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

## CH issues RFQ/RFP for Top of the Hill site

Vince Reddy

In April, the City of Cleveland Heights issued a request for qualifications/proposals (RFQ/RFP) for development of the city-owned Top of the Hill property. The site is on the western edge of the Cedar Fairmount Business District and is convenient to University Circle, Greater Cleveland's second-largest employment hub. The city asked prospective developers to submit their qualifications and proposed visions for the site. Because input from the city and the public will help shape the final development plan, conceptual drawings or renderings were not required.

The 3.9-acre site currently comprises a 225-space parking lot and some vacant land. Developers were also invited to consider incorporating any of eight other nearby, but noncontiguous, city properties into their proposals. Some of the other parcels, which cover under two acres in total, are used for parking. Any new development



Top of the Hill development site, which also includes Edwards Road, is shown in blue. Other city-owned properties that could be included in development plans are shown in yellow.

would be required to satisfy its own parking needs and replace any lost parking. Developers were invited to approach the project creatively, and a preference was stated for a mix of dense residential uses, first-floor retail, office space, and perhaps a hotel.

As to why the city chose the present time to issue the RFQ/

RFP, City Planner Kara Hamley O'Donnell stated, "Urban real estate development activity in the region is quite robust now, particularly in the University Circle area. Other recent and planned projects demonstrate current demand for pedestrian-friendly mixed-use developments, which the Top of

*continued on page 3*

## Gas line replacement project to last years

James Henke

Cleveland Heights residents can expect to deal with torn-up sidewalks and roads for several more years, as Dominion East Ohio replaces old gas lines with newer, more durable ones.

The pipeline infrastructure replacement program, launched in 2008, is a \$4 billion project expected to last for 25 years. The utility will replace 5,500 miles of pipe within its 22,000-mile system.

According to Alex Mannarino, the Cleveland Heights director of public works, the Dominion project started in Cleveland Heights in 2010, with work on Euclid Heights Boulevard, Taylor Road and a few other streets. Mannarino said that many of the gas lines being re-



Heavy machinery, shown here on Coleridge Road, is being used to replace gas lines throughout Cleveland Heights.

placed are more than 100 years old.

*continued on page 2*

## Scene counts Heights businesses among Cleveland's best

Lori Goldberg

*Scene* magazine announced its Best of Cleveland 2016 list on April 27, and Heights businesses were well represented on it, placing in five of the six categories: Arts & Entertainment; Food & Drink; Shops & Services; Bars & Clubs; and People & Places. *Scene* publishes the list annually as "a guide to the best of all that is happening" in Greater Cleveland.

*Scene* named In the 216, at 1854 Coventry Road, Best New Store. In the 216 also won Best Store to Find a Piece of Cleveland for its Cleveland-proud merchandise.

"We are very humbled by the recognition," said Jenny Goe, owner of In the 216, which features all Ohio-made products. "We have worked very hard to gather an eclectic group of artists and artisans from Cleveland and other parts of Ohio. Mostly, we are so excited that the 104 creatives represented in the shop have been awarded this honor. They are everything, and the past year would not have happened without all of them."

Goe also won Best Local Jewelry Maker for her Jewelry by Jenny line.

John Carroll University's radio station, WJCU 88.7, in University Heights, was named Best College Radio Station.

*Scene's* Best Classical Music Group/Project, Apollo's Fire, is headquartered in the Heights Rockefeller Building in Cleveland Heights. Melt

*continued on page 2*

## Cedar Lee streetscape improvements are underway

Sruti Basu

Merchants, stakeholders and city officials gathered on April 28 to learn about the highly anticipated Lee Road streetscape improvements. Alex Mannarino, director of public works for the City of Cleveland Heights, and representatives of S.E.T. Inc. led the meeting and answered questions.

The 1.2-mile project, spanning Lee Road between Superior and Corydon roads in the Cedar Lee Business District, will be split into

two phases. Construction for the first phase, the west side of Lee Road, began May 9 and is scheduled to last three months. Construction will then shift to the east side of the street.

The project will focus on paving roads, lighting (79 light poles), brick pavers, new sidewalks in certain areas, ADA-compliance construction, trees and traffic signals.

City-owned lots #5, #16 and #17 are tentatively scheduled to be repaved the first week of June. That will take about three or four days, and the Meadowbrook-Silby lot (#16)



Lee Road streetscape improvements began May 9.

will be done in two parts to minimize inconvenience.

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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](http://www.heightsobserver.org/members) or e-mail: [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org)

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on “Member Center” at the left.

- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on “Become an Observer” at the left. For questions that aren’t answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

Articles to be considered for the July issue must be submitted by June 13. 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.

A CH-UH district parent’s view of Ohio EdChoice

To the Editor:

In the ongoing dialogue concerning the use of public funds for private education, FutureHeights board member Matthew Wilson recently argued in favor of this practice. Mr. Wilson contends that there are many private-public partnerships for which taxpayer dollars are allocated. While this may be true, that does not necessarily make it right. I object to the use of public funds for private education on several grounds. However, here is my main objection: private schools are not obliged to enroll everyone.

Private schools admit and dismiss children from their schools based on behavioral issues, academic ability and special needs. Public schools cannot do so. Public schools must educate everyone. Period. This is an asset to the community. Do we really want to live in a world where we are not trying to meet the needs of everyone? Do we want the most challenged members of society to be without resources? Our schools should represent our community fully. This is how we keep them strong. We need the schools and they need to be supported as they try to meet the very difficult task of education for all. When money is taken out of the schools and given elsewhere, it does weaken the school for all students. Not every student costs the same to educate and those funds are more of a pool than allotted to any one person. In this regard, Ohio EdChoice benefits the few at the expense of the many.

Until private schools are willing to educate everyone (and be held to the same testing and accountability standards), public dollars should not be diverted to these institutions.

Eve McPherson  
Cleveland Heights

Democracy (not!) in Cleveland Heights

To the Editor:

For 90 years, Cleveland Heights council elections were open affairs. That changed four years ago. Since then, [CH City] Council chose three of our council representatives using a now-abused section of our city charter that empowers it to fill empty council seats. Intriguingly, all three appointees are close friends and/or cohorts of [Mayor] Cheryl Stephens.

It is no surprise [to] this observer of council activities that these appointments took place behind closed doors—no meeting minutes reflect any discussion or weeding out of applicants who would be our representative.

2012: Janine Boyd is chosen after two application rounds (council tossed out the first round) behind closed doors. She told reporters she applied in that second round only after council assured her they “wanted”

her.

One year later, Boyd decides to run for her mother’s house seat. [The timing of] her announcement of this decision to vacate her council seat? One week into that newly won 2013 council seat! Her replacement? Another close cohort of Stephens. Again chosen behind closed doors.

We all expected Jeff Coryell to join his wife out of state. Yet, he decides to do so one week after the 2015 council elections. What an odd coincidence! And his replacement? Another close cohort of Stephens.

Three times in four years. This abuse of power must stop. CH voters must take back democracy in this city. “Wards for Cleveland Heights!”

Diane Hallum  
Cleveland Heights

SCENE continued from page 1

Bar & Grilled, with six locations—including one at the corner of Cedar and South Taylor roads in Cleveland Heights—won for Best Sandwich. PetPeople, winner of Best Pet Shop, opened a location at the Cedar Center South Shopping Center in University Heights on April 15.

Scene also recognized Heights natives in its 2016 list. Mitchell’s Ice Cream, Best Ice Cream winner, is co-owned by brothers Mike and Pete Mitchell, who grew up in University Heights and graduated from Cleveland Heights High School. Brendan O’Malley and Abie Klein-Stefanchik, members of Best Band winner Honeybucket, grew up in Cleveland Heights as well.

Heights winners are listed below, by category:

Food & Drink

- Best Bread: On the Rise
- Best Japanese: Pacific East
- Best Butcher Shop: Mister Brisket
- Best Pop-Up Dinner or Series: The Katz Club Diner
- Best Sandwich: Melt Bar & Grilled

Shops & Services

- Best Toy Store: Big Fun
- Best Salon: Crazy Mullets
- Best Wine Store: The Wine Spot
- Best Barber Shop: Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa
- Best Book Store: Mac’s Backs
- Best Pet Shop: PetPeople

Bars & Clubs

- Best Underground Music Bar/Club: Grog Shop
- Best Cleveland Heights Bar: Parnell’s

Arts & Entertainment

- Best Band: Honeybucket
- Best Movie Theater: Cedar Lee Theatre
- Best Classical Music Group/Project: Apollo’s Fire
- Best Bar Trivia Night: BottleHouse Brewing Co.

People & Places

- Best College Radio Station: WJCU 88.7

Lori Goldberg is an intern at the *Heights Observer*, and a senior at Shaker Heights High School. Cleveland Heights is like a second home to her. If asked to pick a favorite business in the Heights, she would be torn between Tommy’s and Big Fun.

GAS continued from page 1

According to Dominion spokesman Neil Durbin, the company is replacing bare-steel, cast-iron, wrought-iron and copper pipes with coated-steel or plastic ones. The existing pipes are safe. The new ones will be more durable and resistant to corrosion.

At press time, work was underway on Euclid Heights Boulevard, from Coventry Road west to the city line, and on parts of Fairmount Boulevard and Coventry, Fairfax and Coleridge roads.

Occasionally, trees must be removed to accommodate the project.

More than 30 mature trees were removed from Lee Road tree lawns between Euclid Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road earlier this year. Mannarino stated that, after performing geological studies in the area, Dominion determined that that stretch of Lee Road would have to be excavated for gas-line work, which would require removal of some tree roots, thus setting up a potentially hazardous situation if the trees were left standing. In most situations, horizontal drilling can be used, which does not necessitate removing trees. Though gas-line work has yet to begin on Lee Road, an environmental bulletin regarding bat-habitat protection required the trees to be removed before March 31.

Mannarino said that Dominion is paying for all aspects of the project. “There is no cost to the city, whatsoever,” he said. In addition, whenever any trees are removed, Dominion pays for replacement trees.

Similarly, if Dominion has to tear out a sidewalk to replace a line, the company will replace it, and, if it was a stone walk, the property owner can decide whether to have it replaced with stone or concrete. Any tree lawns or grass-covered areas that Dominion must dig up are re-seeded by the company. Mannarino noted that tree-lawn size and overhead obstructions are considered when deciding what kinds of trees are used to replace trees that have been removed.

Durbin noted that Dominion’s customers will not see additional costs to their monthly gas bills. “Ever since we started this program back in 2008, all of the costs have been covered by our customers’ monthly gas rates,” he said. “There are no additional costs if any work is done on someone’s property.”

He said that customers can go to the company’s website, [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com), and search “pipeline infrastructure replacement,” to get more information about the project.

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



# How 'public' is public education?



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

Welcome to Heights of Democracy, a new column that will explore the meaning and practice of democracy locally, in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. We will tackle questions such as: How have grassroots efforts by Heights individuals and groups promoted civic involvement and democracy in our communities? How do neighbors work together to make life better for everyone? How do residents interact with our municipal governments? What local governance practices might elicit increased and more-effective citizen participation? How is our local autonomy enhanced or limited by state and federal policies and economic priorities? If you have topics to suggest that shed light on these issues, we'd love to hear from you.

For decades, Heights citizens have been passionately and effectively involved in our communities, often resisting powerful interests, from stopping the Clark and Lee freeways in the 1960s, to fighting racially based blockbusting in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. The Heights Coalition for Public Education is a grassroots group working in this tradition, as two young members illustrated early this year.

On Jan. 21, Elijah Snow-Rackley and Emma Schubert were among 17 citizens who addressed Cleveland Heights City Council regarding how corporate power and big money in politics threaten local communities and democracy itself. The two Heights High seniors, speaking on behalf of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Student Union, testified that corporate and philanthropic involvement in education undermines local control of public schools.

Local control through elected school boards is, Schubert pointed out, "one of the cornerstones of our democracy." In recent decades, however, we have seen local authority usurped by federal legislation, such as No Child Left Behind and its successor, the Every Student Succeeds Act; by state-mandated high-stakes testing, unfair teacher evaluation requirements and district rankings; and by the siphoning of tax money to charter schools and voucher programs.

Congress and state legislatures

enacted those measures, but private money tells the real story. "The Gates family has pumped about \$230 million into organizations that created the Common Core standards and the campaigns that encouraged states [to adopt] them," said Snow-Rackley.

"Pearson Education, Educational Testing Service, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and McGraw Hill [companies that develop and publish educational testing materials, including assessments based on the Common Core] have spent over \$20 million in lobbying and [campaign] contributions," continued Snow-Rackley. "Houghton Mifflin Harcourt posted revenues of \$1.37 billion in 2014, with a market share of 44 percent, including Common Core instructional materials."

Schubert, who will be a fourth-generation Heights graduate, focused on how for-profit entities undermine public education as taxpayer funds are transferred to the private sector: "The shift of resources [from] public to private comes in the form of charters, vouchers and EdChoice, a law unique to Ohio, which allows families to [put] the money that would go to the public schools directly into tuition for private schools. This means the money then has no public [oversight] . . . which can lead to the misuse of . . . tax dollars.

"As a student, I am directly affected by this," Schubert continued. "My district, CH-UH, loses millions of dollars that are meant for my school, my classroom and my [education]." [This year, the figure was \$5.5 million; 49 teachers were laid off earlier this spring.]

The great American educator John Dewey said, "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children. Any other ideal for our schools is narrow and unlovely; acted upon, it destroys our democracy." Emma Schubert and Elijah Snow-Rackley exemplified Dewey's insight with their public testimony. We wish for the Heights High Class of 2016, and for all CH-UH students, a bright future leading to engaged and productive lives in a vibrant democracy.

*Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer who grew up in Cleveland Heights, and has lived here as an adult for more than 30 years. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.*



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

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the Hill site is well suited for." She noted that the city had been contacted about the land by several interested developers before the RFQ/RFP was issued. Several more have made inquiries since.

The Edgehill Apartments were constructed on the site in 1913 and consisted of an eight- and a four-story building. In 1946, the apartment buildings were converted into the 200-bed Doctors' Hospital, which remained there until 1968, when it moved to Mayfield Heights and became Hillcrest Hospital. The city acquired the property soon afterward, and demolished the buildings for the parking lot that

is there now.

The city will resurface Cedar Road in this vicinity and make streetscape improvements in 2017, at which time a multi-purpose path will be extended down Cedar Hill. Cedar Fairmount is up Cedar Hill from the Cedar-University station on RTA's Red Line rapid transit service, and is served directly by bus lines 7 and 32.

Responses from potential developers were due on May 23. More information is available at [www.clevelandheights.com/toh](http://www.clevelandheights.com/toh).

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

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# We must retain and attract school district employees

Ari Klein

In the beginning of May, about one month after being laid off, one of our CH-UH teachers was recalled to her assignment by administration. She refused the recall because she had gotten a job in another district—one of the more wealthy districts in Northeast Ohio, where it is unlikely that she will have to worry about being rated poorly on teacher evaluations for low student growth measures. The teacher is young and great at her job, enthusiastic and vibrant in her classroom. And we lost her.

We wish her and all of the teachers who will [no longer] be working in our school district well, and we will miss them. It is our loss. Of course, this is

not the first time someone has left CH-UH employment, and won't be the last. Every entry-year teacher who goes through residency here and leaves is wasted potential. Some people believe that new and young teachers are best for kids, and many of them are super, but a few years of experience makes a huge difference. The time and effort it takes to train new teachers is one that should not be squandered.

Attracting and retaining high-quality employees that are good fits for our district is a challenge. Being a native of the Heights, I am biased. I believe CH-UH is a wonderful place to live and work, but our schools have challenges that some other places do not have. It is not an easy place to work for many people. Many of our students come from impoverished backgrounds and have not all been exposed to enrichment experiences that are common among families that have more means.

Great employees are attracted by job security, respect in the workplace, and fair compensation. With declining enrollment predicted in CH-UH, the security part of this equation is shaky.

When the layoffs were announced on April 5, there were 57.5 affected positions in the teachers union bargaining unit. As of this writing, we will have 45.5 fewer members. These numbers will not attract many people to eventual openings. Teachers, nurses, social workers, counselors and all the other people we represent will equate layoffs with instability. My guess is that many people will run the other way.

As of June 1, we will have had one negotiation session for a successor

to the contract that expires on June 30. We negotiate language for many aspects of our jobs, only part of which includes wages and benefits. Topics include everything from how many meetings are required to whether our members are mandated to attend evening, weekend or summer workshops. Respect comes in many forms, but mostly in appreciating that sometimes people have other commitments outside of work that make them whole.

Being paid a competitive wage is also important. Over the last five years, teachers union member take-home pay has increased by 0.5 percent. Part of this is a result of changes to State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), but mostly it is because our wages have stagnated. If we do not change this trend it will be more challenging to attract new talent. What will entice younger, more-mobile employees to stay in CH-UH?

Public schools around the country are being blamed and attacked for most of society's ills. Here in our little special community, we need to preserve what we have and figure out how to enhance the areas where we excel. We need to be mindful of doing everything we can to retain and attract the best, most dedicated employees, or more of our best and brightest will take jobs in different communities, taking with them the benefit of our experience, training and mentoring.

*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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**Summer Student Show**

Glass butterflies by Alyssa Ziemba, Glass major, class of 2017.

**Cleveland Institute of Art Reinberger Gallery through Aug 5**

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CEDAR LEE continued from page 1

S.E.T. construction representatives said that their team will typically work Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Fridays designated as rain days.

Because valet service cannot operate in construction zones, the three Lee Road valet stations have temporarily relocated: to Kensington Road near the Tavern Company, to Lot #16 near The Wine Spot, and to Lot #5 behind the Cedar Lee Theatre.

S.E.T. representatives said that access to businesses and sidewalks will be maintained, as will access to side streets; however, there may be temporary closures.

Investigator Quintero Mack, business liaison for the Cleveland Heights Police Department, said the department will relax parking regulations on side streets and in the parking garage, and would do its best to be flexible regarding parking issues.

Vice City Manager Susanna Niermann O'Neil said that the city will test a mobile payment smart phone app for its parking meters beginning in July. The app will enable visitors to pay for and manage parking using their smart phones. Visitors will still be able to pay with quarters, if they choose. The city plans to test the app for six months in its three city-owned

garages, including the one in Cedar Lee. If the pilot is successful, the city will launch phases 2 and 3, in city-owned lots and at on-street meters.

O'Neil said that the city will conduct an information campaign to update the community on the project. She also stated that the city would like to post signs with parking instructions, and planned to print maps and renderings for merchants to display.

The repaving portion of the project has a completion date of Oct. 31 and the electrical components, which include street lighting and traffic signals, should be completed by Dec. 20. S.E.T. representatives said that unknown obstacles and weather-related delays could negatively affect the timeline.

More information can be found on a "current projects" page of the city's website, [www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=1692](http://www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=1692), and on the city's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/clevelandheightsob](http://www.facebook.com/clevelandheightsob). A Cedar Lee Streetscape button on the city website's homepage links directly to the project page. Residents can e-mail questions about the project to [pwd@clvhts.com](mailto:pwd@clvhts.com).

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



# Intrinsic motivation, not accountability, produces excellence



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

It's June. Once again, the school year comes to an abrupt end. Comfortable routines evaporate, and other sources of stimulation take over. Children and teachers say goodbye, knowing the process will begin anew in the fall. Well-deserved vacations commence.

So much happens over the 180 days of a school year. Teachers—special guardians of our youth—provide safety and stimulation and create activities to inspire learning and cultivate the minds of young people. Children grow and change. When the seemingly endless year comes to a close, sincere words and gifts of gratitude make their way from children's hands and hearts to their teachers.

As testing has permeated education, I worry about our teachers and their ability to recover over the summer. High-stakes testing takes a debilitating toll. When policymakers trusted teachers to support student learning—to ignite in their students the desire to know more and make sense of the world—teachers ended the school year spent from working to understand the unique puzzle of each child, creating engaging experiences and building and managing communities in their classrooms. Exhausted but proud of the work they had done, they were ready to reflect and recalibrate in preparation for the next year.

Today, support has been replaced by demand as the centerpiece of education policy. Testing—not the professional judgment of teachers—drives daily life in our schools. Learning is defined as an outcome and is reduced to acquiring discrete skills that can be measured on a test. People outside the classroom dictate what is taught and what constitutes success. Judgment replaces trust. Professionalism is ignored. Excitement, thinking, questioning and creating become afterthoughts.

This loss of teacher control is corrosive. It creates an end-of-year fatigue that is not easily replenished by gifts of affection or a couple of months outside the classroom. Some great teachers simply give up, because they cannot reconcile the policy with what they know is good for children. Others return resigned to their situation, feeling compro-

mised and frustrated.

Those cherished end-of-year personal testaments delivered by parents and children to teachers are not powerful enough to overcome the externally imposed judgments that test results send to teachers. Nor can they overcome the negative dynamics created by this heavy-handed, top-down approach to education.

We can't expect our teachers to continue to bring out the best in our children and free their minds to be excited about the world when only measurable performance defines success. The pressure to raise test scores is sapping teacher energy, morale and motivation. In his prescient 1999 critique of demand-driven school reform, *The Schools Our Children Deserve*, Alfie Kohn reviewed research that showed when teachers are told what and how to teach, they don't do their best. The more teachers are pressured to make their students perform, the less well they actually perform.

People do their best when they love what they are doing, not when they are driven by external rewards or punishment. It is intrinsic motivation that leads to excellence. Current policy relies on external motivation to push teachers to raise test scores. Not only is it using the wrong lever, but test results are the wrong goal. When outside forces promoting the wrong goal drive teaching, Kohn observed, "It has approximately the same effect on learning that a noose has on breathing."

The legislature has it all wrong. Teachers and students can't be their best in a system that confuses test scores with learning and uses accountability to motivate excellence. Policy that focuses on test results rather than supporting people to achieve is a dismal failure. It undercuts real learning. Educational outcomes do not improve.

Kohn further observed that when we judge a school on the basis of a standardized test score, we unwittingly help to make that school a little worse. Challenging an illegitimate system is one way we can reduce the damage.

I want our teachers to limp out the door at the end of the school year exhausted from using their talent to light a fire in every child and ready to make the next year even better. It won't happen until we demand what is right for our children and their teachers.

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

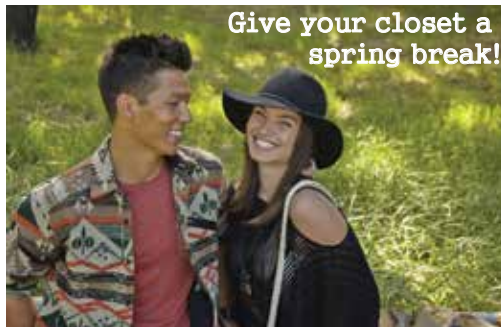
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## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



APRIL 18, 2016

All council members were present.

### Public hearing on joint dispatch center

The council meeting opened with a public hearing to discuss the regional Council of Governments (COG) agreement among the cities of University Heights, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid and Shaker Heights for the purpose of forming and operating a joint dispatch center for police, fire and EMS (emergency medical services) response.

University Heights Fire Department already has a joint dispatch program with Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights.

This [new] agreement would combine fire, police and EMS calls into a single dispatch center. The State of Ohio is requiring all communities with fewer than 80,000 residents to combine their dispatch units.

In Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland is the only entity large enough to remain independent. The remaining communities in the county must consolidate into a total of five dispatch centers in order to remain part of the countywide 9-1-1 service.

The state is offering five grants of \$1 million to each of the five centers for start-up costs. Four other centers have already been formed; this would be the fifth and last center, but agreement must be reached soon in order to receive the grant.

When the five dispatch centers have been formed, all remaining unaffiliated communities will have to join one of these five centers or remain independent and not receive 9-1-1 calls received by the county from cell phones.

The first plan for a joint center included Beachwood, but Beachwood wanted to "own" the dispatch center and bill the other cities for use of the center.

The current pending agreement includes Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights. A

governing body, made up of mayors and city managers, would oversee the COG and hire an individual to run the center.

Each city would have to pay \$90,000 unless an additional grant, which is being sought in the amount of \$400,000, is obtained. This amount is to show the serious intent of the cities to form this venture.

Also, each city would pay \$17,500 annually toward a capital fund for costs. Any additional funding needed would be billed to the participating cities based on the number of calls received per city.

Unaffiliated communities that later join the joint dispatch center would be required to pay a portion of the setup and ongoing monthly costs. Presumably, additional savings will be realized over time. The center will be sized to serve a larger area—not just the [original] four communities.

University Heights's dispatch costs are currently relatively high because police officers fill in for absent dispatch operators. While cost reductions are expected through the dispatch center, the costs are still theoretical.

Larry Heiser, finance director, presented a spreadsheet of anticipated costs and financing, but all council members found it difficult to read due to a lack of labels and explanatory text.

Vice Mayor Susan Pardee asked Heiser to revise the document for the next meeting. Councilman Steven Sims asked for further details on the transition costs, including possible severance fees for the current dispatch operators, and controls that will be in place over the ongoing costs of operations.

Another public hearing to discuss this issue [was scheduled for May 2].

[The LWV observer was not able to remain for the council meeting following the public hearing, nor was she available to attend the May 2 city council meeting. It has been reported that the city council approved the city's participation in formation of the COG.]

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

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

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## Sustainable Heights Network invites community to June 13 program

Cathi Lehn

The first community event hosted by a revitalized Sustainable Heights Network will feature a presentation on Sustainable Cuyahoga: A toolkit of recommended best practices for cities in Cuyahoga County. The program will take place on Monday, June 13, 6:30 p.m., at the Lee Road Library.

Mike Foley, Cuyahoga County director of sustainability, in partnership with David Beach, executive director of GreenCity-BlueLake Institute, developed the toolkit to provide best practices and resources for all 59 municipalities in Cuyahoga County.

It includes recommendations for public officials to [enable them to] learn about sustainability issues, get help from local experts, and take action. It is also a resource for citizens who want to work with local government officials to improve their communities.


Chapters in the toolkit include: air quality, energy, food, green buildings, land use, solid waste, transportation, trees, and watershed management. Foley and Beach will present examples of best practices from around Northeast Ohio, including sustainable actions taken by Cleveland Heights and surrounding communities.

The toolkit is available online at: <http://executive.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/sustainable-cuyahoga.aspx>.

The Sustainable Heights Network will also present an update on its activities at the event, including information about upcoming programs and how residents can become involved.

For more information about the Sustainable Heights Network, e-mail [cathilehn@yahoo.com](mailto:cathilehn@yahoo.com).

*Cathi Lehn is a Cleveland Heights resident and the Sustainable Cleveland coordinator for the City of Cleveland Mayor's Office of Sustainability. She is also chair of the Sustainable Heights Network Steering Committee.*



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## CSU's Viking Planners present study of Cedar Lee Business District

Richard Stewart

Viking Planners, a team of graduate students from the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, presented a market study of the Cedar Lee Business District to an audience of more than 125 at the Cedar Lee Theatre on May 9.

FutureHeights, through its Heights Community Development Alliance program, had contracted with the students to complete the study as their capstone project. Robert A. Simons, professor and former director of the Master of Urban Planning, Design and Development program at Levin College, and Jim Kastelic, program director for the Ohio office of the Trust for Public Land, co-taught the class.

"This was the first time Viking Planners completed a project outside the City of Cleveland, and it was a competitive process to be selected for the study," said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. "We wanted to bring a planning project to Cleveland Heights, and Cedar Lee was the best fit with



Members of the CSU Viking Planners present their findings and recommendations to the community at the Cedar Lee Theatre on May 9.

the class's objectives. The streetscape and high school renovations are going to have a big impact. We wanted to see how we could build on these projects and the district's lively arts and restaurant scene."

The students reviewed previous studies; analyzed current conditions; and surveyed and interviewed merchants, city officials, residents and visitors. They examined parking, safety, signage, retail mix, and redevelopment and infill opportunities, among other aspects.

The students presented potential scenarios and recommendations. Defining Cedar Lee as "the heart of the Heights," a place where people come together, they identified opportuni-

ties to attract more University Circle visitors and employees as residents and customers. Recommendations included improving connectivity within and around the corridor, establishing a Community Development Corporation (CDC), defining and promoting a strong district identity, and leveraging the district's historic and cultural assets.

FutureHeights funded the \$5,000 study, and plans to review the recommendations and explore next steps with stakeholders.

To view the students' report, visit [www.vikingplanners.weebly.com](http://www.vikingplanners.weebly.com).

*Richard Stewart is president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.*



## "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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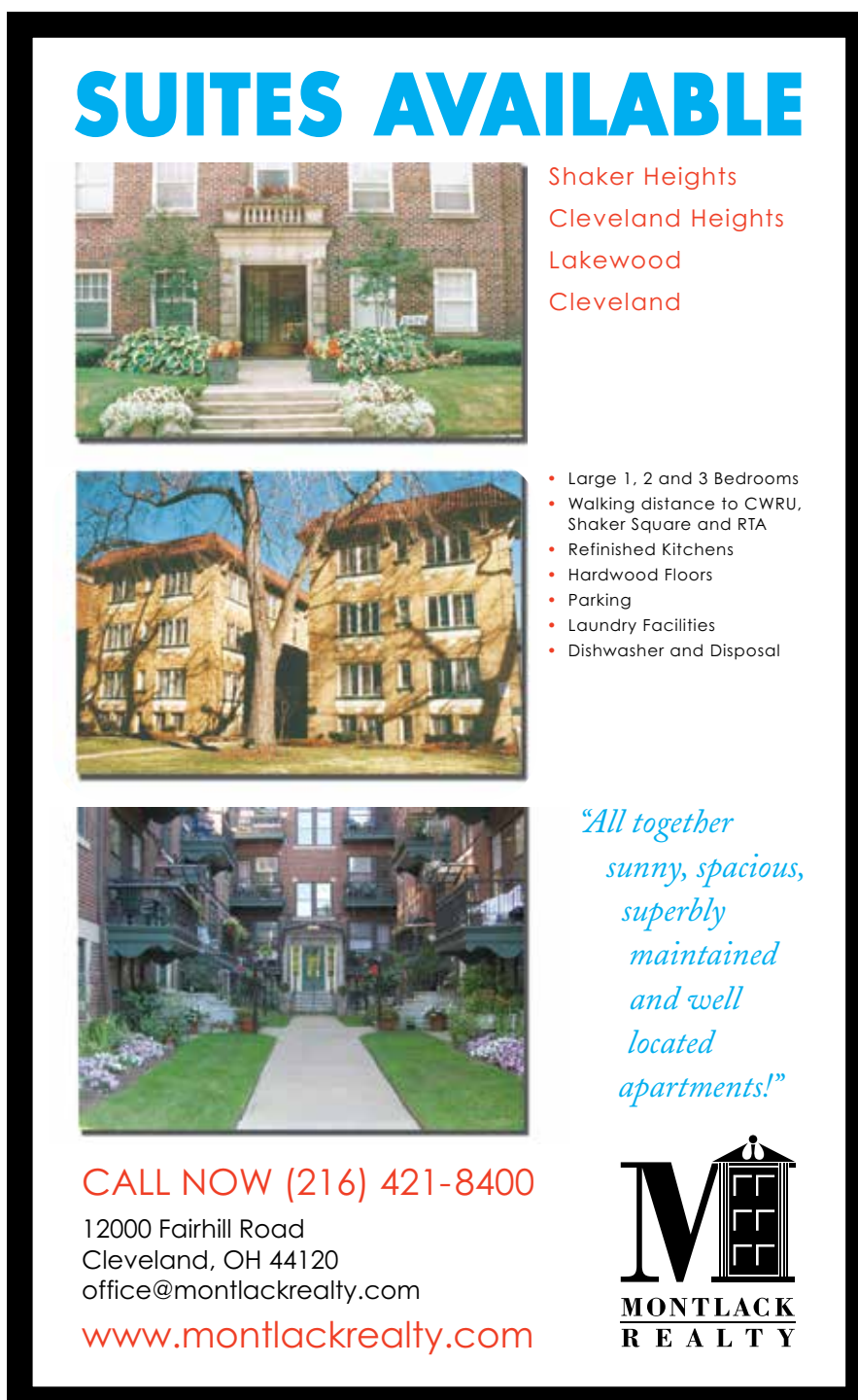
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## Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



APRIL 18, 2016

Council Member Melissa Yasinow was absent.

**New Council Member Michael Ungar**  
Council Member Michael Ungar, whose nomination was unanimously approved by council, was sworn in by Sharon Sobel Jordan, chief of staff to Cuyahoga County Executive Armand Budish. Ungar is an attorney at Ulmer & Byrne, LLP, with a specialty in litigation. He has served on the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission for 16 years, many of them as chair.

**Heights senior on U.S. Olympic team**  
Council recognized Heights High senior Charles Conwell who has qualified for the 2016 Summer Olympics boxing team. Council Member Jason Stein, after noting the hard work and discipline that got Conwell to the point of qualifying, presented commendations from both council and State Representative Janine Boyd.

**Poet laureate**  
Rachel Bernstein, executive director of Heights Arts, introduced Christine Howey, the city's new poet laureate. Meredith Holmes, outgoing poet laureate, and Howey each read poetry composed for this occasion.

**Water service agreement**  
Council heard a first reading of legislation to transfer the city's water service to direct service from the City of Cleveland.

**City purchases**  
Council approved several purchases for the Public Works Department, including three full-size pickup trucks for approximately \$29,000 each; and two snow plows, a dump [truck] body and other accessories for approximately \$34,000.

**Regional dispatch center**  
Council heard a first reading of legislation that would create a regional Council of Governments (COG) to establish and operate a joint police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) communications system, to be called the Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center (HHCC). The center would dispatch police, fire and EMS services in and for the cities of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights, as well as other communities that may join the center later. Citizens can check the full agreement at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com) and contact the council with any comments.

**Planning commission appointment**  
Council appointed Mike Gaynier to the Planning Commission, to replace Michael Ungar, for the term expiring Dec. 31, 2018.  
LWV Observer: Blanche B. Valancy.

MAY 2, 2016  
All council members were present.

**Public comments**  
Resident Leslie Jones, representing the Forest Hills Home Owners Association, updated council on projects his group has been work-

ing on, especially in the past 18 months. With a goal of maintaining a pristine and historic area, it is reaching out to banks and other owners of foreclosed and vacant homes regarding upkeep, exterior maintenance and [putting] properties on the market. Working with the housing departments of both Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, it is urging those cities to get more aggressive and pay attention to inspection staffing and follow-up. The association hopes to market the area as a destination, especially to nearby University Circle institutions. It is developing an "aging in place" program to provide service links for older residents and sponsoring clean-up days. The association wants Cleveland Heights to consider a plan to allow non-resident benefits for East Cleveland Forest Hills homeowners at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Mayor Cheryl Stephens asked that Jones work with the Planning and Development Committee.

**Water service agreement**  
Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the city and its residents to receive water and water-related service directly from the City of Cleveland, and to terminate the City of Cleveland Heights's master meter agreement with Cleveland. Legislation to make this change in water service was unanimously approved.

**Regional dispatch center**  
Council approved the agreement to create a regional COG to establish and operate a joint communications system for the dispatch of police, fire and emergency medical services in and for the cities of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights, and other communities that may join the dispatch center at a later time.

**Economic Development Advisory Committee**  
Council established an Economic Development Advisory Committee and prescribed its composition, duration, purpose and duties. The purpose of this committee shall be to advise council about economic development matters. It shall be composed of one member of council and seven residents appointed by council. Unless otherwise authorized by council, the committee shall exist for a term of six months from the date of the appointment of all members. Gary Benjamin will be committee chair.

**Citizen appointments**  
Council approved the appointments of Lisa Wolf to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term ending Dec. 31, 2018, and Katura Simmons to the Citizens Advisory Committee for a term ending Dec. 31, 2016.  
LWV Observer: Blanche B. Valancy.

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## FutureHeights interns stage student event on Lee Road

Nathan Merritt

FutureHeights interns Nathan Merritt and Karen Kearney staged a professional development event for fellow students on April 15 in the Cedar Lee Business District. Both are graduate students at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University.

"Our goal for the Cedar Lee Community Immersion event," said Kearney, "was to enable students to learn more about Cleveland Heights and the businesses and restaurants that are located there. We also hoped to get young people more engaged with the community and find out how they perceive it."

The students met at the BottleHouse Brewery, where they received instructions for a scavenger hunt. Sruti Basu, director of community-building programs at FutureHeights and an MSASS graduate, gave a brief history of Cleveland Heights and the Cedar Lee district. She then surveyed participants to find out what they already knew about the area.

"Many of the students knew the names of a few businesses on

Lee Road, but that's about it," said Kearney. "The scavenger hunt was a fun way to help them learn more about Cleveland Heights."

The scavenger hunt took participants to several locations in the district where they had to acquire an item, such as a napkin or business card, to prove they were there. They were also asked to answer questions about Cleveland Heights: For example, "Name a business that has been around for more than 20 years," and "Name a business that has just arrived on Lee Road."

Scavenger hunt participants had to take pictures of themselves along the way. One task, for example, was to take a picture of the coolest wine bottle at The Wine Spot.

The group met back at the BottleHouse at the end of the evening to share and reflect on their experiences. Kearney, who completed her internship with FutureHeights in April, said that future interns will plan similar events for the summer and fall.

*Nathan Merritt is an intern at FutureHeights and a graduate student at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.*

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## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Meeting highlights

APRIL 18, 2016

All board members were present.

### Three staff promotions

Shamekia Chandler, Monica Wilson and Elora Agsten are now full-time youth associates. Chandler, who has been with the library since October 2007 and graduated from Kenyon College, will work at the Lee Road Library. Wilson, a graduate of DePaul University, with a concentration in creative writing and screenwriting, has been with the library since February 2015 and will work at the Noble Neighborhood Library. Agsten, a graduate of the College of Wooster who majored in art history and classical languages, has been with the library since June 2015 and will work at the Coventry Village Library.

### School district art show

There were 300 entries in the show in Lee Road Library's galleries April 8–29. The opening reception on April 12 drew hundreds of viewers, prizes were awarded, and school musicians played. Sheryl Banks, marketing manager, and her team coordinated with school art teachers to produce this event.

### Library history on Ohio Memory Project website

Amia Wheatley, local-history librarian, with the help of many staff members, has uploaded more than 700 images to the [Ohio Memory Project] website, which is

linked to the library's website. Images include school board meeting minutes from 1915–21, when the library was part of the school system. Courtney Bourdeau and Karen Scheck are identifying and preparing print items for a collection in the book stacks.

### March public service report highlights:

- Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County presented Native Plants: Rugged, Easy-Care Survivors. The program featured 12 plants that will withstand Northeast Ohio weather.
- In partnership with Cleveland Play House, award-winning local playwright Rajiv Joseph presented a program attended by 115 people.
- The Youth Services Division began a partnership with the International Chinese Reading Association to begin a weekly storytime in Chinese for children up to age 6.
- Monica Wilson, youth services associate at Noble Neighborhood Library, attended a Community Care Team meeting at Monticello Middle School. Reaching Heights arranged the meeting, which included the assistant principal, school psychologist, school counselor, two Cleveland Heights police officers, and a representative from Lake Erie Ink. (This summer, Lake Erie Ink will present four programs at Noble Neighborhood Library.)
- University Heights Library hosted the city's



Senior Happenings Program for five meetings. Programs included a presentation by the director of the Center 4 Brain Health at Menorah Park, three musical performances, and a presentation about the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

- Amanda Chang, library associate, presented two March Into Kindergarten programs with Family Connections, to introduce parents to early childhood literacy.
- Picture Book Madness took place in each building as parents and children voted for their favorite books and watched their progression through the "brackets."
- Shamekia Chandler, library associate, presented programs in her Spider Week series, which included storytelling, crafts and a visit from a naturalist.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 6.

## Library partners to screen film about Bhutanese refugees

Sheryl Banks

"Refugees of Shangri-La," a documentary film about the recent experience of Bhutanese refugees settling in America, will be shown on June 11, 6 p.m., at Garfield Memorial Church (1534 South Green Road in South Euclid).

The screening came about through a partnership of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System, the Cleveland-based ASIA Inc. and Garfield Memorial Church, and provides an opportunity for residents to learn about this growing group of refugees who have been settling in the Heights for nearly 10 years.

"Since 2008, Bhutanese refugees have been arriving in the Greater Cleveland area, primarily settling in Cleveland Heights, South Euclid and Cleveland's West Side," said Michael To, program coordinator at ASIA Inc. "Right now, about 400–500 Bhutanese refugees live in the Cleveland Heights area."

According to To, the refugees' ancestors were originally from Nepal but migrated to the southern part of Bhutan for good farmland. They remained separate from the rest of the country, keeping their language and traditions. However, in the late 1980s and early '90s, the king of Bhutan enacted policies of ethnic cleansing in an attempt to homogenize the country. This forced many to return to the eastern part of Nepal, where they were put in seven refugee camps for more than 15 years.

"Life in the camps provided the refugees with no way to sustain themselves independently, leading to a dependence on outside agencies to provide food and shelter," said To. "After several bilateral talks between Nepal and Bhutan regarding the refugees went nowhere, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration coordinated to resettle the refugees around the world, including right here in the Heights."

For the past two years, Heights Libraries has been providing assistance to the Bhutanese refugees who live near the Noble Neighborhood Library, and recently partnered with ASIA Inc. on citizenship classes, which will take place throughout the summer.

Also during the summer, the resettlement agency US Together will run an ESL (English as a Second Language) camp for kids at the Noble Neighborhood Library, which will also offer language classes for adult refugees.

"The language barrier continues to be one of the biggest issues, sometimes even more so as many of the refugees were illiterate in their homeland," said To.

The Noble Neighborhood Library also continues to offer the Welcome Hub program on Saturdays, 3–5 p.m., where refugees can feel welcome and find information to help them resettle and acclimate to their new home.

Find more information at [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org).

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

## Library kicks off centennial celebration

Julia Murphy

Friends and neighbors of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System gathered at the Coventry Village Library on May 1 for a kick-off celebration of the system's 100th birthday, with poems, a time capsule ceremony, poster competition winners, cupcakes and music. The event's keynote was a talk by local author Mary Doria Russell, who spoke to attendees of her "dark fall into book addiction," and read an excerpt from *Dreamers of the Day*, her historical fiction novel, which begins, fittingly, with the creation of the Cleveland Heights Library, 100 years ago.

"The kick-off went really well, and it's just the beginning," said Sheryl Banks, the library's marketing manager, who planned the celebration. "It's great to get a chance to celebrate the library's history, mostly as a thank you to our community for placing so much value in the work that the library does."

Among the approximately 250 attendees were three generations of



Three generations of Heights Libraries directors: Steve Wood, Rachel Nelson and Nancy Levin.

Heights Libraries directors, former board members, and retired custodial staff.

Three students won awards in the library's centennial art competition: Zacharaya Lev Schulgasser, third-grader at Yeshiva Derech Hatorah School; Zeldia Thayer-Hansen, seventh-grader at Monticello Middle School; and Linnea Covault, 11th-grader at Heights High. Poster prints of their artwork were included in the centennial time capsule, which was displayed at the event.

"We also got a really exciting late

addition for our time capsule," said Banks. "Former Heights resident Carolyn Charles contributed her library school thesis, written in 1975, about what we may see now as the dark days of the Coventry Library, when the library was condensed into the basement of the historic building."

At the Centennial Kick-Off, Charles explained, "Those Coventry hippies are what really got the rest of the community invested [in] getting the library back where it should be, and the renewed presence dictated its increased use. It goes to show you how important the actual facility really is."

Banks explained support for the library is visible in its circulation numbers and program attendance, and in the donations made in honor of the centennial to the "100 for 100" campaign sponsored by the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries. "These donations were made specifically to help support our library far into the future," said Banks. "We're celebrating the first hundred years knowing that the next hundred will have much more in store."

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

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# Create an exciting and fulfilling retirement



## SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Many seniors have untapped energy, ideas and interests during retirement. Starting a business or volunteering for a worthy cause are two stimulating and gratifying ways to keep the body, mind and spirit active in retirement.

The Encore Entrepreneurs Series, a partnership between The Cleveland Foundation and the Cuyahoga County Public Library, provides programs to help seniors start and grow a business. These include free workshops, coaching sessions, and events focused on

business development and networking.

Visit [www.ccplencore.org](http://www.ccplencore.org) or call 216-398-1800 to learn more.

Business Advisers of Cleveland (BAC), a nonprofit organization that provides free counseling, consulting, mentoring and educational programs for small businesses and nonprofit organizations, is offering consultations at an upcoming Encore Entrepreneurs Series program in South Euclid.

Call 216-426-2053 for more information.

Encore Cleveland, a partnership between The Cleveland Foundation and Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU), helps retired seniors volunteer through several programs, including helping an organization grow, skill-based volunteering and direct service



Heights Libraries volunteer John Jarvey stocks the Princeton Road Little Free Library.

artwork for your home, and it doesn't affect your ability to see out," she said.

Contact Evans at 216-544-0212.

John Jarvey, a resident of Cleveland Heights and a retired Cleveland public schools English and reading teacher, is continuing to pursue his passion for teaching, reading and learning by volunteering with the Heights Libraries.

In addition, Jarvey continues to volunteer for the Cleveland school system, tutoring children and giving books to teachers.

"It's not work," he said. "It's exhilarating to help people."

Jarvey manages the sorting and organizing of donated books for library book sales, and organizes the stocking of books for the Little Free Libraries. He also helps deliver books to prisons, the VA hospital and Severance Health Center.

Call 216-932-3600 for information about volunteering at Heights Libraries.

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

## CH Senior Center News

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.

Every Monday (12:15-2 p.m.) and Friday (10 a.m. to noon) a group gathers at the senior center to play a friendly game of table tennis.

Beginners are always welcome. SAC has extra paddles available; players should wear athletic shoes and comfortable clothing.

Estimates are that more than 20 million people play table tennis recreationally in the U.S., and it is the most popular racket sport in the world.

It is a sport that can be enjoyed by individuals of any age and physical ability, and is great exercise, teaching hand-eye coordination, challenging balance and stimulating

rapid response.

Table tennis is a low-injury-risk sport that keeps one fit and flexible, without putting severe stress on joints. This is a free and fun activity, so why not give table tennis a try?

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](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

For more information and to register for any program, call 216-691-7377.

*Amy Jenkins is the 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](mailto:ajenkins@clvhts.com).*

## UH Senior Citizen Happenings

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

**June 2:** Sara Phillips, manager of the University Heights Library, commemorates the 100th anniversary of Heights Libraries founding.

**June 9:** Pierre Brault, creator of Mercury Theatre Company, which performs shows at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, will describe the

company's summer shows.

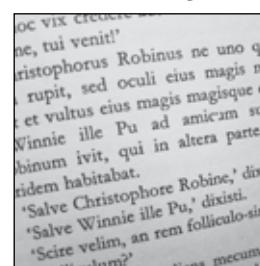
**June 16:** Thomas Schubeck, professor of religious studies at John Carroll University, will analyze Pope Francis' recently published encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*.

**June 23:** Eileen Wilson, director of refugee ministries for Building Hope in the City, will describe services that assist Greater Cleveland's increasing refugee population.

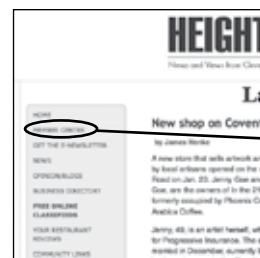
**June 30:** Jacquelyn Adams will describe her two-year experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania, which earned her Case Western Reserve University's 2015 Young Alumni Award.

## Observe!

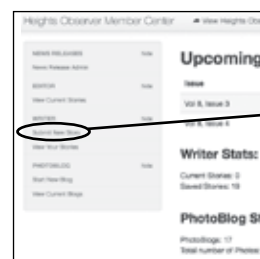
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3. After logging in, click the **Submit New Story** button in the left-hand column (Don't see it? It's nested under "Writer"). Then follow the prompts. Hint: keep your original file open so you can easily copy and paste into the text box.



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



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Two volunteers get ready to weed Coventry playground.

## Thank you to Coventry playground volunteers

Joanne Campbell

April 30 was the 45th biannual volunteer work day at the P.E.A.C.E. playground and gardens near the Coventry school building. The playground was built in October 1993 after three years of intense planning and fundraising by a group of dedicated Coventry Elementary School parents. Every spring and fall since 1994, a call goes out for volunteers, who repair equipment, and plant and maintain the gardens. Those who have time also "adopt" an area of the gardens to maintain on their own.

A big thanks to all who helped this spring: Urban Oak School staff, Harmonie Foster from NovaCare Rehabilitation, Roxboro Middle and Elementary school students, Heights High students, and parents of former Coventry Elementary School students. Scott Jackson of the Wood Trader provided tools and guidance for equipment repair, and Zoss the Swiss Baker, Phoenix Coffee, and Tommy's restaurant provided food.

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

## Hope Lutheran Church hosts day camp

Rev. Donald King

Hope Lutheran Church, at 2222 North Taylor Road, will host its 16th annual day camp for children who have completed any grade from kindergarten through sixth grade this current (2015-16) school year.

The camp runs from Monday, June 27, through Friday, July 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. most days.

"The Jesus Way" is this year's theme, as three trained counselors from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio will lead Bible study, discovery classes, singing, crafts and sports.

Each day will center on an aspect of Jesus' ministry, such as the feeding of the 5,000, forgiving the woman at the well, and washing his disciples' feet while instructing them to serve one another likewise.

There are no fees charged for the weeklong camp, as it is an annual outreach ministry of Hope Lutheran, but registration is required for each camper, along with medical and contact information.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on June 27, the first day of camp. Children are asked to bring their own lunch each day; afternoon snacks and drinks will be provided.



Campers meet for outdoor Bible discovery group with their counselor.

An informational flyer will be sent out three weeks prior to camp. To request a flyer, or for more information about this year's camp, call the church office at 216-371-5252.

During the week of camp, the church will sponsor the annual Hillcrest Band lawn concert and ice cream social, on Tuesday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. It will also host a cookout and program for campers and their families, safety visits from the Cleveland Heights Police and Fire departments, a water-sports day, and more.

*Rev. Donald King is pastor of Hope Lutheran Church and an active participant in the Heights InterFaith Community. He has served at Hope since 1999, and has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1985.*



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# Phairphax Spellerz win Reaching Heights 'Silver' Spelling Bee

Krista Hawthorne

The Phairphax Spellerz, representing Fairfax Elementary School, clinched the coveted plastic bee trophy in the ninth round of the 25th annual Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee on April 20.

Winning team members Kate Macleod, Julia Powell and Kirsten Parkinson correctly spelled the word “perovskite”—a mineral comprised of an oxide of calcium, titanium and rare earth elements. Honoring the 25th anniversary of this fundraising event, the “Silver Bee” included a visual history projected onscreen, silver-themed spelling words, and two costumed “silver bees” who shared silver-wrapped candies with contestants and audience members.

The competition started strong with a perfect first round in which every team spelled its first word correctly. All but two of the original 21 teams held on through round three—the Musical Round—in which teams could advance in spite of one incorrect, missing or extra letter, provided they sang the spelling of their word.

In rounds four and five, 11 teams misspelled their words and left the stage. Six more teams fell in rounds six and seven, and three final teams emerged: O.O.P.S. (Or-



Krista Hawthorne (left) presents the Reaching Heights Spelling Bee trophy to the Phairphax Spellerz: Julia Powell, Kirsten Parkinson and Kate Macleod.

chestral Orthographers Prognosticate Success), four-time winners, representing the Cleveland Orchestra; Rox Rocks!, representing Roxboro Elementary and Middle schools; and the Phairphax Spellerz, which ultimately triumphed, earning its first win.

Reaching Heights, a nonprofit that mobilizes community resources to support Heights public schools, acknowledged the work of two individuals who established the Bee as an annual event: Linda Logan, the first executive director of Reaching Heights, and Donalene Poduska, a co-chair of the

first Bee committee.

In its 25 years, the Bee has raised more than \$175,000, funding hundreds of school grants and programs, such as Many Villages Tutoring, role-model speakers in fifth-grade classrooms, and the Exceptional Children's Advocacy Group (ECAG).

Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun toy store, celebrated his 21st year as master of ceremonies; Nancy Levin, director of Heights Libraries, was the pronouncer; and Steve Titchenal, for the 23rd year, projected the words onscreen for the audience to see.

Tony Zupancic, retired Notre Dame College professor, served as a judge, as did Brian Williams, coordinator of alternative learning for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, and Talisa Dixon, superintendent of the school district.

Team sponsors included two groups of Jazzercisers; Coventry Merchants; Camp Roosevelt-Firebird; Heights High Alumni; and many individuals from Cleveland Heights and University Heights, including Nancy Dietrich, who celebrated her 24th year as a speller in the bee. Cleveland Heights City Council members; board of education members; Montlack Realty; Friends of the Heights Libraries; SS&D Foundation; Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Forest Hill Presbyterian Church; and the Noble Elementary School, Fairfax Elementary School and Roxboro PTAs all generously sponsored teams. Upper Case, the team representing Case Western Reserve University, was fundraising champion again this year, raising more than \$1,200.

For more information about Reaching Heights, visit [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org) or call 216-932-5110.

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

## Noble Presbyterian celebrates 25th annual strawberry festival on June 3

Judith Beeler

On Friday, June 3, 6–8 p.m., Noble Road Presbyterian Church (at the corner of Noble and Kirkwood roads), will host its 25th annual Strawberry Festival.

Celebrate the end of the school year by joining with neighbors and friends at this free event. Strawberry shortcake, ice cream, music—provided by local bluegrass group Squirrel Jam—and fellowship will be plentiful.

The festival will be held on the church lawn, weather permitting, or inside the church if it rains. Parking is available in the church lot, at the corner of Noble and Navaho roads. While there is no fee for attendance, donations for mission activities and programming will be accepted.



Joan Webster helps guests at a past Strawberry Festival.

*Judith Beeler, a member of Noble Road Presbyterian Church, has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1991.*

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# State honors Canterbury for student performance

Scott Wortman

For the second year in a row, the Ohio Department of Education has recognized Canterbury Elementary School as a High Progress School of Honor. Canterbury is one of only four schools in Ohio to be so designated.

The award is given to schools where more than 40 percent of students come from economically disadvantaged homes, yet show the highest gains in math and reading proficiency, based on 2014-15 Ohio Report Card data.

“We could not be more proud of the students, teachers and staff members at Canterbury for receiving this well-deserved recognition,” said Talisa Dixon, Cleveland Heights-University Heights superintendent. “This is a significant achievement that I hope our entire community will celebrate. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to serve the students in our community.”



Canterbury Elementary has been named a High Progress School of Honor.

To be a High Progress School of Honor, a school must:

- Be Title I eligible and serve 40 percent or more economically disadvantaged students.
- Have gains in its combined reading and math proficiency over the past five years that are in the top 10 percent of all statewide gains in proficiency.
- Have gains in its legacy graduation rate over the past five years that are in the top 10 percent of all statewide gains in graduation.
- Score an Ohio School Report Card grade of A, B or C on its

Annual Measurable Objective, to narrow performance gaps between student groups.

- Receive an A or B on student learning progress for the three most recent school years.

“This is a testament to the hard work our Canterbury team has done to ensure that every student in our school, regardless of background, is given a chance to succeed,” said Erica Wigton, Canterbury principal. “We are fortunate to have an engaged and supportive community and parents who set high expectations for our school. This recognition validates our students’ hard work and effort throughout the year.”

The Ohio Department of Education has sent Canterbury a “High Progress School of Honor” banner that will be displayed in the school.

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

## Fairfax alumni invited to June 3 centennial celebration

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Fairfax Elementary School will host a centennial celebration on Friday, June 3, to top off its year-long study of the past 100 years.

To commemorate the opening of the original school building in the fall of 1915, students and staff have focused on one decade each month of this school year. Morning announcements contain a historical fact; students dressed in costumes from their favorite decade for the Century Parade on Halloween; alumni have made classroom presentations; and each era’s music is played in the lunchroom on Music Mondays.

During the final weeks of school, every grade level will dive into one particular aspect of history, such as transportation or technological inventions, and prepare timelines, poster displays and oral presentations.

The community is invited to celebrate the students’ hard work on June 3, 2-3 p.m., in the gym. The school especially hopes that alumni and former teachers will attend this free event.

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District Communications Department, and is proud to raise her two sons in this community.*

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

APRIL 19, 2016

All board members were present.

### Elementary buildings assessment

Taylor Construction did an assessment of the elementary school buildings, and developed a 10-year plan. Although renovation is planned, existing problems must be addressed before they worsen. The earliest that elementary school renovation can start is 2022.

### High school building assessment

Clock tower renovations will cost \$260,000 more than the estimate provided. The estimate was based on replacing some wood, and painting. It now has been determined that the [historic] clock must be rebuilt. Board member Eric Silverman reminded the board that the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation would pay \$100,000, and is working on obtaining other large donations.

Silverman and Board Member James Posch are now on a committee to work with the construction companies.

### Middle school buildings assessment

Costs were presented for renovation and replacement of Roxboro and Monticello middle schools. Costs for buildings with a 550 or a 710 student capacity were compared. Both schools will have two gyms and an auditorium. Construction is scheduled to start in late summer of 2017.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

MAY 3, 2016

All board members were present.

### Staff reduction

Of the 52 positions cut in April, 12 have been reinstated and two have been added, an English coach and a science coach, bringing overall staff reduction to 38.

### Change orders

The board considered several change orders for the high school renovation.

The first change order, for \$280,470,

includes added cost to fully restore the clock tower using original design documents. This would be offset by Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation donations of \$100,000, and possibly another large donation.

A change order for \$84,492 is due to conditions of original steel requiring re-design and for additional landscaping required by the Cleveland Heights Architectural Board of Review and Board of Zoning Appeals. Silverman asked for a list of change order costs necessitated by city requirements.

A change order for \$244,414 dealt with soil conditions that could not accommodate the structures to be built around them, and with screen walls on the roof that were required by the city.

Another change order has to do with soil that does not have the weight-bearing capability as originally thought; some of it was used onsite for baseball fields, but the rest has to be removed at a cost of \$251,874.

The final change order for \$20,888 was for tree site work and netting for the baseball batting area, both of which had been removed from the plan to reduce costs. However, \$155,000 originally budgeted for moisture mitigation became available and, along with this change order, could cover the site work.

Contractors are already boring into the soil at Monticello and Roxboro middle schools to be sure that conditions are known before renovations begin there.

All change orders were approved for a total of \$882,138 this month, and discussion ensued. Steve Zannoni, senior project manager for the high school facilities project, explained that today’s construction standards require that contractors, engineers, designers and an independent testing agent each approve all aspects of a project, which often results in additional work and cost. The need for multiple approvals means that by the time a change order is presented to the board, sometimes the work has already been done. To avoid this, Posch and Silverman have begun meeting with contractors twice a week to



provide more current information to the board.

### Losses in state funding

Board Member Ron Register has been researching state funding for public education, specifically the siphoning of funds from public schools to private, parochial and charter schools despite the state’s obligation to provide adequate and equitable funding for public education. He stated that the CH-UH City School District has lost \$14.6 million to non-public schools in the past five years, and suggested invoicing the state for that amount as Berea, Twinsburg and several other area school districts have done. He said this is appropriate board advocacy for its students, and proposed convening a meeting of Eastside boards of education to mobilize against this problem. He asked the board for three actions: allowing him to draft a resolution to invoice the state for funds lost to community (charter) schools; collaborating with the Heights Coalition for Public Education regarding testing and school funding; and commissioning him to represent the district in working with other boards of education to address school funding and related concerns.

Silverman noted that much of the lost money is going to religious-based schools, which amounts to public support for religious institutions, a violation of separation of church and state. Posch noted that as state money lost to community schools could only be replaced with property taxes, fewer school levies would be needed if state education funds were not supporting non-public schools. Board members concurred that Register should proceed with his proposals.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

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



# University School senior is National Merit Scholar



Henry Shapard

Fiona Reilly

The National Merit Scholarship Program has announced that University School senior Henry Shapard, of Cleveland Heights, is a winner in its 2016 National Merit Scholarship

Competition. Shapard plans to attend Yale University, and study music and history.

Shapard, who started his University School education in kindergarten, is the recipient of the 2016 Phi Beta Kappa Award. He is a Davey Fellow, studying classical music criticism, and is student conductor of the University School Chamber Orchestra.

Outside of school, he is co-principal cellist with the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, and principal cellist with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

University School had four finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

*Fiona Reilly is University School's marketing and communications representative.*

## Gearity broadcasts the news



Fin Mouncey, first-grader and self-described "weather boy."

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Gearity Professional Development School has its own weather boy. That's right. He's Fin Mouncey, a first-grader, and he opens his daily forecast with: "Good morning. This is Fin and I'm still your weather boy."

Mouncey is not simply reading the morning announcements over a public address system, as is common in most elementary schools. Instead, he stands in front of a green board (a bright green sheet hanging in Principal Katrina Hicks' office) and points to invisible icons of the next day's projected high and low temperatures, while being filmed for his brief segment in what will become a two- to three-minute video newscast. (See the videos at [www.chub.org/morning-announcements.aspx](http://www.chub.org/morning-announcements.aspx).)

As part of Gearity's focus on digital literacy, Principal Hicks has students record news segments that are shown each morning on every classroom's SmartBoard.

She currently selects students from kindergarten through fifth grade to serve as reporters for one week. "This gives us a chance to learn what it might be like to be a real newsperson," said fourth-grader Sean Egbert, who added that such a job might interest him.

The video newscasts are one way that Gearity, a STEM school, is integrating technology into students' lives and introducing them to potential career options. The videos also provide an effective vehicle for capturing the attention and imagination of students.

"My classmates are much more likely to pay attention to these announcements than the old kind, because kids like watching TV better than just listening," said fifth-grader Nya Williams, who performed a short skit on social skills with third-grader Imani Harris for an April newscast.

Hicks agrees. "The students are so excited," she said. "And so are the adults. Everyone just loves it."

Hicks spends the middle part of each day pulling her reporters out of their lunch periods so they can record their segments. The video includes everything from the weather and lunch menu to daily news and a recitation of both the Tiger Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the segments are recorded on an iPad, Hicks edits them and adds backgrounds (an American flag for one pledge, a Tiger Nation symbol for the other), music and text. She hopes to have students take over that part soon, so they can learn the full range of skills required to produce a news broadcast.

"They are already learning so much," said Hicks, "from the importance of articulating when speaking publicly to the technology behind videography and editing. And I have more students wanting to participate than I have opportunities."

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry Elementary School teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH Communications Department. A version of this story appeared at [www.chub.org](http://www.chub.org).*

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# Fairfax Elementary students run special store

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

There's a new store in town. It's called the Tiger Mart Express, and, starting in February, Fairfax Elementary School students have been able to visit it in their lunchroom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, to purchase school supplies. Here's the thing that makes this shop special: it's managed and run by students in special-needs classes, many of whom have multiple physical handicaps.

The primary curricular focus for Fairfax's special education classrooms is "functional life skills." The students learn how to communicate with others, how to navigate their neighborhoods, and how to perform basic tasks, such as handling money, and

making and responding to requests.

The brainchild of speech language therapist Marilyn Gardner, the store enables students "to apply the skills learned in the classroom to a functional and real-life situation. Students will utilize math, reading, organizational and overall communication skills."

The student workers are excited about the new opportunity. Ja'Michael Dye said, "I like the store because we get to sell stuff. It was hard to count the money, but I was excited to have a job."

Third-grader Drew Fitzgerald, who communicates using an iPad, pointed to images of pennies, dimes and quarters, his enthusiasm obvious to all. With the help of his teacher, he typed out the words, "I help."

The shop has been well received by other students, who eagerly purchase fancy pencils, notebooks, scissors and other items.

The Fairfax PTA served as an investor in the project, supplying the initial supplies and \$8 worth of "seed money" to use in making change.

Leslie Kaplansky represented the Fairfax PTA in the initial planning meetings. She has long been responsible for stocking the PTA-run supply store and was excited to hand some of this task over to students. She frequently shops at Just-A-Buck in South Euclid, which hires adults with special needs and developmental disabilities. "How great would it be for our students to go there on a field trip to buy items for their very



Drew Fitzgerald, Major Lee Russell and Ja'Michael Dye (from left), at the Tiger Mart Express.

own store? Talk about coming full circle," said Kaplansky.

Valerie Joseph, who teaches third- through fifth-grade special-education students, sees the store as an opportunity for her students to interact with their peers. "This gives them the chance to talk to each other, learn each other's names and maybe even to work together, side-by-side, in the store."

The ultimate goal is to pair special-education students with regular-education students to run the store, so the teachers can be less involved. "We want the kids to be in charge of every aspect," said Joseph.

Fellow special education teacher Rochelle Snyder agrees, and noted, "Everything about our curriculum is hands-on. We are always trying to provide real-world scenarios for our students to increase their independence and this does just that."

She appreciates that operating the

store is an authentic, not role-playing, experience. "I always use real money in my classroom to remove one unnecessary step from the learning process," she explained.

Snyder also pointed out that interacting with other students serves to embed her students into the school culture. "We want them to be a true part of the student body," she said, "not something 'separate.'"

To engage the regular-education students, teachers organized a contest to name the new store. The final choice, Tiger Mart Express, combined several student suggestions.

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry Elementary School teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District Communications Department. A version of this story appeared at [www.chuh.org](http://www.chuh.org).*

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## Heights students win Stop the Hate awards



Dasha Garner, Kyree Hunt, Dayvionne Briggs, Datara White and Maurice Powers (from left), perform their winning song.

Joy Henderson

A Heights High senior English class and Henry Pentecost, a Roxboro Middle School eighth-grader, were among the winners in the Maltz Museum's annual Stop the Hate contest.

Donna Feldman's second-period senior English class won first place in Youth Sing Out, the songwriting portion of the competition.

Pentecost was a finalist and overall second-place winner in the

eighth-grade division of the competition's essay contest. He is a student in Zakiyyah Bergen's social studies class.

The high school students wrote and performed "Can Anybody Hear Me?" a song about institutional and individual hatred and racism, and won \$5,000 for anti-bias education at Heights High.

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



# Ohio Arts Council honors eight Heights artists

Lori Goldberg

On April 20, the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) honored eight Heights artists with its 2016 Individual Excellence Award. The awards, given to 75 Ohio artists chosen from 392 applicants, recognize artists for the exceptional merit of a body of their work that advances or exemplifies the discipline and the larger artistic community, and provide support to the artists' growth and development, recognizing their work in the state and beyond.

The artists were judged via an open-panel review by other professional artists, and on the merit of completed works. Each winner received a \$5,000 grant for "quality arts experiences that strengthen Ohio artistically, educationally and culturally," according to OAC's May 3 press release which announced the winners.

Awards are made in six categories: choreography, criticism, fiction/nonfiction, music composition, playwriting and poetry.

The eight Heights-resident winners are:

- George Bilgere (Cleveland Heights, poetry), an acclaimed poet who has been featured on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion." He hosts his own radio show, "Wordplay," on WJCU, the radio station of John Carroll University, where he teaches English.
- George Brant (Cleveland Heights, playwriting), a playwright whose work has been performed internationally. His play "Grounded" was performed last year at The Public Theater in New York City, starring Anne Hathaway and directed by Julie Taymor.
- Christine Howey (Cleveland Heights, playwriting), a theater critic for *Scene* magazine, and Cleveland Heights's current poet laureate. Her playwriting work explores her life and transition as a transgender woman.
- Philip Metres (University Heights, poetry), an English professor at

John Carroll University who has published numerous works of poetry. He also translates contemporary Russian poetry, and has received two Arab American Book Awards, as well as a Cleveland Arts Prize.

- Caryl Pagel (Cleveland Heights, fiction/nonfiction), director of the Cleveland State University Poetry Center, and the author of two collections of poetry.
- Toni Thayer (Cleveland Heights, playwriting), a playwright and English teacher at Hathaway Brown School. She received the award for her play "Floating Dolls," produced at Talespinner Children's Theatre in Cleveland in 2014. Dobama Theatre produced Thayer's first writings for the stage.
- David Todd (University Heights, playwriting), artistic director of

Playwrights Local 4181, a playwrights' development and production center that supports dramatists in Northeast Ohio. His plays have been produced internationally, and he has published a nonfiction book.

- Sarah Willis (Cleveland Heights, fiction/nonfiction), a poet and short story writer who grew up in Cleveland Heights and is the recipient of a Cleveland Arts Prize.

Commenting on her award, Thayer said, "I am thrilled to be on the same list with so many amazing writers."

*Lori Goldberg is an intern at the Heights Observer. Though a senior at Shaker Heights High School, Cleveland Heights is like a second home to her. She hopes to continue writing, professionally or not, for the rest of her life.*

## Heights Arts celebrates glass artists



A work in glass by Brent Kee Young.

Greg Donley

The Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) has been instrumental in the careers of many visual artists and designers who make their careers through their work. They can be found making creative contributions throughout the country. Among them is a cadre of artists working in glass based here in Northeast Ohio, including Carrie Battista, Robert Coby, Scott Goss, Earl O. James, Brent Marshall, Shawn Messenger, Michael Mikula, Marc Petrovic, Kari Russell-Pool, Mark Sudduth and Linda Zmina.

*Refraction: Glass Art through the Cleveland Institute of Art and Brent Kee Young*, which opens on June 10, at Heights Arts, gathers works by these artists who studied at CIA during Brent Kee Young's tenure as professor and head of the glass department. The word "refraction" is loosely defined as "the change in direction of a propagating wave, such as light or sound, in passing from one medium to another." In this exhibition, refraction is a metaphor for how these artists have been illuminated and influenced by their

study at CIA, as seen in their ensuing creative efforts.

"Having retired from teaching duties for a couple of years now, I find it particularly satisfying to see the number of artists working in glass growing in this region," noted Young, a Cleveland Heights resident. "It is testament to the nature of CIA and organizations like Heights Arts that are a part of a greater artistic community that has evolved here. It truly is a great place to live and be . . . artists working in glass."

Goss said, "The strong foundation Brent builds within his students is evident in the many nationally and internationally known glass artists that have graduated from his program over the last 35-plus years. His genuineness as a mentor created an environment in the glass department where each student felt respected, by both him and their fellow students."

The community is invited to the opening reception on Friday, June 10, 6-9 p.m. A related gallery talk, Ekphrastacy: Artists Talk + Poets Respond, offers an opportunity to hear both glass artists and local poets speak about the exhibition's works on Thursday, July 7, 7 p.m. *Refraction* is on view through July 30. Recent graphite drawings by Cleveland Heights artist Linda Ayala are on view in the spotlight gallery space—dedicated to Heights Arts members—through June 18.

For more information on community arts programs, exhibitions, and its art and gift shop, call Heights Arts at 216-371-3457 or visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org).

*Greg Donley is president of the Heights Arts board of directors.*

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# Alan Freed honored at Lake View Cemetery

James Henke

More than 500 people turned out at Lake View Cemetery on May 7, to honor and celebrate the life of legendary deejay Alan Freed, the man who coined the term "rock and roll" and who produced the nation's first rock concert, back in 1952. Freed's ashes were interred at the cemetery.

Another legendary deejay and rock historian, Norm N. Nite, served as the emcee of the ceremony. "Alan Freed and rock and roll are synonymous," Nite said in his opening comments. "Alan Freed changed the course of popular music."

Freed began working at WJW-TV in Cleveland, after a couple of radio jobs in other cities. In 1951, Freed met Leo Mintz, who owned a Cleveland record store called Record Rendezvous. Mintz sold a lot of rhythm & blues records at his store and introduced Freed to the music. He also helped Freed get a job at WJW radio, where he became a popular Cleveland radio personality.

In 1952, Freed put together a concert at the Cleveland Arena called the Moondog Coronation Ball, which is now considered the first rock concert ever.



Steve Van Zandt spoke to the crowd about Alan Freed's impact on music

Freed died of kidney failure at the age of 43, in 1965. Originally, he was buried at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, N.Y. In 2002, his ashes were moved to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, where they were part of an exhibit until August 2014, when Greg Harris took over as the Rock Hall's president and CEO. Harris called Freed's son, Lance Freed, and asked that the ashes be removed from the museum.

"We decided that he should permanently come back home to Cleveland, where it all began," Lance Freed said. "We thought historic and beautiful Lake View Cemetery was the right place to go, the right location for his final resting place. Our desire was to create a small public area and compelling monument where he will rest for eternity and be available for generations to come."

Nite read proclamations from Ohio Governor John Kasich and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, who both praised all that Freed accomplished over the course of his

career. State Senator Kenny Yuko read a proclamation from the state of Ohio, and spoke about the impact rock and roll had on combating racism in this country. "Alan had a commitment to the exposure of this music, regardless of the color of the artists' skin."

Steve Van Zandt, who plays in Bruce Springsteen's band, talked about Freed's history in rock and roll and the impact he had on the music. "This site is a monument to Alan and to the rock era," Van Zandt said. "Now there's a place where all of us and all of the future generations can come to, so that we can say hello and goodbye." Terry Stewart, a former president and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, said, "Freed was special. He had drive, passion and a vision."

The celebration included music, with performances by the Drifters, who, like Freed, are Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, and Jimmy Clanton, another American singer who became famous in the late 1950s.

Two of Freed's children, Lance Freed and Siegie Freed, also spoke during the ceremony. After the music and the speeches were completed, a monument dedicated to Freed's life was unveiled.

Kathy Goss, the president and CEO of the cemetery, gave a brief talk about its history. When it opened in 1869, it was one of the first rural garden cemeteries in the country. "We could not be more honored to have Alan Freed here," she said.

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

## Western Reserve Chorale performs operas and operettas on June 5

David Gilson

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC), a community chorus of approximately 100 singers based in Cleveland Heights, will present the final concert of its 2015-16 season. *Of Operas and Operettas* provides an opportunity to hear some of the dynamic literature from these genres.

Accompanied by Joanne Poderis, and joined by soprano Natasha Ospina Simmons, WRC will present music from Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, *Aida* and *Nabucco*, Wagner's *Lobengrin* and *Tannhauser*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Bizet's *Carmen* and others. The ensemble also will present some lighter fare from the world of operettas, including great chorus moments composed by Bernstein, Gilbert & Sullivan and Strauss.

The concert will take place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 5, at Cedar

Hill Baptist Church, 12601 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. No tickets are necessary; the concert is open to the public with free-will donations accepted. There is ample free parking available, and the church is handicapped-accessible. There will be a reception immediately following the concert.

The WRC invites any singers who are interested to consider singing with the group in the future. Rehearsals are held at Disciples Christian Church in Cleveland Heights on Tuesday evenings. WRC welcomes new members to join for next year's 25th anniversary season, beginning in September. Information on the organization is available by calling 216-791-0061 or visiting [www.westernreservechorale.org](http://www.westernreservechorale.org).

*David Gilson, WRC's artistic director, resides in Cleveland Heights with his wife, Suzanne, and twin daughters Hannah and Sophie.*



# Larchmere PorchFest returns on June 18



Festival-goers enjoy live music at the 2015 Larchmere Porchfest.

COURTESY LARCHMERE PORCHFEST

Andrea C. Turner

Summertime is festival season, and the Heights is no stranger to presenting free live music festivals that draw people to our communities. Now in its eighth year, Larchmere PorchFest kicks off on Saturday, June 18, 1–10 p.m., including its afterparties. This free, family-friendly event boasts 30 bands on 30 porches throughout Cleveland's Larchmere neighborhood.

PorchFest, the Heights Music Hop and Brite Winter Festival have developed into a trifecta of popular local music festivals. Last year, organizers of each partnered, enhancing Cleveland's cultural scene, while simultaneously benefiting the individual communities.

"Sharing our resources is a great way for all of the festivals in Cleveland to grow and thrive," said Jesse Honsky, president of the board for PorchFest.

This year's PorchFest headliners include one of the most recognized Latin bandleaders in Northern Ohio, Sammy de León y su Orquesta. De León, who plays the

timbales, has played with the most internationally recognized artists of the Latin jazz genre, including Tito Puente.

The other headliner is Heights-based newgrass band Honeybucket, winner of *Scene* magazine's Best Band 2016.

Heights resident and local music advocate Michael Kinsella, bassist for the band Oldboy, is a PorchFest board member and is co-chair of its music selection committee, along with Josh Gerken. Kinsella, who has been involved on the planning committees of all three music festivals, said this of PorchFest: "We are now in a position to be more selective about the bands, being more proactive about which bands to feature."

"There's no reason for these festivals to compete, since each takes place in a different season and each has a slightly different vibe," said Kinsella. PorchFest features folk and world music; Brite Winter books more "indie" bands; and the Heights Music Hop has an eclectic mix of rock, singer-songwriters, classical, bluegrass and more. "We

share bands and resources," said Kinsella, "giving people what they want—to hear live original music—while building a sense of local pride."

This year's PorchFest sponsors include Heights-based nonprofits and small businesses: Future-Heights, presenter of the Heights Music Hop; the Grog Shop; The Wine Spot; the Home Repair Resource Center; and WJCU, John Carroll University's radio station. Each sponsors a porch where musicians perform. People can "camp out" on neighborhood front lawns for 30–40 minutes at a time; music lovers are encouraged to bring chairs or a blanket to sit on.

Elégie, a Heights-based quartet, will perform R&B, jazz, rock, folk and electronic selections. Its members are all Heights High graduates.

Because of its continued growth and success, the 4th annual Heights Music Hop will include two festival events on the same weekend. On Friday, Sept. 23, Nighttown and other venues in the Cedar Fairmount Business District will host musical acts; and on Saturday, Sept. 24, Cedar Lee will host the traditional streetwide festival throughout its business district.

The third festival, Brite Winter, returned to its roots on the West Bank of the Flats this past February.

The full PorchFest band lineup will be announced soon at [www.larchmereporchfest.org](http://www.larchmereporchfest.org).

*Andrea C. Turner is the Heights Observer's managing editor.*

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## Canterra Musica performs June 5



Canterra Musica

COURTESY LORETTA DAHLSTROM

Loretta Dahlstrom

Arts in the Cathedral presents Canterra Musica at Church of the Saviour on Sunday, June 5, at 3:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken.

Canterra Musica is the most advanced treble choir of the Oberlin Choristers. Founded in 1991, Oberlin Choristers provides Northeast Ohio children and teenagers with an exceptional choral education. Singers in kindergarten through 12th grade are taught in five separate ensembles by master teachers who specialize in teaching healthy vocal production, music literacy and artistic expression.

Canterra Musica, comprising auditioned singers in seventh- to 12th-grades, has traveled each year since

1995, singing in world-class venues, including the Sydney Opera House, Australia; St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland; Chartres Cathedral, France; and Carnegie Hall, New York. The singers have participated in numerous festivals, honor choirs, and community events in collaboration with Oberlin College Opera Theatre, Cleveland Opera, Oberlin Summer Theatre Festival, and, most recently, as the guest choir for the world tour of *Video Games Live*. This summer the choir will perform in Philadelphia, Princeton, and Carnegie Hall. To find out more, visit [www.ochoristers.org](http://www.ochoristers.org).

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

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**BORN IN THE HEIGHTS KNOWS ALL THE HEIGHTS LIVES IN THE HEIGHTS**



# Dobama announces winners of kids' playwriting festival

Owen Schneider

Dobama Theatre has announced the winners of the 38th Annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival. Five of the winners are from Cleveland Heights: Ruby Tugeau (for "The Circus Pilot"), Harrison Vandall (for "Attack of the Village"), Anthony Koonce (for "The Tragedy of Nisslo's Diner"), Jon Morrow Jr. (for "The Chase"), and Maple Buescher (for "I'm Going to Steal The Queen's Crown").

Other winning entries came from students in Cleveland, Shaker Heights, Highland Heights, Bedford, Lakewood, Solon and North Royalton, among other cities.

The winning plays will be performed at Dobama Theatre June 3-5,

during a free weekend of theater for all.

Dedicated to the memory of Marilyn Bianchi, Dobama's founder, the Kids' Festival was created in 1979 to help Cleveland-area children discover their own voice, self-worth, and creativity through theater. Following Bianchi's death, her family established the festival as a way of introducing young people to the joys and rewards of live theater.

According to Jonathan Wilhelm, producer of the Kids' Fest, "Everybody who didn't win [will receive] a certificate affirming that they wrote a play. We encourage every kid to write."

A panel of judges selected the winning plays, submitted by Cuyahoga County students in grades one through 12. Plays were scored on creativity, writing and structure.

"Writers receive feedback through the process of bringing their plays to life onstage while working with a director. Along the way, the director may tweak the play with the help of the playwright," said Wilhelm.

The winning playwrights also have the opportunity to be involved in the production. They learn the process of producing a play as well as ensuring that their play is recreated onstage as they envisioned it.

"The playwright is encouraged to attend a minimum of two rehearsals. They have open communication with the director. This is as close to the real

process of producing a play as it can get for them," said Wilhelm.

The opening night benefit is Friday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m.; and tickets are \$25. The rest of the weekend is free: Saturday, June 4, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, June 5, at 2:30 p.m.

For more information about the festival and to purchase tickets, visit [www.dobama.org](http://www.dobama.org) or call 216-932-3396. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road, in Cleveland Heights.

*Owen Schneider is a communications intern at Dobama Theatre.*

## Spring show features Heights artists

Adrian Hardin

The work of Cleveland Heights and University Heights artists will be part of Hillcrest Art Club's annual spring show, June 5-30.

The show will take place at the Beachwood Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd., and features an opening reception on Sunday, June 5, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, and visitors will have a chance to meet the artists.

CH and UH Hillcrest Art Club members include Deloris Jacksonbey, Marilyn S. Bentley and Roslyn S. Collins. The club (formerly Hillcrest Art Guild) was established in 1960 to

encourage the development and enjoyment of art. With approximately 25 members, the club maintains an active schedule of monthly demonstrations and educational meetings. Members include amateur and professional artists from Greater Cleveland.

New members are welcome. For more information, send an e-mail to [adeespaces@yahoo.com](mailto:adeespaces@yahoo.com).

*Adrian Hardin, a 33-year University Heights resident and retired elementary school science teacher, is a member of the Hillcrest Art Club. Her work is included in the spring show.*

## 'To the Orchard' premieres at Dobama

Tom Hayes

Playwrights Local 4181 announces the world premiere of Cleveland-based writer Les Hunter's "To the Orchard." Directed by Dale Heinen, the play runs through June 5 at Waterloo Arts in North Collinwood, and from June 10-12 at Dobama Theatre. This is the first full production for Playwrights Local, a 501(c)3 company whose recent presentations have included the 2015 Cleveland Playwrights Festival.

In "To the Orchard," college student Rachel Bergman reveals her sexual identity to her Orthodox Jewish father, who is struggling with his own secret. In coming to terms with each other—and themselves—the pair must reconcile the conflicting pulls of tradition and individual desire. The play takes place in Brooklyn in the recent past, but incorporates dreamlike visits to turn-of-the-century England and the lost Jewish Eastern Europe. The spirits of Robert Plant and Virginia Woolf add a touch of magic realism to this intimate work about making mistakes, coming clean, and the power of history and family.

"[The play] examines contemporary issues, but within the context of timeless concerns," said David Todd, artistic director of Playwrights Local. "It also balances a compelling narrative with moments of heightened theatricality. It sends a strong message for our company, which is that we're interested in exposing Cleveland audiences to a very up-to-date style

of playwriting as practiced locally."

Prior to this world premiere, "To the Orchard" received a grant from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. June performances are June 3-5 at the Creative Space at Waterloo Arts (397 E. 156th Street, Cleveland), and June 10-12 at Dobama Theatre (2340 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights). Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$10 for students. For more information, visit [www.playwrightslocal.org](http://www.playwrightslocal.org).

Playwrights Local 4181 is a new theater company located in Cleveland. Billed as a playwrights' center, the organization's goal is to provide a home base for dramatic writing in Northeast Ohio. Playwrights Local offers classes and workshops, produces original plays, provides professional development opportunities, and engages the community through site-specific projects.

*Tom Hayes is the managing director of Playwrights Local 4181, the only theater in the Cleveland area devoted to locally written works.*

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# There goes the neighborhood—again



## SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

A few tattoo parlors have popped up in Cleveland Heights in the past year or so. And I've been hearing more and more people complaining about them. People around my age. But I'm not one of them, for a few reasons.

The first one is that it doesn't matter to me, because, you know—who cares? Why should I, or you, care? If someone—someone who is not you—gets a tattoo, it doesn't hurt you or do you any harm.

Second, getting tattoos is a big fad right now; people of all ages are getting them. And, I need to add, people of all races are getting them—because I know that's a concern of many old white people. I've heard and overheard conversations about that. But white people are getting tattoos, too, in at least equal numbers—so don't worry that your neighborhood will change in ways that you would rather it didn't.

Third, done by a good tattoo artist, tattoos can be works of art. If you'd prefer to see works of art applied to paper or canvas or wood, you can go to a museum or gallery. The fad may fade (if not the tattoos

themselves). But there's no need to worry about it, either way. There are bigger concerns in the world today. Much bigger.

Fourth, the 1960s. That's my main reason. Because exactly 50 years ago, June 1966, I was one of those hippie kids hanging out on Coventry Road, in what has since become known as Coventry Village—because we hippie kids, who were disparaged and despised at the time, turned the area into enough of a tourist attraction that it needed a name, like “Coventry Village.” If you've ever wondered why the city does not allow overnight parking on the streets of Cleveland Heights, it's because it was one of the ways they tried to get rid of us—by discouraging overnight staying, including partying and sleeping, at each other's places (even though the hippie population had, by far, the lowest percentage of cars).

The stage was set for the Coventry revolution in 1964, when Morrie and Sandra Leeds opened an antiques shop called 1864, at 1864 Coventry. They found an antique soda fountain and installed it permanently in the store. Then they started serving egg creams at that counter. Then they introduced Sunday-afternoon hootenannies. That's the short version, but despite what anyone else may theorize and tell you, this is how it all started. I was there.

So hippies and older beatniks started hanging out on Coventry, and one-by-one all of the old Jewish delis, butcher shops, fish markets and bakeries—and a furrier and a couple of places that were obviously fronts for something (like the mysterious Henry's “toy” store, that contained no toys of any kind and every time kids walked in they were shooed away by these two big mean guys)—moved out, to be replaced by hippie shops. To be clear, these hippie shops were not shops that sold hippies; they were stores that catered to hippies' needs, like groovy clothes, “head” shop supplies, records, incense, and things like that.

In a couple of years, most of them were supplanted by more-upscale versions of those kinds of stores, but for a while it was pretty purely a hippie paradise (other than the constant harassment by police and pretty much anyone over the age of something older than we were). Other than our general outlook on life and our attitude about life and living, which were not visible, the way people knew we were hippies was by looking at us and observing the way we dressed and wore our hair—which were visible. People actually yelled at us because of the way we looked. They swore at us. Some tried to spit on us and hit us. Because of the way we looked—and whatever they thought that meant.

And when those original hippie



The author, on Coventry, in the 1970s

shops opened, many of the older residents in the area complained that the neighborhood was going to hell.

We didn't have tattoos. We had long hair (you know . . . a few years before the people who spat on us because of our long hair grew their own hair long because it became fashionable). I've never gotten a tattoo, and I don't really like the way they look. But I'm never going to complain about them, or about the places you go to get them, or about those places moving into my neighborhood. My memory is intact and I'm just not going to do that.

*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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# UH resident founds website for women without children

James Henke

A large percentage of women in the United States and around the world are not having children, either by choice or because of circumstances beyond their control. In 2013, *Time* magazine ran a cover story about the changing demographic among women. According to the 2014 U.S. census, 47.6 percent of American women between the ages of 15 and 44 did not have children.

To address the needs and concerns of childless women, University Heights resident Karen Malone Wright started TheNotMom website. It gets more than 10,000 visits and 35,000 page views each month. This October, she'll host

TheNotMom's second international conference at the new Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel.

"Mothers still represent the majority of women, even with a rise of women without children," Wright said. "So for us, 'I'm not a mom' is a common self-descriptor. At the conference, these women enjoy the opportunity to come together and acknowledge the shared aspects of their lives."

Wright, who got married in 1993, said she probably wanted to have kids more than her husband did. In 1997, at age 41, Wright was diagnosed with diabetes. She said she realized she was never going to have children, because her age and her health both became issues.

In February 2000, Wright decided to start her own business, Odyssey Creative Communications. Around the same time, social media started gaining in popularity. "I fell in love with it," Wright said of social media. In 2009, she attended the Blogger Conference. "There were about 3,000 women there, and we really discussed all aspects of social media," she said. Two years later, she attended the South by Southwest Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas, and afterward decided to start her own blog about women without children on Tumblr.com.

"I started hearing from so many people who were saying, 'Oh, I am so glad I found you,'" Wright said.

In May 2012, Wright won a \$5,000 award from Bad Girl Ventures, a business-development program for entrepreneurial women. She used the money to start her own website, [www.thenotmom.com](http://www.thenotmom.com).

Wright, now 60, grew up in Shaker Heights and graduated from Shaker Heights High School. She majored in print journalism at American University in Washington, D.C., and remained there after graduation. She worked at a magazine before moving on to television, where she held several public relations positions in D.C. and Detroit. In 1985, Wright returned to Cleveland to become WKYC-TV's public relations director. She remained at WKYC until 1992, when she took a post as public relations director at St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

Wright's first TheNotMom



Karen Malone Wright

conference, held last year in Cleveland, drew more than 100 women from 17 states and five countries. "The conference was so great, and I am so glad I started it in Cleveland," Wright said. "Women without kids have the time and money to check out restaurants and do other things that mothers can't do."

The theme of this year's conference is Redefining Feminine Legacy, and the keynote speaker will be Jody Day, a psychotherapist who founded Gateway Women, a global support network that reaches about 2 million women who are childless by chance, not choice.

*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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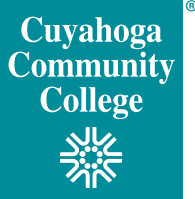
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## Coventry lines up Summer Series

Angela Hetrick

The Coventry Village Summer Series returns with a packed schedule of free weekly fun, including outdoor movies and yoga classes, live music, special events and community drum circles.

The series kicks off on Saturday, June 4, with Free Bike Tune-Up Day in Pekar Park Courtyard, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hirobel, a Cleveland Heights company producing high-performance bicycle components, will offer free bike inspections and repairs. All donations from the event will benefit the Heights Bicycle Coalition. Bring your bicycle early, as this event is first-come, first-served.

The Coventry Village Sidewalk Sale and Pop-Up Pinball Party will be held on Saturday, June 25, noon to 5 p.m. Stroll through the neighborhood and enjoy great deals, as well as free-to-play pinball machines on the sidewalks. Pinball wizards from the Cleveland Pinball League will provide playing tips and award prizes. During the event, those 18 and older can step into the Coventry Cash Cube, a blowing machine filled with Coventry Cash, to be used at participating Coventry merchants on June 25. The day will also feature live music and a beer garden.

Comic book fans should mark

their calendars for Saturday, July 9, noon to 5 p.m. The Pekar Park Comic Book Fest is back, with vendors and artists showcasing and selling their work in Pekar Park. The day will end with a storytelling event hosted by Keep Talking, Story Club Cleveland and Lake Erie Ink, in Pekar Park at 6 p.m. and at the Grog Shop at 7 p.m. The story theme and information on how to submit a story for consideration can be found at [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org).

On Saturday, Aug. 6, the force will be strong for Coventry Village Star Wars Tribute Day, featuring a special showing of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"; a mobile video-game truck featuring Star Wars games; a concert by Classical Revolution Cleveland, performing original arrangements of Star Wars music; sky-watching with astronomers; costume contests and more. After the movie, those 21 and older can join BarWars, a Star Wars-themed bar crawl through Coventry Village.

All Summer Series events are free, open to the public and weather-permitting. For a full schedule and details, visit [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org).

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



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# New restaurant to feature authentic Greek and Indian flavors

James Henke

Eustathea Kavouras, owner of Greedy Girl Ethnic Street Flavors, a new restaurant specializing in Greek and Indian street food, is working toward a summer opening at 2158 Taylor Road, next to Mister Brisket.

This is Kavouras’ first foray into the food business. For the past 22 years, Kavouras, 60, has been a physician assistant at various area hospitals. But, she said, she has always wanted to own a restaurant: “It’s been a dream of mine since I was 12 years old. I have been cooking all of these years, and I decided it was time to do it.”

“I was raised Greek, and I began cooking Greek delicacies with my mother and grandmother when I was 4,” Kavouras explained. “Then I spent time with an Indian family, and my adopted culture is Indian. I visited India several times, primarily learning how to cook their foods.”

“I wanted to bring the foods I love to my hometown of Cleveland,” Kavouras said. “This means more than anything to me. The food at Greedy Girl is deeply rooted in two ancient cultures that value the depth of flavors. I believe my food will be well-received by those looking for authentic ethnic food that isn’t frozen, microwaved or processed.”



Eustathea Kavouras in her home kitchen.

Kavouras said that “street food” refers to foods that are easy to eat on the go. Greedy Girl will serve breakfast and lunch, but not dinner. The restaurant will open at around 6:30 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. The restaurant will feature counter service, where customers will

order food at the counter, and take it to go, or sit down at a table and eat in the restaurant.

Greedy Girl’s breakfast menu will include Indian- and Greek-flavored omelet rolls, which Kavouras said are “not traditional omelets.” It will also include Greek spinach pies and potato crepes with Indian spices.

The restaurant’s lunch menu will include rolled sandwiches with lamb and chicken, and traditional Greek dishes, such as stuffed grape leaves and Greek salads. Kavouras stressed that Greedy Girl will serve authentic Greek food, not food that

is a mixture of Greek and other middle-eastern dishes. “We will not have gyros and such,” she said. “We will have a meat sandwich that has gyro spices.”

In addition, the restaurant will offer traditional Greek desserts, including pecan-salted chocolate

chip cookies, and on weekends Kavouras will serve Greek donuts.

Kavouras was born in Cleveland’s near west side, where she grew up. She has lived in Cleveland Heights on and off since 1995, and will soon be moving to the city’s Cedar Lee neighborhood.

Kavouras said that family members came up with the name Greedy Girl. She has so far raised more than \$44,000 to open the restaurant. The money was needed to renovate the space and buy all of the kitchen equipment. She is still trying to raise money on a website called Indiegogo. “It takes a village to undertake something like this,” she said.

She is confident that the restaurant will be a success. “I think that Clevelanders who like ethnic foods will flock here,” Kavouras said. “No other restaurant in this area has served the kind of food I will be serving,” she said. “It really is a Cleveland first.”

*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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