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FutureHeights
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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

CH crime tallies for 2015 show continued improvement

Bob Rosenbaum

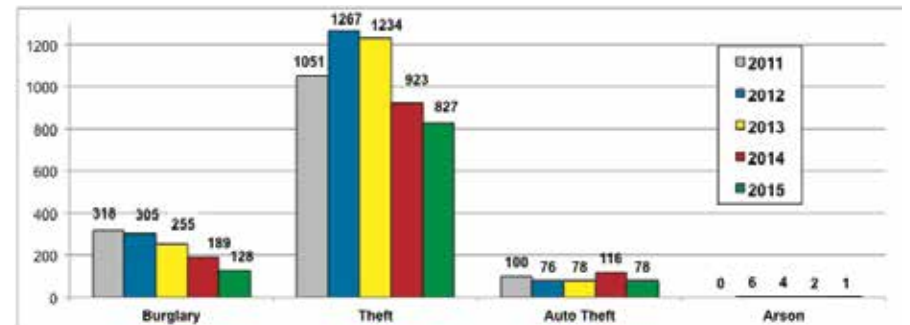
The number of serious crimes committed in Cleveland Heights last year declined by double-digit percentages. It was the third straight year crime was down in the city.

According to data compiled by the Cleveland Heights Police Department (CHPD) to standards established by the FBI, the number of violent crimes in the city was down 17 percent in 2015, compared to a 28 percent drop the year before.

The number of property crimes dropped 16 percent last year, compared to a 22 percent drop in 2014.

The number of crimes committed in almost every category declined last year, except for homicide, which remained the same; there were two murders in the city

Property crimes committed in Cleveland Heights 2011 – 15



in each of the last two years.

The information represents serious offenses defined as "Part I" crimes; it does not include "Part II" minor offenses, such as trespassing or DUI.

The FBI doesn't ask local agencies to report on these crimes, because they are so numerous that managing and reviewing the data would be prohibitively expensive.

The CHPD's report on crime clearance rates was a mixed bag. Clearance rates represent the percentage of crimes solved—essentially a gauge of how well the department does at catching criminals.

Every murder, rape and arson reported in the city last year was solved. The clearance rate improved

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Cain Park announces summer schedule

James Henke

Cain Park will host another summer of great shows, starting in June with the musical "The Toxic Avenger," which will be presented June 2–26. Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Ziggy Marley, Melissa Etheridge, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will be among the artists performing in Cain Park this summer.

"The Toxic Avenger" won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical. It's a charming love story and hilarious musical that includes an unlikely hero, his beautiful girlfriend, a corrupt New Jersey mayor, a nun, and stiletto-wearing back-up singers. Melvin Ferd the Third wants to clean up Troma-ville, the most polluted town in New Jersey. Foiled by the mayor's bullies, Melvin is dumped in a vat of radioactive toxic washer, only to re-emerge as the Toxic Avenger. His goal is to save New Jersey, end global warming and woo the blind librarian in town.

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones will appear on June 10. This show is



Bela Fleck and the Flecktones headline Cain Park's summer 2016 season, along with Ziggy Marley, Melissa Etheridge and others.

part of a two-week reunion tour, featuring the band's original lineup. The group formed in 1988 and performs primarily instrumental music that draws equally on bluegrass, fusion and post-bop.

Six days later, on June 16, Ziggy Marley will appear at the park. The son of reggae legend Bob Marley, Ziggy will release his sixth solo album, *Ziggy Marley*, on May 20. His previous album, *Fly Rasta*, won the 2015 Grammy for Best Reggae Album.

The following day, June 17, native Cleveland pianist Jim Brickman will perform at the park, and a week

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CH City Council denies Circle K rezoning request

Brenda H. May

In a unanimous decision at its March 7 meeting, Cleveland Heights City Council denied a request to change the zoning of two residential properties on Vandemar Street to make way for a Circle K. The decision came after a March 3 public hearing that council held on the issue, at which 30 residents spoke in opposition to the project.

Council members expressed their appreciation for the professionalism of the applicant and for the civility of the neighbors, but stated that the disadvantages outweighed the advantages.

At its Jan. 15 meeting, Cleveland Heights City Council stated that it had received a petition from the Wellert Corporation on behalf of Mac's Convenience Stores to rezone 1411 and 1419 Vandemar Street from residential to commercial, to make way for a 16-pump Circle K gas station and convenience store. Both residences are currently occupied.

The company seeks to place a 16-pump Circle K gas station and convenience store on the current site of the Center Mayfield (3907-3927 Mayfield Road) and Mayfield Noble (2966 Noble Road) buildings, and sought the rezoning in order to create a larger commercial lot with more of a buffer between the gas station and houses on Vandemar.

The Mayfield and Noble road buildings are located in a C-2 Local Retail District, which, according to the city's zoning code, is established for "the continued operation of small neighborhood commercial establishments and to concentrate new retail businesses in buildings that typically

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Spring concert features bassoonist Klein

Cynthia Larsen

Heights High's principal bassoonist Aviva Klein will be the featured senior soloist during the Spring Finale Concert on April 29, performing Antonio Vivaldi's *Concerto for Bassoon in e minor*. The concert will include performances by both the Heights High Symphony and Symphonic Winds. Earlier in the week, on April 27, the Heights High Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Orchestra will present their final concert of the year.

In its concert, the Symphony will

also perform *The Unanswered Question* by Charles Ives, *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber, and "Throne Room/End Credits" from *Star Wars, Episode IV: A New Hope* by John Williams. The Symphonic Winds will present *Sang* by Dana Wilson, *Sea Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and *Sevens* by Samuel Hazo.

For the April 27 performance, the Concert Orchestra will play *The Country Hoe Down* by Soon Hee Newbold, and *Black River Ballad* by Doris Gazda. The Concert Band and Symphonic Band will perform the *Liberty Fleet March* by Karl King, arranged by



Aviva Klein

James Swearingen; and *Contrails* by Mark J. Connor. All three ensembles will perform selections from *Star Wars, Episode VII: The Force Awakens* by John Williams, arranged by J. Vinson.

Both concerts will begin at 7:30

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Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life.

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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the *Heights Observer*, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

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

About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org 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 May issue must be submitted by April 11. 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.

Creative collision can help cure urban decay

Roger Bliss

More than 50 years ago, the proposed Clark-Lee Freeway rumbled toward the Heights louder than a stampede of lost buffalo. Fortunately, a group of community organizers stopped the proposed highway. Their victory spawned the founding of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, on the site of what would have been the intersection of crossing highways.

When a communitywide conflict results in a communitywide asset, it's a creative collision, of sorts, demonstrating the innovation and resourcefulness of our beautiful cities. The Nature Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary this summer, and I'm thankful for its legacy.

As Cleveland Heights struggles to cure pockets of urban decay, we face a similar crisis. Instead of hearing the rumbling hooves of a misguided highway proposal, our city's urban decay is more like the silent, disease-spreading mosquito. Symptoms of urban decay often appear unrelated, but there is an underlying cause that is much like the inconspicuous insect. Before the cause is revealed, let's look at a few symptoms.

We see proposed plans to demolish historic structures along Mayfield Road (namely the Center Mayfield Building) and replace them with a retail design that would damage the neighborhood's urban fabric. Meanwhile, Lee Road businesses are struggling to solve parking concerns caused by a misinformed public parking approach. In the past, we've seen the approval of commercial buildings positioned off the street edge, weakening the city-style shopping experience and risking pedestrian safety. To many, these are symptoms of a city in crisis; one that has lowered original standards for short-term gains.

Cleveland Heights is a garden city—a planned community of leafy neighborhoods laced with greenbelts and public parks. Its plan also includes a collection of urban areas that cluster retail, businesses, apartments and homes. Most environmentalists consider these compact and pedestrian-friendly areas a sustainable development pattern. Millennials and baby boomers are all seeking such places—or to be within walking distance of these mixed-use neighborhoods (and the venti latte that awaits).

The demand for these traditional urban places is so high that outer-ring suburbs are imitating our neighborhoods, but let's not be outdone. In a recent *Plain Dealer* article, a Cleveland city planner stated, "We cannot let the suburbs beat us at our own game."

Form-based codes are becoming an

increasingly attractive method in enabling municipalities to support mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development. As the City of Cleveland introduces plans for land-use regulation reform, to include form-based codes, Cleveland Heights is encouraged to follow its lead.

Many cities are realizing that the mosquito-like problem at the core of the urban decay epidemic is the arcane, outdated land- and building-use regulations, the most effective and widely used treatment of which is reform.

Cleveland Heights is currently working with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission on the city's master plan. The master plan will guide reinvestment toward the acres of under-performing real estate. To make the plan stick, these updated regulations will provide greater flexibility in land and building uses, in exchange for more-stringent regulations controlling urban form.

It's important to know that the process of reform is as valuable as the document that it produces. To support the master plan, the process of reform will include public engagement where design theory and principle are explained, and fine-grain urban design methods are described.

With an informed public, city staff will have the support to make decisions that are best practices in their field and best for our city as a whole, interdependent organism. The not-in-my-back-yard (NIMBY) attitude is usually not a symptom of an unreasonable neighbor; it could be a symptom of a person with an uninformed citywide vision. Let's refine and communicate this vision.

Maintaining the health of our city is complex, and progressive land-use regulations will help. They create a practical framework to inform citizens and business owners, empower city staff and leadership, and encourage and clearly direct the reinvestment that strengthens our graceful garden city allure.

We have an opportunity for innovation before us: to leverage this moment into a legacy of lasting community health. This creative collision will create a refreshed self-image for our citizens and for future generations; anything short of that is as unthinkable as a highway exchange hovering over the Shaker Lakes. I encourage everyone to learn more about this grassroots initiative in an upcoming speaker series, to be announced soon.

Roger Bliss is a developer specializing in infill locations, pedestrian-scale urban design, mixed-use projects, and multifamily project construction. He is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Severance Subcommittee of the FutureHeights Civic Engagement Committee.

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Should real estate websites steer home sales?

Nancy Dietrich

Heights Community Congress (HCC) has written here before, alerting readers to what we've dubbed "educational redlining," whereby websites like Zillow.com influence homebuyers to pass up that nice house in a moderate-income community in favor of that also nice house in a more affluent community, based on a color-coded comparison of public school test scores.

We pointed out the research-supported fact that—of course—schools in the more affluent community have higher test scores, because academic achievement has been shown to correlate highly with family economic status, making test scores not a true measure of school "quality."

We contend that evaluating a school district entails far more than a red, yellow or green dot. It's a matter of seeing and experiencing for oneself or, if that's not possible, listening to someone who has.

So many intangibles go into making a school experience what it is. Does a website or a message board like City Data, Zillow, or Trulia really know enough about a given community or school district to purport to provide a fair and balanced evaluation? The website doesn't have to answer why a test score may be high or low, or even care whether a community thrives or decays as a result of its rating.

A profit-oriented website based in California isn't qualified to tell us here in northeast Ohio what there is to feel happy about in our schools and our communities, yet it does a very good job of providing focus for the things we could worry about.

As gatekeepers of public perception, websites can shape the public's view, reinforce stereotypes and, yes, steer homebuyers away from an entire school district, community or region. All this influence for a website whose goal might simply be to sell the most expensive house.

Do we need to buy into an opinion just because it is declared on a screen in front of us? HCC is invested in keeping our inner-ring communities and the school districts within them strong and integrated. We urge readers to investigate and experience for themselves what public schools have to offer and what there is to be happy about, such as music students earning awards and acclaim, not only in the region and the state, but internationally as well; teams of middle school students, ably representing the district at an annual Model U.N. Conference; third-graders listening to a story about rabbits and squirrels, and realizing that it's actually a metaphor for the Holocaust.

To discover what's in our midst, talk to parents whose children attend public school, attend a concert or event at your neighborhood school, watch a soccer game. You will then be the gatekeeper of your own perception.

To find out what has transpired since HCC's April 2015 forum on redlining, join us for Educational Redlining – Affecting Communities. This program, jointly sponsored by SEL Experience Project and HCC, will be the focus of the annual Fair Housing Month program on April 29, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road.

Hear your neighbors' stories and help us devise strategies to counter the power of real estate websites in shaping public perception and influencing home buying in our communities. The event is free; walk-ins are welcome, but advance registration is appreciated, either online at www.heightscongress.org or by phone at 216-321-6775.

Nancy Dietrich is a 40-year resident of Cleveland Heights. She is a longtime supporter of CH-UH schools, which her four grown children attended and which her four grandsons now attend. She was a 12-year member of CH City Council and is active in the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland and HCC.

In memoriam: Grandmaster Ronald Balas

David Jones

I first met Ronald Balas (Dec. 9, 1930 to Feb. 13, 2016) in September 1966 at the Cleveland Heights YMCA on Lee Road. He was teaching martial arts classes. I was 5 years old. This meeting was the beginning of a 49-year relationship.

Ron has been a constant presence in my life for the past half-century. For thousands, he was the founder and Grandmaster of Tai Shin Doh Karate. He traveled the world to teach this art form and is widely known and respected for this achievement. But he was so much more—a father, husband, brother, grandfather, and a friend to all.

Ron had a gift. He would make you believe that you were the most important person in the world. He shared this gift with countless people who came to him.

Ron led a professional life of unmeasured service to this community. After serving in the Korean War, he came home and earned his Ph.D. He went on to use his degree to help returning U.S. military veterans facing the struggle of re-entry into civilian

life. He created and founded an organization called Awesome Heroes. He was a tenacious advocate and supporter of veterans' issues, always seeking to bring awareness to their unique and specific needs.

He never tired of helping others. He taught, led and shared of himself during his lifetime unlike anyone I have ever known. Ron was a great man. It has been my privilege to call him teacher and my honor to call him friend. All who knew him are truly blessed. We will never forget Ron.

His spirit and teachings will continue to live on in my classroom and in my students. This is my gift in remembrance of Ronald "Ron" Balas.



Ronald Balas

COURTESY DAVID JONES

David Jones is a Tai Shin Doh karate instructor who teaches at the CH Recreation Center. He has studied martial arts since he was a young boy, and helps countless people, from children to the elderly, learn how to defend themselves.

Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Ohio's School District Letter Grades Tell Us Little about Real Opportunity



... Our family chose to educate our children here in a diverse, mixed-income school district where they would benefit from a heterogeneous group of peers, but in which the school district worked to ensure opportunity for all. It was this experience we sought for

our children who are now adults. I know many families whose children are currently enrolled who are pleased with our school district, whatever the state's school district grades may say. Of course, in a very unequal society, it is important that all districts work persistently to make the experience of schooling more equitable. But the state's rating system doesn't help in any way I can see. . . .

—Jan Resseger

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Public money is lining private pockets

Ari Klein

Who pays for our roads? We do, from a combination of different taxes. Roads are part of the infrastructure we require as a society. I know that I will not get a chance to drive on all of the roads that my taxes support, but I assume that other people do and that they are there for the common good. What if these taxes were used to pave golf lanes on a private country club, or a church or synagogue parking lot? Is that the same? Is that what public money is meant to be used for?

Somehow, in the twisted thinking of our state legislature, tax money collected for our school district is diverted to several private enterprises over which our district has no control, and financially supports students the district does not serve.

Students with special needs who are not going to attend our schools get up to \$27,000 per year to attend a private or parochial school. These students can be served, for the most part, in our district for less, but the law allows them to take money to another provider—one that may know nothing about serving special needs students.

The district is also required to fund salaries for staff who create Individualized Education Plans for special needs students who will never attend our schools. This is also an enormous drain on resources that we need for the students that we are actually trying to teach.

Money is lost to our district when parents choose to send their students to a charter school. It is taken out of the pot. These supposedly public schools have been in the news for a long while. Originally planned to be innovative centers where teachers would be able to reach students in a different way, many charter schools are worse than the public schools the students would normally be attending. Additionally, these charter schools are profit centers for their CEOs, and many have stability problems, partially because most of their teaching staffs are paid poverty wages and are usually not union protected.

More than a third of the students from our district who “attend” a charter school are doing so online. I believe it takes an exceptionally well-motivated student to learn online. Students who are young and are learning in this

manner are also missing out on the non-curricular skills that children need to get along—things one learns on a playground. Our teaching staff tells me that students returning from charter schools (some at mid-year, after the monies have been diverted) are often way behind students who stay in our school system.

Our district also loses money to EdChoice vouchers. This year alone, we lose \$2.8 million to private and parochial schools for students who live within some of our school boundaries. The basis for this is the flawed state testing system. Even though our students show tremendous growth every year, if they do not meet some arbitrary score from the state, we lose more resources. The theory is that families should not have to send their students to the neighborhood school if these magical scores are not met. Many of the families draining these resources from us, depleting our reserves, would not use our school system anyway, for religious or curricular reasons. In fact, there are cases of outsiders buying houses in the district solely to take advantage of this free tuition money. Believing that EdChoice vouchers leaves more resources for students in the district is nonsense.

This school year alone, our district is in the hole by more than \$6 million because of these state mandates. This figure does not even take into account [the cost of] staff needed to oversee some of these funds and other tasks that would not have to be done if the laws were different. I have not mentioned any of the other long-term private school services our district is required to provide, including transportation, book purchases, and so forth—some of which I could argue make sense. These vouchers and subsidies of special needs services make no sense.

Parents choose a private, parochial or charter school based on many factors. It is their choice, and one that they obviously put a lot of thought into and have a right to make. The use of public dollars to fund this choice, and starve the students who attend our public schools, is inappropriate and should be illegal—just as it would be wrong to pave anything at a private golf course at taxpayer expense.

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

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THE COMMON
GOOD

Susie Kaeser

On Feb. 17, in anticipation of Ohio's overdue 2014-15 report cards, the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the CH-UH Council of PTAs sponsored rallies across the school district. "We Are More Than a Score" events gave people who are up close and personal with our schools an opportunity to express what they value and appreciate.

Instead of making unfair judgments based on ill-conceived numbers, the celebrations offered heartfelt praise and applause for students and teachers. Student and parent speakers created a rich picture of each child's unique qualities and the deep connections that create places for children to thrive. The events reclaimed the humanity of our education system.

The celebrations evoked tears of joy and exasperation among the cheering crowds, because what matters most for those closest to a school is valued least by a policy that judges them.

I participated in the event at

Boulevard, my neighborhood elementary school, along with school board member Ron Register and many other community members whose children, like mine, had attended the school. We wanted to share our appreciation for our children's education.

Children were asked to write brief statements about themselves starting with, "I am more than a score, I am . . ." and parents were asked to complete the sentence, "I love my school because . . ."

Boulevard parents wrote:

- "There is imagination and joy everywhere here."
- "The teachers enrich my children's lives and make them excited about their education."
- "Every person my children encounter makes them feel loved, respected and comfortable being who they are. My children are seen as individuals."
- "Everyone here is like my second family."
- "My child's teacher goes above and beyond to be sure my child understands what is being taught."
- "Our teachers are exemplary, our students are kind and our community is strong and dedicated. Boulevard is a safe, loving, amazing place for my kids to grow and learn."

These qualities really matter, but on the state's report card they

don't count. What people value about their school doesn't fit the popular narrative driving the test-and-punish policy, which holds that public schools are failing and that teachers are to blame. The rallies made a clear statement: The tests do not define us, and we will not be defined by them.

According to Boulevard Principal Shelley Pulling, who has been the principal of an A-rated school and an F-rated school, the education is richer, the children learn more, and the teachers work harder and are more creative in her F-rated school.

The preoccupation with blame and judgment is counter to everything we know about making a human enterprise excel. It injects fear into a space that needs to be safe and full of trust, and it dampens risk-taking and exploration, the core elements of engaged learning.

The unrelenting focus on reducing education to numbers and equating judgment with support for improvement is lousy policy. It promotes education fundamentalism. It creates more barriers for the most vulnerable, drains precious resources and respect from schools serving the neediest students, lines the pockets of publishers, test-makers and privatizers, and frays the hearts and hopes of the participants in this fragile human project.

The moment the Boulevard students walked into the gym that day to the enthusiastic applause of parents and neighbors, my heart leaped to my throat. There we were, delivering

a message of support and love. At that very moment our community was making visible its support for our children, their education and our schools. It was therapeutic and uplifting. Public schools are remarkable places. They do critical work. They are about humanity and human development. They cannot be standardized and must not be privatized.

We changed the narrative that day. It inspired the students and the educators and the community. Our support raised spirits and ignited excitement. We said no to the test by saying yes to the children and their teachers.

I believe this rickety excuse for education policy must end before it brings down a very important system and drives away our most creative and determined professionals. Public schools build good citizens. We still need them.

On Feb. 17 we offered a different narrative and discredited the validity of a system that is far off the mark. We refused to let the tests define us.

Saying no to the test by appreciating our children and their teachers is fun, energizing and valuable. It is a path to change. To get involved, visit chub.net/coalition.

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.



Heights Libraries CENTENNIAL KICK-OFF

Sunday, May 1, 2 p.m.

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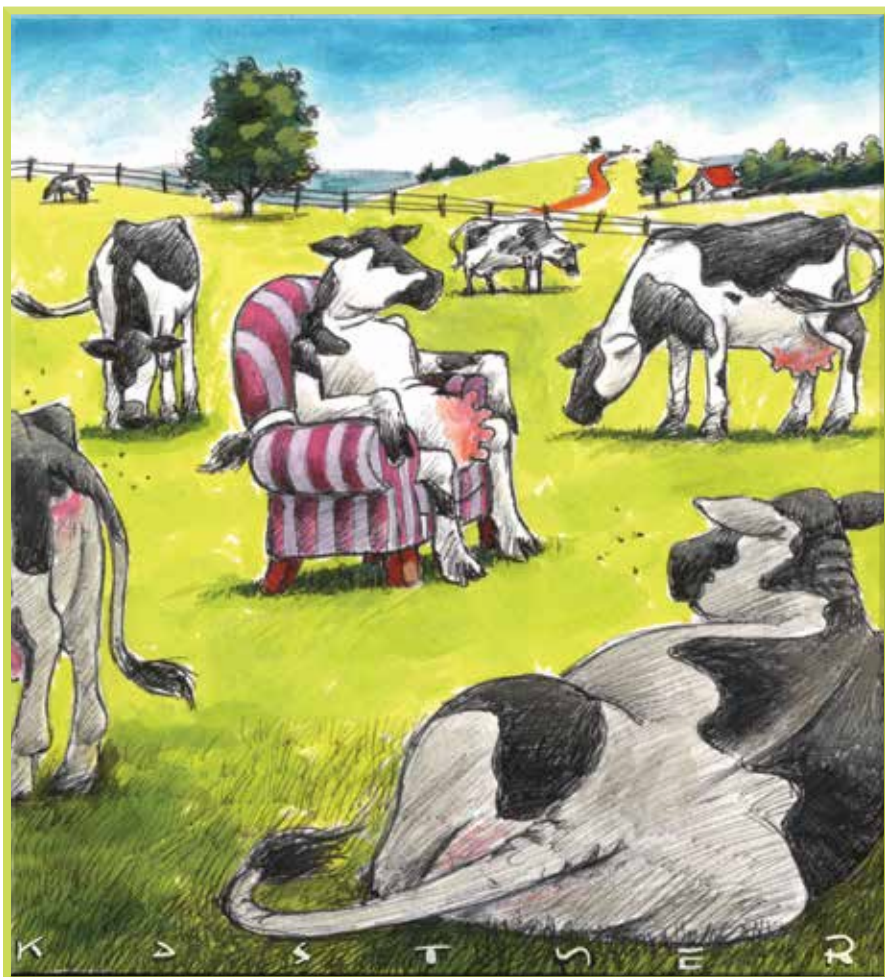
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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



FEBRUARY 16, 2016

All council members were present.

MLK Jr. speaker Kari Queen

Councilman John Rach introduced Kari Queen as this year's MLK Jr. speaker. Queen noted that Dr. King had once said that the most segregated hour in the United States occurs every Sunday morning. He was responding [at the time] to a suggestion that integration should begin in churches, instead of schools and communities. Since integration did not occur in the churches, King had said that it was time to move on and find new opportunities.

Queen remembered meeting King at her church in Cincinnati when she was almost 6 years old. She remembers her father arguing with an usher who was insisting that no children were to be in the sanctuary as there wouldn't be room for the adults, but King insisted that the children not only be allowed to come in but that they sit down front. He proceeded to speak to each child individually.

Queen's father, who was a chemist, applied to work at Proctor & Gamble (P&G), where applicants were required to take a test. The P&G human resources representative called her father to say that although he had the highest score of anyone on the test, they would not hire him because "they just didn't do that." He went on to become a pharmacist. Today, Queen is proud to live in an integrated community and she thinks King would be pleased by the integration he would see now in the Heights. She is proud to have met such a man, and to be able to live out some of his dreams.

Green Road traffic light

A tow truck knocked down the traffic light on Green Road at Heinen's; the light was not removed by the city. The signal is antiquated and must be replaced rather than repaired, and it has a lower priority than a signal at a main intersection.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

MARCH 7, 2016

All council members were present.

Compensation range of specified staff positions

After a lengthy discussion, council updated the annual compensation range of specified positions. This updated ordinance does not change the current pay of any employees, but provides an allowed pay range for directors and those administrative positions not linked to union contracts. An amendment, approved on emergency, requires the mayor to advise council at the council meeting following any pay increases. Councilman Phillip Ertel's was the sole vote against the amendment; however,

the vote for the ordinance as amended was unanimous. Vice Mayor Susan Pardee made clear that the extensive discussion of this issue by council had nothing to do with any single position or person, but was due to council's need to practice due diligence by looking at the numbers, budgets and ranges before voting on this issue. Mayor Susan Infeld said that the requirement to notify council was overreach; that, as mayor, she is responsible for personnel, and that she notifies council of current pay rates when council begins to prepare the budget for the following year.

Mayor's expenditure limits

Council heard a first reading of legislation raising the mayor's expenditure limit to \$7,500 from \$5,000. The \$5,000 limit was set in 1988. Any expenditure above this amount requires council approval. Mayor Infeld noted that the amount of these limits is a source of inefficiency for the administration, as projects and decisions have to be put on hold pending the next meeting of council. The state limit for communities not governed by their own charters is \$50,000. Vice Mayor Pardee noted that, when she was working on the city's revised charter, she had researched expenditure limits in Ohio and found that limits vary widely, from broad authorization to councils approving all expenditures. She maintained that council has responsibility to oversee the fiscal standing of the city. Mayor Infeld replied that University Heights is managed similarly to neighboring cities in Cuyahoga County, and not like the small communities in southern and western Ohio.

Council also heard a first reading on legislation dealing with disposition of city property. Currently, the mayor is required to determine the value of any equipment to be removed and, if the value exceeds \$2,500, she must get council's approval. She feels this ordinance, dating from 1989, is restrictive.

Traffic signal replacement

Council approved the purchase and installation of the traffic signal and related equipment for the intersection at 2180 South Green Road (near Heinen's), from Signal Service Company, in the amount of \$44,588.25. The light will be installed in six to twelve weeks.

Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center

A pilot program allowing 40 University Heights senior citizens to join programs at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center will begin April 1. Senior Transportation Connection can provide transportation to the center.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "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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FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program awards five CH projects

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights launched the second round of its Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program this spring, approving approximately \$4,700 in grants to support five projects in Cleveland Heights. Grants are intended to spur small, grassroots projects to improve quality of life and build community.

The awarded grants are:

- Forest Hills Homeowners Association and Boulevard Elementary School received \$830 for the Boulevard Elementary Outdoor Classroom Enhancements project. This project will enhance the outdoor classroom by planting additional vegetation, constructing an outdoor percussion space/music wall, installing bird feeders and “grow box” Plexiglas containers to house ants, worms and plants, to educate students on the way nature modifies environments for survival.
- Oxford Community Garden received \$1,000 for its Garden Tasting and Pollinator Garden project, in which a 6,000-square-foot permaculture edible food forest will be built around the garden’s perimeter.
- Noble Neighbors received \$910 for its Noble Community Home and Yard Sale Event - Signage and Solicitation project, in which the group will create and purchase election-sized yard signs to create buzz and communicate dates and information about the upcoming event, as well as future Noble Neighbors programs and events.
- Montford Community Garden Association received \$1,000 for its Garden Shed and Pocket Park Lawn project. Funds will be used to create a pocket park open to the community, and to install a shed to house garden tools, equipment

and supplies to make garden visits easier, and encourage people to walk through the neighborhood to the garden.

- Coventry Village Special Improvement District received \$1,000 for its Coventry Silly Walk project, which aims to utilize art to add vibrancy to the neighborhood and transform the main Coventry Road crosswalk.
- Do you have a great idea to improve your neighborhood? FutureHeights invites you to apply for a grant. Attend a workshop to learn more about how to apply, and get tips about completing the application. The next application deadline is Sept. 15 at 5 p.m.

The Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program is a component of the FutureHeights Community Capacity-Building Program that awards small grants of up to \$1,000 to fund citizen-led neighborhood projects, events and activities that benefit Cleveland Heights.

Through grants, FutureHeights seeks to build community with increased resilience through grassroots resident participation in civic life. In so doing, Cleveland Heights becomes better equipped to address challenges in the physical and social environment, drawing on and activating the assets of residents, nonprofit organizations and public resources and departments.

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program (www.futureheights.org) is guided by a grant-making committee comprises seven Cleveland Heights residents with a history of community involvement. The committee reviews and approves all grants. For more information e-mail sbasu@futureheights.org, or call 216-320-1423.

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

KLEIN continued from page 1

p.m. in the auditorium of Cleveland Heights High School (Wiley campus), at 2181 Miramar Blvd., and will be preceded by a Chamber Ensemble Recital at 6:30 p.m. Tickets, available on the days of the shows, are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Parking is available in the school parking lot as well as on the other side of Miramar Boulevard (accessible from the University Square shopping area).

One of two seniors selected to solo this year, Aviva Klein became interested in music as a preschooler. She began piano lessons in first grade and studied clarinet with Anne Marie Falcone, switching to bassoon after fifth grade, and continuing to study bassoon with Ian Hoy throughout middle and high school. In high school, Klein became principal bassoonist in the Heights High Symphony and the Symphonic Winds. She played trumpet in the marching band and joined the Jazz Band in her senior year.

Klein attended summer music camps at Reaching Heights, the College of Wooster and Baldwin Wallace University, and was a counselor at

Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp. In eighth and ninth grades, she participated in the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony. In ninth grade, Klein was accepted into the Contemporary Youth Orchestra (CYO), under the direction of Liza Grossman. She has been CYO’s principal bassoonist for the past three years, and was awarded the John and Nicole Clouser Bassoon Chair for her junior year. In 10th grade, she joined the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (COYO), under Cleveland Orchestra Associate Conductor Brett Mitchell. She has been co-principal bassoonist in this ensemble for the last two years. Last summer, Klein traveled to China with COYO to perform four concerts. After graduation, she plans to continue her musical studies in hopes of possibly becoming a conductor.

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

CIRCLE K continued from page 1

locate side by side in order to create and encourage pedestrian activity.”

City Council Chambers were filled to overflowing at the March 3 public hearing. Richard Wong, director of planning and development for the City of Cleveland Heights, presented the company’s request to council.

Representatives of the developer stated that the Center Mayfield Building, which was built in 1917 and includes a 1936 theater addition, had been mostly vacant for six years. The theater has been closed for 20, though a video rental and liquor store had occupied the space more recently. They said that the building was obsolete, non-ADA compliant, lacked adequate parking and an elevator, so it was not attractive to anyone but month-to-month tenants. They showed renderings of the proposed project, saying that Circle K would spend more than \$100,000 more for the building than its typical store in order to make the project more Cleveland Heights-friendly by adding more brick to the façade, adding more green space, and including sidewalks and bicycle racks.

Vandemar Street Neighbors had organized a Change.org petition in opposition to the project that was signed by 579 people.

Noble Neighbors, a group that represents residents and business owners in the northeast quadrant of Cleveland Heights, coordinated the comments of several residents and experts who spoke about the proposed project’s negative effects on their quality of life and the resulting decline in their property values.

Cleveland Heights resident Bob

Brown, former planning director for the City of Cleveland and an expert on zoning ordinances, stated that the city has no obligation to change the status of residential areas. “The main question,” he said, “is ‘Does the proposed change help the community?’ The zoning code is intended to promote the health and well-being of the community, and council should always act to promote this.”

Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights, read a statement from the organization’s board of directors urging the city to deny the rezoning request and expressing support for the neighbors.

One Noble Road resident, Benita Toolick, expressed support for the project. She said that the existing building is an eyesore and needs to come down.

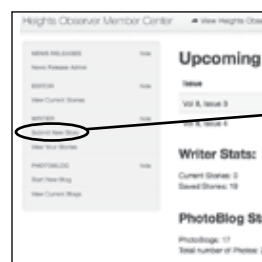
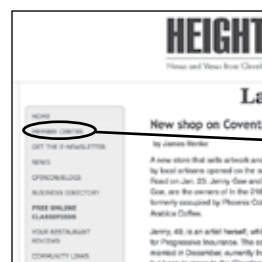
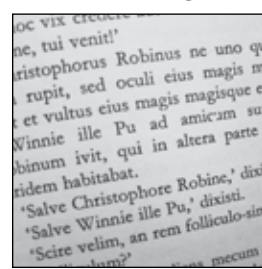
Without the rezoning, the company said it might still seek to raze the existing commercial structures and proceed with the project. To do so, however, it would also need to request a conditional use permit from the city. Because of the potential hazards they may pose to residents, gas stations require a permit to operate in a C-2 district. The permit request would go before the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission, should the company decide to pursue it.

Bremer Fisher said that she hoped that a new use for the historic commercial buildings could be found, and that a comprehensive plan for the Center Mayfield Business District, with the Center Mayfield Building at its center, could be developed.

Brenda H. May is one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors (www.nobleneighbors.com).

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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.

Actor, critic, playwright is new Cleveland Heights poet laureate

Kathleen Cerveny

"No matter where you go in Cleveland Heights you see people you know or want to know." So says Christine Howey, the incoming (2016-17) poet laureate of Cleveland Heights. Extolling the virtues of the Heights, including its diversity, Howey noted that very few cities have their own poet laureate: "How cool is that!"

Howey grew up, and has lived most of her life, in Cleveland Heights. She was a director and stage actor at Dobama Theatre for many years, and is the theater critic for *Scene* magazine. She was named Best Critic in Ohio by the Cleveland Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists.

Howey is also a playwright, and her one-woman play, "Exact Change," is a poetry-rich narrative which received its world premiere at Cleveland Public Theatre in 2014, and which she performed last year at Playhouse Square, at the New York Fringe Festival, in Provincetown, Mass., and other venues in Northeast Ohio.

In addition to her performance resume, Howey's poetry has been widely published by Pudding House and Kattywompus Press, and in numerous anthologies. She has written articles for *The Daily Beast*, *Northern Ohio Live*,



Incoming Cleveland Heights poet laureate Christine Howey in performance.

the *Plain Dealer* and other publications.

Howey identifies herself as a performance poet, not a "slam" poet (although she has performed successfully in that genre); one who actively pursues the drama and uses dramatic devices in reading her work. As an actor, she is very interested in how speaking poetry "creates a new way to access the words and helps people think in a different way."

CAIN PARK continued from page 1

later, on June 24, Melissa Etheridge will appear there. Since launching her career in the early '90s, Etheridge has received 15 Grammy Award nominations, and, in 2007, won an Academy Award for Best Original Song for "I Need to Wake Up" from the film "An Inconvenient Truth."

The annual Cain Park Arts Festival will take place July 8, 9 and 10. The Arts Festival is a juried fine-arts and fine-crafts event, featuring the work of up to 150 artists.

On July 23, the park will present the *Summer of Love Concert*. The show brings back memories of the Woodstock generation, and includes live music performed by a wide range

of musicians who will perform songs by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Janis Joplin, the Doors, Jimi Hendrix, Santana, Jefferson Airplane and numerous other artists.

Starting on Sunday, July 24, the park will present free Sunday jazz concerts. The lineup was not finalized at press time.

On Aug. 11, the Cleveland Stage Alliance will present *Feel the Noize: The 80s Rock Concert Cabaret*. Some of Northeast Ohio's top theater talent will come together to perform new and familiar arrangements of '80s rock hits accompanied by a live band.

Other concerts and shows are planned for the summer, but complete information was not available at press time. For more information, and updates, visit www.cainpark.com.

Cleveland Heights residents will be able to purchase tickets for the summer's shows beginning on May 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Cain Park ticket office. The ticket office will open to the general public on May 28.

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.

In fact, her project as poet laureate will be to offer workshops to help people learn and practice speaking their work. She will welcome writers of all levels of accomplishment, and is particularly interested in creating intergenerational workshops, where youth and older residents can learn and share together.

Cleveland Heights's poet laureate is sponsored by the nonprofit arts organization Heights Arts, located on Lee Road near the Cedar Lee Theatre. Heights Arts and the poet laureate co-manage EKPHRASTACY, the popular visual art and poetry program that takes place in the gallery during each exhibition.

As she begins her term of office this April (National Poetry Month), Howey will direct two one-act plays she imported from the New York Fringe Festival, at Blank Canvas Theater in the 78th Street Studios building on Cleveland's West Side. She will be formally introduced to the Cleveland Heights community at the April 18 City Council meeting.

Kathleen Cerveny was the 2013-14 Cleveland Heights poet laureate. She recently retired from the Cleveland Foundation where she was the director of arts initiatives for 25 years. She lives in the "Royal Heights" neighborhood of Cleveland Heights.

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Council Member Kahlil Seren was absent.

Public comments

Vandemar Street rezoning: Three residents—Jill Tatum, C. J. Nash and Sara Lee—expressed opposition to the proposed rezoning of two homes on Vandemar Street in order to construct a gas station and convenience store. Mayor Cheryl Stephens expressed appreciation for the residents' well-mannered, thoughtful comments. She stated that council is committed to listening and to finding a solution that is in the city's best interests, and emphasized the importance of following a fair and legal process. She announced that there will be a public hearing on the Circle K request for redevelopment on March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers.

Pedestrian and bicycle access project

Council authorized the Ohio Department of Transportation to complete a project for improving pedestrian and bicycle access for schoolchildren within Cleveland Heights.

Master plan

Committee Chair Mary Dunbar noted that a meeting on Feb. 23 will be the first opportunity for public input on the city's master plan, which is being developed by a team of residents in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. The plan's section on current conditions will be reviewed, and residents will be invited to provide feedback and set priorities for vision statements and strategic development areas.

School ratings and rallies

Dunbar said that on Feb. 17 the city's public schools will receive their ratings from the state. This is not always a happy occasion, so parents and residents are organizing rallies at the schools with the theme, "We're More than a Score," because many believe current state tests are biased and the results don't accurately reflect what is happening in the schools.

Citizen appointment to CAC

Council appointed resident Gail Larson to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for a term ending Dec. 31.

City finances

Mayor Stephens closed the meeting by noting that the city is beginning a new fiscal year in good financial health. She attributed this to the residents' commitment to the community.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

MARCH 7, 2016

All council members were present.

Proposed Circle K at Mayfield Road and Vandemar Street

Council voted unanimously to decline the Circle K rezoning request to enable development of a gas station and convenience store on the site of the former Center Mayfield movie theater.

Fire department 2015 report

Fire Chief Dave Freeman presented the fire department's 2015 year-end report, noting a historic high number of total calls at 6,238 (4,950 medical emergencies, 1,214 fire calls for assistance, 59 home/business fires, 15 car fires). In addition, 2,143 fire inspections were completed, 202 free smoke detectors were distributed, and 3,231 persons were transported to hospitals. Other activities included inspection of 1,800 fire hydrants, daily trainings in fire/emergency medicine subjects, maintenance of the fire stations and equipment, tours, and public education lectures. Freeman also discussed special projects, notable achievements and future plans.

State of the City address

Mayor Stephens concluded the meeting with her State of the City address. She thanked voters for passing Issue 53 last November, which increased the city's income tax from 2 to 2.5 percent, thereby stabilizing the city's finances. She summarized the current state of various departments, including public safety, public works, housing, and planning and development. She commented on the quality of life in Cleveland Heights, and commended the work of Boulevard Neighbors and Noble Neighbors. She talked of the importance of partnerships, such as those with the Home Repair Resource Center, Heights Arts, the Bicycle Coalition, Heights Community Congress, Boys & Girls Clubs, FutureHeights, and others. She cited the importance of continuing work with the CH-UH school district and efforts to reach out to University Circle. She mentioned recent outreach to Senator Sherrod Brown and Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, for help in obtaining federal funding. Noting the city's improved financial position going forward, she cited savings on hospitalization, stretching of dollars in all departments, and development of a clear capital improvement plan. The city's current reserve fund should help raise its bond rating. Going forward, there will be a focus on parking to help commercial districts thrive; economic development, including Top of the Hill, Severance Town Center and Noble Road; and housing issues. She recognized the city's staff, praised council's commitment to leading the city into the future, and thanked her colleagues for their efforts. Finally, she emphasized the city's greatest asset—its residents—and stressed council's commitment to listening.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

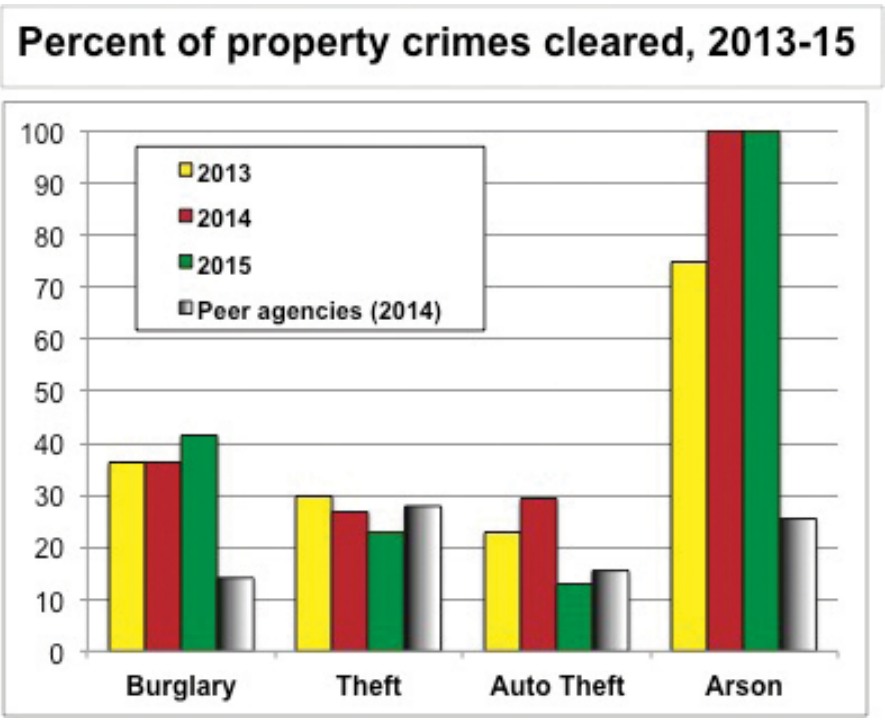
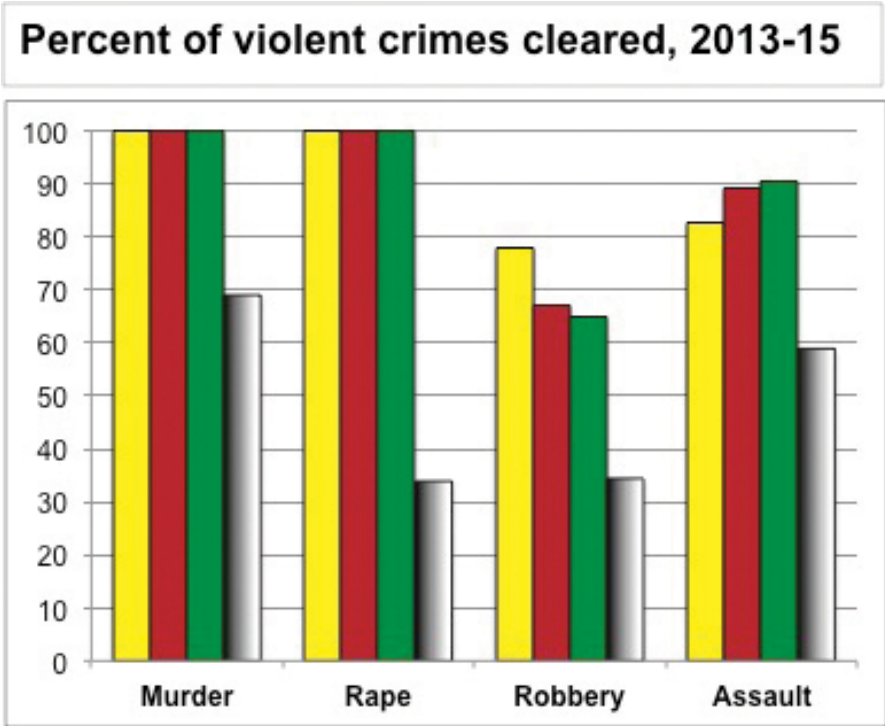
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See disclaimer on page 6.

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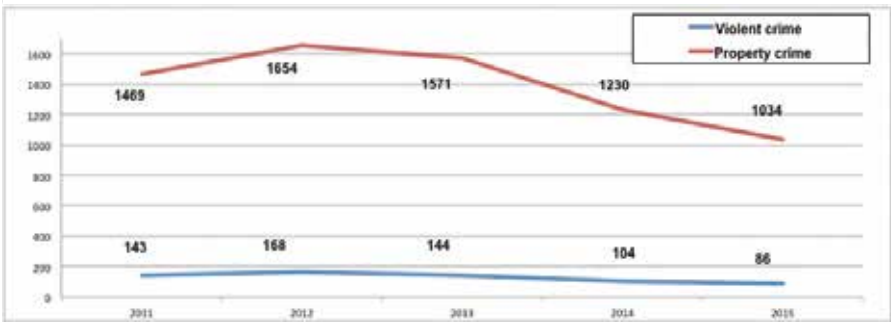
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CRIME continued from page 1



Clearance rates measure how many crimes are solved; the higher the rate, the better. A crime is considered cleared when at least one person has been arrested, charged and turned over for prosecution. On rarer occasions, it may be cleared through exceptional means, in which case the offender(s) has been identified and located and charges prepared, but an arrest cannot be made due to circumstances beyond police control, such as the suspect’s death or a victim’s refusal to cooperate. Recovery of property does not constitute clearance of a crime. The comparison of CHPD’s clearance rate with peer agencies (the gray bar on the chart) is based on the average for all agencies in cities with a population of 25,000-49,999.

Total crimes by year since 2011



for assaults and burglaries. But the percentage of robberies, thefts and auto thefts solved declined.

Police officials have said that these numbers may improve over time; some crimes that occurred last year haven’t yet been solved. As they are, the clearance rate will be adjusted, per FBI reporting standards.

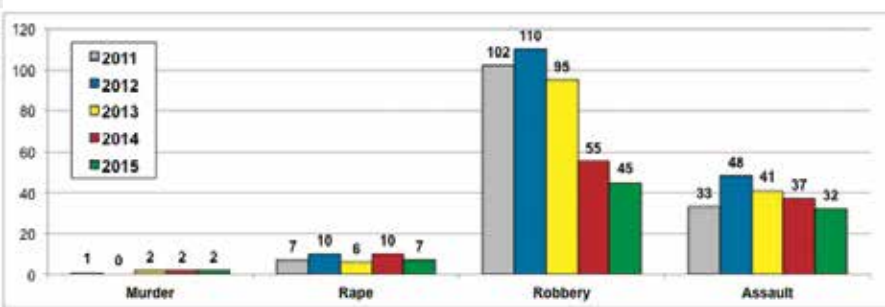
For more information about how the CHPD collects and validates crime statistics, and why the *Observer*

publishes them regularly, see the original article in this series by scanning the QR code or visiting <http://tiny.cc/cbcrimestats>.

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



Violent crimes committed in Cleveland Heights 2011 – 15



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New church in the Heights moves to new home

Marci Robertson

Cleveland Heights is home to a number of beautiful churches, many with strong, historical roots in the community. So, why another church in the area?

"The story of Jesus doesn't grow old," said Pastor Mark Robertson, planter of The Heights Presbyterian Church, "and with new churches, communities are awakened to encounter an authentic Christ, whose beauty and truth transcends time and place."

The Heights Presbyterian Church is a member church of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination with roots that date back to the Protestant Reformation. It was born out of a mission of Harvest Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Medina. Harvest Church and the NEO Church Planting Network seek to bring similar gospel-centered [churches] into several Greater Cleveland neighborhoods.

Church members first began meeting as a Bible study group in Robertson's living room in July 2015. In October 2015, they began meeting at their current home, First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings. Childcare is provided for children of all ages, with older children meeting in their own "children's church."



The Heights Presbyterian Church outgrew its original meeting space, in the living room of the Robertson home.

According to Robertson, the church seeks to present the gospel story as it is intended: as ancient truth that is always relevant. Members seek to represent the neighborhood's diversity, loving their neighbors and their community. They embrace the artistic gifts of those who attend, enabling worship to be aided by music and worshipful aesthetics. They also acknowledge that a church is far more than a Sunday meeting place, and desire to integrate the gospel

narrative into all aspects of life.

Visit www.heightspres.org to learn more about The Heights Presbyterian Church, see its calendar, and find out about its men's, women's, and small group ministries.

Marci Robertson moved with her husband, Mark, and their two children to the Heights in May 2015. They have enjoyed getting to know Cleveland's East Side and being involved in this fantastic neighborhood.

Oakwood Clubhouse contents go up for sale

Bob Rosenbaum

If you're interested in acquiring any of the furniture or equipment from the former clubhouse of Oakwood Country Club, this is your chance.

Greenwald Antiques has been contracted to liquidate the contents of the building, according to Robin Greenwald-Gilbert, co-owner of the business.

The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, through Friday, April 8, at the former Oakwood Club, 1516 Warrensville Center Road.

The building and grounds are now owned by Hebrew Academy, which plans to convert the clubhouse into a boys' high school and administrative offices. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the capital campaign for the construction project, according to information from Greenwald Antiques.

Known as the Oakwood Club and Oakwood Country Club at different times in its history, the club was established as a Jewish golf club in 1905, when Jews were not welcome in other clubs. It straddled the boundary between Cleveland Heights and South Euclid, immediately west of Warrensville Center Road. After it closed in 2010, the South Euclid portion of the property was developed into the retail plaza that now houses a Walmart.

Hebrew Academy bought the

Cleveland Heights portion last year.

The clubhouse was constructed in 1931, designed by Greco & Associates—the same architecture firm that built Temple Tifereth-Israel in University Circle and Temple on the Heights on Mayfield Road, according to Greenwald-Gilbert.

It was decorated by the well-known design firm Rorimer-Brooks Studios in the French-provincial style, and still contains many of the original furnishings. Cleveland designer Jane Frankel did additional design work in the late 20th century.

Included in the sale is a large amount of antique and vintage furniture, decorations and lighting fixtures, including chandeliers, sconces, and lamps. Other sale items include ballroom chairs; rattan patio tables and chairs; bamboo café chairs; banks of metal lockers and benches; draperies; prints, paintings and mirrors; three bars and numerous bar stools; a grand piano with its stool; Oakwood Club memorabilia; a portable stage and dance floor; folding tables in various sizes; and even dishes from the kitchen.

More information is available at the Greenwald Antiques website (www.greenwaldantiquesoh.com).

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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Photo: Alicia Wines

25th Reaching Heights Spelling Bee planned for April 20

Krista Hawthorne

Where would one find an attorney, a professor and a violinist, in costume, on stage? At the 25th annual Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee. This serious yet fun spelling competition celebrates public education and raises funds for Reaching Heights. Bring your friends and family to the Bee on Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m., at Heights High (Wiley campus). Admission is free.

The Bee brings together business owners, community groups, school administrators and staff, parents, students and neighbors. Bigger and better than ever, the 25th Bee will have audience participation like never before.

This spelling bee is a team event. Three spellers work together to write down the letters in the word



Sally Wile, of the Presbee Spellers from Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, competes in the 2015 Bee.

given to them and then send a teammate to the microphone to read out the team's best guess. Teams name

themselves and dress in costumes that represent their company, school or organization, or play with a letters or insect theme. Team names include the Ms. Spellers (comprising Roxboro Elementary and Middle School PTAs), the Episco-spellians (from St. Paul's Episcopal Church), and Upper Case (Case Western Reserve University professors, who compete wearing ceremonial caps and gowns).

This annual event is a community collaboration to support Reaching Heights programs that enrich students, support teachers, and connect the community to Heights public schools.

Each three-member team pays a \$500 entrance fee and is encouraged to solicit additional support from friends, neighbors and co-workers to be named the Fundraising Champion,

a title held for more than 10 years by the Upper Case team.

The Cleveland Orchestra boasts the Bee's most successful team. OOPS, short for Orchestral Orthographers Prognosticate Success, was co-champion in 2010 and 2012, and sole champion in 2006 and 2007.

The winning team receives a prize package and has its team name engraved on the coveted big plastic bee trophy. There is also a sweet prize and cute trophy for the Best Cheering Section.

Come make some noise, cheer for your team, win a raffle prize and feel the excitement as brave spellers take the long walk to the microphone and S-P-E-L-L H-A-R-D W-O-R-D-S.

Krista Hawthorne is the executive director of Reaching Heights.

Church of the Redeemer to host Islamophobia talk

Mary Ann Kerr

Some Americans have an irrational fear of those of the Muslim faith, called Islamophobia. Some Muslims have been intimidated in public, had their jobs threatened, and have seen their mosques burned or defaced—a state of affairs that harms everyone.

Isam Zaiem, co-founder and Cleveland-chapter president of Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Ohio), will speak about Islamophobia: Causes, Impacts and Solutions, on Sunday, April 10, at 4

p.m., at the Church of the Redeemer, 2420 South Taylor Road, Cleveland Heights.

Zaiem, who was born in Syria and is a member of the Islamic Center of Cleveland and the Uqbah Mosque Foundation, will discuss the impact of Islamophobia on his community. He is passionate about protecting the civil rights of all people, and is a strong defender of the Constitution and advocate for the rule of law and justice for all. He speaks on issues related to Islam and the Middle East at educational and religious institu-

tions, and is regularly interviewed by local media.

The public is invited to attend the April 10 talk. For more information, call the Church of the Redeemer at 216-932-2065.

Mary Ann Kerr, a 42-year Cleveland Heights resident, has been active in Middle East peace issues since participating in an Interfaith Peace-Builders (IFPB) delegation in 2007. She founded the IFPB-Ohio regional network and is on the Leadership Council for Churches for Middle East Peace.

Church of the Saviour hosts trafficking talk

Kevin Schaner

Human trafficking is happening right here in Greater Cleveland.

On April 26, at 7 p.m., Lynn Kallay, a representative of Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P.) will speak in The Parlor at Church of the Saviour, at 2537 Lee Road.

S.O.A.P. is a hands-on outreach group that fights sex trafficking. Kallay will provide background information about trafficking in our area, and

throughout Ohio.

Those interested in training for this outreach program can learn about upcoming workshop dates from Kallay.

All members of the community are invited to attend.

For more information, call the church office at 216-321-8880 during normal business hours.

Kevin Schaner chairs Global Missions and the Writers' Guild at Church of the Saviour.

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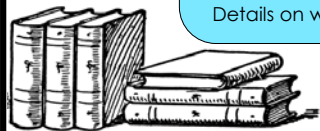
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Disciples Christian Church hosts Earth Day celebration

Ronald Werman

The Heights Earth Day Celebration is for anyone interested in helping planet Earth, as well as learning about sustainable practices in the Heights and throughout Northeast Ohio. Disciples Christian Church, at 3663 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights, will host the celebration on April 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Attendees will have a chance to learn about the following organizations and services: City Fresh, a local community-supported agricultural (CSA) program through which participants buy locally grown produce in advance and then pick it up at a convenient location; Doan Brook



Learn about sustainability at the Heights Earth Day Celebration at Disciples Christian Church.

Watershed Coalition and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District; the seed library at Coventry Village Library, and its mission to distribute seeds to gardeners; environmentally friendly cars from Motorcars Honda, as well as the solar project at Motorcars' Cleveland Heights facility; solar-power consultant Ryan Walling; and

Cleveland Heights's Home Repair Resource Center.

Manna Food Truck will offer a delicious and innovative menu for purchase during the event. A portion of Manna's proceeds helps feed the poor, and the food is prepared by participants in Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's culinary training program.

Disciples Christian Church's visually exciting Tall Puppets will be walking the grounds during the event.

For more information, contact the church at 216-382-5344 or visit www.discipleschristian.org.

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

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Tips on dryer vent and fireplace safety

Scott Campbell

When remodeling a home, appearance is often the primary goal. Homeowners should be mindful, however, that function and safety are more important. Remodeling can offer an opportunity to get things done right, and save money in the long run.

When most Heights homes were built, placement of a laundry room was an afterthought, or was done without any regard to venting. One common modern trend is to locate a laundry room centrally in the home. Although this may seem convenient and sensible, it may be dangerous.

One home inspected this winter had a centrally located basement laundry room. The dryer vent wasn't taken into consideration when the home was built, and the vent had become detached in a finished ceiling—happily, the problem was discovered before it created a larger hazard. The vent of a dryer shouldn't exceed 25 feet in length, and every 90-degree turn in the vent reduces that recommended distance by 5 feet.

Ideally, this dryer should have been placed much closer to an outside wall (or even near a roof) to vent properly. Having the vent hiding in a wall or ceiling makes it harder to detect issues and to repair them without demolishing finished walls or ceilings.

Also, the vent should be joined and secured properly. The vent mentioned in this example was not. It was joined together with duct tape—likely a contributing factor to its disconnection.

Homeowners need to be aware of the risks and the trade-offs, to make informed decisions.

According to the National Fire

Protection Association (NFPA), "Dryers and washing machines were involved in one out of every 22 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2006-10." These are high-usage appliances in just about every home. NFPA recommends having a dryer serviced once a year, or more frequently if it's taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.

Many 100-year-old Heights homes have fireplaces. When restored, they add elegance, are a heating source, and can save energy. When remodeling a fireplace it's important to know the proper size of a hearth extension and combustible-trim clearances. The NFPA has two recommended hearth extension sizes. If your fireplace opening is less than 6 square feet (height x width), the front clearance of the fireplace north extension should be a minimum of 16 inches to the floor in front; and to the sides, 8 inches to the floor. For fireplace openings 6 square feet and larger, the recommendation is 20 inches to the front and 12 inches to the sides. Going larger is OK, especially if you are considering a wood-stove insert at some later date. Keep in mind that a hearth extension must be made of a noncombustible/masonry material, and be at least 4 inches thick.

Finally, a tip about decorative wood trim: The first 6 inches surrounding a fireplace should have no combustible trim. In the 6- to 12-inch range, trim can exist, but protrude no more than 1.5 inches.

Scott Campbell is a Cleveland Heights resident and owner of Good Knight's Sweep (www.gksweep.com). He is a certified dryer exhaust technician, and a member of the Chimney Sweep Guild and the Heights Hillcrest Chamber of Commerce.



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Fifth annual CH St. Baldrick's event raises more than \$109,000

Mark Gallagher

The Cleveland Heights Community Center was “buzzing” on Sunday, March 6, as 180 men, women, boys and girls shaved their heads to raise money for pediatric cancer research. The fifth annual St. Baldrick's event was held in honor of Heights youngsters Austin Gallagher, a 9-year-old two-time cancer survivor (and six-time shavee), and Garrett Gulden, a Heights High freshman currently undergoing maintenance treatment for leukemia; and in memory of Rebecca Alison Meyer, who died on her sixth birthday, in 2014.

Twelve teams of children, parents and teachers from local schools participated in the event, and raised more than \$109,000. The afternoon was filled with a range of emotions, from the excitement of children, to the sadness of loved ones, to an overwhelming sense of hope.

Event organizer Krissy Gallagher said that the reason her son Austin is alive today is because of research that someone funded 20 years ago. Austin lost his entire right kidney and half of his left kidney to survive a bilateral Wilms tumor. He currently is cancer-free, but will one day need a kidney transplant. “Let's do this for the next child diagnosed,” Gallagher urged the attendees. “Let's harness the courage and generosity of these young people to change the future of childhood cancer.”

Highlights of the day included the shaving of four girls from Fairfax Elementary School: Olive Chicotel and Ruth McFarland, both 7 years old, and friends of Meyer; and fourth-graders Sara Schubert, the event's top fundraiser, and Lilah Beukemann. Joining them was parent Lauren Smith and school counselor Melinda Stoiciou, who also braved the shave, along with more than 25 boys, two male teachers and another four girls and moms who cut and donated at least six inches of hair. Team Fairfax raised an impressive \$38,000.

Chicotel's mother, Christie Yonkers, said, “This is something my whole family will remember for the rest of our lives. Olive is on cloud nine, [big sister] Lola is beaming with pride and admiration, and my heart is so full it might burst.”

Teams from Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle schools, along with several students from Canterbury Elementary School and Heights High, also joined in on the shaving, as did 26 Gesu School students and several teams from Shaker Heights schools.

“I'm continually amazed at how the community has embraced this, and am humbled and honored by how enthusiastically people give of themselves for the benefit of those they don't even know,” said Gallagher, comparing this year's event to Cleveland Heights's first St. Baldrick's event, in 2012, which raised \$37,000 by shaving 45 heads.

Marcia Dawson, whose sons Aaron and Gabe Mallamad were among the shavees, said, “There is no better



The “before” photo of the largest team, representing Fairfax Elementary School, that raised \$38,000.

feeling than coming together with your community to do something so big for such an important cause.”

Barbers from Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa; Shawn Paul Salon; Abstract, A Hair Salon; and Eddy's Barbershop volunteered the entire Sunday afternoon, and several commented on how extremely polite the participants were. “Every kid who got in my chair thanked me afterward,” said Cindy Jahn of Abstract.

The money raised from this event flows through Rebecca Meyer's St. Baldrick's Hero Fund, which awards research grants right here in Cleveland at University Hospital's Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic. Meyer's parents, Kat and Eric Meyer, are “beyond grateful” that the money goes to their daughter's Hero Fund. “To know that Rebecca's legacy could one day help other children be free of cancer brings



The “after” photo of Roxboro Elementary School's team, which raised the second-highest amount, more than \$11,000.

some small measure of comfort.”

Donations will be accepted through the end of June. To make a donation, visit www.stbaldricks.org/events/clevelandheights.

Mark Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and the father of two sons who attend Roxboro Middle and Fairfax Elementary schools. As an eight-time St. Baldrick's shavee, he is a Knight of the Bald Table.



“I want to have a plan in place so my family doesn't have to scramble.”

—Dr. Louise Keating, Judson at Home member since 2013

Connecting with people is important to Dr. Louise Keating. The daughter of Italian immigrants, she lives with her daughter's family in Cleveland Heights, where she savors whipping up authentic Italian meals for her grandchildren.

“Living at home is important to me, but I want to have a plan in place so my family doesn't have to scramble,” says Louise. “That's why I decided to sign up for Judson at Home. When the time comes, Judson will take care of everything with one phone call. In the meantime, I can access services whenever I need them.”

Indeed. When she's not in the kitchen, Louise is working out at Judson. As a Judson at Home member, she takes advantage of Judson's health and wellness classes which offer both physical and social benefits.

“Exercise keeps me nimble. I'm at Judson three times a week for yoga, strength training and water aerobics,” says Louise, who has had both hips replaced. “Plus, I've made many close friends.”

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Teamwork takes America's pastime to new heights

Barbara Rosenbaum

When the Heights High baseball team found itself without a field due to renovation at the school, top officials from the school board and the city, along with coaches and parks department personnel, worked together to find a solution.

Months of meetings, measurements and problem-solving have resulted in upgrades to Forest Hill Field No. 4, which will serve as the high school home field this spring and next. The 2016 season runs April 1 through mid-May.

"Baseball at the high school level is unprecedented at city facilities," said Head Coach Ed Mugridge. "This



Varsity co-captain Adam Rosenbaum at bat during the 2015 season

will allow citizens and youth baseball participants to see the high level of play that goes on during the high school season. Forest Hill is where many of the high school players had their youth baseball experiences. In a way, it's like coming home and a natural fit for them and the city."

While field upgrades were being finalized, more citywide baseball initiatives were under way.

Assistant Varsity Coach Evan Knoblauch worked with the city's Parks & Recreation Department to bring the highly regarded Cleveland Indians Youth Baseball camp to the Heights. "Five other cities in the area host the camps, why not Cleveland Heights?" Knoblauch said. "Our

youth deserve the opportunity." The camp will run July 25-29. Registration information can be found on the Cleveland Indians website (<http://bit.ly/indianscamp>).

The teamwork doesn't end there. This spring, the city and volunteer coaches are hosting a series of free baseball clinics for kids ages 9-14. The clinics will be supported by varsity players from the high school team, giving youth players an opportunity to work with higher-level players, and providing a mentoring opportunity for all. Players must be registered in the city's youth baseball program to participate. More information is available at the city website (<http://bit.ly/youthbbbclinic>).

Come on out and cheer on the boys of summer at Forest Hill Field No. 4. Two of this season's highlights are a doubleheader on April 16, and an April 23 doubleheader at historic League Park in Cleveland. Built in the late 1800s, League Park, the site of the 1920 World Series, has been restored.

A complete Heights High baseball schedule can be found at www.heightsbasketballboosters.org.

Barbara Rosenbaum is president of the Heights Baseball Boosters, the parent group that supports the high school baseball program.

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Local dancers to attend American Ballet Theatre program in New York City

Bob Rosenbaum

Spencer Waldeck and Grace Pindel, both of Cleveland Heights, are among several students from City Ballet of Cleveland who will attend the American Ballet Theatre's (ABT) "summer intensive" workshop this year.

Both Waldeck and Pindel will attend the program in New York City—one of several locations where it's offered.

The prestigious program "focuses on developing well-rounded dancers by exposure to a wide variety of disciplines with an emphasis on classical ballet technique and key elements of ABT's National Training Curriculum," according to ABT's website.

This will be the third time at-

tending this program for Waldeck, a sophomore at Beaumont School. Pindel attends Roxboro Middle School, and this will be her first such experience.

The City Ballet of Cleveland Dance Company, formerly known as Cleveland City Dance Company, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to returning classical ballet to Northeast Ohio.

Now in its fourth year, it operates a dance studio at Shaker Square under Courtney Laves-Mearini, the company's artistic and executive director.

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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All-district student art show on view at Lee Road Library

Joy Henderson

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District art show will feature more than 300 works of art created by CH-UH students in grades K-12. The Lee Road Library will host *Creative Heights*, April 8-29. The opening reception will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 6-8 p.m., with an award ceremony at 7 p.m. that evening.

Art, grouped by school, will be displayed throughout the library complex on both the east and west sides of Lee Road. Each school is represented by 20 pieces, selected by the certified art teacher from work created in art class.

A jury of community artists will serve as judges for the show. Three student artists from each school will receive first- and second-place, and



A pastel and watercolor painting by Canterbury fourth-grader Helena Duffy.

honorable mention, awards. There will be three Best of Show awards—one each for an elementary, middle

and high school student.

District art teachers have been working for several years to reinstate the show, and are excited to make the show a reality. Ida Bergson, Canterbury Elementary School art teacher, and Nancy Eisenberg, Heights High art department liaison, are the show's coordinators.

"The citizens of [the Heights] value the arts and that is reflected in the rich visual art program we offer students in our public schools," said Bergson. "We are excited to share our students' wonderful accomplishments with the community."

"We love giving our students the chance to show their work and receive valuable input from professional artists," said Eisenberg. "We feel very fortunate to have the Lee Road Library as one of our partners, giving the community easy access

to the show."

Toia Robinson, CH-UH coordinator of gifted and fine arts, said, "We are very excited to showcase student work and to partner with community organizations. The arts are an essential component of an education that prepares students to learn and think creatively."

Creative Heights is presented by the CH-UH Visual Art Department in partnership with Heights Libraries; Reaching Heights, a citizen voice for public education and a resource for the students and educators of the CH-UH schools; and Artful Cleveland, a new organization that works to establish and nurture affordable space that supports and educates artists.

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

RoxArts hosts benefit on May 7



Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

The arts have been a top priority at Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools since 1981, thanks to the parent fundraising group RoxArts, formerly known as REAP (Roxboro Enrichment Arts Program). RoxArts, a nonprofit organization, will hold its annual adult benefit on Saturday, May 7, at the B-Side Barcade & Lounge in Coventry Village. All proceeds from the benefit fund artists-in-residence, field trips, assemblies and capital projects that enhance the arts education for all children in kindergarten through eighth grade in both schools, impacting more than 1,000 students.

Funded projects at Roxboro Elementary School include, but are not limited to, the Science of Sound, Shen Yun Chinese dancers, professional reenactments of black history and women's history during all-school assemblies, and printing of the new *Rox Reader*, the school newspaper. At Roxboro Middle

School, RoxArts has helped fund an all-school annual Jazz Week, new equipment for the music and drama programs, and an eighth grade field trip to the *Violins of Hope* exhibit and concert.

The organization invites the entire community and all elementary and middle school parents to attend the Derby Day benefit. The Kentucky Derby-themed party will feature catered food from Butcher and the Brewer, The Fairmount, Forest Hill Kitchen and Euro USA, plus beer, wine, a bourbon tasting and auction.

A VIP event begins at 5:30 p.m. with signature cocktails and live betting during the Kentucky Derby. For all other ticket holders, the event runs 6:30-10 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to dress in Derby attire, with fancy, feathered hats.

The event, planned by a team of parents from both buildings, is chaired by Rosemary Pierce, Jennifer Young and Kathy Simkoff Blackman, owner of the B-Side and the Grog Shop. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.roxarts.org. To donate an item for the auction, contact Pierce at racklpierce@yahoo.com.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools, and a former Coventry School teacher. She is proud to raise her sons in this community, where one attends Fairfax Elementary School and the other, Roxboro Middle School.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights



FEBRUARY 16, 2016

All board members were present.

Noble peer-to-peer program

Noble Elementary School has seen an increase in English Language Learner (ELL) students. A 21st Century Grant has funded a peer-to-peer (P2P) mentoring program, which pairs an ELL student who needs extra help in literacy with a native English speaker.

This is a wraparound support program that includes Lake Erie Ink, for afterschool tutoring; Us Together, a refugee resettlement organization; and a dedicated interpreter.

Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN)

More than a dozen students, parents and teachers told the board how good they felt about the MSAN program and goals. [MSAN is] working on increasing the number of students in AP classes, and [has entered into] a competition with Shaker Heights High School, stressing "My Grades Matter." [MSAN] has a mentoring program thru AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID teachers use research-based best practices to increase college readiness.

Facilities Accountability Committee

Board President Kal Zucker appointed Patrick Mullen and Alesia Bray to the Facilities Accountability Committee.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

Facility design documents

The board approved the most recent design/construction documents as presented by Pat O'Brien, owner's representative for the high school facilities project. Board members said they were impressed at the board tour of the site.

MARCH 1, 2016

All board members were present.

Strategic plan update

As part of the strategic plan update, the district adopted core math and English curricula and a research-based ESL (English as a Second Language) curriculum. In 2016-17, a full-day preschool program will be offered at Noble Elementary School for three- and four-year-olds, and at Oxford Elementary School for four- and five-year-olds. Classroom access to current technology will be increased, with new devices for the first time in all elementary school buildings, and new wireless technology installed. All buildings are in compliance with [Department of] Homeland Security regulations, four months ahead of schedule.

District calendar

The district calendar committee, comprising the teachers' union president, administrators, school board members and parents, has met several times. Two committee goals are to establish a consistent spring vacation, and to have a more natural break between first and second semesters. The committee recommends beginning the school year five days earlier to be in line with Shaker Heights schools and other area communities, and closing earlier in the spring. Board Member James Posch expressed displeasure with the fact that the school year has to start earlier in order to accommodate the testing schedule. The calendar will allow for nine calamity days. Professional development days will be more sensibly aligned. The committee's recommended calendar will be posted on the school district website for the next 30 days, and community input accepted. The board will act at its first meeting in April.

Revival of student newspaper

Heights High's student newspaper, *The Black and Gold*, is being revived as an extracurricular activity. Courtney White is adviser and approximately 20 students are participating. It is currently in digital format only, but plans for a print version are underway.

Soil issue requires change order

The board approved a change order for \$379,221, which was required because soil not meeting compaction requirements for a building foundation was found and must be replaced. The unsuitable soil will be used for another purpose on the site, perhaps a baseball field. Board Vice President Ronald Register said that he expected soil sampling to have been completed earlier, and was bothered that the change order was presented for board approval after some of the replacement work had already begun. Posch suggested re-thinking the approval process before the middle school phase begins, to decrease the need for change orders. Board President Kal Zucker suggested more study of old architectural drawings and documents to determine what lies beneath the ground. He emphasized that there were geotechnical and structural engineers on the team.

Legislative issues

Register, who will attend a legislative liaison meeting on March 16 in Columbus, believes the board should be more active in efforts to influence legislation. Posch expressed concern that charter schools have fewer state regulations imposed on them than public schools, yet strong lobbyists to help them secure state funds. Register said that a regional board of superintendents is being formed to discuss how public schools can better influence legislation and the allocation of state funding.

James Cippolletti

James Cippolletti, former Wiley Middle School principal and former Heights High School interim principal, recently died.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

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



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The Mendes Family



Roxboro's Rohan Bruce takes 2nd in county spelling bee



Rohan Bruce (center) with her mother, Chrystal Bruce, and Beth Woodside, Roxboro Middle School Spelling Bee coordinator.

Beth Woodside

On March 5, Rohan Bruce, a Roxboro Middle School eighth-grader, competed in the Cuyahoga County Spelling Bee. Bruce finished as runner-up (second place) out of the 44 seventh- and eighth-graders who competed for the opportunity to represent Cuyahoga County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in late May. She won a trophy and \$100.

Andrew France, a homeschooled student from Chagrin Falls, won—for the second year in a row—but not before Bruce showed him some serious competition. The two went head-to-head in the last 10 rounds.

In 24 rounds of spelling, Bruce correctly spelled *fickle, tatami, filament, libretto, magnanimous, babka, charpoy, gauche, bezoar, ameliorate, pacifism, adrenal, dyspeptic, fulminating, histamine, malefactor, proletariat, submersible, sanguinary, epitaphs* and *nymphish*. She was stumped by *mousseline* and *impetigo*. France misspelled *mimetic* in round 19, but won in round 24 by correctly spelling *abecedarius*.

Beth Woodside is a violinist with the Cleveland Orchestra, and is on the violin faculty of The Music School Settlement. She is a Reaching Heights board member and Roxboro Middle School Spelling Bee coordinator.

Students excited to raise trout



Two fourth-graders checking on the fish.

Julie Salman

Fourth- and fifth-graders at Communion of Saints Catholic school are experiencing an impressive environmental education program, Trout in the Classroom (TIC). TIC gets students involved in raising trout from eggs while also monitoring tank water quality and studying stream habitat. Through this program, the students learn to appreciate water resources, foster a conservation ethic, and understand and respect ecosystems. "Because our fifth-graders were involved with this program last year, they are lending their support and expertise to help further develop the fourth-graders understanding," said Chrystal Manos, Communion of Saints School principal. "It's so wonderful to see the students' enthusiasm and camaraderie as they collaborate with their peers in raising these trout. We are grateful our students have this wonderful opportunity."

Initially, the eggs were growing in breeding baskets, but now approximately 80 trout have been released into a 45-gallon tank and are swimming freely. Each day, students record the activity of the fish, measure the water quality and wait as the trout develop. At the end of the school year, the trout will be released into a state-approved stream, and the students will have gained a better understanding of this particular ecosystem, as well as the responsibility and respect that coincides with nurturing and development. TIC was made possible at Communion of Saints School through the efforts of Kevin Lynn, a member of the school advisory committee who sought funding for the program and found a generous donor. Lynn also provides support during off-school hours. The Emerald Necklace Chapter of Trout Limited founded this project and furnished the school with the trout and other necessary supplies. Communion of Saints School's goal is to continually challenge and engage its students. For more information about the school and its student programs, visit www.communionofsaintsschool.org or call 216-932-4177. Julie Salman is the admissions director at Communion of Saints School in Cleveland Heights.

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CHHS empowers students to succeed in AP courses

Joy Henderson

Heights High offers 19 advanced placement (AP) courses, which provide college-level curriculum and credit. Minority students, however, have been underrepresented in AP courses both nationally and at Heights High.

“We know that so many of our students have the potential, but need encouragement and additional support,” said Alisa Lawson-McKinnie, assistant principal at the high school.

To capitalize on a wealth of student potential, and to increase minority student enrollment in AP courses, the district recently formed a partnership with Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS). The organization provides data analysis and suggests best practices that provide equitable academic opportunities to all students.

Last fall, EOS helped the district identify 350 students who are not currently taking at least one AP course, but who have the potential to meet the challenge and succeed. These students were invited to an assembly in February that included a panel of current AP students, an AP teacher and an administrator.

The speakers talked about the value and satisfaction of honing the



An AP teacher and MSAN members talk with prospective students about the advantages of taking advanced placement courses.

skills needed to complete college-level course work, and emphasized that AP courses help prepare students for both college and career.

The members of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) represent an important part of the district’s EOS partnership. They recently hosted an information table in the cafeteria to talk to prospective AP students and give them a peer-to-peer perspective about AP courses. Senior MSAN members D’Angelo Carter and Alisha Brown volunteered to staff the table and were busy talking to students and distributing information about AP courses.

A strong student support system is vital to the success of new students enrolling in AP courses. Among the support programs that will be implemented during the 2016–17 school year for new AP students are the following: Summer AP Boot Camp, MSAN sponsored peer-to-peer tutor-

ing, mentoring, and expanding the Advancement Through Individual Determination program.

Support for teachers is also an aspect of the EOS strategy. Recently representatives from The University of Mount Union, Cleveland State University and Tri-C held roundtable discussions with teachers, highlighting the academic skills needed to succeed in college.

“Both encouraging students to select AP courses and beefing up our support is very important and will help us prepare more students for success in college,” said Sandy Womack, CH-UH director of Principal Leadership and Development. “Our partnership with EOS is helping us reach goal #2 of our Strategic Plan: Educational Approach—Equity, Empowerment and Opportunities.”

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

Rockin’ the tie at Heights High



Heights High Principal Zoraba Ross with senior Darwin Scott, the man behind the Tie Day idea.

Joy Henderson

Heights High hosted a Tie Day on March 3, encouraging students and staff to wear a tie in school. Some students came to school wearing a tie and some stopped by the Tie Station before school to pick out a tie or learn how to tie the classic fashion accessory.

The Tie Station featured nearly 100 donated ties. Several staff members were on hand to help students with the Windsor knot.

The idea for Tie Day was suggested by senior Darwin Scott. “I love to wear a suit and tie,” he said. “It makes me feel confident and proud.” Several weeks ago, he suggested to



Early College students, freshman Nicholas Munford (left) and senior Eric Adeyemon.

Principal Zoraba Ross that everyone should wear a tie for a day.

“I loved that idea,” said Ross. “And I asked Darwin to write an announcement about it, and from there we created a plan!”

Patrick Gleba, American Sign Language teacher, suggested the Tie Station. “I know how long it took me to learn to tie a bow tie,” he said. “Learning to tie a tie is an important skill that both men and women might want to learn.”

Ross reported that Tie Day was so popular that it may become a regular event.

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

Library Web developer wins national award for innovation



Julia Murphy, marketing and volunteer coordinator, and Colin Tomele, Web developer, test Book-a-Room software.

Sheryl Banks

Colin Tomele, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System's Web developer, has received the Public Library Association's 2015 John Iliff Award.

The award honors the life and accomplishments of John Iliff, an early adopter and champion of technology in public libraries, and recognizes the contributions of a library worker, librarian or library that has used technology and innovative thinking as a tool to improve services to public library users.

Tomele received the award for creating a custom online calendar and room reservation system, called Book-a-Room, using WordPress, a free, open-source software. He created the system to replace an expensive, third-party reservation system that both staff and library customers found difficult to use.

Nancy Levin, library director, gave his idea the green light in 2013, when he suggested he could use his years of coding and Web design experience to create a better, more affordable system.

"I figured that I could write something that would be easier for our customers and staff to use, and more suited to the specific needs of libraries," said Tomele. "The old system was a cookie-cutter product that did not allow for true in-house control of things that we needed, like the ability to allow nonprofit and for-profit customers to have separate registration forms."

"Book-a-Room is the first application that I've designed as a WordPress plug-in, so I had to learn how to code for the environment by

studying and learning WordPress," Tomele continued. "I had a lot of support and help with brainstorming and bug testing, thanks to my fellow team members."

"The new system is so much easier to use than the old one, we hardly even notice it," said Julia Murphy, marketing and volunteer coordinator, who uses the system more than any other staff member. "I went from spending three hours a day managing meeting rooms online to about a half hour a day. Book-a-Room is just really simple and intuitive."

Tomele designed the program to improve a cumbersome process for staff and customers, and also to share it with other libraries.

"Since this is something that can help libraries all over the world, we decided that we would release this for free, as open source software, on the WordPress Repository," he said.

As of March 6, more than 40 organizations have downloaded the software and are actively installing it.

Locally, Wickliffe Public Library is using the software, and libraries as far away as Wales are working on installing it.

The award provides a \$1,000 honorarium, a plaque and a bouquet of roses for the workplace.

"I'm going to give the roses to my co-workers," said Tomele. "Without their support and feedback, I wouldn't have been able to create Book-a-Room."

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

What's going on at your library?

Explore your creative side this month at Heights Libraries. For a complete list of library programs, and to register, visit www.heightslibrary.org.

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m.
Cedar-Coventry Author Series: Art of the Book. Award-winning illustrators Tiffany Laufer (*The Porch Dream*) and Jamey Christoph (*Gordon Parks*) share their vision and methods in the art of illustration. A book signing will follow the talk.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Sunday, April 10, 2 p.m.
Favorite Poem Project. Celebrate National Poetry Month by listening as local residents read a favorite poem and share the reasons they enjoy it so much.

Co-sponsored by Friends of the Heights Libraries. Registration, required for readers only, opened on March 10.

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Thursday, April 28, 7 p.m.
Nonfiction@Noble Book Club: Beat Voices: An Anthology of Beat Poetry, edited by David Kherdian. This program explores this collection of American poetry, by and about the Beat generation, including poets Gregory Corso, Jack Kerouac, Diane di Prima and Allen Ginsberg.

University Heights Library
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Thursday, April 21, 6 p.m.
Up-Cyclers: T-shirt Dog Toys. We'll be using old T-shirts to create pull toys for rescue dogs. All toys made will be donated to a shelter. For kids in grades 3-8.

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New librarian preserves and shares historic materials



Local history librarian Amia Wheatley.

Julia Murphy

In December, Amia Wheatley was promoted from adult services associate to full-time local history librarian for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System. Since then, she has hit the ground running, digitizing historic library documents.

"We have a local history task force and, in the short term, we're focusing on managing the library's history materials to celebrate the library's centennial," said Wheatley. "Once this is taken care of, we hope to expand to include all local history materials."

So far, Wheatley has started a digital archive using Ohio Memory, an online archive created by the Ohio Historical Society. It will include photos, library annual reports, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, architectural drawings, oral histories, transcripts and more. The first batch

of documents came from CH-UH school district annual reports, because the first libraries were housed in city schools.

"I found out a lot of interesting things when I was going through the scans," said Wheatley. "The library offered 146 magazines to its customers in 1946. In the annual report for 1929-30, the library installed a telephone switchboard. During the 1923-24 school year, the library moved its main branch to 1916 Lee Road with none of its books cataloged (5,513 books total), and by the end of the year all of them were."

Wheatley has also created an interactive library history timeline on the library's website, www.heightslibrary.org/timeline, that starts with the 1916 appointment of a library board and ends with a video compilation of library photos taken in 2015.

The work goes hand in hand with the library's centennial celebration (kicking off with an all-ages birth-

day celebration at Coventry Village Library on May 1), but it's been on Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin's radar for quite a while.

"Right now we have historic materials in all four branches, just waiting in boxes and folders. In fact, some of them are here on the shelves of my office," said Levin. "The end goal is to make everything easily accessible and navigable for all library users, and also to curate the content so that we can easily share our story."

Wheatley will inventory and archive the physical items, and scan and upload them to Ohio Memory as well. There are plans for a local his-

tory section at the Lee Road Library, and Wheatley hopes eventually to be able to invite the public to contribute to the digital collection.

"Public libraries have a mission to not only offer the newest materials, but to preserve knowledge and information for future generations," said Wheatley. "Handling these items with care is of utmost importance because we can't just order another one—it may be the only copy we have."

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY 15, 2016
All board members were present.



Centennial celebration update

[Author] Mary Doria Russell will be the speaker at the May 1 kick-off event at Coventry Village Library. Winners of the K-8 Centennial Poster Art Contest will be announced then. The contest, soon to be underway, will culminate in a gallery show. An online, interactive library history/timeline will include audio interviews with retired staff and others. Limited edition centennial library cards will be available March 1.

Presentation on training and development activities

Heather Howler, training and development manager, talked to the board about her department's mission, including service to both staff and customers. For staff, the focus is on skills and competencies. Technology Librarian Jackie Mayse and five tech assistants supervise the public computer classes. Tech outreach has included the Heights Senior [Activity] Center and Musicians Towers. The library has a mobile computer classroom and has also scheduled visits by the Ohio State Library bookmobile and OverDrive's digital bookmobile, a 47-foot-long bus with five rooms and a gadget gallery. Computer coding for kids has been a popular program.

January public service report highlights:

- The Cleveland Play House Script Club discussed the civil rights drama, "The Mountaintop" by Katori Hall.
- The Science and Nature Study Group, in partnership with the Harold T. Clark Library of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, began a four-part series examining the wonders of outer space. The first program, NASA Mission to Mars, discussed plans to send humans to Mars among other topics.
- Maggie Kinney and Kathy Franzinger, youth services librarians, held the second transitional housing outreach,

for 23 people, in collaboration with Forest Hill Presbyterian Church and Family Promise of Cleveland.

- Preschoolers from home-based daycare programs, under the auspices of the Head Start preschool program of the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland, visited the library.
- The youth services department offered a self-defense seminar led by professionals from Aikikai. They taught some of the principles of Aikido, which promotes nonviolent de-escalation of situations and conflict resolution. The seminar was popular with participants who enjoyed practicing moves.
- The training program hosted a Foundation Center class, Finding Scholarships for College and Graduate School, for 21 participants.
- University Heights Youth Services Librarian Hannah Van Jura hosted a trivia night at Pizzazz on the Circle for 20 participants. This outreach is aimed at emerging adults in our community, thus the location near John Carroll University was chosen.
- Librarians Anne Tisch and Kathy Franzinger led a sensory storytime for children at the Monarch Center for Autism. They led a similar program at Church of the Saviour's quarterly program for special needs children.
- [Library] Associate Tamara Murray held a question-and-answer session with homeschooling parents to determine how the library could meet their needs. Feedback has led to planning programs for 2016.

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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Living with computers



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Computers are an integral part of daily life. They are useful and efficient tools for finding information, accomplishing tasks and connecting with family and friends. It can be confusing and frustrating, though, to learn how to use and maintain a computer, and to repair one when it breaks.

The computer lab at the Lee Road Library (216-932-3600) offers ongoing free classes that provide instruction on how to use a computer.

The classes range from basic lessons on using a keyboard and a mouse, to more advanced instruction on Word and Excel programs, and Facebook. The library also offers individual tutorial sessions for those with specific questions or issues.

Computer Tutor is a free service offered Monday through Friday at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (216-691-7377), available to Cleveland Heights residents age 60 and older. This service helps people who already understand basic computer use, but have specific questions, such as how to find something on the Internet or how to format a document.

Call Jimbo (440-891-9941 or diana@calljimbo.com) is a remote service that helps one maintain a computer in good working order. For a monthly fee, Call Jimbo provides unlimited remote service calls, anti-virus protection, and Microsoft and anti-virus updates. If a computer has a virus, is running slowly or is getting pop-up ads, Call Jimbo can access the computer remotely and fix the problem.

Call Jimbo owner Diana Fretwell said, "A Cleveland Heights senior clicked on a fake e-mail that contained a virus. We quarantined the virus and got her

computer up and running again within an hour."

Fix Your Computer Today (216-382-3880 or fixyourcomputer-today@sbcglobal.net), located in Cleveland Heights, offers quick computer repairs. Owner Buchi Onyekaba first determines if the problem can be fixed quickly over the phone. If not, clients bring their machines in and he fixes them within 24 hours. He can also make house calls when necessary.

"One senior client preferred not to bring his machine in," said Onyekaba, "So I fixed it at his home." Onyekaba can also help clients with proper usage. "Don't click your way into trouble," he advised. "If you are unsure, call me first."

The Computers Again program of Goodwill Industries offers help to those who want to buy a computer but have limited income.

The program refurbishes donated computers and offers them at discounted prices to qualified individuals. Qualification is based on monthly household income, and the number of people in the household. To find out if you qualify, call 330-445-1101.

Fretwell of Call Jimbo offered this advice to avoid a computer virus: "If you don't know the (e-mail) sender or are unsure if [the e-mail] is legitimate, don't click on any links in the e-mail, no matter how official it may look. Call the company directly."

She also advises that computer owners take note of the pop-ups that advise when it is time to update anti-virus software. She explained, "These updates are necessary to keep you from getting a virus".

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



Jackie Mayse, CH-UH librarian, teaching a computer class at the CH Senior Activity Center.

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.

The following programs are among the new and notable activities offered in April:

Tuesday, April 5, 11 a.m.: Adaire Petry will present *Courageous Conversations*—a program and talk exploring what she calls the "heart of dying."

Thursday, April 7, 1 p.m.: The CH Fire Department will offer a class on Senior CPR and First Aid. Practice these valuable skills in a class tailored for seniors. Registration is required; there is no

cost for the class (and no certification will be given).

Tuesday, April 12, 11 a.m.: Chiara Padrini, an Italian artist, will share her expertise and passion for Suiseki: the Art of Stone.

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.clevelandheights.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@clvhts.com.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

April 7: Krista Hawthorne, executive director of Reaching Heights, will describe the work of this nonprofit organization that sees the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public school system as one of the community's greatest assets. Reaching Heights mobilizes community members and financial resources to support its public schools, creating innovative extracurricular programs, and fostering excellence and pride in Heights schools.

April 14: Miriam Levin, Case Western Reserve University professor of

history, will discuss the dynamic forces and technical innovations that contributed to the development of Paris as an international urban center during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Her talk will include some discussion of recent events in France and Europe.

April 21: Instrumentalists and vocalists from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform a concert.

April 28: Carla Bailey is the AFS (international student exchange) coordinator for Cleveland Heights High School, and is also the CH-UH refugee school-community liaison. In that capacity, she serves as interpreter, advocate, driver, English language assistant, and surrogate parent for refugee students. At her talk, she will introduce some of these students, from countries including Iraq, Nepal, Bhutan, Namibia and the Congo.



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Cathie Bleck show is on view at Heights Arts through April 30



Ascent 5, by Cathie Bleck.

Mary Ryan

Cleveland Heights artist Cathie Bleck has received international recognition for her singular works in scratchboard and kaolin clay board. Her stylized, organic forms are carefully carved and scraped through multiple layers of inks and handmade pigments, revealing the white of the kaolin clay beneath.

This month, a new Heights Arts spotlight exhibition reveals

Bleck's technique in various media, including scratchboard, clayboard, clay on papyrus, and limited-edition prints. The exhibition opened March 18, and will be on view through April 30.

Bleck notes about her work, "I see and feel the most important part of being human as those moments when we have the courage to be reborn, rise up and overcome adversity. What I find myself drawn to in art is depicting these exploring moments of transformation. Not the condition before or after, but the state when something happens and we are moving through our lives. That is the point in time when we experience courage, love and transcendence."

Bleck's work is included in the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum, The Butler Institute of American Art, The Library of Congress, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, University Hospitals of Cleveland, Honeywell Corporation, UCLA, Cypress Funds, Chicago Tribune, and St. Louis University, to name a few.

Heights Arts spotlight gallery is located at 2175 Lee Road.

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

First Baptist Church presents 'Evita' beginning April 8

G. Michael Skeritt

The Happy Ending Lyric Players (HELP) will perform the musical "Evita" in the Gothic sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., April 8-17.

With this production, HELP is celebrating 40 years of producing exceptional theater, including Broadway musicals, opera, drama and comedy. The group was founded on the assumption that within the church congregation, and the surrounding communities, there was talent just waiting for an opportunity to shine on stage. All HELP activities are based at First Baptist Church.

For "Evita," by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, HELP is teaming up with Cleveland Heights resident Robert Schneider, musical director, and Kelly Davidson, choreographer.

Performances begin on April 8, at 8 p.m., with a 40th anniversary celebration dinner planned for 6:30 p.m. that evening, prior to the performance. Other performance dates and times are 8 p.m., April 9, 15 and 16; 2 p.m., April 10; and 7 p.m., April 13.

General seating tickets are \$17 for adults; \$14 for students and seniors. Preferred seating tickets (closer to the stage) are \$22 for adults; \$19 for students and seniors. VIP tickets are also available.

Visit www.firstbaptistcleveland.org for more information, and to purchase tickets, or contact Jeff Gordon at 216-932-7480, ext. 23. To reserve a seat for the April 8 anniversary dinner, contact Kelley Pernicone at 216-392-1255.

G. Michael Skeritt is one of the founders of HELP, and directs its production of "Evita."

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Heights Arts hosts music honor society

Christina Wynne

Heights Arts will host the Second Annual Tri-M Benefit Recital on April 13, starting at 7 p.m., in its gallery at 2175 Lee Road. The event will feature the talents of Cleveland Heights High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapter. The 16 members will perform a varied program of light classical and popular music selections, and guests can also enjoy bake sale items throughout the program. The event is free, but goodwill donations will be appreciated.

Tri-M is a national musical honor society under the auspices of the National Association for Music Education and Heights High's chapter is open to eligible high school juniors and seniors.



Concertmaster and Tri-M president Emma Zordan (right) will perform.



The saxophone trio members will also perform.

All inductees must be exemplary and dedicated performers of instrumental or vocal music, and must also demonstrate leadership, scholarship and willingness to serve their community.

"We believe that music has the

incredible capacity to bring people together within the community," said Callie Swaim-Fox, a member of Heights High's chapter.

"Through Tri-M, these high-achieving student musicians can connect to other like-minded peers for their own personal enjoyment while also serving a greater good," said Dan Heim, chapter advisor and Heights High Orchestra director.

Heights Arts recognizes that the Heights area is rich with artists, educators and others who make their livelihood in the performing or visual arts. As a multi-disciplinary arts organization, its mission is to tap into the potential of creative residents to enrich community life, and this partnership with the Tri-M

Music Honor Society exemplifies its mission in action. Recalling the first Tri-M benefit recital, in April 2015, Heights Arts Board President Greg Donley said, "It was a classic example of one of the things Heights Arts does so well: bringing together artists and audiences in unexpected ways, right there in the middle of the neighborhood."

Proceeds from the recital will directly benefit future Tri-M ceremonies and community events.

Christina Wynne is a junior at Cleveland Heights High School, and a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She performs as principal violist of the Heights High Symphony and as a tenor saxophonist in the Jazz Ensemble.

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Dobama premieres 'Marie Antoinette'

Owen Schneider

David Adjmi's "Marie Antoinette" will have its regional premiere at Dobama Theatre in April. The play focuses on the extravagant, doomed queen of France, as she tries to keep her head in the middle of a revolution.

A humorous and haunting retelling of her story for the 21st century, "Marie Antoinette" first premiered at Yale Repertory Theatre and won three Connecticut Critics Circle Awards, including Best Play. The play was also produced at Soho Rep in New York City and at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago.

"Marie Antoinette" is Dobama's final mainstage production of its 2015-16 season. The play is directed by Nathan Motta, Dobama's artistic director. He previously directed "Peter and the Starcatcher" last December.

Scenic design is by Ben Needham, with lighting by Marcus Dana, sound by Richard Ingraham, costume design by Tesia Dugan Benson and projection design by Mike Tutaj.

Abraham Adams, Carly Germany, Dan Hendrock, Robert Hunter, Rachel Lee Kolis, Lara Mielcarek, Joe Pine, Easton Sumlin and Ryan Zarecki are among the featured actors.

"Marie Antoinette" runs from April 22 to May 22, with four performances each week. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.dobama.org or call the box office at 216-932-3396. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, across the street from the Lee Road Library.

Owen Schneider is a marketing intern at Dobama Theatre.

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SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

I attended Heights High in the late 1960s, and I know that at least some of this is my fault, but I didn't take very many classes there that proved useful to me. Other than Choir, which was a class period and counted as a class, and which, as I often say, saved my life, I did take a business law course that helped me soon after I left school and started signing contracts in the music business; and a music theory class.

The music class was taught by the school's band and orchestra director, Mr. Mackey, a man who had been born around the turn of the 20th century. He was a large, strict, mostly humorless, no-nonsense guy with a slight accent of some kind. I had taken music theory courses when I was younger and I knew the basics. This class covered the basics and then went beyond, at which point it became pretty interesting.

The class was small, with only about a dozen students. A homework assignment, one night toward the end of April, was to write a short piece—eight bars of block chords.

Mr. Mackey played mine on the piano, as he had done with the oth-

ers', and when he finished, he complimented me on the piece. Then, as was part of the assignment, he called me up to the front of the room, to stand beside him at the piano as he played each chord, and discuss the piece. He asked me to explain why I had used each chord, those particular notes.

For the first six measures, all of my answers were correct—"That's the five of the two, so I could follow it with the two chord next"; and "I went from a six-minor to its parallel major, so I could use that as the five of the chord I wanted to go to next, which is the two minor"; and "I used the full diminished chord because each of the four notes can be interpreted as a five and lead to whatever the one-chord of that five is"; and so on. Mr. Mackey was pleased by all of that. Until we came to the seventh of the eight measures. He played that chord and asked me why I'd chosen it. I answered honestly, saying, "I just liked the way it sounded."

He flew into a rage. He stood up—face reddening, eyes on fire—and grabbed the sheet of music off of the piano and tore it into confetti, yelling, "No!"

I stood there, shocked. He yelled, "You *must* be able to explain every note you write!" And he sent me back to my seat.

I was annoyed and thought he had overreacted. I think, maybe, he did overreact. But, at the same time,

his scene did make that lesson pretty memorable. And, in fact, I have always remembered it—whether I was writing a rock song, or an orchestration for a record I was producing, or a vocal arrangement for a group I was singing in. I could always, if necessary—and it sometimes is—explain exactly why I wrote it as I had. And I still do.

But it became more than a music lesson; it developed into a life lesson. It occurred to me that whether you're composing music, or writing a book, or cooking, or engaging in a political debate or, really, anything, you should be prepared to defend every note or word you write, or ingredient you add, or point you try to make. You can't go wrong if you can do that, because you'll always be able to justify and explain your actions, and, hopefully, convince listeners, readers, diners or opponents that you made the correct choice. Plus, I discovered, keeping that process in mind and employing it from the beginning can also help you plan and organize your work before and during the time you're working on it.

It is said that you learn from your mistakes, and I think that's true. Unfortunately, I didn't do enough in most other classes to even make mistakes. I might have learned more.

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

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An April shower of events at Heights Arts

Greg Donley

Heights Arts exemplifies its “plural” aspect (not just art, but arts) in April with an especially wide range of offerings representing many flavors of creative expression.

The exhibition *At Table: Cleveland Culinaría* presents a tasty array of art objects created by teams convened to explore themes based on the art of cooking. Everything—from one-of-a-kind ceramics, textiles and place settings, to food-themed sculpture, wall art, and even the tables to dine upon—was created by 27 local artists especially for this exhibition. Check out as well the poems written by local literary artists inspired by the



The March opening for *At Table: Cleveland Culinaría* attracted hundreds of visitors.

exhibition.

Five special informal dining events were devised by these teams

to showcase their themes. Visit www.heightsarts.org/events for ticket availability for the April dates in the series: Monday, April 4, 7–9 p.m., and Sunday, April 10, 4–6 p.m.

Visitors can enjoy one last look at the *At Table* exhibition, which runs through April 16, while attending a No Exit concert of contemporary classical music, featuring works by Erik Satie, on April 16 at 8 p.m. The next day, April 17, at 3 p.m., Cleveland Institute of Music cello faculty member Pamela Kelly will lead a master class performance in the Heights Arts gallery.

The following Thursday, April 21, the exhibition *Things That Fly*

opens. Organized by Heights Arts board member Sharon Grossman, it features works of art that explore themes of flight—guaranteed to give visitors a lift! Meanwhile, the spotlight exhibition featuring a selection of beautiful graphic images by internationally renowned artist/illustrator—and Cleveland Heights resident—Cathie Bleck runs through April 30.

Film buffs can check out the movie for which Heights Arts is a community partner at this year's Cleveland International Film Festival, *Liza the Fox Fairy*, screening on Saturday, April 9, at noon, and Sunday, April 10, at 7:15 p.m., at Tower City Cinemas. The film is a dark and hilariously twisted modern fairy tale from Hungary—and it's visually beautiful.

As Greater Cleveland continues to reinvent itself, driven by its most creative and committed individuals, Heights Arts continues to celebrate and share that creativity with residents of and visitors to the vibrant Heights area. Visit Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, open Tuesday through Saturday. Call 216-371-3457 or visit www.heightsarts.org for hours and the latest information.

Greg Donley is president of the Heights Arts Board of Trustees.

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Edith Antl

Two Cleveland Heights artists, Catherine Butler and Julie Edberg, are part of a three-artist April Fools-themed exhibition on view at the Beachwood Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd., April 3–28. The opening reception is April 3, 2–4 p.m.

Edberg was looking for an exhibit venue and, thinking her text-covered sculptures would be perfect for a library, she asked Bill Rubin, who manages a county library. He forwarded her query on, and Margaret Reardon from the Beachwood Library replied. Edberg went to see the space and realized it could hold several peoples' work. So she asked her friends Catherine Butler and Nancy Currier to join her.

Edberg and Currier, who lives in Louisville, Ky., met at the Cleveland Institute of Art and have been inspiring each other ever since. (They call each other “genius,” and are not kidding.)

Edberg, a Cleveland Heights resident, has been a graphic designer for 35 years. Her whimsical, one-of-a-kind blank books can be found at Heights Arts.

Butler, another CH resident, and an art teacher at Laurel School, is known as “the fun jewelry genius.” In this exhibition—April Fools!—she is showing a series of monoprints and collages.

Edberg and Butler were mutual fans until they both participated in *Eat at Arts*, SPACES Gallery's first benefit/installation/performance art



Attempting Escape, by Catherine Butler.



In The Attic, by Nancy Currier.

dinner, in 1982. Recently, they have collaborated on smaller works, some of which will be shown in this exhibition.

The exhibition will also feature collage and drawing by Edberg, and sculpture and painting by Currier, and is designed to delight, inspire and confound all who view it.

The Beachwood Library is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1–5 p.m.

Edith Antl is a Cleveland Heights resident and the owner of Art Etc. Picture Framing in Little Italy. A “daily infusion in the arts” makes her happy, and she gets to meet “many creative geniuses.”

Cleveland Candle Company opening on Coventry

James Henke

The Cleveland Candle Company, a business that is currently located in Mentor, plans to open a second store at the end of April on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights. In addition to selling a large variety of candles, the store also invites customers to create their own candles, choosing the scents, size and shape.

David Gin, co-founder and president of the company, owns the store along with Linda Turner and Tanya Bratten. Gin, who is 30 years old, was born in Chicago and spent many of his younger years in Indiana. He attended Indiana Wesleyan University, where he majored in finance and marketing. In 2011, he created a company called Real Frût to produce gourmet fruit juices. The company won the Best Juice in Cleveland award from *Cleveland Magazine* in 2013.

Gin's girlfriend, Emily Siebert, liked burning candles, so they thought they would try to make their own. "We gathered the ingredients and started working in our kitchen," said Gin, who lives in Painesville Township. "We had a lot of fun, and within about four months [I] opened [the] store. Frankly, I never thought I would be in the candle business."

The Mentor store opened last May. For several months, Gin and his partners had thought about opening another store. "Originally, we thought about opening one in Avon



David Gin in his store in Mentor.

or Rocky River," he said. Then, Jenny Goe, one of the owners of the In the 216 store on Coventry Road, told Gin about the Coventry neighborhood. The two knew each other because Gin sold some of the jewelry Goe makes at his Mentor store.

Goe put him in touch with Angela Hetrick, the head of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District, who told him about the retail space where Coventry Cats used to be located, at 1810 Coventry Road.

"We came over to Coventry in January, and we realized it was the perfect place for us," Gin said. "One of the things we try to do is foster community. When people come in to make a candle, they usually stay in the neighborhood while it's being made and go out to eat or browse other stores. I think this will be perfect for Coventry."

Tanya Bratten, one of Gin's busi-

ness partners, will run the Coventry store.

All of the shop's candles are made from 100 percent soy wax, with cotton-paper wicks. Customers who want to make their own candles come into the store and select the scents they want. They can choose just one or they can make a "signature" blend by combining various scents.

"We're always adding new scents," Gin said. "We usually add about three or four a month." The store carries more than 100 scents and fragrances.

Customers then select both the size and shape of the candle container. The next step is blending the oils they have selected. They pour the oils into the container and mix them with the custom soy-wax blend. Finally, they wait one to two hours while the candles are pro-

duced. In addition to making the candles, customers can also create their own candle labels.

The store also will hold classes several nights a month, teaching about candle making with local artists, making lip balm, and various other topics. In addition, people will be able to rent the space for parties and other events.

Gin said he expects the Coventry store to have its grand opening on April 29.

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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CTDA seeks proposals for public art installation

Kevin Smith



The Cedar Taylor Development Association (CTDA), with the support of FutureHeights, is holding a contest to commission an art installation for the Cedar Taylor Business District. The contest is open to any and all artists.

CTDA has a total of \$3,000 to spend, and wants artists to propose what they want to do. Proposals could include, among other ideas, painting a mural on the side of a building, painting an abstract piece somewhere in the business district, or installing a sculpture. CTDA has no preferred medium, so creative proposals are encouraged, but it must be a permanent installation. It is up to entrants to determine what they can create for \$3,000.

Due to the origin of these

funds, the work must be installed in the Cleveland Heights portion of the neighborhood, defined as west of South Taylor Road, north to Washington Boulevard and south to Cedarbrook Road.

The CTDA Board of Directors will vote on the entries to determine three finalists, and the winner will be selected by a public vote through CTDA's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cedartaylordevelopmentassociation) over a period of one week. The finalists will be posted separately, and the one with the highest number of "likes" after one week will be the winner.

Proposed pieces will either involve private property or public space, and CTDA will approach the property owner and/or the city on the winning artist's behalf to secure permission to install the proposed piece. However, finalists will be presented for a public vote only if they have been approved by the property owner and/or the city.

Proposals, as well as any questions, should be submitted via e-mail to Kevin Smith at smithkp@gmail.com. Proposals are due by April 30.

Kevin Smith is president of the board of directors of the Cedar Taylor Development Association.

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CH couple opens Amish furniture store on Fairmount

James Henke

A new furniture store has opened in Cleveland Heights. Called Eastwood Amish Craft Furniture, the store is located at 3451 Fairmount Blvd., at the corner of Fairmount and Taylor Road.

The space was previously home to Paysage, which also sold furniture and home-décor items.

The Eastwood store is different from other furniture stores in the area. Amish craftsmen from Ohio make all of the furniture the store sells. In addition, customers can request that the craftsmen create specific, customized furniture items, made to their specifications.

The store opened in mid-February, and the husband-and-wife owners, Ron and Angie Nandor, are planning to have a formal grand-opening event on Saturday, April 16.

“We’re going to bring some of the craftsmen up here, so people can meet them and see how things are built,” Ron said. They also plan to offer some giveaways and specials at the grand opening.

“You can come into the store and look at the furniture and then have it transformed into what you want,” said Ron. “You can change the size, the type of wood and just about anything else. That’s why our slogan is ‘Your way for your home.’ We will make the furniture exactly as you want it.”



Angie and Ron Nandor, the owners of Eastwood Amish Craft Furniture, inside their new store.

“You really can get exactly what you want,” added Angie. “Some people come in with pictures and dimensions, and we will have the craftsmen build the exact piece of furniture that they want.”

The Nandors have lived on Kenilworth Mews in Cleveland Heights for the past two years. “We grew up in Pittsburgh, but we are longtime Ohio residents,” said Ron, who’s 56 years old. “We lived in Strongsville for many years, then we moved to Kentucky for a couple of years. But Cleveland Heights is such a unique area. We really love it here.”

The Cleveland Heights store

is the third Eastwood furniture store in Ohio. The original store is in Kidron, in Wayne County, between Canton and Wooster. The other store is in Medina. An Amish family opened the Kidron store in the 1990s, and the Nandors bought it in 2005. They opened the Medina store in 2006.

Prior to purchasing the stores, Ron worked in the paint industry at PPG Industries and Sherwin-Williams. Angie was formerly a social concerns coordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, working with volunteers.

“We decided that we wanted

to try and have a small business of our own,” Angie said. Her brother, Lee Pagani, had experience in the furniture business, and they thought Eastwood would be a good fit. Pagani is now retired and no longer working with the Nandors.

“The quality of the furniture we sell is excellent,” said Angie, who’s 54. “Everything is built with solid wood, and we don’t use any veneers. We use about 100 different craftsmen in Wayne County and Holmes County to make the furniture.”

The store sells just about every kind of furniture, including items for dining rooms, bedrooms and offices. It also carries kitchen islands, bar stools, chairs, TV stands, mantelpieces and shelving.

The store is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays. For more information, and to see a selection of the furniture available from Eastwood, visit www.eastwoodfurniture.com.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.



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