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FutureHeights
2843 Washington Blvd. #105
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Heights High's Charles Conwell poised to join U.S. Olympic team

James Henke

Charles Conwell, a senior at Heights High, may be headed to the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro this August.

Conwell is very close to making the U.S. Olympic team as a boxer. The 18-year-old, who lives on Altamont Road in Cleveland Heights, has been boxing for the last eight years. "Once I started," said Conwell, "I could never quit."

Conwell, a 165-pound middle-weight boxer, won his class at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Reno, Nev., in December. He beat two-time national champion Leshawn Rodriguez in his opening bout, and then went on to win his fights against world championship team member Anthony Campbell and 2015 national champion Chordale Booker.

In March, Conwell will head to Buenos Aires, Argentina to take part in an international qualifying tournament—the first of three such tournaments.

According to a representative of Team USA Boxing, if Conwell is one of the top two finishers in Buenos



JAMES HENKE

Charles Conwell heads to Rio de Janeiro in March, where he will compete for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Boxing team.

Aires, he will make the Olympic team. If he doesn't finish in the top two there, Conwell will move on to the next qualifying tournament, to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in May, where he would need to be among the top three finishers in order to make the Olympic team. The third and final qualifying tournament will take place in June, in Baku, Azerbaijan. There, Conwell would need to finish in the top five to qualify for the U.S. Olympic team.

Annette Mecklenburg to become CH's first female police chief

James Henke

As of Feb. 2, the Cleveland Heights Police Department will have a new chief. On Feb. 1, Jeffrey Robertson retires as police chief. The following day, Annette Mecklenburg will be sworn in, becoming the first female chief in the department's history.

Robertson, 55, has served as chief for five years, and spent 34 and a half years on the force. Mecklenburg served as captain for a year and a half before being named chief. She has been on the Cleveland Heights police force for 25 years, and has lived in Cleveland Heights for more than 20 years.

The three candidates for chief underwent a testing process and interviews with city administrators. Cleveland Heights City Manager



JAMES HENKE

Annette Mecklenburg, new CH police chief, with outgoing chief Jeffrey Robertson.

Tanisha Briley made the decision to name Mecklenburg the city's new police chief.

"Having been here so long," said Robertson, "Annette has an understanding of how the department works, and she knows the personnel and the city."

Mecklenburg was born in Wil-

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CH City Council elects Stephens mayor; Stein vice mayor

Deanna Bremer Fisher

At its first meeting of 2016, Cleveland Heights City Council swore in its new and re-elected members. It also elected Cheryl Stephens as mayor and president of council, and Jason Stein as vice mayor.

The meeting began with the swearing in of Cleveland Heights City Council members Mary Dunbar, who was elected to a second term in November; Kahlil Seren, who was elected to council after having served, as an appointee, the remaining 10



DEANNA BREMER FISHER

Newly elected Vice Mayor Jason Stein and Mayor Cheryl Stephens hear prayers from clergy.

months of an unexpired term; and newly elected Carol Roe.

The members of council (currently six, with the vacancy created by Jeff Coryell's resignation) then

elected Cheryl Stephens as mayor and president of council. She is the second African-American woman to hold that office. Barbara Boyd, who had been elected to council in 1983, was the first.

Stephens said she originally ran for council because, "I wanted to make Cleveland Heights a better place." Later, she stated that she was "humbled" to be elected mayor.

"Part of the promise of America is that even a little child like me can grow to be mayor, and it is totally

continued on page 6

UH council appoints architect John Rach to fill open council seat

Kim Sergio Inglis

On Jan. 4, UH City Council voted to appoint John Rach to the city's open council seat, which was left unfilled when only three UH Councilman candidates stood for four open seats in the November 2015 general election.

Earlier in the meeting, three council members took oaths of office: re-elected council members Pamela Cameron and Steven Sims, and newly elected Michele Weiss. Council also re-elected Sue Pardee as the city's vice mayor.

Rach, 31, is a registered architect who has lived in University Heights since 2011. He has served the city in various capacities since 2012, as a member of the board of zoning appeals, a committee member for the new master plan (ongoing), a steering committee member for the NOACA Pedestrian and Bike Friendly Lane Project, and a steering committee member for the new zoning code commission.

As vice mayor, Pardee led the process of selecting an appointee from the 18 residents who applied for the seat by the Nov. 19 deadline. Council members met on Nov. 30 to review the candidates, and then interviewed seven of them on Dec.

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COURTESY JOHN RACH

Newly appointed UH Councilman John Rach.

Letters Policy

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

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About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

• To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org 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.

Articles to be considered for the March issue must be submitted by Feb. 8. 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.

RACH continued from page 1

8 and 15. Michele Weiss, elected, but not yet seated, participated in the interviews, along with continuing council members Pamela Cameron, Phillip Ertel, Steven Sims and Mark Wiseman.

Rach will hold the seat as an appointee for two years, until Dec. 31, 2017. According to the city charter, he will have to run in the next general election—in November 2017—in order to seek the opportunity to be elected to serve the remaining two years of the seat's four-year term.

Rach—who graduated from Kent State University with a Master of Architecture, a Master of Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in architecture—said, "I believe having an architect on city council is a great fit, as I understand the importance of proper city planning, developing properties for future use and maintaining the beautiful aesthetic of our community."

Rach is director of marketing for CBLH Design, the firm that the CH-UH Public Library System hired to design the renovations for its University Heights Library.

"As architects," said Rach, "it's our nature to be involved in our communities and professional/civic affiliations. If we couldn't work in those communities, our profession would not stay in business."

"With regard to the UH Library, the firm that I'm currently em-

ployed at was hired and contracted to work with the system in the spring of 2015, long before I had any political aspirations. Although I do not believe (and the council [members] who appointed me didn't either) that there was a conflict of interest because the library is not owned by the city, I have chosen, in good faith, to step aside from the project. In addition, if this project were to appear on any city review meeting, I would recuse myself from the agenda."

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, who was not involved in the process to appoint a new council member, commented on Rach's prior service to the city: "John served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for three years and was a very engaged member of that body. His professional background as an architect brought a richness to the discussion of issues before the [board]. John has also served the city as a member of the steering committee for the city's upcoming master plan, and served on the steering committee for the city's initial work and consideration of updates to the planning and zoning code a few years ago. He is a very friendly person and easy to get along with."

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

Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Economy Grows But State Funding for Public Schools Continues to Shrink

... It is axiomatic in public finance: if the federal government cuts taxes and the state government cuts taxes, the only way to maintain essential services is to go back to citizens to increase local taxes—which is exactly what is happening here in my community. ... In November my inner-ring sub-



urban city government asked voters to increase the income tax. In 2016 the school district will be asking voters to increase the millage. Because of all the tax cuts from the state, these new local taxes will (we hope) maintain current services. In my community we are working hard to stay in place—just to keep from laying off garbage collectors and police and fire at the municipal level and to keep from increasing class size to alarming levels by laying off the teachers in our schools. ...

—Jan Resseger



Have you made a decision about end-of-life care for a loved one?

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OLYMPIC TEAM continued from page 1

On Jan. 6, the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland held an event at the Heights Youth Club (HYC), the organization's Cleveland Heights facility, to honor Conwell.

"Boys & Girls Clubs are a great avenue to keep kids busy and out of trouble," said Conwell, a charter member of HYC, who attended the club every day through middle school.

Many of his family members were at the HYC event, as was Zoraba Ross, the principal of Heights High.

"When you look at Charles," Ross said, "this is really an extension of his family. He always does the right thing at school. And it all starts with his character."

Ross said that the school offers online programs, so Conwell will be able to continue his classes while he is out of town competing for an Olympic spot.

Adrienne Williams, HYC's teen coordinator, added, "Charles is very competitive. It makes me feel so good that he is doing something he loves to do."

"I want to thank everyone who has supported me," Conwell said. "And I really want to thank the school system for supporting me. I am going to keep working, so I can put Cleveland back on the map for boxing."

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.

Those planning Severance's future should read book by Kunstler

To the Editor:

The people involved with planning the future of Severance Center might want to read *The Geography of Nowhere: the Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*, by James Howard Kunstler.

To quote from the back of the paperback: the book "traces America's evolution from a nation of Main Streets and coherent communities to a land where every place is like no place in particular, where the cities are dead zones and the countryside is a wasteland of cartoon architecture and parking lots."

In the last chapter, "Better Places," the author offers hope for a more people-oriented space, "based consciously on deep human emotional and psychological needs: the need for greenery, sunlight, places to be with other people, places to be alone, places for the young and old to mix, for excitement, and so on." And, I might add, places to walk to shopping. Examples are: Boston, Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Center City Philadelphia, and Seaside, Fla.

John Krogness
Cleveland (former longtime Cleveland Heights resident)

Standardized tests don't measure education quality



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Standardized tests are the cornerstone of Ohio's education "accountability system." Test results are the dominant measure used to create report cards that judge the quality of education offered in Ohio's schools and school districts, and to shame and blame low performers.

Last year the state switched to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests to measure school quality. The tests are aligned with the controversial Common Core standards. In July, the state rejected Common Core and jettisoned the PARCC tests. The 2015-16 measuring stick will be standardized tests created by the American Institute of Research (AIR).

There is still no report card for 2014-15. In January, after a six-month delay, the department of education released the non-test-based information that will go into the report cards. The reporting delay is blamed on calibrating what scores on the PARCC tests will receive what grade. This data will not be available until the end of February. Gratefully, full-blown report cards and their attendant sanctions will not be used until 2018. I hope school and district report cards never again see the light of day.

No matter how many times the state changes the standardized test it uses to measure student learning, the accountability system will still be unfair and an inaccurate evaluation of education quality.

Our accountability system uses standardized tests to measure student learning. The quality of education is measured in large part by the proportion of children who pass the standardized tests. Unfortunately, testing experts say standardized tests do not measure quality.

Basing a high-stakes system on an inaccurate tool has been called "accountability malpractice." It has caused harm without making schools

better places for children.

In his March 1999 *Educational Leadership* article, "Why Standardized Tests Don't Measure Education Quality," James Popham observed, "Asserting that low test scores are caused by the quality of education is illogical." Popham identifies three things that influence test scores: what is taught in school, a student's native intellectual abilities, and a student's out-of-school learning. Tests really don't measure what schools do.

The problem is twofold. Many variables outside the school affect test performance, and standardized tests are designed to compare students, not to evaluate their education.

A study cited in 2013 by Edward Haertel suggests that teachers are responsible for about 10 percent of student test performances, while 60 percent of what is measured is caused by out-of-school factors. The other factors include family background, neighborhood environment, peer influences and educational aptitude. I would add that unreliable computers and the test-takers' ability to endure a long test or apply themselves to endless tests are also factors.

Schools are only partly responsible for test scores, but the accountability system ignores this and uses scores to evaluate school quality. It doesn't make sense.

Standardized tests are commercially developed assessments designed to rank and compare test-takers from across a large number of schools, districts and even states. Within a manageable amount of test-taking time, test items are selected that help differentiate high and low performers. Low performance is built into the test design! The tests exclude questions that the majority of test-takers might know—information teachers agree is important to teach. The tests sample the curriculum so there is no guarantee that what is being tested has been taught to everyone who is taking the test.

"To evaluate teachers' instructional effectiveness by using assessment tools that deliberately avoid important content is fundamentally foolish," wrote Popham.

Norm-referenced tests are a weak measure of quality, because their goal

is to rank and compare kids, not measure mastery of specific content. Test scores do not tell us how much our children are learning and what kind of job our schools are doing, but we still use them to judge quality.

The fact that test designers use questions that rely on prior knowledge should also invalidate this system. Popham further observed, "One of the chief reasons that children's socioeconomic status is highly correlated with standardized test scores is that many items on standardized tests really focus on assessing knowledge and/or skills learned outside of school—knowledge more likely to

be learned in some socioeconomic settings than others."

Testing experts know that standardized tests are the wrong tool for measuring the effect of schools on children. Unfortunately, the governor and legislature ignore this technical detail and persist. They deserve an F for their stewardship of our schools.

We can do better: Invest in teaching, not tests.

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

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Making the case for Tiger Nation

Ari Klein

I was probably one of the biggest skeptics when the CH-UH school district starting using “Tiger Nation” for everything. At the time I didn’t think anything needed fixing, or that there was a need for a unifying brand. I have deep roots in the community and it seemed like an affront at first. My family has been sending students to the Heights schools since the 1920s. My wife and I are both graduates, along with both of my parents and now our daughters. With all of that history, as well as working in the school system for more than 25 years, it took me a while to warm up to the whole Tiger Nation initiative.

I have spoken to fellow residents, who are strong CH-UH school supporters, who don’t understand what Tiger Nation means and don’t feel it connects them to the schools. I imagine that for many of us this alienation might be similar when a school is renamed or torn down. We become familiar with things that have been around a long time, and the familiar is comforting. I believe that branding is unifying, but perhaps when this was done there was not enough effort put into getting former school supporters on board.

Tiger Nation seems to work as a rallying point for current school families. Every school has black and gold as its school colors and every mascot is a tiger. How easy is that? In the past, each school had different colors and mascots, but when students got to the high school they were expected to magically coalesce into being “tigers.”

Moreover, the Small Schools project diluted that concept. Now, it seems like all of our students play for the same team. All in all, students in school now don’t know anything different—they have been part of Tiger Nation for long enough that it is part of their identity. After all, if you see something on a bumper sticker or a shirt long enough, it is eventually internalized.

If you or a family member were “tigers,” then this is just a different term to express pride in and support for our schools and community. I keep the Tiger Nation sign in my yard just as neighbors might have a Gesu sign. My family has had great experiences in the Heights schools and we want people to know it.

I get a chance to travel to each school building in the district and continue to be impressed by our amazing students and staff. If I tried to judge the quality of our schools based only on media coverage or by putting much stock into test scores, I would probably not know the truth. Our kids are wonderful, and our schools are safe and nurturing places staffed by caring professionals who know what they are doing. If you have not visited Tiger Nation in a while, it is worth arranging a visit. And, by the way, the next time the signs are available you should consider putting one on your lawn, too, and get connected.

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



Provided by Funny Times, a Cleveland Heights-based business.

POLICE CHIEF continued from page 1

loughby, grew up in Strongsville and graduated from Strongsville High School. She attended Bowling Green State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. She graduated in May 1990, and in October of that year she was hired by the Cleveland Heights Police Department.

In 2000, Mecklenburg received a Juris Doctor degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

As the new chief, Mecklenburg said she wants to continue to improve both the police department’s relations with the community, and police training programs.

“Our training program emphasizes the community along with the

rules and regulations,” said Mecklenburg. “We’re going to continue to put more of an emphasis on the community [we] serve and who is in that community.”

Mecklenburg noted that the police staff is immersed in training throughout the year. In addition to learning about enforcement of the laws, Cleveland Heights officers also learn about diversity, special-needs and autistic people, and first-aid. “We are going to continue to have one of the most well-trained departments in the Cleveland area,” Mecklenburg said.

She added that the department will continue its community-outreach programs, including the Meet Your Police program, the Citizens Police Academy and the Community Response Team.

Mecklenburg also wants to continue efforts to reduce crime in Cleveland Heights. According to Robertson, crime statistics in the city have diminished steadily since 2011.

“There are a lot of things I have to consider,” Mecklenburg said. “I’m sure that eventually there will be some changes in the department, but I am not sure what they will be at this time.”

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.

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University Heights names Geraci sisters 2015 Citizens of the Year



Members of the Geraci family with the University Heights 2015 Citizens of the Year Award (from left): Patrick Brown, Greg Spoth, Martha "Marti" Spoth, Bucky Spoth, Frannie Geraci and Maggie Spoth. Not pictured: Toni Leonetti.

James Henke

University Heights honored three members of the Geraci family, owners of Geraci's restaurant on Warrensville Center Road, as the University Heights 2015 Citizens of the Year at the city council meeting on Dec. 21. "Their restaurant has contributed tremendously to the charm of University Heights," said Mayor Susan K. Infeld. "They are a very warm and generous family."

"The restaurant will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2016, and it's really a staple of our community," noted Infeld.

Michael Geraci and his wife, Frances, opened the restaurant on July 2, 1956. Both worked at the restaurant until they were well into their 80s. Michael died in 2013, at the age of 94, and Frances died on July 26, 2015, at the age of 93.

Their three daughters—Martha Geraci Spoth, Frannie Geraci and Toni Leonetti—who currently run the restaurant, received the award. "All three daughters are continuing in their parents' footsteps," Infeld said.

"We're very honored to receive this award," said Spoth, who's 67. "It's definitely a family business, and our customers are like family. Some of our customers are the fourth generation of their family that have been coming to the restaurant. It's wonderful to know our customers and follow their lives."

Throughout its history, Geraci's has regularly employed students from Heights High, John Carroll University and Beaumont School. "They take those students under their wing and really help them move ahead in their lives," Infeld said.

Both Toni Leonetti and Frannie Geraci said they thought it was their mother who deserved the award.

"This award really goes to my mom," Geraci, 61, said. "She did a

lot for the community. It's been the foundation of University Heights for decades. She employed and trained generations and generations of kids. She really believed in this being a family restaurant."

"This award is very generous," said Leonetti, 70. "It really goes to my mother. My mom worked so hard for so many years. She would do anything. She never turned anything down. I am so very proud of my parents and all that they did for this community."

Toni Leonetti is the mother of Will and Michael Leonetti, who own and operate Joey's Bistro Bar on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

This is the second time the Geraci family has won the Citizen of the Year award. Michael Geraci, the restaurant's original owner, won the award back in the 1950s.

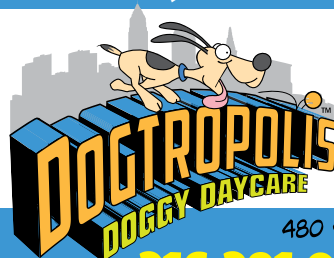
The restaurant's menu features a variety of pizzas and pasta dishes, and includes salads, sandwiches, and chicken, veal and seafood entrees.

Geraci's was featured on the Food Network, and Guy Fieri, host of the network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" program, visited University Heights to check out the restaurant. "Whenever his show airs on the Food Network," Leonetti said, "more and more people constantly come here."

Geraci's is open seven days a week, and opens at 11 a.m. every day. It remains open until 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and until 10 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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 the co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

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STEPHENS continued from page 1

unexpected," she said, adding that "one of the reasons [people] serve is because there is a belief that there is something they can do for people."

Her friend, Paula Brazil, a long-time Cleveland Heights resident, congratulated her and said that when she first met Stephens, "I knew then you were a force to be reckoned with." She added that Stephens was one of the hardest-working people she knew, and said, "Like all great servant-leaders, Cheryl Stephens eats challenges for breakfast."

Stephens, flanked by former mayors Ed Kelley, Alan Rapoport and Barbara Boyd, and by her father and brother, was sworn in by former Mayor Dennis Wilcox.

Jason Stein said that it was a "great honor to be elected vice mayor of the city of Cleveland Heights." Surrounded by family members, he was sworn in by Janine Boyd, Ohio State Representative and former member of Cleveland Heights City Council.

"I look forward to working with everyone on council to make Cleveland Heights a better city than it is today," he said.

Council formally accepted the resignation of Jeff Coryell, which was effective Dec. 31, 2015. Council had not yet announced the process and timing to appoint his replacement.

New council committee appointments, which were decided at the work session that took place prior to the council meeting, were announced:

- Administrative Services: Carol Roe, chair; vice chair is vacant; Mary Dunbar, member.
- Community Relations & Recreation: chair is vacant; Melissa Yasinow, vice chair; Kahlil Seren, member.
- Finance: Jason Stein, chair; Mary Dunbar, vice chair; Melissa Yasinow, member.
- Municipal Services: Melissa Yasinow, chair; Carol Roe, vice chair; member is vacant.
- Planning & Development: Mary Dunbar, chair; Kahlil Seren, vice chair; Jason Stein, member.
- Public Safety: Kahlil Seren, chair; Jason Stein, vice chair; Carol Roe, member.

Council Member Melissa Yasinow said that it was "wondering and

heartening to see the support of such a wonderful intersection of our community" at the swearing-in ceremony. She added, "I hope you can all see tonight that we have a council that is strong, and hopefully we will live up to our potential to be the council that transforms Cleveland Heights to being that 21st-century city on a hill."

To view a video of this and other Cleveland Heights City Council meetings, visit the city's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/clevelandheightsob.

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

University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



DECEMBER 21, 2015

All council members were present.

Departing council members

Two resolutions were approved honoring Adele Zucker and Nancy English for their service to council. Vice Mayor Susan Pardee noted their love of the city, as evidenced by their time spent and attention to detail. English served as the clerk of council for 20 years before being elected to a single term on council. [Due to government rules regarding retirement benefits, English was prohibited from a second term for now.] Councilwoman Zucker served on council for 30 years, including time as vice mayor and chairman of the 1978 charter review.

Geraci family honored

A proclamation was presented honoring the Geraci family as the City of University Heights's 2015 Citizen of the Year. The Geraci family opened their family restaurant in 1956, first at Cedar and Green roads for five years, and then moving to their current location on Warrensville Center Road. Their three daughters now jointly operate the restaurant.

Bronze medal winner

A proclamation was presented to Emily Infeld on winning the bronze medal in the 2015 IAAF (International Association of Athletic Federations) World Track & Field Championships in Beijing. Infeld first began running competitively at Gesu Catholic School and then at Beaumont School, where she won state championships. She competed at Georgetown University, where she went on to win national championships. [Infeld is the daughter of Mayor Susan Infeld.]

Gesu cross-country teams

The Gesu Catholic School boys and girls cross-country teams were recognized for their first- and second-place finishes in the 2015 CYO City Championship cross-country meet. The boys' team placed first among 21 teams, with Steve Zucca placing first in every cross-country race this year. The girls' team placed second amongst the female teams.

Mutual aid agreement

Council approved the 2015 revision to the mutual aid agreement between the City of University Heights Police Department and the John Carroll University Police Department. Revisions to the policing agreement were required by changes to Title IX funding.

Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Council tabled a motion authorizing an

agreement (at a cost not to exceed \$8,400) with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission for professional planning services for a University Heights community survey in conjunction with the master plan process. Council wants to review the questions. Vice Mayor Pardee applauded the mayor's effort to broaden input by conducting a survey, but asked if questions that are of interest to council members could be added. Mayor Infeld expressed concern with delays and the survey's length. She planned to distribute the survey in January via bulk mail, with random recipients receiving stamped return envelopes to increase the return rate. Councilwoman Pamela Cameron, who felt the delay was unnecessary, voted nay. Councilman Steven Sims abstained. An update on the master plan process is due in January.

3901 Silsby Road

The house at 3901 Silsby Road has been removed from consideration for demolition by the county because, reportedly, information was missing from the file. The mayor will follow up. The other option is for the city to pay for the demolition itself.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

JANUARY 4, 2016

Regrettably, the League of Women Voters was unable to provide an observer for the Jan. 4 University Heights City Council meeting, where League member Michele Weiss was sworn in as a new councilwoman. Also sworn in was John Rach, who was appointed by council to the seat left unfilled in last November's election.

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

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

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



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Overlook Condominiums



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LANDMARKS

Mark Souther

Built as El Canon Apartments in 1916, and later renamed Overlook Place Condominiums, the iconic Prairie School multi-family building at 2577 Overlook Road matches the scale if not the architecture of a street dominated by grand apartments.

El Canon and its neighbors appeared in the wake of Euclid Heights developer Patrick Calhoun's failure to fulfill his vision of building an affluent allotment of large single-family homes.

Succumbing to financial hardship in 1914, Calhoun saw hundreds of unsold lots go on auction.

This watershed moment enabled the eclectic neighborhood we know today, with its mixture of single- and multi-family residences, and commercial buildings.

El Canon conjures Spanish associations, mirroring a trend of popular affection for Mediterranean imagery in the early 20th century, but its name is also an exotic extrapolation of a more pedestrian origin. Its developer, after all, was a man named Edson L. Cannon.

El Canon's Prairie-style architecture was the handiwork of Paul M. Matzinger. Three years earlier, Matzinger had worked with fellow Cleveland architect Harry T. Jeffery (later known for his Alcazar Hotel design) to design the striking stucco and tile-roofed residence at the curve of Washington Boulevard just east of Coventry Road.

One year before the construction of El Canon, Jeffery also designed a large Prairie-style, tile-roofed brick apartment building on Superior Road.

In 1972, the seven-unit El Canon was remodeled according to a design by architect Jerry F. Weiss. Its open balconies were replaced by solid stucco ones.

Before the redo, which con-



Built in 1913, this Jacksonville, Fla., apartment building surely inspired Overlook Place Condominiums in Cleveland Heights.



El Canon Apartments before conversion to condominiums in the 1970s.

verted El Canon into condominiums, the structure was almost identical to the Klutho Apartments in Jacksonville, Fla. Built in 1913, the Florida building is credited to architect Henry J. Klutho.

Prairie School researcher Wayne W. Wood, on the Prairie School Traveler website, surmises that Matzinger may have traveled to Florida, discovered the Jacksonville building (which lies directly on U.S. 17, called Main Street in Jacksonville), and "plagiarized the design" in the Cleveland Heights building.

Wood argues convincingly that Matzinger probably photographed the façade rather than actually obtaining blueprints from Klutho because his building's footprint differs significantly. Thus, the resemblance is only skin-deep.

Mark Souther is a member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, which preserves and protects buildings, works of art and other objects of historical or architectural value to the community. The seven members are appointed to three-year terms by CH City Council.

Cleveland Heights City Council announces application process to fill vacant council seat

Kim Sergio Inglis

In a Jan. 8 posting on its website, the City of Cleveland Heights announced that it was accepting applications to fill the council seat left vacant by the resignation of Council Member Jeff Coryell, which took effect on Dec. 31, 2015.

Applications may be accessed online, at www.clevelandheights.com/council-app, or may be picked up at Cleveland Heights City Hall.

The application deadline is Feb. 5.

Whoever council appoints will serve as a council member from the time of the appointment until Dec. 31, 2017.

The seat will be up for election on Nov. 7, 2017, and whomever is elected then will serve a four-year term.

For information, or to request an application, contact the city manager's office at 216-291-3737.

Coryell, who completed two years of a four-year term, announced on Nov. 9 that he was resigning from council to join his wife in Detroit, where she has been living and working.

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

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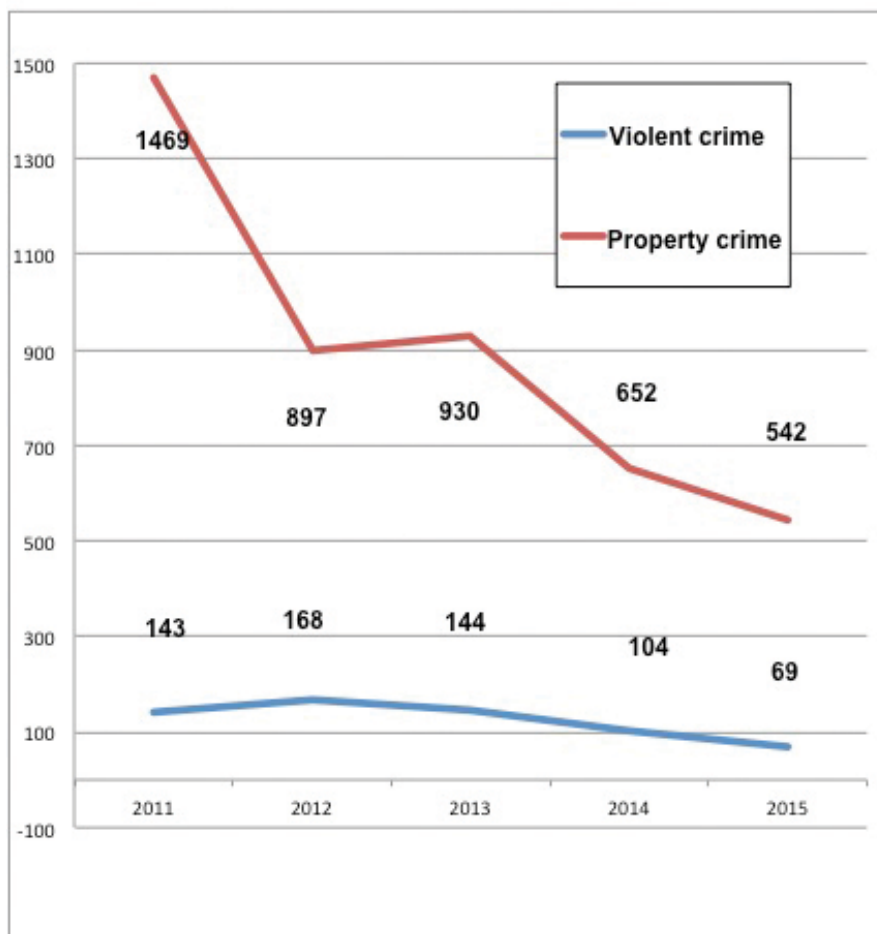
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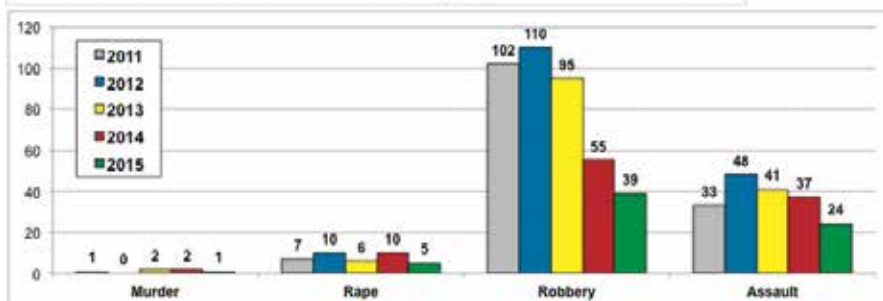
Crime continues to drop in Cleveland Heights

Jan.-Nov. crime since 2011



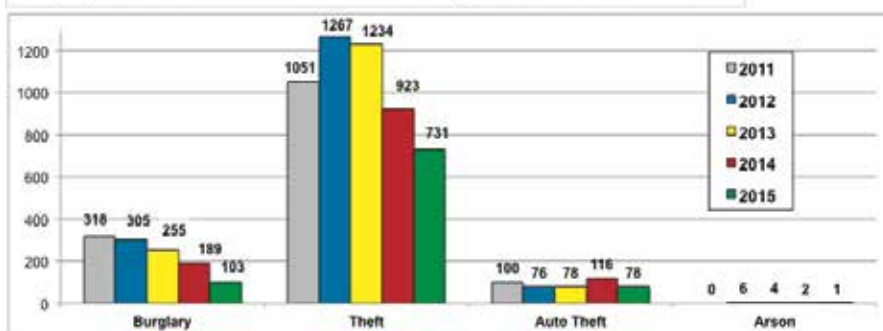
All violent crimes and serious property crimes reported during the first 11 months of each year since 2011.

Violent crimes committed in Cleveland Heights, Jan.-Nov.



Violent crimes, detailed by category, reported during the first 11 months of each year since 2011.

Property crimes committed in Cleveland Heights, Jan.-Nov.



Property crimes, detailed by category, reported during the first 11 months of each year since 2011.

Bob Rosenbaum

Crime data through November from the Cleveland Heights Police Department (CHPD) shows a continued decrease in crimes in all categories since the current method of collecting crime data was implemented in early 2011.

The information is compiled by the CHPD according to federal standards defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system, and is published in a different format on the Cleveland Heights city website. It represents serious offenses defined as "Part I" crimes. It does not include "Part II" minor offenses, such as trespassing or DUI—which the FBI does not seek from local agencies because it would be too costly to report with the same level of detail.

For more information about how the CHPD collects and validates crime statistics, and why the *Observer* publishes them regularly, see the original article in this series by scanning the QR code or visiting <http://tiny.cc/chcrimestats>.



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

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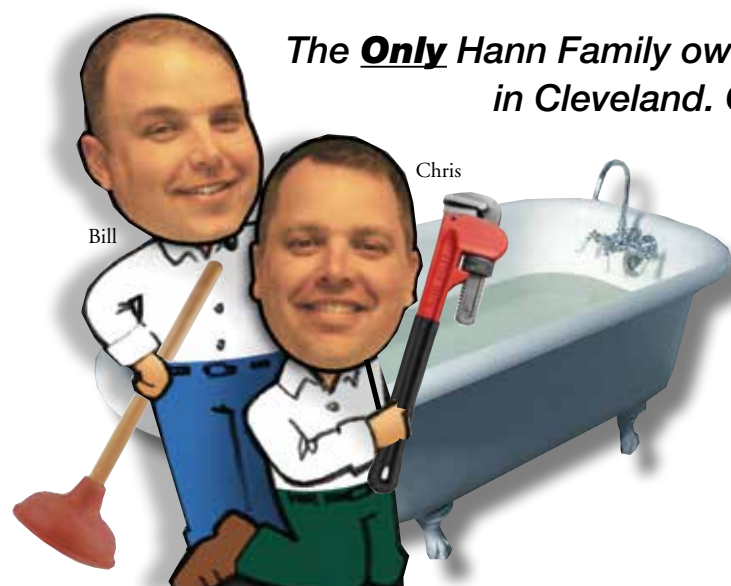


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Noble Neighbors celebrates two years

Brenda H. May

Momentum characterized Noble Neighbors' second year as a volunteer group focused on the northeast quadrant of Cleveland Heights.

Students from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences conducted a survey of the neighborhood in the spring. Both residents and students noted the neighborhood's architectural variety and the excellent condition of most of its homes. Some students declared that they would like to move to the area when they graduated. With its schools, library, churches, playgrounds, parks and backyard play spaces, Noble was identified as a "kid-friendly" area. The report also affirmed goals that Noble Neighbors already has in motion to diversify its membership through increased par-

ticipation by renters and households with school-age children.

The Noble Community-Wide Home and Yard Sale propelled the group forward with a growing sense of vibrancy in the neighborhood. More than 100 people hosted yard sales to support the real estate open house fair on April 26, 2015. There was excitement as people from as far away as Solon, Chagrin Falls and Burton joined people from all over the Heights to tour homes and shop at yard sales. Lolly the Trolley toured the neighborhood, churches hosted pancake breakfasts and bake sales, the police academy held K-9 demonstrations, and the Home Repair Resource Center sold tools and provided advice for homeowners-to-be. Oxford Elementary School opened its doors to the Intermuseum Conservation Association's art-conservation staff for a show-and-tell about the WPA murals and Hydrocal panels. The 2016 event will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15.

Gardens continue to provide both beauty and metaphor for the district. Three new public perennial gardens that were planted in the fall of 2014 showed their first colors last spring. Large planters up and down Noble Road prompted greater pride in the business districts, and Oxford Garden gained new life with the Oxford Permaculture Project. Contributing to the garden's history, which has roots in the 1930s, students, neighbors and garden pros partnered to build "lasagna" beds and prepare fertile soil for a new Oxford Elementary School gardening club in 2016. The newest green space grew from a closed gas station at Roanoke and Noble roads. The City of Cleveland Heights demolished the structure and planted grass and trees. Noble Neighbors was invited to add more beauty to the space by planting its fourth corner perennial garden.

In October, a meet-the-candidates forum focused exclusively on issues that affect the neighborhoods along Noble Road. Questions to city council and school board candidates asked them to consider housing-value support, Noble Road economic development and the proposed closing of Noble Elementary School. More than 100 people attended to learn how well each candidate understood the challenges of the district. One voter commented later, "I've never been so well prepared to vote in a local election. I was absolutely clear about who I wanted to represent us."

Noble Neighbors is making great strides on its goal to support families with school-age children by tutoring students, volunteering at PTA events and donating school supplies and clothing. In an important intergenerational effort, several retirement-age men are mentoring Noble Elementary School boys.

In January, Noble Neighbors celebrated its anniversary—and what a group of volunteers can do to change the story of a neighborhood. Watch for more in 2016, and join in building new success.

Brenda H. May is one of the Noble Neighbors leaders. Check out its story at www.nobleneighbors.com.

FutureHeights announces second round of community-building workshops

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights is proud to launch the second round of its Community-Building Workshop Series, a multidisciplinary neighborhood leadership development program designed for individuals enthusiastic about positively contributing to the community in which they live, work and play. Participants will develop leadership skills as well as gain knowledge and tools to help make their community strong, safe and vibrant.

Last spring, 14 residents from several neighborhoods, such as Noble, Forest Hill, Cain Park, Boulevard and Severance, completed the first series of workshops.

The program is funded by the City of Cleveland Heights through Community Development Block Grants and by individual contributions to FutureHeights.

"When you're community-minded, you don't just care about your area, you care about all of it, and the workshops helped connect our individual efforts to the entire community," said Rhonda Davis-Lovejoy, a participant in the workshop series, and resident of the Cain Park neighborhood. "Through the workshops we created relationships that will last forever; they're probably worth a million dollars."

The program takes an Assets-Based Community Development approach, which means that it seeks to build on a neighborhood's strengths. "We have several principles that guide the program," said Mark Chupp, an assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and chair of the FutureHeights Civic Engagement Committee, which led the sessions. "We believe that institutions lead best by stepping back and supporting residents and voluntary groups, and that people have the power to do extraordinary things right where they live."

The 2016 Community-Building Workshop Series will take place on Sunday afternoons, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19, 3-6 p.m. The location is still to be determined. Topics are: Organizing Your Neighborhood, Leveraging Community Resources, Gathering and Analyzing Neighborhood Data, and Formulating a Plan of Action. All Cleveland Heights residents are encouraged to apply to participate in the workshops.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on March 16. The simple, two-page application can be found at www.futureheights.org. For information about the program, contact Sruti Basu at 216-320-1423 or sbasu@futureheights.org.

Sruti Basu is the director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.

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HCC's World Café explores racial divide

Laura Potter-Sadowski

Heights Community Congress (HCC) is an advocate of social justice, a monitor of fair-housing practices and a facilitator for building strong, diverse communities. Even now, in 2016, after monumental strides in racial equality, a racial division still exists in the United States. HCC is working to diminish that racial divide, right here in the Heights.

In celebration of Black History Month, and to kick off a new program year for HCC, a World Café discussion will take place at the Lee Road Library on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

The World Café method is uniquely suited to facilitate small group discussions that also allow everyone's thoughts and insights to be shared. An open mind and honest thoughts will help guide these discussions on the racial divide, current achievements and initiatives, and ways we can grow together in the Heights community.

During the month of February, schools, libraries, bookstores, community organizations and interested residents are urged to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by hosting an African American Read-In.

For this particular evening, HCC plans to use themes from the book *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges, to focus the group's understanding of the state of education



immediately following the Supreme Court's historic ruling on school segregation.

To encourage an understanding of the past as a way to impact the present racial environment, HCC will present an encore performance of "Thurgood," a hit play from Ensemble Theatre's 2014 season.

Greg White will repeat his role as Thurgood Marshall at Hope Lutheran Church later this month. White was honored to play the role of Marshall and dedicated his performance to his father, Jerome White, who not only resembled Marshall but was a great storyteller as well.

At the Feb. 5 World Café, HCC will encourage honest discussion of the issues raised amongst neighbors. Reservations (216-321-6775) are appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome.

Laura Potter-Sadowski is executive director of Ten Thousand Villages in Cleveland Heights, and an HCC board member.

HBC invites filmgoers to enjoy bicycling as spectators on Feb. 4 at CWRU



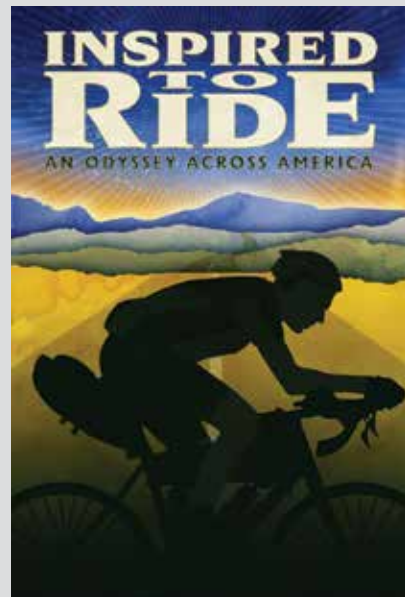
LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) is sponsoring a showing of "Inspired to Ride," a stunning documentary about the inaugural TransAm Bike Race, held in 2014 on the TransAmerica Trail. The film will screen at Case Western Reserve University's Strosacker Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

The movie follows a handful of cyclists in the 2014 race, a 4,233-mile cross-country race from Astoria, Ore., to Yorktown, Va. The riders are entirely self-supported—they have no crew, no follow vehicles and no prize money waiting at the end. They ride 300 miles a day and rely solely on their fitness, meticulously chosen gear and mental fortitude. The athletes climb the Rockies, face winds in the Great Plains and switchbacks in the Appalachians—all for a pat on the back, potential bragging rights and a cold beer when it's over.

Strosacker Auditorium is



Riders from around the world participated in the TransAm Bike Race, the subject of a film to be screened on Feb. 4.

located at 2125 Adelbert Road (near parking garages). Purchase tickets in advance for \$12 per person at www.imathlete.com/events/inspiredtoride, or pay \$15 at the door. Ticket sales will benefit Heights Bicycle Coalition.

To view a trailer, or for more information about the film, visit www.inspiredtoride.it.

Heights Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to educating and encouraging Heights community members to use bicycles as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation.

Volunteer Match

Sruti Basu

Heights Observer's Volunteer Match column lists opportunities for residents to lend their time and talent to the many worthy organizations and causes around the Heights.

Submit your organization's volunteer needs by e-mailing Sruti Basu at sbasu@futureheights.org or calling the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423.

Items submitted on or before the *Heights Observer* print issue's monthly story deadline will be considered for that month's column. (To see past columns, visit www.heightsobserver.org, and search "volunteer match".)

Herps Alive: This nonprofit is dedicated to saving, rehabilitating, and caring for unwanted, neglected and abused reptiles and amphibians, finding new homes for them, and educating the public about these animals. Herps Alive is currently seeking volunteers in the following capacities: animal care, customer service, facility work and equipment prep, newsletter editor, and building projects (carpentry, light construction, electrical). For more information, contact Keith Gisser, 216-374-1392 or herpsalive@earthlink.net, or visit www.herpsalive.org.

Lake Erie Ink: LEI is a writing space for youth that provides creative-expression opportunities and

academic support for young people in Greater Cleveland. Volunteers are needed for: after-school homework help, evening and weekend creative writing workshops, summer Creative Expression Camps, in-school writing support, publications and other media. For more information, contact Ashlie Dyer, 216-320-4757 or adyer@lakeerieink.org.

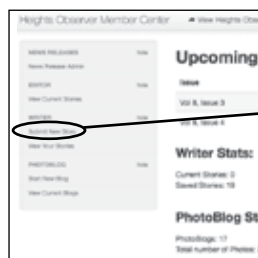
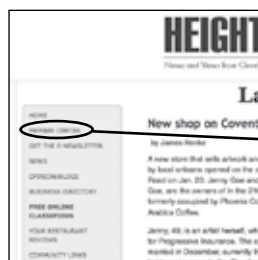
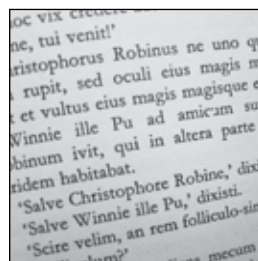
Village in the Heights: This new, grassroots organization's mission is to offer support to older residents who want to age in place in their own homes, as independently as possible. To help launch the program, volunteers are needed to help with marketing and member recruitment, fundraising, legal and accounting review, and technology support. To offer your expertise and time, e-mail villageintheheights@gmail.com, or call 216-906-6240.

[Note: The need for volunteers is ongoing at most nonprofits and community groups. The two featured in last month's column—the *Heights Observer* (www.heightsobserver.org) and Noble Elementary School's Peer to Peer program (www.chub.org/volunteers.aspx)—continue to seek volunteers. For information, visit their websites.]

Sruti Basu is director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.

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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.

Forest Hill Church announces Black History Month events

Peg Weissbrod

Forest Hill Church Presbyterian is beginning Black History Month by inviting the community to a panel discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates's groundbreaking work "A Case for Reparations," on Sunday, Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m.

Bakari Kitwana, author, political analyst and activist, will lead a panel of experts, including Amilcar Shabazz, Deadra Farmer-Pallemann and local policy experts and advocates. A breakout session will follow.

Kitwana, whose commentary on politics and youth culture has been heard on NPR and seen on CNN, C-Span, and "The Tavis Smiley Show," is currently senior media fellow at The Jamestown Project, a diverse action-oriented think tank at Har-

vard Law School. He is also CEO of Rap Sessions: Community Dialogues on Hip-Hop, which facilitates discussions throughout the country on the issues facing the hip-hop generation.

The theme of this year's Black History Month, "Faith Moves Us Forward: Building the Beloved Community," focuses on the trials and triumphs of black Christians.

Because the issue of reparations for African Americans inspires so many different reactions, it is important for those attending the Feb. 21 event to familiarize themselves ahead of time with Coates' ideas. His article, published by *The Atlantic* can be read, free of charge, at www.theatlantic.com/magazine/toc/2014/06/.

A brief overview of Coates' article will be presented at the church's Black History Month kick-off event

on Sunday, Feb. 7, 12:30-2 p.m. Refreshments—samples of favorite foods from New Orleans, including fish and grits, beignets, and chicory coffee—will be served.

Forest Hill Church also invites the public to its second-annual Gospel Concert on Saturday, Feb. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Local gospel singers, poets and musicians, including Elégie and the internationally acclaimed Wright Family Singers, featuring Mother Willie Mae Wright, will perform. Anne Wilson, music director at Forest Hill Church, will offer an evening of praise and musical worship to feed the soul.

This convergence of multiple faith communities, musicians, vocalists, and religious and community leaders will explore the range of musical genres written and arranged by African-American composers. The concert is free, but donations to the church's food pantry or other free-will offerings are always welcome.

Closing out the month-long celebration of black history, Forest Hill's Church's youth will lead a conversation on the Belhar Confession on Sunday, Feb 28, 12:30-2 p.m.

The Belhar Confession is a statement of beliefs on racial reconciliation and the evils of apartheid. It was written in 1982 in the Afrikaans language.

The Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa adopted it in 1986. Its adoption as a creed by the Presbyterian Church (USA) is being voted on by churches throughout the United States. The church's youth have been studying it for several weeks and look forward to leading this discussion. All are welcome to



Bakari Kitwana, author and political analyst, will lead the discussion on Feb. 21.

join this lively conversation.

Throughout the month, Forest Hill Church encourages the community to support black-owned businesses. Church members plan to celebrate Valentine's Day with brunch, lunch or dinner at one of Cleveland's many black-owned restaurants. A listing of suggested businesses and restaurants is available at www.fhchurch.org.

As in the past, a wall-sized graphic representation of this year's Black History Month theme will be on display throughout February. The display features blacks in the Bible and in the early church, illustrates historical schisms and policies that divided the church in modern and post-modern society, and highlights theologians committed to healing these separations.

The featured artist is Tony Greene, a local artist who creates lifelike portraits of African-American men and women.

All events are free and open to the public. Forest Hill Church is located at 3031 Monticello Blvd. For more information, call 216-321-2660 or visit www.fhchurch.org.

Peg Weissbrod is the outreach director for Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.

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CH master plan meeting set for Feb. 23

Karen Knittel

A community meeting to discuss the Cleveland Heights Master Plan will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., in the Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd.

The meeting will introduce county planning staff to the public, and provide an overview of the planning process. Current conditions will be reviewed, and the public will be asked to provide feedback and set priorities for Vision State-

ments and Strategic Development Areas.

As a follow-up to the public meeting, county planning will host an online survey that will mirror the information available at the public meeting.

Information on the master planning process is available at www.clevelandheights.com/master-plan.

Karen Knittel is a city planner in the Cleveland Heights Department of Planning and Development.



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Celebrate your neighborhood school Feb. 17

Dallas Schubert

The Heights Coalition for Public Education is sponsoring a community rally on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 8:30 a.m., at each of the CH-UH school district's seven elementary schools. The public is invited to join in the brief but heartfelt thank-you to district teachers and staff, and celebrate students and their education.

Billed as "More than a Score," the event will recognize that Ohio's standardized tests do not measure education quality, nor should they define a community or its children. Participants are encouraged to express what they value about our schools and thank teachers for their work.

The Heights Coalition for Public Education is a volunteer group of parents, teachers and community members committed to a high quality of education for all children. It challenges Ohio's testing program and use of public funds for private education. For more information, visit chub.net/coalition.

Dallas Schubert is a third-generation graduate of Heights schools and parent of three current students. She is a public school advocate and active with the Heights Coalition for Public Education.

HCDA provides progress update

Karen Kearney

Heights Community Development Alliance (HCDA) presented its quarterly progress update to about 50 stakeholders on Jan. 20. HCDA, now a program of FutureHeights, is focusing on three initial project areas within Cleveland Heights: cross promotion of events; economic development, particularly addressing storefront vacancies; and marketing the city.

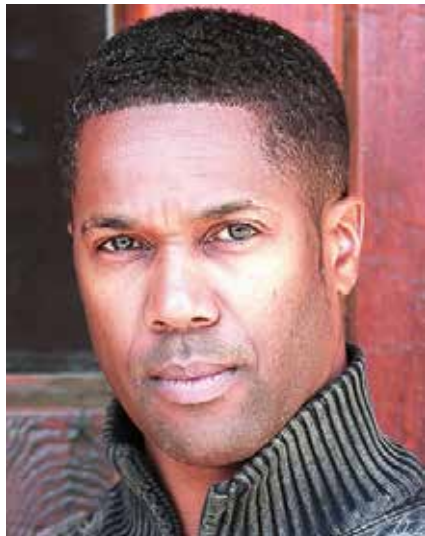
The group announced a new partnership with CoolCleveland.com and an upcoming Cleveland State University Market Study of the Cedar Lee Business District. It also discussed the results of its citywide survey regarding promotional efforts among Cleveland Heights businesses. HCDA conducted research into successful programs addressing commercial vacancies, and shared options for targeting vacancies here. FutureHeights will host a Cleveland Foundation intern for 11 weeks this summer, who will help develop HCDA programs and funding sources.

HCDA welcomes participation from Cleveland Heights business owners, residents and other stakeholders. For information, visit www.facebook.com/heightscda or contact FutureHeights (216-320-1423 or info@futureheights.org).

Karen Kearney is a master's student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU and a resident of Cleveland Heights. She is completing her 2015-16 field placement with FutureHeights.

HYC names Collins its new director

Ken Wood



Rodney Collins

Rodney Collins, an experienced youth leader and boxing fitness instructor, has been named director of the Heights Youth Club (HYC), located at 2065 Lee Road. HYC is one of 14 sites operated by Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland (BGCC).

Collins will be in charge of all

operations at HYC. He served as director of BGCC's Broadway Club for the past 18 months.

"The Boys & Girls Club is a place where kids come first and they matter," said Collins.

Collins grew up in Toledo, where he played football, basketball, and ran track. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and master's degrees in religion and divinity from Liberty University.

He moved to Cleveland in 1995. Collins has more than 20 years of experience in the corporate and nonprofit worlds.

"Rodney Collins is a great representative to the community," said Ron Soeder, BGCC president. "He is very effective in communicating to our community partners and building those relationships."

Collins and his wife, Falanda, have been married for 20 years and live in South Euclid. They have two children, daughter Anointyd,

a freshman at BGSU, and son Josiah, a senior at Andrews Osborne Academy.

HYC offers Heights students in grades 1-12 a variety of after-school activities, five days a week, 3-7 p.m. The club currently serves more than 300 young people.

Founded in 1954, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland serves nearly 8,000 youths in Cleveland's inner-city neighborhoods, Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland.

The clubs provide a safe place for children to learn and grow, to develop ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, to engage in life-enhancing programs and to create a culture of hope and opportunity.

BGCC's mission is to inspire and enable young people, especially those in need, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Ken Wood is communications director for Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland.



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When a friend challenged Bill Jones to hike a portion of Spain's Camino de Santiago last summer, he utilized his Judson at Home membership to give himself a leg up.

Bill and his wife, Susan, became members because they needed home care support for Susan. Eventually she moved to Judson's 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.

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Learning comes alive in Gearity Maker Space



A welcome sign made out of corrugated cardboard on the laser cutter.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Picture a group of young scientists collaborating on a high-tech design challenge: they huddle around computer screens, discussing and designing scientific tools that will be printed out on 3D printers and then tested for accuracy and reliability.

Sounds like something going on in a prestigious high school lab, or maybe at an engineering college, right?

Wrong. This is the Maker Space at Gearity Professional Development School, where children as young as five are mastering technology and manipulating equipment that many adults have never seen.

Maker spaces are part of a growing movement to support innovation, creation and invention. According to EduCause, a maker space “is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network, and build.”

That is exactly how Gearity—a STEM school that infuses science, technology, engineering and math into all of its instruction—is using its maker space. According to the Gearity Web page, “Students are asked to design solutions to real-world problems that are relevant to them. This form of instruction is both engaging and exciting for students. They are learning by doing.”

Gearity’s Maker Space, which opened in the fall of 2015, features eight 3D printers, a laser cutter, a vinyl cutter, a T-shirt press, and numerous computers as well as low-tech design materials, such as art supplies, recyclables and Legos.

The equipment was purchased using funds from an Ohio Department of Education Straight A grant, awarded to Gearity last fall. Straight A grants use Ohio Lottery dollars “to support innovative and sustainable education projects,” with a focus on STEM education. Gearity was one of only 37 grant recipients across the state.

Students visit the Gearity Maker Space with their classroom teachers, supported by STEM coordinator Jackie Taylor, who received special training in how to use the equipment as an instructional tool. They work alone or in teams on monthly design challenges for each grade

level, established by their teachers. Challenges include first-graders designing and creating sundials for use in the school garden, and fifth-graders designing and creating a scaled model of the solar system to hang in the library.

Each design challenge aligns to the Common Core State Standards and reinforces classroom lessons. Gearity has utilized design challenges for the past four years. “But now,” said Taylor, “instead of students making a windmill out of a cereal box, they can print one on the 3D printer and know that it will actually work.”

Maker space activities aren’t limited to science education. Art teacher Brian Stern introduced his fourth-grade students to sculptor Alexander Calder, famous for making mobiles as works of art. Students used special software to design their own collection of shapes, laser cut out of donated corrugated cardboard, and created mobiles which now spin from the maker space ceiling.

A social studies class created a 3D map showing the topography of the United States. “You should have seen the kids when they touched the steep Rocky Mountains after running their hands over the Great Plains,” said Taylor. “This taught them so much more than a two-dimensional map ever could.”

Students also use the space for fun projects, such as designing and printing their own T-shirts using the vinyl cutter and T-shirt press, which the third- through fifth-grade autistic students created to wear on their community field trips.

Sue Pardee, coordinator of special improvement/federal programs for CH-UH schools, hopes this space will become available to other students in the district as well, perhaps through building-to-building field trips or special community maker space nights.

While grant funds covered the equipment and initial set-up costs, some of the materials and upkeep can be expensive. The Maker Team of Gearity teachers is hoping to hold a Maker Faire later this year, where community members can visit the space and purchase items created by students and staff.

While CH-UH schools are moving more in the direction of

International Baccalaureate (IB) schools as opposed to STEM schools, the idea of a maker space still holds value. According to EduCause, the maker space “is being embraced by the arts as well as the sciences, and a new energy is building around multidisciplinary collaborative efforts.” IB schools in the Heights vicinity, such as the Montessori High School at University Circle, are raising funds for their own maker spaces.

According to EduCause, maker spaces “allow students to take control of their own learning as they take

ownership of projects they have not just designed but defined.”

Gearity first-grade teacher Sherri Malek agrees. “This space allows our students to take what was previously only in their imaginations and make it real.”

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, 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>.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights



DECEMBER 15, 2015

All board members were present.

Farewell reception

Preceding the meeting, there was a farewell reception for Eric Coble and Nancy Pepler, outgoing school board members.

CTE student of the month

Jordan Hall was honored as Career and Technical Education (CTE) student of the month. He is in the criminal justice program.

CTE program of the month

The CTE program of the month was marketing management.

New board members

Superintendent Talisa Dixon and the board thanked Eric Coble and Nancy Pepler for their service on the board. Dixon introduced the two new board members, Beverly Wright and Jim Posch, who joined the board in January.

Lost state money

Ari Klein, speaking for the Heights Coalition for Public Education, asked that the board join other school districts to ask for state money lost due to the voucher program.

New courses

Bob Swaggard, coordinator of educational services, presented the new high school courses for school year 2016-17. Many were for the College Credit Plus program that enables students to receive both high school and college credit for courses taught at the high school.

Field trips

The board approved the following field trips:

- Heights High Men’s Barbershoppers to Reno, Nev.
- Heights High Symphonic Winds, Symphony, and Jazz Ensembles to Nashville, Tenn.
- Heights High A Cappella Choir and singers to Chicago.

Change orders

Stephen Shergalis, director of business services, asked the board to approve change orders dealing with Wiley and Heights High’s construction.

Equipment disposal and donations

The board approved the disposal of a generator and toolkit utility, and accepted donations totaling \$9,100.

Financial reports

Scott Gainer, treasurer, presented end-of-the-year financial reports.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

JANUARY 5, 2016

All board members were present.

Organizational board meeting

Following a reception to welcome the two new board members, Jim Posch and Beverly Wright, both were sworn in by Scott Gainer, treasurer.

The board elected Kal Zucker as the new

board president and Ron Register, as vice president. Jim Posch was appointed treasurer-pro-temp should Scott Gainer miss a meeting.

CTE recognition

The board recognized the auto tech program as CTE program of the month. Jeff Porter, auto tech instructor, addressed the board about how well-equipped and up-to-date the program was. He explained how much the auto industry has changed. One of his students also addressed the board and expressed excitement for the program. The auto tech program at Heights High allows students to earn national certification, which is helpful in seeking employment after graduation. The CTE student of the month recognition was postponed because the student had a conflict.

Course proposals

The board heard a second reading of Heights High’s new course proposals and course modifications for the 2016-17 school year. Included as possible new courses were: public speaking, creative writing, honors modern world history; and college credit courses for anatomy and physiology, American studies, and African-American studies. These would be offered if there were sufficient student interest. The courses will be explained during the superintendent’s state of the school address on Jan. 26.

Journalism course

The board discussed returning the journalism course to Heights High and restarting the school newspaper, *The Black and Gold*. Superintendent Dixon explained that funding was now available and that the journalism course and newspaper renewal are being considered.

Business items

The board approved the following:

- A contract to Turner Construction and The Coniglio Company as the construction manager at risk for the reconstruction of Monticello and Roxboro middle schools.
- A lease agreement with the City of Cleveland Heights to use two baseball fields at Forest Hill Park. This will be the temporary home for the baseball team, and the negotiations were reasonable. No budget was available.
- A lease agreement with De Lage Landan Public Finance LLC, for new copiers in all district facilities. The new five-year contract with new equipment costs less than in previous years.

Donations

The board accepted donations of \$5,000 to the Delisle Options Center; \$148.90 to Noble Elementary School; \$2,350 to Roxboro Elementary School; \$425 to Heights High; \$25,000 to Heights High’s clock tower restoration; and \$125 to Faith’s Alive Program.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

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

Heights artists win awards in Cleveland Clinic competition



The Heights High eXpressions Art winners and their art teachers (from left): teacher Nancy Eisenberg, Michelle Posch, Kelly Moore, Jenna Dent, Londyn Crenshaw, and teacher Laura Skehan.

Joy Henderson

Four Heights High students won awards in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Art Competition: sophomore Jenna Dent and senior Michelle Posch won red ribbons, and sophomore Londyn Crenshaw and senior Kelly Moore won white ribbons.

The eXpression program invites high school artists to use art to explore science and medicine by translating research conducted by Cleveland Clinic high school interns into artistic interpretations of the science. A panel of art and science professionals used four criteria to

evaluate the art: interpretation, presentation, creativity and initiative.

Dent, who painted an image of a heart inside a human chest with blue birds surrounding the body, said, “The blue birds represent happiness leaving because patients often suffer depression and anxiety.” Her piece was inspired by research titled Patient Awareness of Heart Failure.

Posch created a copper brooch with a light metal skeleton and pink copper body. “The image represents the flesh of the child with a brain tumor that causes weight gain,” said Posch, who took her inspiration from research into The Effect of Craniopharyngioma and Association

with Weight Gain and Behavioral Problems.

Crenshaw’s painting of lungs circled by thorns represents the closing of valves during lung allograft dysfunction. “I wanted to visually express the fear that I feel when I think about a dysfunctional lung and lung transplants,” explained Crenshaw, who drew inspiration from Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction: Histopathologic Features With Clinical Correlation.

Moore created a necklace with charms depicting characteristics of a healthy lifestyle. “The center of the necklace is a brain representing

knowledge,” said Crenshaw, “and the tree represents the growth of a healthy life that is influenced by education.” Her piece was inspired by research titled Fostering Healthy Futures: An Evaluation of a Wellness Curriculum for Youth.

The winning artwork will be displayed through March 11 in the atrium of the Global Center for Health Innovation, 1 St. Clair Avenue NE, Cleveland, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Beaumont students honored with Scholastic Art awards



Gold key-winning painting *Blue Breeze* by Alexa Abounader '16.

Anna Beyerle

Six Beaumont School students have garnered seven awards in the annual Cuyahoga County Scholastic Art Competition, which recognizes outstanding regional student artists in grades 7-12.

Beaumont students won one gold key, two silver keys and four honorable mentions, with gold key artwork moving on to the national Scholastic Art and Writing Competition in New York City later this year.

Alexa Abounader '16 won a gold key for her painting, *Blue Breeze*, and also received an honorable mention for another painting, Rachel

Bauman '16 won a silver key for her painting, *Fat Food*, as did Brooke DiPasquale '16 for her ceramic piece, *Coil Pot*.

Claire Cary '17, Elizabeth Poland '16 and Annie Reagan '16 earned honorable mentions for their work.

Bauman is a resident of University Heights, and DiPasquale and Cary are residents of Cleveland Heights.

Five of the six students are members of Beaumont’s studio art program—a rigorous curriculum that spans all four years of the student’s time at Beaumont, arming students with an extensive portfolio that they can use for college admissions or to seek job opportunities after graduation from Beaumont.

More than 500 pieces of regional art in various mediums were chosen for local exhibition from more than 2,000 entries. Those pieces were exhibited to the public at the Cleveland Institute of Art’s Reinberger Gallery in January.

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

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Noble mentoring program provides role models for boys

Patti Carlyle

According to Fatherhood.org, boys who lack positive male role models become four times more likely to live in poverty, face an increased risk of drug and alcohol abuse, and have more trouble academically.

Harder to measure is the effect of positive male role models on those same boys. How can one quantify the bad things that don't happen?

Beginning in January at Noble Elementary School, 36 fourth- and fifth-grade boys were matched with mentors. Noble's Gents to Gentlemen Mentoring Program is a result of Principal Rachael Coleman's vision for a mentoring program for boys. In a letter to rising fourth-grade parents, Coleman wrote, "The school feels that your child will greatly benefit from having another positive male adult role model in his life and hopes that the relationship will lead to increased academic performance, self-esteem, and emotional development."

The staff was immediately on board with the initiative, announced



Diablo Harris-Tate, Deshawn Hairston and O'Mari Woods at the introductory session of their mentoring group, led by Bob Dawson (not pictured).

at the end-of-year staff meeting last June. Intervention Specialist Bambi Vargo recruited mentors. First, the CH Police Department signed on, then the CH Fire Department. Reaching Heights suggested potential mentoring contacts in the community, and the Noble Neighbors group became involved.

"Word of mouth was helpful, too," said Vargo. "We have the uncle of a staff member, the nephew of a staff member and the father of one of our kindergarten students. We have nine mentors from all walks of life: we have a police officer, a fire chief, retirees, college students, school ad-

ministrators, and a chef. Two of the mentors are CH-UH alumni." District administrative staff members Sandy Womack and Paul Lombardo have signed on as substitutes.

The program is a collaboration within Noble that extends out into the wider community. The name Noble's Gents to Gentlemen was suggested by Noble math teacher Mary Windham. The curriculum was developed with assistance from Derrick Williams, father of a Noble kindergarten student and professor of communications at Tri-C, who has significant experience in creating and leading mentoring programs.

The Noble's Gents to Gentlemen curriculum focuses on four character traits: social responsibility, respect, self-discipline and integrity. Learning for Life (www.learningforlife.org), the character-building program of the Boys Scouts of America, is an element of the program, with lesson plans designed to reinforce social, ethical and academic skills.

Fourth grade is the ideal time to establish solid social and academic support before the transition to middle school. In some studies, reading scores start to decline as

elementary school winds down. This fourth-grade slump is more often reported by teachers of disadvantaged children. Once the learn-to-read threshold is crossed in third grade, school becomes dominated by text, and students are expected to read to learn. If literacy skills are not strong enough to support the shift, frustration and disengagement usually follow.

Small groups of four or five meet twice a month for 20 minutes with a mentor, borrowing ten minutes from recess and ten minutes from the lunch period. The program officially began on Jan. 11, when the boys met mentors for the first time, overseen by Khaz Finley from the Alternative Learning program.

Noble alumnus and retiree Bob Dawson met with a group of three, with a fourth boy absent. Leading the group with quiet humor, he invited the boys to introduce themselves. After a bit of ice-breaking, did-you-see-that-game sports chat, the conversation shifted to work and responsibility. One fifth-grade boy announced he'd already had his first job, at a barber shop. When Dawson wondered aloud if any of the boys had a personal hero, one boy immediately responded, "my mom."

Introductory sessions included some tie-tying practice, which is appropriate: Upon completion of the program, each boy will receive a necktie during a recognition ceremony as a symbol of his growth from "gent" to "gentleman."

Patti Carlyle is a Canterbury Elementary School parent and writer living in University Heights.

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Beaumont School to host speaker series for parents

Anna Beyerle

Beaumont School will kick off its Saint Angela Merici Speaker Series for Girls and Families on Wednesday, Feb. 17. This two-part speaker series, which continues on April 19, will highlight two essential questions relevant to young women today, and offer expert responses to those questions from the keynote speakers.

On Feb. 17, Katherine Jackson—a professor and psychotherapist who focuses on innate personality traits nurtured in early childhood and how they impact adulthood—will focus on the essential question "What is my life's purpose?"

Jackson's half-hour talk will begin at 7 p.m., followed by small group discussion 7:45-8:30 p.m., in which parents will share tools and wisdom, and build community. Young women in grades 9-12 will meet separately with the keynote speaker.

"This program was really parent-driven," said Coreen Schaefer, Beaumont's dean of students. "We know that our parents want to learn how to support and walk with their daughters through their transition to adulthood.

The Saint Angela Merici Speaker Series is a forum for wisdom-sharing."

The series is named after St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline order which sponsors Beaumont.

The second speaker will be Lisa Damour, who, on Tuesday, April 19, will explore the essential question "What builds resilience and grit?" Damour is a psychologist and author of the upcoming book *Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions Into Adulthood*. She is a parenting columnist for *The New York Times* and is director of Laurel School's Center for Research on Girls.

The Saint Angela Merici Speaker Series is open to all parents, and to high school-age girls. The events are free and open to the public, and are not limited to those who have a connection to Beaumont School. Both talks begin at 7 p.m. and will take place at Beaumont School. Attendees are encouraged to visit www.beaumontschool.org/speakerseries to register and learn more.

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

Library celebrates black voices in series of events

Julia Murphy

February is Black History Month, but, if you've ever been to the library, you'll know that it celebrates black history and black writers all year. The University Heights Library holds West African dance classes; the Lee Road Library Youth Services Department celebrates the birthday of Anansi, a character from West African folklore; and the Noble Neighborhood Library has held Soul Stories storytime featuring picture books by African-American writers, and later this year will host an extensive series of programs around Jacqueline Woodson's book *Brown Girl Dreaming* in its "On the Same Page" series.

This winter, Heights Libraries will host a Black Voices Matter series that celebrates African-American writers and literature. This series is timely not only because it falls partially during Black History Month, but as a nod to the Black Lives Matter movement against violence toward blacks and inequality in the criminal justice system.

"Black History Month is a wonderful way to give thought to the history of the African diaspora around the world, but we wanted to reflect on something that is happening today, in our community, and that transcends the clean

lines of a celebratory month," said L.P. Coladangelo, adult services librarian.

On Feb. 10, the Original Voices Book Club will discuss *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. On March 1, at the Noble Neighborhood Library, the Noble Great Books Discussion will be centered on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. On March 17, at 7 p.m., at the Lee Road Library, the Science and Nature Study Group will discuss *Time Traveler: A Scientist's Personal Mission to Make Time Travel a Reality* by Ronald L. Mallett.

The African-American Read-In, sponsored by Friends of the Heights Libraries, is set for Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Lee Road Library. This yearly event has been so popular that the Noble Neighborhood Library decided to put on a children's version of the program on Feb. 17 at 4 p.m. At this event, volunteers from the community will read and share some of their favorite African-American children's books, characters and authors.

To learn about programs in the Black Voices Matter series, visit events.heightslibrary.org, or call 216-932-3600.

Julia Murphy is the marketing and volunteer coordinator for the CH-UH Public Library System.

What's going on at your library?

For a complete list of library programs, and to register, visit www.heightslibrary.org.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Thursday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

Step Out of Time: Introduction to Pranic Healing with Greg Soltesz. Learn how to use prana/life force to accelerate your body's ability to heal itself. You will also have the opportunity to experience intense peace, stillness and bliss through the Meditation on Twin Hearts.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Monday, Feb. 29, 7 p.m.

A Cultural History of Time. The methods invented for temporal measurement, as well as the significance various societies attach to the seasons, have shifted through the ages. From seconds to centuries, from sand-filled hourglasses to water clocks, we'll

look at the changing crossroads of chronology and civilization.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

Nonfiction@Noble Book Club: Beyond: Our Future in Space, by Chris Impey. Human exploration has been an unceasing engine of progress, moving toward a future in which mankind promises to settle another world. Here is the epic story of humanity leaving home—and of how humans will soon thrive in the vast universe beyond earth.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Techsplorers: Paper Circuits. Kids in grades K-5, bring your favorite adult and learn how to complete an electrical circuit to create a light-up greeting card. Registration began Jan. 26.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



DECEMBER 21, 2015

Board Members Susan Beatty and Chris Mentrek were absent.

Board President Rob Fischer completes term

The board adopted a resolution honoring Rob Fischer and remarking on his part in the successful library levy of 2014; his attention to accurate statistics, including the public demographics of our service area and its borrowing patterns; and his commitment to an independent public library serving our communities.

Rebecca (Becky) Katzenmeyer retires

Becky Katzenmeyer began her service at the library on Oct. 1, 1984 as a library assistant, earning a master of Library Science and becoming a full-time librarian in 2003. She served two terms as president of the staff association and was a mainstay of the adult services division, mentoring junior staff and supporting those with losses by crocheting sympathy blankets. She completed 31 years of service on Oct. 1, 2015, and retired on Dec. 18.

Library fund co-sponsors time capsule

In recognition of the centennial year of library service, the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries (FFHL) will bury a time capsule at the Coventry Village Library. Donors to the \$100 for 100 Movement will be named in the time capsule, to be opened in 2065. The website for the project is www.heightslibrary.org/100-for-100.

Cost-saving measures noted

Deborah Herrmann, fiscal officer, reported that, largely through the Meeder investment portfolio, the library earned nearly three times the amount of interest (\$37,904.25) on its deposits than in 2014. A continuing challenge in the years of low interest rates from banks has been maximizing return on deposits that are limited by state law to certain types of accounts. The board approved a \$500 membership in the Ohio Schools Council Cooperative Purchasing Program for further savings. The library purchases property and liability insurance through another consortium, The Ohio Plan, and will pay \$32,432, for that insurance in 2016, a 3 percent increase.

Balanced scorecard review

Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, deputy director, presented highlights, including the award of an American Library Association

STARnet grant which will fund the traveling exhibit, Explore Space, during 2017; provision of library cards for temporary residents; and the enlargement of the gaming collection in response to user requests.

Staff promotions of adult services librarians

Two librarians have been promoted to full-time adult services librarians. Amia Wheatley has been an adult services associate at Noble Neighborhood Library, and her position has been upgraded. Andrea Lynn has been a part-time adult services associate at Lee Road Library, and will become a full-time adult services librarian.

November public service report highlights:

- Ninety-two people attended Alice (For the Rest of Us), a program that explored Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* through a readers' theater project at Dobama Theater. WCPN's Dee Perry hosted the celebration of the book's 150th anniversary.
- The Cedar-Coventry Author Series continued, with Paula McLain discussing her new book, *Circling the Sun*.
- Noble Neighborhood Library's children's department formed a new partnership with Greater Cleveland Head Start. The group's visit coordinators brought the families they work with for lunch, storytime, and time in the Literacy PLAYroom.
- Pam Spangler of University Heights Library attended the Gearity Preschool Fall Open House. She engaged with 48 students and was able to provide many free books.
- Kathy Franzinger and Anne Tisch, youth services librarians, made their first visit to the Monarch School for Autism. They led a sensory storytime for kindergarten children and will visit several times in 2016.
- Jessica Robinson, youth services librarian, visited Heights High with a Harry Potter-based program to further engage students around fiction and comic books.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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



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CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

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

Participation in the arts has proven to be an integral part of successful aging. SAC offers many arts programs; classes in music, language, dance and the applied arts are available at low or no cost.

One such program, the arts and crafts group, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 1-3 p.m. Project ideas come from the group and its leaders, Susan Roberts and Leone Lee.

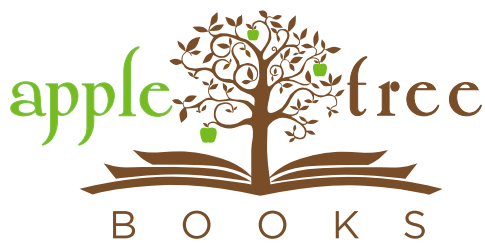
Repurposed items are a main source of materials for projects. At holiday time, the group was pleased to have the opportunity to offer their craft items for sale. Popular projects have included jewelry, clocks, ornaments, garden decorations and cards.

There is no charge to participate and no arts experience is necessary.

For another project, SAC is seeking 12 participants to commit to a project funded by the Ohio Arts Council. Everyone has a story to tell—this project will help you learn how to tell yours. Call 216-691-7377 for more information and to reserve a space.

The Senior Activity 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.cleveland-heights.com. For more information and to register for any program, call 216-691-7377.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the CH Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by e-mail at ajenkins@chvhts.com.



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Ensure good physical health in retirement



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

For baby boomers who are planning to retire in the near future, good physical health is essential for being able to fully enjoy this next phase of life. Being proactive about maintaining good health can help us thrive in our "golden years."

The Mayo Clinic recommends that we educate ourselves about the natural changes that are common during this period of our lives, and be as proactive as possible in preventing changes we may prefer not to go through. Preventing these changes will help enable us to continue living independently at home, continue driving safely, and reduce the risk of dangerous falls.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "It's never too late to make healthier lifestyle choices." Following are recommendations the clinic suggests to reduce, and often prevent, the common changes of aging:

Heart health: As we age, our heart rate can slow down, and vessels and arteries can become stiffer. Recommendations for maintaining a healthy heart include daily physical activity, a healthy diet, not smoking, reducing stress, and getting 7-8 hours of sleep each night.

Bone and joint health: Bones shrink and weaken as we age, muscles lose strength, and we have a harder time balancing. Recommendations include getting adequate amounts of calcium and vitamin D, daily physical activity, not smoking, and not abusing alcohol.

Digestive health: Constipation is common among older adults. Recommendations include a high-fiber diet, drinking enough fluids, daily physical activity, and not resisting the urge to have a bowel movement.

Urinary health: Incontinence can occur as we get older. Prevention includes maintaining a healthy

weight, not smoking, doing Kegel exercises, and avoiding bladder irritants such as caffeine, acidic foods, alcohol and carbonated beverages.

Memory health: Memory loss and foggy are common as we age. Prevention includes daily physical activity, a healthy diet, not smoking, keeping blood pressure at a healthy level, staying mentally active, and keeping up with social interaction.

Vision and hearing health: As we age, our eyes have more difficulty focusing and become more sensitive to glare. Our hearing diminishes and we have trouble hearing higher pitched sounds, and following conversations in a noisy room. Prevention includes wearing sunglasses on sunny days, wearing hearing protection when around loud sounds, and getting regular eye and ear checkups.

Skin health: Our skin becomes thinner, less elastic, and more fragile with age. We tend to get dry skin, wrinkles and age spots. Prevention includes bathing in warm (not hot) water, using mild cleansers and moisturizers, using sunscreen, and not smoking.

Weight health: As we get older, muscle mass tends to decrease and fat takes its place. Prevention includes daily physical activity, a healthy diet, and practicing portion control.

Sexual health: Desire, enjoyment and performance ability decline as we age. Talking with your partner and doctor about your concerns and options can help you find solutions.

Always consult with your doctor to develop the best and safest plan for your present health conditions as well as your future goals. It's never too late to make changes to help ensure a healthy retirement.

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.lovingbandsgroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or judith@lovingbandsgroup.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.

Feb. 4: Members of Heights High's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, Robert Cronquist (Class of 1947) and Bernice Shanker (Class of 1946) will speak about their achievements and experiences. Cronquist has conducted various orchestras, and is music director for the acclaimed Cleveland Women's Orchestra. Shanker has dedicated her life to education, teaching in local public schools.

Feb. 11: Instrumentalists and vocalists from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform a concert.

Feb. 18: Eight-year-old Arya Babu, who performed in Carnegie Hall last year, having placed second in the American Protégé Piano Competition in New York City, will visit. She is a student at Lewis Elementary School in Solon.

Feb. 23: Laura Peskin, member of Cleveland Heights Historical Society's Board of Trustees, will analyze the life, character, idiosyncrasies, accomplishments and legacy of influential architect Philip Johnson, who grew up on Overlook Road in the Euclid Heights neighborhood of Cleveland Heights, and left his unique mark on the world in art, politics and academia.

Heights High midwinter concert features soloist Emma Zordan



Emma Zordan

Cynthia Larsen

Emma Zordan, concertmaster of the Heights High Symphony, will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Violin Concerto in F minor*, "L'Inverno" (Winter), on Friday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium of Cleveland Heights High School (on the Wiley campus at 2181 Miramar Blvd. in University Heights). Zordan is one of two senior soloists selected to perform this year as part of a 70-year tradition of musical excellence at the high school.

Zordan began taking violin lessons at the Fairmount School of Music at age 6. She studied first with Hannah Frey, then with Emily Cornelius. In middle school, Zordan became a member of the Preparatory Youth Orchestra at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) and the concertmaster of the Youth String Camarata, and participated in CIM's Chamber program. She is a three-year member of the International Youth Symphony Orchestra of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. This

summer will be her second year as its concertmaster.

Zordan has been active in Heights school music programs since elementary school. She attended Reaching Heights Music Camp for five years, and was a counselor at the camp for one. She has served as the Heights High Symphony's concertmaster for three years, and has played in the pit orchestra for school musicals. Zordan performed in chamber groups for two years, and has composed original music. Recently, she joined Heights High's Vocal Music Department to broaden her exposure to different forms of music.

The Heights High Symphony will also perform the Allegretto from Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7 in A major*, and the *Scherzo* from Antonin Dvořák's *Symphony No. 7 in D minor*. The Symphonic Winds will present "Dedicatory Fanfare" from *Three Fanfares for a Celebration* by Robert W. Smith, *On a Hymn song of Lowell Mason* by David Holsinger and *The Old Pirate's Tale* by Darren Mitchell.

The Heights High Concert Orchestra, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band will also perform in a mid-week concert on Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The Concert Orchestra will present *Gauntlet* by Doug Spata, *Joust* by Richard Meyer, and *Clocks*, a Coldplay song arranged by Robert Longfield. The Heights High Percussion Ensemble will perform *Gypsy Dance* by James Campbell, arranged by the ensemble's director, Larry A. Smith. The Concert and Symphonic bands will finish the program with *Of Emerald Shires* by David Myers, *Let Hope Reign* by Larry Neeck, and *Mallet Mambo* by Robert W. Smith.

Preceding both concerts, students in the school's chamber and

ensemble program will perform in the cafeteria from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Following the Friday concert, the Heights High Jazz Ensembles will perform at the reception.

Tickets, available the day of the show, are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Parking is available in the

school parking lot across Miramar Boulevard (accessible from the University Square shopping center).

Cynthia Larsen teaches writing at Lake Erie Ink, a writing space for youth, and is the parent of a Heights High violinist and saxophone player.

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Heights Arts highlights Feb. events

Mary Ryan

On Thursday, Feb. 11, at Heights Arts, regional artisans Doug Meyer of Rustbelt Rebirth; Kevin Busta; and David Meyers of Rustbelt Reclamation will share insights about the challenges and inspirations of working with salvaged and repurposed industrial and residential materials.

The three create custom furnishings and innovative household objects using such materials as shopping carts, windmills, factory machinery, and wood from razed houses, and their work is currently on view in Heights Arts's *Remade in Cleveland* exhibition.

As part of Height Arts's literary programming, Meredith Holmes, the Cleveland Heights poet laureate, has invited Terre Maher, Mary Quade, Barbara Sabol and Barry Zucker to write original, ekphrastic poems inspired by select objects in the exhibition. The poets will read their works during the free evening

program on Feb. 11, which begins at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, Cara Tweed of The Music Settlement, Cleveland State University, and Laurel School Music Academy will lead a master class performance of young violinists from Cleveland-area public and private schools at 3 p.m. in the Heights Arts gallery. Supported by a grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, the master class program offers high-level teaching experiences to budding musicians in grades 6–12. The Feb. 21 performance is free and open to all. Student applications for participation are available on the Heights Arts website.

For more information on Heights Arts, call 216-371-3457 or visit www.heightsarts.org.

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

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Heritage Chorale in concert at Church of the Saviour



The Heritage Chorale

Loretta Dahlstrom

Arts in the Cathedral announces that the Heritage Chorale will appear in concert on Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m., at Church of the Saviour (2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights). This concert, part of the church's celebration of Black History Month, is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be accepted to benefit the Heritage Chorale.

The Heritage Chorale was founded by the late Sylvia L. Perry in 2002. Since then, the group has followed a mission of bringing sacred music, especially Negro Spiritual and Gospel music, to audiences locally and internationally. Besides performing throughout Ohio, the group has appeared in Vienna, Rome (including at St. Peter's Basilica), and Florence,

Venice and Varese, Italy.

Now in its 14th season, the 40-member ensemble represents seven denominations and its members bring diverse backgrounds, professions and experiences as they come together to share their love of music. The Rev. William A. Brewer, artistic director, is the pastor of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Cleveland. He brings a combination of talent and experience to the group, and has degrees in musicology, liturgical arts and divinity. He has studied classical piano, voice and conducting, and also plays several wind instruments.

For more information, call 216-321-8880.

Loretta Dahlstrom is the business administrator at Church of the Saviour.

Deadline approaches for Kids' Playwriting Festival at Dobama

Owen Schneider

The Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, an annual event at Dobama Theatre, is entering its 38th year of producing plays written by young people. The festival is scheduled for June, and the deadline to submit plays is March 1.

Bianchi, an actress, teacher, director and co-founder of Dobama Theatre, died of cancer in 1977. The festival was created in her name to carry out her wish to help Cleveland-area children discover their own voices and creativity through theater.

The festival's mission is to provide a platform for children to express their thoughts, hopes, dreams and creativity through the writing of original plays.

Melissa Crum, Dobama's education associate, said, "We believe the voices of our youth matter. We strive to support our playwrights by letting the heart and soul of their words shine through. We believe in the transformative power of theater, and its ability to bring communities together through the sharing of our stories."

Playwriting helps children explore essential narrative elements,

such as setting, plot, character, conflict and solution. They become familiar with these elements in school, but are able to actively apply them through writing a play—an activity that flexes their creative muscles.

The festival invites Cuyahoga County students in grades 1-12 to submit their stories to the 2016 festival. The plays must be original work, and be submitted by March 1.

Judges select 15 to 20 plays, several of which will be performed live at Dobama Theatre. In addition, the playwrights whose works are selected for performance will be invited to attend rehearsals of their plays, receive tickets for opening night, and receive a special gift package. Winners will be notified by April 1.

For more information about the festival and how to make a submission, visit the Dobama website at www.dobama.org, call 216-932-6838, or send an e-mail to youngplaywrights@dobama.org. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.

Owen Schneider is a marketing intern at Dobama Theatre.

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Dan and Nancy Maier share deep love of music

James Henke

Dan and Nancy Maier have both been playing piano since they were about eight years old. Now, more than five decades later, music still is the focus of their lives.

Dan, 62, is a member of several Cleveland-area bands, including the North Coast Jazz Collective and ProgNation, a relatively new progressive-rock group that covers songs by such bands as Yes, Genesis, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer. Nancy, 63, is the associate artistic director of the Musical Theater Project, an organization that presents classic American musicals in Greater Cleveland. She is also a part-time music director and vocal coach at Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory of Music.

The Maiers, who have lived on Meadowbrook Road in Cleveland Heights since 1992, are the parents of a daughter, Hannah, a 19-year-old freshman at Baldwin Wallace.

Nancy grew up on the West Side of Cleveland, in Brooklyn. She attended Indiana University, then received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Baldwin Wallace, graduating magna cum laude. Later, she earned a master's degree in collaborative piano at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Dan grew up on the East Side of Cleveland, primarily in Garfield



Nancy and Dan Maier.

Heights. He attended the Berklee College of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music, both of which are in Boston. He met Nancy at one of his shows in the early 1980s, and they married in 1982.

The Maiers decided to move to New York City. "We just thought that there would be more opportunities to play music in New York," Dan said. Shortly after arriving in New York, he started playing with Blood, Sweat and Tears. "I worked with them for about a year, and I spent a lot of time on the road with them," he said. Over the years, Dan has played with many famous musicians, including Smokey

Robinson, Gladys Knight, the Temptations, the Mills Brothers, and Leslie Gore. He also toured with Philip Glass.

Nancy got involved with music directing while she and Dan were in New York. "That's where I really started understanding that I love music directing and vocal coaching," she said.

In 1989, they decided to return to Cleveland, and Nancy began working in various theaters as a music director. Over the years, she has directed music at Cain Park, the Great Lakes Theater, the Cleveland Play House, the Beck Center and Karamu House. In 1996, she got a job as the music director and vocal coach at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music, under the direction of Victoria Bussert. "The Baldwin Wallace program has a great reputation across the country," she said. "The graduates from that program get hired all over, especially in New York."

When they returned to Cleveland, Dan continued to perform with major jazz artists, including Ernie Krivda, Paul Ferguson, Howie Smith, Nan O'Malley, Reed Simon, Joe Bell, Marty Block and Roy King. In addition to playing with the North

Coast Jazz Collective, which has released three CDs, Dan also plays with the Mojo Big Band and the True North Jazz Ensemble. He also plays with Joe Bell and the Swing Lizards and the folk-rock group Green Diamond Zephyr. He teaches classes in jazz vocal performance at Hathaway Brown School.

The Maiers said they love Cleveland Heights. "After living in New York for so long, we wanted to live somewhere that was near to cultural centers," Nancy said. "Cleveland Heights is so close to University Circle, and there are so many artistic centers here, as well as great clubs like Nighttown." Dan frequently plays at Nighttown. Over the years, he has appeared with Cheryl Bentine of the Manhattan Transfer, Alexis Cole, Jackie Ryan, Ann Hampton Callaway and many other famous artists.

Both of the Maiers have shows coming up in the next several months. On Feb. 14, Nancy will be performing with the Musical Theater Project at Vosh in Lakewood, which will present Anything You Can Do: The Big Battle of the Sexes.

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



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Luna expands in Cedar Fairmount and beyond

James Henke

Luna Bakery and Café recently underwent an expansion—its second since opening in June 2011. The restaurant, located in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, took over a portion of the space previously occupied by The Mad Greek. This expansion adds 500 square feet to Luna, enabling the café to add about 25 new seats.

When Luna originally opened, it could seat only about 15 people inside, though a patio offers additional seating in spring and summer. In the winter of 2011, the restaurant added a back room, increasing the number of indoor seats to about 35. With its latest expansion, the restaurant can now accommodate about 60 people inside.

Luna serves a variety of fine French pastries, including croissants, scones, muffins, and nut and poppy

seed rolls. The restaurant also serves breakfast and lunch. The breakfast menu offers scrambled eggs, egg paninis, oatmeal and granola, and the lunch menu includes a variety of panini sandwiches as well as crepes, salads and soups.

“We don’t use mixes,” said Bridget Thibeault, Luna’s co-owner. “We make everything here, including the salad dressings and the soups. It takes a lot of fine tuning to create everything we serve.” In addition, many of the menu items are made from products that are locally grown.

Thibeault, 42, grew up on South Overlook Road in Cleveland Heights and attended St. Ann and Beaumont schools. After graduating from Beaumont, she attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, majoring in advertising and marketing. She then spent about eight years in Chicago, working in advertising.

Near the end of her tenure in Chicago, Thibeault decided to attend culinary school. “As a creative outlet, I would always cook on the side,” she said. She earned a culinary degree from the Cooking and Hospitality Institute, and then moved to New York City, where she started a wedding-cake business called Flour Girl. “It was my side business,” Thibeault said. “I would make wedding cakes, cookies, pastries and other items.”

After two years, Thibeault moved back to Chicago. “I wanted to expand my Flour Girl business,” she said, “but I realized that it would be impossible in Chicago or New York because of the cost.” Meanwhile, she had also met Marc Thibeault, who would become her husband. “He was living in Cleveland, so I decided to come back home,” she said.

After returning to Cleveland in 2008, she did some recipe testing for Nestle and for the J.M. Smucker Company. She also taught cooking classes at the Viking Store at Legacy Village, and she became a pastry chef at fire food and drink, Doug Katz’s Shaker Square restaurant.

In the fall of 2009, Thibeault gave birth to her first child, a son named Cavan, and left Fire. The following year, she began working out of her house, making wedding cakes and pastries. Shortly after that, John Emerman and Tatyana Rhen, the



Bridget Thibeault

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owners of Stone Oven, contacted her to propose a business partnership. “John had seen the space at Cedar Fairmount, and he loved it,” Thibeault said. “When it became available, he found me on the Internet and contacted me about opening a bakery and café with him and Tatyana.”

The café has been extremely successful, and now has about 40 employees—twice the number it had when it first opened.

Luna’s owners are next planning to expand to Shaker Heights, where Luna will occupy a 100-square-foot stall in Market Hall—which Thibeault describes as a “high-end food court”—planned for the new Van Aken District development. “It’s not going to be a separate restaurant,” Thibeault said. “There will be 10 vendors, and communal tables, and we’ll be serving crepes and breakfast pastries.” The new market is scheduled to open in the fall of 2017.

Thibeault and her family, which now includes one-year-old daughter Cecelia, live on Shaker Road in Cleveland Heights. “I love how beautiful the area is,” Thibeault said. “It’s very family-friendly, and there are all of the parks and outdoor events here in the Heights. It also has easy access to downtown. It’s really a wonderful place to live.”

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.

Lee Road merchants introduce valet parking for patrons

Richard Stewart

If inadequate parking along Lee Road had long frustrated patrons and tamped down weekend business, as merchants largely contend, availability and convenience of parking along a key Cleveland Heights business district recently got a whole lot better.

In November, a group of Lee Road merchants, led by Chris Armington, Tavern Company owner, developed a plan to provide valet parking services in the commercial district. The merchants partnered with a locally based valet service, VIP Valet. Their plan went into effect on Dec. 18, when four valet parking stations, spanning from Cedar Lee Theatre to Brennan’s Colony, opened for business.

“It’s fantastic and a long time coming,” said Adam Fleischer, owner of The Wine Spot. “There’s not enough parking on Lee Road. [Parking] tickets are sometimes issued and prospective patrons end up driving around and even driving away—so we’re thrilled.”

Maxim Niyazov, VIP Valet’s owner, said the service parked 28 cars on its first Friday and 32 cars on that Saturday. The four valet zone locations are: in front of Parnell’s Pub and Cedar Lee Theatre; in front of Dewey’s Pizza and Lopez restaurant; in front of Tavern Company and Anatolia Cafe; and in front of The Wine Spot.

“Things went very well,” said Niyazov. “We got positive comments from the community and from all of our guests. The business owners were extremely helpful as well. They offered to store our equipment and recharge our LED lights. Many even offered our valet [attendants] complimentary coffee.”

The service begins at 5 p.m. each Friday and Saturday, and costs a flat fee of \$5 for the entire evening. Patrons reported that they appreciated the convenience of not having to worry about feeding meters with quarters while trying to enjoy an evening of dining or entertainment. Valet parking also offers a safety element as patrons can park and be picked up at any of the four stations, alleviating the need for car owners to walk any significant distance back to their cars at the end of their visits.

“Our hope is that the convenience compels more traffic along Lee Road and spurs greater economic activity for all of our merchants,” said Fleischer.

Richard Stewart is president of the board of directors for FutureHeights and president of Digizoom Media.



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Rudy's Pub relocates to Lee Road

James Henke

Rudy's Pub, which had been on Van Aken Road near Warrensville Center Road in Shaker Heights for nearly a decade, has re-opened in the Cedar Lee neighborhood. The restaurant is now located at 2191 Lee Road, in the space previously occupied by the Cedar Lee Pub, which closed temporarily in October 2014, and then closed permanently in 2015.

Quintin Jones and Amanda Elfers, who are engaged to be married, own the pub. They closed the Shaker Heights location in October 2015 because of the construction and redevelopment going on in that neighborhood. Then, a couple of their regular customers told them about the Cedar Lee Pub space. Jones and Elfers came by, thought it would be a great spot for their restaurant, and rented the space.

It took them only about three weeks to prepare for the restaurant's opening. "We painted the interior, did the woodwork, re-varnished the floors and painted the bathrooms," said Jones. "And we got it done quick enough that we were able to open on Dec. 11."

Jones is Rudy's chef, while Elfers serves as bartender. The pub is named for Elfers' great-uncle, Rudolph Volger, who died of tuberculosis at the age of 24, in 1925. There are photos of him on the restaurant's walls. "The image of my great-uncle always stood out to me, and

the story of how he died at such a young age always moved me," explained Elfers. "Rudy's Pub sounded like a great name for a neighborhood bar, and now he's back. We have his photo here on the wall, and he's the center point of the restaurant."

Elfers, 48, grew up in Milan, Ohio. When she was 18, she and her mother moved to Cape Cod. She attended the University of Massachusetts, where she earned a bachelor's degree in humanities. She then earned a master's degree in liberal arts from Harvard University. In 1990, while working on her master's degree, Elfers went to Russia. "I went back and forth between the U.S. and Russia several times," she said. "I took classes in the Soviet Union, and I worked at a bank in St. Petersburg for a while. It was a great experience. I finally came back to the U.S. permanently in 1994."

Elfers returned to Cleveland in 2004. "My father was born and raised on Kelleys Island," she said. "And the house he grew up in had been in the family for more than 100 years. I returned to Cleveland to buy the house. I thought it was important to keep it



Amanda Elfers and Quintin Jones, owners of Rudy's Pub

in the family." She now rents the house by the week as a vacation home.

Elfers had been interested in the restaurant world since she was very young. When she was 12, Elfers started playing piano in a restaurant. "Throughout college," recalled Elfers, "I worked as a bartender at restaurants. I've always like bartending."

After returning to Cleveland, Elfers started going to Noggin's Raw Bar and Pub in Shaker Heights. In 2006, she bought the bar and turned it into Rudy's Pub. In 2009, Jones came into Rudy's. "I liked it," he said, "and I started coming back. I noticed that they needed help in the kitchen, and I offered to work there. That started my relationship with Amanda and the restaurant."

Jones, 54, had worked as a chef at Noggin's for five years. He grew up in Warrensville Heights and attended Warrensville Heights High School.

After graduating, he went into the U.S. Army. He served three years of active duty and then 25 years in the Army Reserve. He started cooking while in the Army, and, in 1984, spent a year in Cuyahoga Community College's culinary program.

Over the years, Jones has worked at several restaurants in the Cleveland area, including Moxie, the Oakwood Country Club and Lopez y Gonzalez. He also had his own restaurant, Q's Diner, on Bellaire Road.

Jones' son, Patrick Jones, is Rudy's sous chef. He's 21, and has been working with his father for the past three years.

Rudy's full menu offers salads, sandwiches, pasta, seafood, meat entrees and desserts. Rudy's owners plan to feature DJ music on Friday and Saturday nights, and karaoke on Wednesday nights. On Mondays and Thursdays, Rudy's will offer 50-cent wing nights, and will feature Ladies' Night on Tuesdays. In the spring and summer, the owners plan to have bands performing on the back patio.

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

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