaysale](http://cia.edu/holidaysale)

**CIA**

**Festival of  
Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.**

Six choirs foretell the coming of Jesus through carols, Scripture and hymns, featuring organist Robert Day, the Starkweather Brass, tympani & handbells.

**Church of the Saviour**  
2537 Lee Road  
Cleveland Heights  
(216) 321-8880  
[www.chsaviour.org](http://www.chsaviour.org)

# Holiday store and stroll spotlight local artists



Heights Arts 14th annual holiday store is open through Dec. 30.

Mary Ryan

For 10 months out of the year, Heights Arts uses its Lee Road location to host art exhibitions, poetry readings, musical performances and gallery talks, and feature a limited selection of works by local artists in its gallery shop.

At the beginning of November, the gallery gets turned on its head and the entire 2,400-square-foot

space fills with an expanded selection of new works—ceramics, glass, jewelry, prints, wearables, cards and holiday items. This expanded holiday store enables Heights Arts to feature new and local talent, which is curated by a gallery committee of artist-peers throughout the year.

This year, the Heights Arts Holiday Store welcomes 16 new artists: jewelry from Blooming Enamels, Emily R Studio, Abbey Blake and

Zenia Lis; drawings and paintings by Linda Ayala, Kate Atherton, Leslye Arian and David King; ceramics by Lauren Herzak-Bauman; mixed-media work by Matthew Gallagher and Nancy Luken; hand-printed textiles from Giardino; scarves and tees by Pure & Sweet and GV Designs; hand-turned wood items by David Shafron; and bags from Cleveland Recycles.

Leslye Arian—a Shaker Heights artist and Cleveland Institute of Art alumna who only recently began exhibiting her work—noted, “It can be quite intimidating to approach a new gallery, but I found Heights Arts to be extremely supportive. It’s clear that the staff and board of Heights Arts make a serious investment in their artists.”

In support of artists and the community, Heights Arts is rolling out a number of special gallery events for December.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, during the Cedar Lee Holiday Stroll, acclaimed pianist Megan Clay Constantine will perform in the gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. A past Heights Music Hop performer and current director of the music department at The Music Settlement, Constantine can play virtually anything on request. All are invited to stop by the gallery to hear favorite tunes while enjoying refreshments and holiday shopping.

Stroll-goers may also contribute writings and drawings of their personal hopes and dreams for the Heights community to the Heights Arts Wishing Tree—a project inspired by cultural traditions in India and other parts of Asia.

Heights Arts is sponsoring a “holiday hashtag” contest, Dec. 1–12, in which gallery visitors can snap a photo of their favorite gallery item, and upload it via their Instagram or Facebook accounts with the hashtag #HeightsArtsHoliday. Participants will be eligible to win a Heights Arts gift certificate. The winner will be announced via Heights Arts’s Facebook and Instagram pages.

The Heights Arts 14th Annual Holiday Store is open every day through Dec. 30. For extended gallery hours and event information, visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org) or call 216-371-3457.

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

## ‘Peter and the Starcatcher’ debuts at Dobama Theatre

Owen Schneider

The five-time Tony Award-winning play “Peter and the Starcatcher,” makes its Cleveland debut at Dobama Theatre this month. “Starcatcher,” a prequel to *Peter Pan*, is based on the young adult series of novels by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. It explores Peter’s origins while telling the story of Molly Aster and her attempts to return a special trunk of “starstuff” to her father.

“Peter and the Starcatcher” is Dobama Theatre’s third mainstage production of its 2015–16 season, promising to continue a strong lineup. The play is directed by Nathan Motta, Dobama’s artistic director, and features music by Wayne Barker. Scenic design is by Aaron Benson, with lighting by Marcus Dana, sound by Richard Ingraham, costume design by Tesia Dugan Benson and music directed by Jordan Cooper.

Motta applauded Dobama’s creative team, saying, “Our incredible design team has been working for nearly eight months straight to bring this innovative story of magic stardust, mermaids, pirates and Peter Pan to life onstage through music and imagination. There will be surprises around every corner in what will be a truly memorable, intimate and unique experience of entertainment!”

The play features a talented cast of 13 actors with strong ties to Greater Cleveland: Kyle Adam, Christopher Bohan, Robert Ellis, Andrew Gorell, Molly Israel, Tim Keo, Jason Leupold, Joe Pine, James Rankin, Eugene Sumlin, Ryan Thurman, Luke Wehner and Ryan Zarecki. They will be playing more than 100 characters using the limitless possibilities of imagination.

According to Motta, “The show will be a magical theater experience for adults and families alike. This play brought storytelling-style theater back to the big stage when it hit Broadway three years ago. Now major theaters all over the country are bringing it to their communities, and we’re honored and grateful that Dobama is presenting it to Northeast Ohio.”

The production runs from Dec. 4 through Jan. 3, with five performances each week, including added Saturday matinees, and special performance times around the holidays. For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.dobama.org](http://www.dobama.org) or call the box office at 216-932-3396. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road, in Cleveland Heights.

*Owen Schneider is a media relations intern at Dobama Theatre.*

**Great Eye Care.  
Locally Owned.**

**Walk-ins welcome**

2259 Warrensville Ctr. Road  
University Hts., OH 44118  
216-371-5520

4625 Richmond Road  
Warrensville Hts., OH 44128  
216-765-0532

We accept all major vision and medical insurance

**Dr. Ernest J. Robinson**

- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Treatment of Eye Diseases
- Contact Lens Care
- Designer Eyewear

Outside  
prescriptions  
welcome

**Free frame with  
purchase of lenses.**

When you mention this ad



Gift Local!

**HOLIDAY  
MARKET!**

Artists • Farmers • Local Food • Ohio Wines



**Saturday, December 5  
9am-1pm**

At 13209 Shaker Square  
Between CVS & Dewey's

[northunionfarmersmarket.org](http://northunionfarmersmarket.org) |

**EDWARDS  
PAINTING  
&  
HOME  
SERVICES**

**SPECIALIZING IN OLDER HOMES**  
Interior & Exterior • Quality / Reliability  
Heights based  
(216) 780-2455  
[roberte1964@att.net](mailto:roberte1964@att.net)

# Music is the focus of Kevin Richards' life

James Henke

Kevin Richards has been a key figure in the Cleveland Heights music scene for the past few decades. Not only does he play in Heights-based bands, he also owns the Fairmount School of Music (FSM), and is the founder of the nonprofit organization Roots of American Music, headquartered in Cleveland Heights.

Richards, who is 60, was born in Euclid, but his family moved to Cleveland Heights when he was 4 years old. He attended school in Cleveland Heights, and graduated from Heights High in 1973. He attended Cuyahoga Community College for a year, studying architecture, then transferred to Cleveland State University (CSU), where he majored in music.

He got into music at a very early age. "As a youngster, my brother would play a lot of Beatles records, Jimi Hendrix records and Mamas and Papas records," he said. "And my mother was into Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra, so I became familiar with a style of music that other people of my age weren't into."

During his junior high years at Roxboro, Richards played alto sax and tenor sax in the school band. "I got a very formal, classical education," he said. "And that was my start."

A few years later, when he was in high school, he started playing gui-



Kevin Richards

tar. While attending CSU, Richards decided he wanted to be a musician and teach guitar. He landed a job at the Dick Lurie Guitar Studio in Cleveland Heights. He also joined a band called Flapjack. "That was the first band I was in that was successful," he said. "Suddenly, I was playing about 200 gigs a year and teaching 40 students a week."

About a decade later, Richards opened FSM, which is located at 3473 Fairmount Blvd., near Taylor Road. The school's slogan is "Educating the Heights since 1988." FSM employs more than 15 instructors, offering lessons for a variety of instruments, including guitar, piano, violin, drums, clarinet, saxophone and brass instruments.

"After opening the Fairmount School, I began thinking about creating an outreach educational program in the community," Richards said. "I wanted to create something that was not limited by geography or by finances."

In the summer of 1999, Richards formed Roots of American Music. The nonprofit organization takes teaching artists who have backgrounds in jazz, blues, hip-hop and other styles of music into schools all over Northeast Ohio, and teaches the students about music and other subjects, using the music. Recently, the organization has broadened its mission by going into old-age homes and assisted-living centers.

This past July, Richards stepped down as the executive director of Roots of American Music. He was replaced by Chip Coakley. Richards now serves as the organization's artistic director. "Now I have more time to focus on our programs," he said. He wants to increase the number of community events that the organization puts on. Currently, Roots of American Music presents community picking sessions on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at MT Glass on Cedar Road near Taylor Road. Roots of American Music also presents a "pickin' party" on the last Monday of every month at Dise and Company, at 20600 Chagrin Blvd. in Beachwood.

Richards said he is also thinking about having the organization put together an annual roots-music festival, perhaps in the University Circle area, beginning next summer.

In addition to his involvement with Roots of American Music and FSM, Richards also plays guitar

in a few area bands. On the first Thursday of every month, he plays fiddle, banjo and mandolin with his band the SpYder Stompers and Sugar Pie at the Barking Spider Tavern in University Circle. He is also a member of Hot Djang!, a gypsy-jazz band whose music is influenced by the music of Django Reinhardt, and he plays with Gene's Jazz Hot, a group that features a traditional New Orleans sound, and Long Road, a '60s-style folk group. On Monday nights, Richards often sits in with George Foley during his shows at the Tavern Company on Lee Road.

Richards has also performed and taught outside of Cleveland. He has appeared at the MerleFest, an annual tribute to Doc and Merle Watson that is held in North Carolina, and has given music lessons at the Augusta Heritage Center in West Virginia.

Richards said he loves the diversity of Cleveland Heights. "I also love all of the restaurants, from the Wine Spot to the Tavern Company to Nighttown," he said. "And I love the entertainment." He frequently takes bike rides around the Heights. "I love looking at all of the houses and the great architecture," Richards said.

*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.*



## The Music Settlement

Acclaimed Music Therapy  
Private & Group Music Lessons  
Ensembles & Orchestras  
Early Childhood Education  
Top-Rated in Cleveland

### OPEN HOUSE

PRESCHOOL, DAY SCHOOL, & KINDERGARTEN  
Sunday, Jan. 10, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Best Music  
Instruction



5-Star Accredited  
Preschool, Day School,  
& Kindergarten

The Music Settlement is Generously Supported by:



Sort by age & enroll online. Music for ALL:

[www.TheMusicSettlement.org/all](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org/all)



Give the Gift of Musical  
Experience: Register a Loved  
One for Music Lessons!

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Classes at 11125 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland  
& at BOP STOP, 2920 Detroit Rd., Ohio City

Holidays are Happier at the BOP STOP!

# Merry Chris Mis



SONGS AND  
STORIES

David Budin

Cleveland Heights has long been known for its diversity. That's why—well, one of the reasons—I was surprised to read a letter to the editor in the *Plain Dealer* a few years ago by a person from Cleveland Heights, who complained that people who aren't overjoyed by someone saying "Merry Christmas" to them just aren't . . . I don't know—Christian, I guess.

So I wrote a letter to the editor myself. I don't write many letters to the editor. My letter was, well . . . it was the only one I've ever written. It said:

"The Dec. 16 letter from Chris Mis ("Merry Christmas! Now did that hurt?") succinctly summarizes the attitude of many well-intentioned people who just don't get it.

It says, 'No one is being damaged or deprived by being wished Merry Christmas.' Well, maybe not in the writer's unintentionally biased opinion.

The letter goes on to say, 'Those who feel that it is improper to use the phrase Merry Christmas' should add their names to the list that includes Scrooge and the Grinch.' Right-along with billions of Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, atheists and others who aren't Christian. People who consider themselves followers of faiths other than Christianity don't observe or celebrate Christian holidays.

Are we really damaged by being wished Merry Christmas? A little—over time it grinds away at you, makes you feel as if you're not part of the club. Deprived? Yes. We have our own beliefs, different from many others but just as valid. By constantly ignoring, denying and dismissing our beliefs, Christians are depriving us.

I'm sure Chris Mis is very merry,

and I hope he stays that way. But he should try to see the other side."

The morning my letter appeared, my phone rang at 9 a.m. I answered. An unfamiliar man's voice said, "Hello, Dave?" I said, "Yes?" He said, unnaturally loudly, "Merry Christmas to you and yours!" and then slammed the phone down. He was still using a phone that you could slam down to end a call.

I went back to what I had been doing. About a half hour later the phone rang again. I answered and had the same brief conversation with the same man. The guy was old and simple, so he didn't know that I could hit star-6-9 and find out the number of the phone from which the call had originated. And because he was old and simple, he also had no idea that I could enter that number into a reverse-lookup site on my computer and find out the address of that phone number.

The call had been made from a phone booth—one of the few left in the world—on a Cleveland Heights corner I knew well. A pay phone—because the guy was old and simple and the last movie he had seen was made in 1942, when people used pay phones to retain their anonymity.

A half hour later, the same thing. I did star-6-9 and then reverse-lookup and found that that he'd made the third call from his own home. So I now knew his name and address and phone number. He lived not far away from me. I drove past his house.

I found it ironic that he lived in an area that John D. Rockefeller had commissioned a man named Taylor to map out for development in the early 1900s, in what became known as the Taylor Plan. And it seems to be common knowledge—in the form of a badly kept secret—that the plan stipulated the neighborhood had to remain restricted: no Jews or blacks. I figured my cowardly phone caller had lived there since Taylor had laid out the area. And had been friends with Taylor. And had suggested the part about no Jews or blacks. No—insisted on it.

Two days later, I received a Christmas card in a bright red envelope. It was not signed, but inside someone had scrawled in large, angry letters: "DEAR DAVID—YOU

DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS SANTA CLAUS IS NOT A CHRISTIAN SYMBOL. JUST BE HAPPY AND LOVE."

Except that I hadn't mentioned Santa Claus. And you kind of do have to believe in Jesus to enjoy Christmas. Unless you just need an excuse to buy people presents. But Christmas does have a pretty specific meaning.

The next day I received another, identical Christmas card, in a bright red envelope, unsigned, in which was scrawled in large, angry letters: "I WISH YOU AND ALL OF YOUR LOVED ONES A VERY MERRY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS."

Now that one was kind of religious, I'm thinking. I mean, can you have a holy Christmas without being religious? He was beginning to lose his perspective.

The next two days, two more cards: "Merry Christmas, Dude!" and "Hope it's good XXXXX Honey Buns."

This guy had gone to quite a bit of trouble just to make me feel bad because I didn't agree with his very happy message that everyone should be Christian. You may not think so, at first glance, but that's what he was saying. And that's what makes this country great—that we're all one religion, and all one race and all of one national origin. Oh, wait—we're not. Well, that guy is. If you know what I mean.

Okay, so I understand that many people think and feel the same way this guy who calls himself Chris Mis does. That's never going to change. And I don't really care if people say "Merry Christmas" to me, because I understand that many people don't think about a lot of things—plus, it is a nice time of year (or, at least, it can be). The amazing thing, to me, is that the guy actually used Jesus, theoretically a symbol of love and peace and acceptance, as a weapon, to literally try to hurt me. Ironic. And increasingly common.

*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.*

## #1 Roofing

Residential Commercial

**Tear-offs • Re-roofs • All repairs**  
 Shingles • Slate • Tile • Gutters • Siding • Chimney Work  
 Metal Roofs Installed  
**Insured • All work guaranteed • Free estimates**  
**Flat Roof Experts**  
**Nobody Under Bids Us**

**216-319-0430**

# Enroll now!

Lowest college tuition in Northeast Ohio

Easily transfer your credits to a four-year university

For more information:  
**www.tri-c.edu**  
**216-987-6000**

Metropolitan Campus  
 2900 Community College Ave. | Cleveland, Ohio 44115

## Now providing orthodontics

### Walters Family Dentistry Inc.

Call today for your dental examination

- General and cosmetic dentistry
- Specializing in ages 2-100
- Fillings
- Teeth whitening

**Dr. Malcolm Walters, Jr.**  
 D.D.S. General Dentistry

(216) 382-1102 • 14100 Cedar Rd. #260  
 University Heights, OH 44118

VISA DISCOVER MASTER CARD

## St. Paul's winter art show features adventurous artists and experimental media



Ceramic and metal object by Todd Leech and Stephanie Craig.

Mary Cushing

The Nicholson B. White Gallery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., announces its winter show, *Spaces/Places/Structures*. The show opens with an artists' reception on Friday, Dec. 4, 5-7 p.m., where participating artists will be in attendance to greet guests and discuss their creative processes. The show runs through Feb. 28.

Featured artists are Todd Leech and Stephanie Craig in collaboration (clay), Susan Griffith (photography), Rita Schuenemann (oil on canvas)

and Dawn Tekler (encaustic wax).

Stephanie Craig and artist/husband Todd Leech maintain a ceramics studio, Hectic Studio, in Cleveland. In addition to pursuing their individual studio practices, they often work collaboratively on projects. Most recently, Craig and Leech completed collaborative sculptures for a two-person exhibition at Kent State University. Together, they seek to push the limits of ceramic materials to innovate, experiment and explore the possibilities of the medium.

Susan Griffith's images begin with cardboard shapes or textures that provide the image's scaffolding onto which other photographs are added until something new and original appears and emerges into focus, much like a regular photograph in the lens of the camera. The final image becomes the starting point for the observer to construct his or her own story about what should come before and after.

Rita Schuenemann strives for a dynamic relationship among color, line, shape and space and is interested in patterns of color which she weaves

into her paintings. She works in oil on canvas because she loves the buttery fluidity of oils and the "give" of the canvas. Her paintings are a colorful celebration of ordinary, everyday life, and her inspiration comes from our daily surroundings—nature, architecture, still life or people.

Dawn Tekler's encaustic series is an experimental departure from her conventional photography. Through the layering of wax, adding color

and texture, she aims to create an environment that allows viewers to bring to the work their own stories.

All are welcome at the opening reception. The gallery is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The artists receive all proceeds from the sale of their work.

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

Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Fri.: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sat.: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sun.: 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**Tel: 216-320-2302 Fax: 216-320-2306**

1763 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118  
www.pacificeastcoventry.com

**Award Winning Sushi & Fabulous Malaysian Cuisine**

## Amahl and the Night Visitors visit Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

Peg Weissbrod

The classic Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* will be performed at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Gian-Carlo Menotti's uplifting opera tells the story of Amahl, a disabled boy who walks with a crutch and likes to tell tall tales. When he and his mother are visited by the Three Kings, faith and generosity lead to an emotional miracle.

Menotti specified that Amahl should always be played by a boy, not a young adult. A fortuitous casting opportunity has eight-year-old Cleveland Heights resident Henry Dyck singing the role of Amahl alongside his own mother, soprano Lara Troyer, as Amahl's mother.

Troyer, a former associate artist with Cleveland Opera, is a voice faculty member at Kent State University. Her recent roles include solos with the Akron Symphony in *The Messiah*, Faure's *Requiem* with Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament, Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and soprano in Kipilow's *Green Eggs and Ham*.

Forest Hill Church Music Director Anne Wilson describes Henry Dyck as having perfect pitch and uncommon skill in jazz improvisation. "The duets he sings with his mother in *Amahl*," she said, "will bring a tear to the eye of every listener."

Other Cleveland Heights residents in *Amahl* include Mist'a Craig, Carl Jenks and Caleb Wright as the Three Kings, Jack Lentz as the Page, and oboist Cynthia Watson. Henry's younger sister,



Henry Dyck and Lara Troyer.

six-year-old Margaret, will play a shepherd in the opera.

Admission is free. Forest Hill Church is located at 3031 Monticello Blvd. Additional information is available at 216-321-2660 or online at [www.fhcbpresb.org](http://www.fhcbpresb.org).

*Peg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and outreach coordinator for Forest Hill Church.*

*Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki*  
"Best of the Heights" Award Winner



**Learn how to heal yourself with Reiki**

Call or click for class info

216.408.5578



[LovingHandsYoga.com](http://LovingHandsYoga.com)

*No problem! I will take care of it...*

**SCOTT HAIGH**

[www.ScottHaigh.com](http://www.ScottHaigh.com)  
[Scott@ScottHaigh.com](mailto:Scott@ScottHaigh.com)  
Direct: 216-272-6889

Multi-family for sale:  
19024 Winslow Rd, Shaker Hts. \$181,750

**Big B's Beverage**

**Your neighborhood source for beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages**

**Great Selection of Crafts and Imports**  
**Fine Wines**  
**State-Minimum Prices**  
**Walk-In Beer Cooler**  
**"Lucky" Lotto Store**

**M-Th 8-10; F-S 8-11; Sun 10-8**  
**2000 Warrensville Ctr. Road, South Euclid**  
**(Just north of Cedar Center)**  
**(216) 382-7330**

# Wanderlust makes one-of-a-kind jewelry in CH studio

James Henke

Wanderlust Jewelers specializes in one-of-a-kind, handmade pieces of jewelry, including engagement rings, wedding rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Wanderlust's owners, Wes and Heather Airgood, have lived in Cleveland Heights since 2010. They recently moved their studio from Little Italy to 12429 Cedar Road, above Starbucks in the Cedar Fairmount district.

In November, Wanderlust held an open-house event. "We want people to see what we do and how we do it," said Wes Airgood.

Wes, 33, was born in northern Indiana. His family moved to Toledo when he was in junior high school. In 2005, he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and then went on to the University of Georgia, where he earned a master's degree in fine arts, with a concentration in metalwork and jewelry design.

His first job after graduate school was at Heather Moore Jewelry, which was then based in Cleveland Heights. That's where Wes met his future wife, Heather Terrore, who had graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art, where she earned her BFA degree. "We worked well together, and we had a lot of fun," he said.

In 2011, the Airgoods decided to start their own business, and opened a studio in Little Italy, above Presti's



Wes Airgood, co-owner of Wanderlust Jewelers.

Bakery.

"We focus on old-fashioned, custom jewelry," said Wes. "Everything is one-of-a-kind, and everything is made from recycled gold and diamonds." Many of their clients bring old jewelry from home, and ask to have it redesigned. "If someone wants to get married, they often want to use a diamond from one of their grandparents' pieces of jewelry," Wes said. "Jewelry is made to be worn, but it often winds up sitting in a box. So we take it and make it into something new."

Jaeda Kinkoph, who handles sales and marketing for Wanderlust, said they have three different types of clients: "Some people come in and know exactly what they want. Then, some people come in with existing diamonds and other pieces of

jewelry, and they want it made into something new. The third group has no idea what they want."

"When someone comes in, we talk for about an hour, and I take notes," said Wes. "Then I draw a couple of sketches based on our conversation, and once they decide on a design, it usually takes about four to six weeks to get the piece done. And everything is done by hand. I take a bar of gold and loose diamonds, then I carve the pieces and I use a torch to solder the pieces together."

Kinkoph is currently in discussions with retail outlets, to explore opportunities for Wanderlust to start selling some jewelry in stores across the country.

Wes said he and Heather love Cleveland Heights. They live on Lee Road near Monmouth Road, across

from Church of the Savior. "It's such a wonderful community," he said. "I love all of the shops and other things along Lee Road, and I also love the recreation center." In September, his parents moved from Connecticut to Cleveland Heights.

The Airgood's first child, Olivia Hazard Airgood, is now two years old. The couple named her after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, who won the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. "When we had Olivia, it was the bicentennial year of the Battle of Lake Erie," Wes said. "So we decided to name her after the commodore." The couple is expecting a second child in January.

Wes is considering writing a book about many of the stories he has heard related to the jewelry he has worked on. "I love the storytelling that goes along with the jewelry," he said. "Jewelry is so personal, and many of the people just have great stories about the items they bring in to have us work on."

For more information on Wanderlust Jewelers, visit [www.wanderlustjewelers.com](http://www.wanderlustjewelers.com). To enquire about custom jewelry designs, contact Jaeda Kinkoph at [jaeda@wanderlustjewelers.com](mailto:jaeda@wanderlustjewelers.com) or 216-505-0551.

*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.*

## MOTORCARS

IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

### Customers for Life.

Motorcars would like to thank the entire Cleveland Heights, University Heights community for voting us Best of the Heights in multiple categories. As a family owned business we know how import it is to maintain a strong community relationship.

With our work both in the community, and with Future Heights, we will continue to build upon the wonderful support that we receive from our neighbors.

We have fully embraced the "green" movement started by the city of Cleveland Heights, and our improvements both to our facilities and our processes will leave a lasting impact and serve as a guide for other area establishments to do the same.

Thank you for your continued support,

-The Gile Family, Motorcars Honda & Toyota



**Best Longstanding Heights Business**



**Best Cleveland Heights Business**



**Best Automotive Business**

