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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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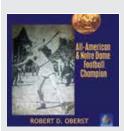
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INSIDE



Cleveland Heights hires economic development



17 Longtime CH resident remembers his father and other early **Olympians**



Artful to open studio space in Coventry Village



Cedar Lee meter parking is free Sept. 23, 24 and 25

Washington Blvd. #105 and Heights, OH 44118 Heights

Heights Music Hop returns Sept. 23 & 24

Daniel Budin

The Heights will be hopping again this fall, Sept. 23 and 24, as the Heights Music Hop returns—bigger and better than ever. This fourth-annual festival, presented by FutureHeights, has become one of the region's premier events, featuring live music, art, food, local merchants and a showcase of Cleveland Heights business districts. Nearly 70 musical acts are expected to perform during the free festival.

For the first time, the Hop will run for two days instead of just one, and will move beyond the Cedar Lee Business District. On Friday, Sept. 23, the live music festival will kick off at 5 p.m. in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, and then move to Cedar Lee on Saturday, Sept. 24, where performances will begin at 3 p.m.

Throughout the Hop, Future-Heights will hold a chance raffle.



Local band oldboy plays to a standing-room-only crowd at The Wine Spot at last year's Heights

Friday night's performances at venues throughout Cedar Fairmount will culminate with a special benefit concert and party at Nighttown, 9-11:30 p.m. "FutureHop: a Benefit Party for FutureHeights" will feature an exclusive performance by Sammy DeLeon y su Orquesta, a regional favorite for Latin jazz and lively dancing, and a silent auction. Individual tickets, \$40 each, include light appetizers

and a cash bar in the dancing room. A VIP package, \$320, includes a table and tickets for four, light appetizers and a bottle of wine. To purchase FutureHop event or raffle tickets, visit www. futureheights.org or call 216-320-1423. The only ticketed event of the otherwise free festival, this benefit party will provide vital funding for FutureHeights and the Heights Music

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Tavern Company's owner buys Brennan's

James Henke

Brennan's Colony, a Cleveland Heights institution, closed on Saturday, Aug. 6. Chris Armington, owner of The Tavern Company, and a former employee of Brennan's Colony, purchased the restaurant and bar, which had occupied the corner of Lee and Silsby roads for close to a century.

The Tavern Company, also located on Lee Road, closed up shop at the end of service on Sunday, Aug. 7, and then moved across the street and down the road to the former Brennan's space.

Two days later, on Aug. 9, The Tavern Company's bar was open for business in its new location and, after a limited food service on Aug. 11, it officially resumed serving food on Aug. 12. "We had six guys working for three days to clean and scrub the kitchen before we started serving food," said Armington.

Kathy Murphy, the president of Brennan's Colony Inc., said of the



The interior of Brennan's Colony, which closed on Aug. 6, and has now reopened as The Tayern

sale, "It's all come full circle."

"Jim always thought highly of Chris," said Murphy, the longtime girlfriend of Jim Brennan. Brennan bought the Colony in 1991 and continued on page 4

Neighborhood Mini-Grants projects are underway in CH

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights launched its Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program last fall and has approved almost \$7,000 in grants to support eight neighborhood-based projects in Cleveland Heights. Through the program, FutureHeights seeks to help Cleveland Heights neighborhoods leverage their many assets and provide tools to enable neighborhood leaders to work together on creative solutions to the challenges that face the community.

This fall, keep your eyes open for some projects that you'll see around town:

Public art

RAFT Coexist was built and launched in August. The project's 12' x 8' wooden platform was created to provide a space for people to build community and be present in the moment, to coexist in nature in a harmonious and comfortable way. RAFT is installed at the corner of Bellfield Avenue, West St. James Parkway and North Park Boulevard, and will be at this location on a semi-permanent basis for at least one year.

Cedar Taylor Development Association (CTDA) and neighborhood residents sought funding for its public art project, which aims to bring vibrancy and interconnectedness to the Cedar Taylor Business District through a public art installation. CTDA has selected an artist, and is aiming to have the art piece installed early this fall.

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HCC celebrates a century of Heights homes with annual tour

Pam Wetherill

It's the Roaring '20s-World War 1 is over, women have the vote, jazz is king, and the Harlem Renaissance is in full swing. . . . Heights Community Congress (HCC) invites everyone to come along and enjoy a taste of the Jazz Age as it presents "Heights, Homes . . . and All That Jazz!" on Sept. 17 and 18.

The 2016 Heritage Home & Garden Tour and preview party pay homage to the 1920s and the century that followed, and continue HCC's fall tradition of sponsoring a look



A 1920s Fairmount Boulevard home.

inside many of Cleveland Heights's most spectacular homes and gardens.

This year's tour showcases seven homes, three of which also feature gardens, and one stand-alone garden. Celebrating Heights Libraries'

centennial, and honoring the Heights Observer, HCC kicks off this year's tour with a preview party on Saturday, Sept. 17, 6:30-11 p.m., at Ensemble Theatre, 2843 Washington Blvd. (in the Coventry School building).

Party guests are encouraged to dress the part, dust off their beads and feathers, and channel their inner Jay Gatsby or Daisy Buchanan as they enjoy live jazz performed by the Summit City Jazz Quintet. They'll also get to mix and mingle with actors from

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Letters Policy

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

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About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zagara's thanks the community for its support after power outage

To the Editor:

Thank you to those who helped organize this unforgettable day. Thank you to everyone who visited, shopped and offered hugs and good luck wishes to me, my family and my employees. Thank you to my employees who work hard every day to make sure Zagara's Marketplace serves our community as best it can.

Zagara's Marketplace experienced an unforgettable day on Saturday, Aug. 20. The sun shone bright. Customers smiled wide. Big hugs were offered. Hearty handshakes were given. And a few tears welled up in some eyes, including mine.

The day contrasted sharply to a previous day when I watched employees work hard in the afternoon sun tossing container after container of food into two 20-yard dumpsters, trashing nearly 200 carts of spoiled product.

I never thought I'd need or want to see a cash mob at Zagara's. But that day came and I offer thanks, from the bottom of my heart.

John Zagara President Zagara's Marketplace

Voting yes for the CH-UH school levy makes 'cents'

To the Editor:

In November, there will be a levy on the ballot for Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools. As opposed to the school levy passed in 2013, which can only be used for renovations, this levy is only for school operations.

It is a fair question to ask why the CH-UH Board [of Education] periodically turns to voters asking for more money for our schools' operating expenses. In 1976, HB 920 was passed in Ohio. Under this law, the dollar amount of taxes collected by a school district can only increase with the passage of a levy. When a levy passes, the dollar amount (NOT the tax rate) is frozen until a new levy is approved.

As annoying as it might be for taxpayers to see levies on the ballot every few years, there is good news here for household budgets: The Federal Reserve has set a target inflation rate at 2 percent. If taxes were to annually go up at this rate, in 2019 taxpayers would pay 6 percent more than they do now. If the school levy passes in November, taxes will go up by 5 percent in the first year, and then be flat for the next two years.

I encourage people to vote "Yes" for the school levy this November. It makes "cents" for everyone's budget!

Marcie Denton Cleveland Heights



Volunteers enjoy special perks at the Heights Music Hop, including a free Hop T-shirt. To volunteer, sign up at www.heightsmusichop.com.

MUSIC HOP continued from page 1

Hop.

Heights Music Hop performers include regional favorites Honeybucket, Marcus Alan Ward, By Light We Loom, oldboy, Move, Charlie Mosbrook, Teddy Boys, Walker OG, Corey Grand, George Foley, Morgan Mecaskey, Joey Aich, and Common Ave.

"By expanding the Hop's footprint to multiple business districts this year, we are able to incorporate even more incredible homegrown talent into the lineup," said Michael Kinsella, Heights Music Hop co-founder and 2016 music committee chair.

"This festival has some of the biggest acts in Cleveland," added committee member Wallace Settles, a local musician, artist representative and concert booker who works for the Grog Shop. "We're the home of Cleveland's music at the Grog Shop, providing great concerts nightly, and this festival will spread that energy across our town and bring back the old feel of Cleveland Heights."

Music venues for Sept. 23 in the Cedar Fairmount Business District include Appletree Books, Cleveland Heights Church, The Fairmount, Luna Bakery and Cafe, and Pavilion Home & Floral, in addition to Nighttown, site of the benefit concert.

Sept. 24 Cedar Lee venues include some four-year Hop participants, some brand new businesses, and even a nontraditional concert space—the Cedar Lee parking garage. Cedar Lee venues are: Anatolia Cafe, The BottleHouse, CLE Urban Winery, Dewey's Pizza, The Fix Bistro, Heights Arts, Heights Music Shop, Lee Road Library, Lopez, Lucky Sparrow Tattoo, Marotta's, New Heights Grill, Parnell's, Phoenix Coffee, Rib Cage, Rudy's Pub, The Social Room, Stone Oven, The Tavern Company, The Wine Spot, and Washington & Lee Service, along with the lower level of the parking garage, accessible from Tullamore Road.

With a wide array of venues and performers throughout both districts, festivalgoers are sure to encounter both old favorites and new experiences. The diverse musical genres featured by the Hop provide opportunities to expand one's musical palette

and celebrate the Heights as a home for the arts.

"This year, the Hop will be twice as nice, as this signature event expands to the Cedar Fairmount district," said Kelley Robinson, executive director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, which has hosted the Heights Music Hop since 2013. "We welcome fans, neighbors and visitors to explore our unique host venues, experience a multitude of local bands and artists and celebrate music genres of all types. There is free parking [at meters] that weekend in the Cedar Lee district, courtesy of the City of Cleveland Heights, so get here early to enjoy our dining and nightlife destinations, as well as your favorite performers."

The Heights Music Hop is free and open to all ages, although some performances and venues may limit underage attendees. Both nights will provide family-friendly activities, such as a kids' activity area provided by Family Connections, and a new addition this year: the Sugar Pie Family Band Family Music Workshop—a 45-minute musical experience in which the whole family can join a band.

The fourth-annual Heights Music Hop is made possible by the generous support of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Motorcars has offered a challenge grant to match funds raised during the Hop. Zagara's Marketplace, Nighttown, FutureHeights, the Heights Observer, Jakprints and the Cedar Lee and Cedar Fairmount special improvement districts are all supporting the Hop through generous donations. Additional sponsors include City of Cleveland Heights, Dewey's Pizza, New Heights Grill, Big Coffee Consulting, Keller National, Digizoom Media, Cedar Lee Theatre, Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts, Heights Youth Club, Montlack Realty, Verne & Ellsworth Hann, Larchmere PorchFest, Brite Winter, WJCU, Artful, Heights Arts, and Dirty Jones Productions.

To view the complete lineup and schedule, visit *www.heightsmusichop. com,* and the Hop's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Daniel Budin is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

Public transit: Broke and broken?



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

In mid-August, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) cut bus service and hiked fares again. If you use public transit, you are spending more time and more money getting where you need to go. Those who have a choice are less likely to choose RTA when it is inconvenient, expensive, and doesn't take them right to their destination. But, if you depend on public transportation, you probably already have greater difficulty getting to work, medical care, school and grocery stores

The cost of a single bus or rapid transit ride has risen from \$2.25 to \$2.50, and will go up again, to \$2.75, in 2018. Transfers are no longer available. A monthly pass went from \$85 to \$95, and in 2018 it will cost \$105.

In Cleveland Heights and University Heights, RTA has shortened four bus routes:

- The Monticello bus route (No. 7) now terminates at Richmond Town Square, instead of continuing east via Alpha and Beta drives and south on SOM Center Road.
- On the Cedar route (No. 32), RTA has eliminated the Lander Road segment between Brainard Road and Ursuline College.
- No. 37, which starts at E. 185th Street and runs along Taylor Road, now ends at Severance Town Center, instead of continuing via Fairmount Boulevard to Lee Road and Shaker Town Center at Chagrin Boulevard eliminating service to University Heights on this route entirely.
- Green Road (No. 34) ends at the Green Road-Shaker Blvd. rapid station, no longer continuing to Northfield and Emery roads.

According to Christopher Stocking of Clevelanders for Public Transit, "Before the latest increase, 57 percent of riders found fares unaffordable." Nevertheless, as with every mass transit system, fares account for a minor share of revenue—17 percent in RTA's case.

Since 1975, Cuyahoga County has levied a 1 percent sales tax to support RTA. The share of RTA's budget met by these taxes has fallen from 70 percent in 2000 to 67 percent today.

While some states support as much as 20 percent of urban transit costs, Ohio doles out just 1 percent. Our state now ranks 47th in funding mass transit, yet has the 14th highest transit use rate.

RTA also receives federal funds for "rail system enhancements." Before 1997, those funds supported both operations and capital improvements. Since then, the U.S. Department of Transportation has provided only capital funding (and 80 percent of federal transportation dollars go to highways).

After RTA announced its latest cuts and fare increases, another shoe dropped. According to the *Plain Dealer*, the federal government has informed Ohio it can no longer charge sales and use taxes to Medicaid managed-care organizations. Without that funding, RTA "stands to lose as much as \$18 million annually in revenue starting in July 2017."

In June, one member of RTA's Board of Trustees—Trevor Elkins, mayor of Newburgh Heights—voted against the service cuts and fare increases, so we interviewed him. Elkins told us, "I met with [Cleveland Heights Mayor] Cheryl Stephens. She advocated very well on behalf of the people of Cleveland Heights. In part because of her advocacy, I voted against the service cuts and fare increases.

"RTA has known these cuts were coming for at least three years, and there has not been a serious conversation about funding. You don't run an organization the size of RTA based on if-comes."

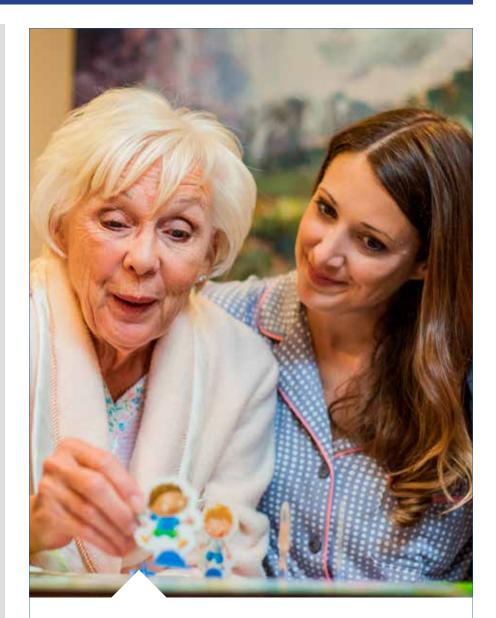
Considering the utter lack of support from Columbus, what's the solution?

Elkins proposes a 1/4 percent county sales tax increase: "[It would provide] a robust, sustainable revenue stream of \$62 million per year, allowing us to restore all service cuts, expand and increase the number of routes, sunset the recently announced fare increases and replace the Medicaid sales tax we're going to lose."

Sensitive to the charge that sales taxes are regressive, Elkins pointed out that he opposed the 1/4 percent increase that funded the Medical Mart project. "I know sales taxes are regressive when they subsidize projects benefitting the already well-off; I completely agree. But a 1/4 percent tax to support public transit—it benefits everyone and the entire regional economy, including our citizens who have the least. I think it is not regressive in the same sense at all."

We concur. It's time to find solutions that will fix public transit in Greater Cleveland. As part of the bargain, maybe we could get buses running regularly to where residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights need to go.

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 over 30 years. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.



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NORTHERN OHIO'S HOSPICE OF CHOICE

CH-UH teachers and students earn top scores

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Congratulations are in order for the teachers and students of Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools.

Numerous studies have shown that scores on standardized tests (what much of our State Report Card grades are based on) do not reflect the quality of a school's education so much as they reflect the socioeconomic background of the particular children in a school.

The report card's only real measure of how well teachers are teaching and how well students are learning is called "Value Added," which means pretty much what its name says: how much academic value was added to a child's educational life in the course of one school year? The measurement is

straightforward: assess a child's reading abilities or math skills once in the fall and again in the spring to show student academic growth.

According to the Ohio Department of Education's website, Value Added "is your district's average progress for its students in math and reading, grades 4–8. It looks at how much each student learns in a year. Did the students get a year's worth of growth? Did they get more? Did they get less?"

There are four categories in which districts are graded: Overall Student Population, Gifted Students, Students Achieving in the Lowest 20th Percentile, and Students with Disabilities.

In 2014–15 (the most recent data available), CH-UH earned A's in every Value Added category, for the third year in a row—which means that teachers are teaching and students are learning.

How can this be, one might ask, when many of the other test performance measures are low?

Consider this scenario, which I've shared before because it so perfectly captures the reality of Heights schools: A fourth-grader moves into our district from another district, reading at a firstgrade level. That child is placed in a small class with a reading specialist to learn the necessary reading skills. Imagine he works extra hard, as does his teacher, and demonstrates one-and-a-half years' worth of growth at the end of one year. That's awesome! That is better than expected and means he succeeded, with the help of his teachers, in moving from reading at first-grade level to reading at halfway through second-grade

It also means, unfortunately, that when he takes the state-mandated fourth-grade reading test, he will fail. And that failure is what people will point to in the newspaper to say that our district is also failing, when that couldn't be farther from the truth.

Comparisons with other districts may help underscore just how well our district is doing in educating students of every level, in each of the four value-added categories. While Solon was one of the few districts across Ohio to do as well as CH-UH, other schools scored lower:

Shaker earned F, C, F, F; Hud-

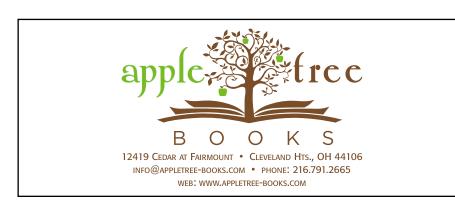
son: A, A, C, A; Cleveland Municipal: C, C, C, F; Lakewood: A, C, A, A; Rocky River: B, B, C, F; Mayfield: B, A, C, C.

This is not a fluke. Some districts' Value Added scores have fluctuated wildly (last year, Shaker had an A overall, this year an F; last year, East Cleveland had an F overall, this year an A), but CH-UH has remained impressively consistent, receiving straight A's for three years in a row.

It should be noted that there are many other measures of how well a teacher is teaching or a student is learning that aren't as easily quantifiable and therefore not considered on our report cards. But because that's what we use, let's be sure the published grades actually mean something. Our state-assigned Value Added grades prove that our teachers are teaching all students, from the one with disabilities to the one identified as gifted. They show that all those students are learning, from the one who started at the bottom to the one who started at the top.

And that is a measure that actually matters.

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, and a member of the Steering Committee for Citizens for Our Heights Schools, the volunteer group that runs school campaigns.







THE TAVERN COMPANY continued from page 1

owned it until he was shot and killed during a robbery attempt in 2014.

Murphy said that, despite reports to the contrary, business had not been bad since Brennan's death. "Business went down a little," she said. "But Jim had talked about selling it before his death, and it really just needed a hands-on owner."

Murphy noted that Brennan did not own the space that the Colony occupied, and explained that Armington purchased the assets of Brennan's Colony Inc., and would be leasing the physical space from the current owner.

The Tavern Company's new menu features some old favorites from Brennan's Colony, as well as a tribute to Jim Brennan and the Colony's long history, which Armington wrote with the help of two friends.

Moving to the new location with Armington were many of The Tavern Company's employees, including its main chef, Jamie Wynbrandt, who, like Armington, had been a longtime employee of Jim Brennan's at Brennan's Colony.

Armington has owned The

Tavern Company since 2009. Prior to purchasing that business, he worked at Brennan's Colony from 1997 through 2009.

"I am excited to go back to the place where I started, and I really want to make Jim proud. He was my mentor," Armington said. "It's always been my dream to have that space and run it."

The community and customers have been really supportive," said Armington. "They've been great."

He added, "It's been overwhelming, but it feels like coming home. I feel like I'm home."

Murphy said that she and the Brennan family "would like to thank all of the customers and employees who supported us for so many years, and especially for the last two years. It has been very bittersweet."

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.

Kim Sergio Inglis contributed to this article.

Young leaders emerge from among us



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

We need leaders who are positive role models. We need leaders whose actions inspire others to engage, to take risks, to be their best. These leaders listen and respond. They are respectful, encouraging, courteous, thoughtful, kind and responsible. They push themselves and they try hard. They are good citizens and good people. They see what needs to be done and they do it. They make good decisions and learn from mistakes.

I am pleased to say that we have some wonderful local leaders who demonstrate the best qualities of good role models. Those leaders are our Heights High students.

Each summer I have the privilege of directing the Heights Summer Music Camp, the Reaching Heights project that brings together 85 to 90 elementary and middle school instrumental music students for a week of intense

immersion in music making. It is always an inspiring week as young people discover the rewards of sustained effort supported by expert instruction and cool role models.

They perform a concert after just II rehearsals that is breathtaking. As one proud parent expressed it to me after attending the concert, "I simply could not imagine this quality of performance when you told me they would sound great."

Campers also stretch themselves in many ways as they engage with music theory, make new friends, work with professional musicians, perform in chamber groups and try out new musical options: jazz, choir, percussion and ukulele. Through this process they discover their own capacity to grow, to try something new and uncomfortable, and embrace a new dedication to the practices of good musicians. And they become part of a community. It is wonderful.

The camp staff includes 20 Heights High music students who serve as role models, coaches and teachers. They play side by side in orchestra rehearsals so campers can hear the sound quality they are striving for. They provide the personal touch as campers grapple with mastering techniques or notes or music theory. They bring

amazing energy and the enthusiasm of youth to the staff. They keep camp vibrant.

It was the high school staff who dressed in amazing costumes on Star Wars day and made it cool to be creative and playful. They helped set the tone for the week. They were key participants in building a community that was serious and fun at the same time.

It was the high school staff who got to camp first each day to welcome campers as they arrived. It was the high school staff who made sure no camper was alone or isolated during lunch or free time. It was the high school staff who made sure that the music was copied, the equipment ready, the conflicts resolved and the stage set. It was the high school staff who rethought their teaching each day to make sure it was responsive to each of their campers.

What I liked best was how they treated each other. We are living in an era where bullying, racism, exclusion, discrimination, fear and division seem to be having a resurgence of acceptability. These young people were the opposite. The warmth and care that they exhibited toward each other was contagious and inspiring. It did not go unnoticed by the campers or the adult staff who were lucky enough

to spend the week with them.

I am grateful to camp music director Daniel Heim for making sure that music camp is a leadership development opportunity for high school staff. It has enhanced the camp in so many ways. I encourage other community projects to find ways to engage our high school students. Everyone wins.

The week I spend each summer with Heights High students provides concrete evidence of the benefit and payoff of our community's investment in our youth. We need to keep investing in their development—in school and in the community.

We have good reasons to have hope for the future. While the adult world seems to be mired in discontent, mistrust, anger and a loss of civility, our young people are showing what real leadership in a civil society and caring community looks like. We think of our young people as the leaders of tomorrow, but many of them have already stepped up!

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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We have a chance to speak out against too much testing

Ari Klein

Should my dentist's performance be rated by how many cavities I have? Or my physician be evaluated based on my body mass index? Of course not. Yet, 50 percent of each teacher's evaluation in the Heights and throughout Ohio is based on how well students perform on



tests. Some of the measures used to determine whether there is sufficient student improvement are standardized state tests. This method for evaluating teacher performance is one of the causes of excessive testing in Ohio. Much of this mandated testing is really about rating and ranking teachers, schools, districts and communities instead of determining how to improve student learning.

Students in our school system are learning, but some students start further behind. Some children enter kindergarten in our district and don't know their colors, can't recognize letters of the alphabet, or don't know their own first names. In many cases our dedicated teachers are able to help bring these children up to grade level by third grade—an amazing accomplishment.

Older students who enter our schools who are below grade level are much less malleable. To compare these students with children from families who have had every possible advantage does not make sense, but that is what we do in Ohio. The "test and punish" system that is prevalent in Ohio does not recognize the fact that students who come from impoverished backgrounds need exposure to museums, libraries, books, music lessons, travel, and a thousand other opportunities.

I believe it is our responsibility to teach and value all children who come through our doors. Just because they may take a little longer to gain proficiency does not mean they are not smart and capable. Unfortunately, scores from these students will lower their teachers' evaluation ratings, along with [those of] their school, district and community. Ultimately, it will take some students even longer to catch up because of the stigma they will assign themselves because they are behind academically.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a new federal law, allows state legislatures to decouple teacher evaluations from student growth measures, thus reducing the number of mandated tests. We have an important opportunity to try to influence our legislators, but we have to speak up.

People around the country are starting to realize that the current law requires testing children for the wrong reasons. Many also realize that this excessive testing is unreliable, invalid, and does not benefit children. Not only is it costly and inefficient, instructional time lost to testing is lost forever.

The Heights Coalition for Public Education formed, in part, to address the poor use of testing. Susie Kaeser and I, along with many other dedicated community members, have been gathering interest and support while educating everyone we are in contact with about the disastrous effects of education policy over the last 25 years.

Join us and close to 1,000 others who agree with the group's position statement at *chuh.net/coalition*. We can make a difference if we speak with enough support at regional stakeholder meetings being held by the Ohio Department of Education throughout the state (meeting information will be posted on the coalition's website). We may not get another chance.

Ari Klein is a lifelong community member, math teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, and president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union. HEIGHTS HOME TOUR continued from page 1

the Ensemble Theatre Group as they recreate Gatsby-era vignettes, and taste delicacies catered by The Fairmount. Preview partygoers will also have the unique opportunity to tour select homes in advance.

Preview party tickets are \$125 per person, and include admission to the preview party as well as the full home and garden tour on Sunday, Sept. 18, and a tour book. Purchase tickets to the preview party by contacting the HCC office by e-mail (info@heightscongress.org) or by phone (216-321-6775).

The homes featured on this year's tour are a testament to a century of building and to the variety of houses that characterize Cleveland Heights. Classic mansions on and around Fairmount Boulevard abound with features typical of the grand homes built in the early 1900s: butler's pantries, hand-painted murals, leaded glass windows, chandeliers, crown molding, rich wood paneling, French doors, and transformed servants' quarters—along with renovated kitchens to serve today's culinary tastes.

These historic homes are juxtaposed with a contemporary home built a century later, in 2015, by the owner-architect. This sleek, lightfilled, minimalist interior space features stunning photography—it's a space where a man—and his beloved dog—can be at one with the out-of-doors.

The tour also features more modest, but still exceptional, homes built between the 1920s and 1950s, which have been uniquely renovated and creatively transformed.

Also on the tour is an elegant garden with carefully chosen plantings, as well as an amphitheater that evokes a bygone era.

This year's Home & Garden Tour takes place on Sunday, Sept. 18, noon to 6 p.m. It is self-guided, and each ticket includes a tour book.

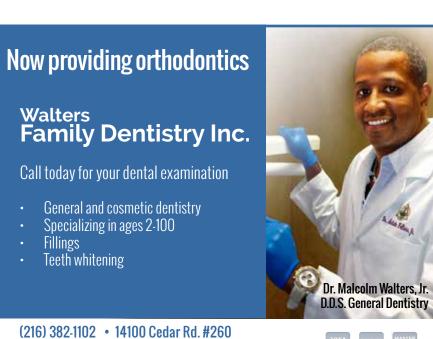
Tickets are available for \$20 per person through Sept. 11. Purchase them online at www.heightscongress. org, by calling 216-321-6775, or by visiting the HCC office at 2222 N. Taylor Road (inside Hope Lutheran Church)

Beginning Sept. 12, the price for all tickets increases to \$25 per person. On that date, tickets will go on sale at a number of local merchants, listed on HCC's website. For group discounts, contact Martha Goble at 216-321-6775.

Pam Wetherill is an HCC volunteer. She serves on the Fair Housing Committee and is a resident of University Heights.









University Heights, OH 44118

Cedar Lee parking deck could host a dog park

Chris Hanson

William Porter

As the United States becomes increasingly urbanized, the need for public space also increases, and, as people have moved towards denser urban centers, their canine companions have come along. According to a Humane Society report, 60 percent of households have at least one dog, and 15 percent have three or more. Dog parks are a community need.

The first "official" dog park opened in Berkeley, Calif., in 1970. Since then, the number of "bark parks" has risen steadily, with the number of off-leash dog parks having increased 20 percent in the past five years

For more than 40 years, walking

a dog in [all but one] Cleveland

Heights public park has been illegal.

As neighboring towns have success-

fully abandoned such anti-dog laws

one by one, Cleveland Heights has

remained the same. While a small

window of hope opened in 2013

when CH City Council allowed

dogs into Cain Park, the same

progressive approach to residents'

canine companions has failed to be

extended to the other public parks.

action group of Heights residents,

is seeking to change the law and to

open all of Cleveland Heights's pub-

lic parks to man's best friend. With a

few common-sense measures (such

as no dogs allowed in playground

areas), Heights Hounds believes

that humans and dogs can coexist

in harmony and that creating a more

dog-inclusive community provides

numerous benefits to Cleveland

economic development stress the

importance of "humanizing" cit-

ies—creating fun, engaging experi-

ences that resonate with residents and visitors alike, that then produce

a buzz about the city and generate

investment there. These experts

Experts in community and

Heights as a whole.

Heights Hounds, a pop-up social

Penn State researchers point to the relative smallness of urban yards as a reason to provide public dog parks, where dogs can get regular exercise. Running off-leash helps dogs—and their owners and neighbors—to sleep easier at night. It also promotes socialization with other dogs and humans, which leads to friendlier, less aggressive animals.

A 2015 study found that, at dog parks, pets serve as avatars, allowing their owners to meet people and navigate space through their dogs. Dog parks also provide a place for owners to get information about local veterinarians, groomers and pet stores, as well as referrals to housing and employment, and people who

patronize dog parks are sometimes asked by their local governments to help address issues such as park maintenance and pet overpopulation.

Increasingly, urban apartment communities are using dog parks to lure potential residents, and they sometimes put these amenities on the roof. Cleveland Heights stands to benefit from the addition of a dog park, and it could possibly be on a rooftop.

Viking Planners, a group of students from Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, recently presented its findings and recommendations from a market study of the Cedar Lee commercial district. Among those findings was that Cleveland Heights

would benefit from changes to its existing parking arrangements and an increase in public space.

With this in mind, if the city were to renovate the Cedar Lee parking garage to create a rooftop dog park on the little-used top level, it could, as an added benefit, even lead to an increase in parking revenue.

Though a recent study on dog parks in Virginia found that most people who used the parks lived nearby, more than a quarter of park users drove in from other neighborhoods and cities to use the parks.

According to DogsInTheCLE. com, the closest dog parks to Cleveland Heights are found in South Euclid, parts of Cleveland, Kirtland and Eastlake. Counter-intuitively, the number of dog parks increases with distance from the region's urban core, but don't urban areas need dog parks, too? Surely people around the Heights would patronize an off-leash dog park.

Cleveland Heights will soon have the Boss Dog Brewery. The parking deck out back could host a complementary business that would benefit the community.

More information on the Cedar Lee market study can be found at www.futureheights.org.

Chris Hanson is coordinator of GrowingHeights (www.growingheights.com), holds a B.A. in urban studies, and is pursuing his M.B.A. He serves in the Ohio Army National Guard.



repeatedly cite dog-friendly policies as some of the smartest ways

Community group seeks to change dog law in Cleveland Heights

to humanize a city.

As other communities adapt to the modern world and promote fun and adventure via pro-dog laws, policies and programs, Cleveland Heights remains stuck in 1973 in its position on dogs.

Roughly 40 percent of U.S. households own at least one dog, and pet ownership rises annually. Millennials are now the largest group of pet owners and are quickly shifting society's attitude about dogs. For example, some younger Americans are choosing a dog over a spouse, and, when they do get married, they want a venue that will allow the dog at the wedding.

In 1973, a dog might have been tied to a tree all day in a backyard. In 2016, a dog is a loved and pampered member of the family who goes wherever the rest of the family goes.

While other cities are using pictures of families walking dogs in their parks to market their city's vitality, and building dog parks to attract new residents—especially millennials—why is Cleveland Heights still so anti-dog in its laws?

Heights Hounds suspects the vast majority of residents are actually in favor of more dog-inclusive policies and that the law criminalizing dog walking in public parks is absolutely not reflective of citizens' views in 2016.

Heights Hounds is conducting a citywide poll to gather feedback to offer demonstrable proof to Cleveland Heights City Council that residents want the law changed now. If you are a Cleveland Heights resident, please vote for whether or not dogs should be allowed in public parks at the following link: http://tinyurl.com/glf8zch.

The results of the community vote will be shared with CH City Council, and on the Heights Hounds Facebook page, at the end of September.

William Porter is a Cleveland Heights resident, a dog owner and the founder of Heights Hounds.





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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

JULY 18, 2016

Council members Mary Dunbar and Michael N. Ungar were absent.

Public Hearing on 2017 tax budget

City Manager Tanisha Briley gave a PowerPoint presentation on the tax budget, to be voted on during this evening's council meeting. The presentation may be viewed on YouTube: www.youtube.com/ watch?v=10LuuMCTc_A&sns=em.

Briley said the city's financial forecast was prepared and presented to council in June. Revenue projections that substantiate the city's need to levy the full amount of property taxes is being presented now, and the appropriations budget will be adopted in December. State law mandates tax budget submission to the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer in July.

It is hoped that the passage of the income tax rate increase last fall will enable the city to get through this year's process without significant cuts. The full effect of the increase will be realized in 2018. Income taxes are projected to provide more than half of city revenue, at \$25.2 million. Property taxes, which will total \$6.5 million and continue at 13.92 mills, will decrease slightly and then remain relatively flat. No changes are recommended.

Council members had no questions. Resident Mark Pultusker, who has been buying real estate for rental property, observed that every house he bought resulted in a loss of property taxes to the city because the purchase price made it easy to negotiate lower taxes. He also noted two other problems for the city: delinquent taxes and lower income taxes resulting from lower property costs as residents with lower incomes move

Mayor Cheryl Stephens responded that council is aware of what he described. She and the city manager, along with the school system, are working with the county on changing procedures and on the delinquencies.

Change in committee appointments

Mayor Stephens announced that Council Member Michael Ungar has been appointed chair of the Finance Committee, and Council Member Jason Stein has moved to chair the Community Relations and Recreation Committee, at their request.

Tax budget

Council approved adoption of the tax budget for 2017.

Citizen appointments

Council approved the appointments of Keba Sylla to the Fair Practices Board and Mike Gaynier to the Master Plan Steering Committee; the latter to replace Ungar, who was appointed to City Council.

LWV Observer: Blanche B. Valancy.

AUGUST 1, 2016 All council members were present.

Assessment boards

Council approved two resolutions for appointing assessment equalization boards. The first board will hear objections to estimated assessments for expenses related to street improvements and maintenance for surfacing, curbing, cleaning, etc., as well as snow removal and shade tree planting and maintenance. The second board will hear objections to estimated assessments for street lighting expenses.



Storefront renovation

Council authorized renewal agreements with Franklin Piccirillo for design and construction oversight services, and Carolyn R. Smith for coordinating consulting services for the city's storefront renovation program. This program, which is more than 20 years old, encourages reinvestment and creates positive visual and economic impact in the city's commercial districts. It is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds. For his services, Piccirillo will receive \$6,000 per project for a term of five years, with a total fee during this term not to exceed \$150,000. Smith will be paid \$50 per hour and up to \$4,000 per project, for a term of five years, with a total fee during this term not to exceed \$50,000.

Objection to liquor licenses

Council passed resolutions objecting to the renewal of current liquor permits issued by the Ohio Department of Liquor Control for the three businesses listed, and requesting that the county hold hearings on their renewal.

- 5855 East Glenn Inc. doing business as Shillelaghs, 2555 Noble Road.
- · Reginald Johnson, doing business as the Sunny Spot Lounge, 2204 Noble Road.
- Fitzdunn LLC, doing business as Helen's Game Time, 3962 Mayfield Road.

Charter amendments regarding elections

Council voted to place on the Nov. 8 general election ballot two proposals to make amendments to the city's charter with respect to election dates and procedures: Article VII, Sections 3, 4 and 5, and Article VIII. Sections 3 and 4.

Passage of these ballot issues would amend the city's municipal candidate petition and write-in filing deadlines and eliminate possible ambiguity concerning the means by which a person may become a candidate for council. Also revised would be procedures concerning write-in candidates as well as opportunities for registered voters to vote for initiative, referendum and recall petitions. These amendments would bring Cleveland Heights into uniformity with other municipalities in the county and enable the board of elections to meet federal require-

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

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

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

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



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Brian Anderson (left) and Tim Boland outside Cleveland Heights City Hall.

CH adds new economic development experts

James Henke

Tim Boland and Brian Anderson have both joined the staff of the City of Cleveland Heights to help with economic development. Boland is the city's economic development director. He replaces Greg Zucca, who left in the spring of 2015. Anderson has been named the city's business development manager, a newly created position. Both started working for the city on Aug. 8.

"Economic development is a top priority for our city," said City Manager Tanisha Briley. "For a community like ours, maintaining our excellent services means expanding our economic base through community, housing and business development and redevelopment opportunities."

Boland, 57, most recently served as the city manager of Steubenville, Ohio. Prior to that, he was city administrator in Pataskala, Ohio. He also served as economic development director in Delaware County, Ohio.

Anderson, 37, was most recently the executive director of the Morton Chamber of Commerce and Morton Economic Development Council near Peoria, Ill. Prior to that, Anderson was executive director for the Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County, and from 2007 to 2010, he was with the Council of Development Finance Agencies, a national organization that was based in Cleveland at the time. Anderson also has previous experience as a journalist.

Boland was born in Euclid and grew up on the West Side, in Fairview Park. He graduated from St. Edward's High School, and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Miami University of Ohio. He also earned a master's degree in business administration from Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, and a master's degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University.

Boland currently lives in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. He said one of his main duties will be "building relationships with all groups in the community. We really need to market our community and build on the successes we've had," he said.

Anderson grew up in Willoughby and attended Cleveland State University, where he received a

bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in public administration. He currently lives in Bay Village.

Anderson said his main focus will be working one-on-one with the Cleveland Heights business community. "I will be a point of contact for existing businesses, new businesses and potential businesses," he said.

"Economic development is a high priority for the city," Boland said. "We need to emphasize business friendliness, and we want everyone to be customer-service oriented. In addition, we want to help existing businesses and attract new businesses."

Both men said that the future of Severance Town Center, the "Top of the Hill" redevelopment and other projects are opportunities they want to emphasize. "Brian and I believe it is important to listen to the community and we intend to focus on absorbing input from our citizens," Boland said.

Boland and Anderson also talked about the Cleveland Heights Master Plan that is being facilitated by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. "It will be a good blueprint for the city, as it looks at housing, roads and business development," Boland said. "They are trying to develop a vision based on public input for the citizens and the community, for the residents and the businesses."

Boland added, "Important things are the economic health of the community: expanding the tax base in a sustainable way, keeping the diversity of the community and the diversity of the businesses, and promoting vibrancy in our neighborhoods and expanding the quality of life. We have tremendous assets here, and we need to market the community and continue expanding a positive image moving forward."

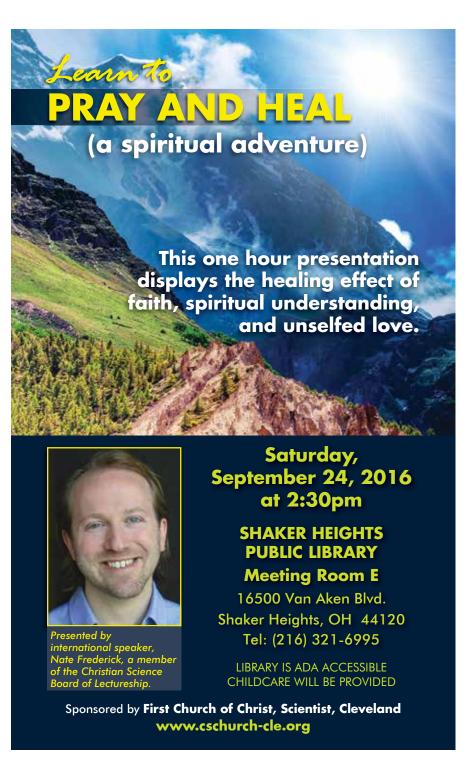
Both men also said that culture and arts are extremely important elements of what Cleveland Heights has to offer. "We really need to build on that," Boland said.

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 FutureHeights, and is cochair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.









Grace Lutheran Church



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS LANDMARKS

Ken Goldberg

Perhaps best known by passersby for the shimmering glow of its ornate golden window tracery set in warm, earth-toned brick, the former Grace Lutheran Church has meticulously matching wings set slightly above Cedar Road.

In some ways this mainly brick church structure, in the English Gothic style, was designed as a smaller and less complex version of John W.C. Corbusier's other Cleveland Heights church—the stone Church of the Saviour. Corbusier was a specialist in church design, as well as a graduate of Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

The former sanctuary's interior is notable for its fine woodcarving and stained glass. The former Fellowship Hall, designed by Walter J. Wefel Jr., is an excellent example of an addition that blends with the original building.

The congregation moved to the Heights in 1923, first holding services at the Fairfax School. The beautiful building was designated



Grace Lutheran Church, 1967.



Inside Grace Lutheran Church.

a Cleveland Heights Landmark in 1977.

The congregation sold the church building in February 2016 to a private business owner. While the building is currently being renovated, important architectural features—interior and exterior—are remaining intact.

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

Master plan committee member walks every city street

James Henke

Lou Radivoyevitch was born and raised in Cleveland Heights. He returned to his hometown in 2000 and has lived here ever since. Even so, he felt that there was a lot more he needed to learn about the city. So, last year, after becoming a member of the Cleveland Heights Master Plan Steering Committee, he decided that he would walk down every street in the city, to gain more knowledge about Cleveland Heights and its needs.

"At the first meeting of our master plan committee, the city gave out big maps to everyone that was there," he said, "and I realized that what I knew about Cleveland Heights was limited to the areas where I had lived. There were a lot of areas in Cleveland Heights that I had no idea about."

Radivoyevitch began his walking program on Labor Day of last year, and he finished it this past July 24. "I did a good 50-plus miles in July," he said.

He added that the walking program was good on two levels. "It's good for your health," he said, "and it's a good way to really see the city. You can't do that by driving in a car." In terms of how the walking helped him in his role on the committee, he said that it made him able to ask better questions. He added that the walks also gave him "a better feel for what the groups are trying to accomplish here." Among the things he saw that he liked were the community gardens in various parts of the city. He also likes the plan to start a farmer's market at Roanoke and Noble roads.

One of the things that surprised him was the number of postwar ranch houses in the city. "I grew up in a pre-1925 home," he said, "and I thought that most houses in Cleveland Heights were from that era, but it turns out there are also a lot of newer homes here."

When he was growing up, Radivoyevitch went to school at Coventry Elementary, Roxboro Junior High and Heights High schools. He then studied at Case Western Reserve University before getting his degree



Lou Radivoyevitch

in urban studies at Cleveland State University. He lived in Lakewood for five years before returning to Cleveland Heights in 2000. He now lives on Dartmoor Road, and he and his wife, Liz, have two sons, Alec, 21, and Eric, 18.

In addition to his work on the master plan, Radivoyevitch is one of the owners of RAD Graphics Inc. "My wife started the company back in 1999," he said. "We help businesses execute their marketing strategies, and we do a lot of graphic design." RAD's marketing services include print, direct mail, e-mail marketing and promotional products.

Radivoyevitch said that, besides housing, other important elements in neighborhoods are elementary schools, parks, green space and being able to walk to a local restaurant. When he went into different neighborhoods, he would ask himself questions like, "If I lived here, where would I walk? Would there be somewhere to play catch?"

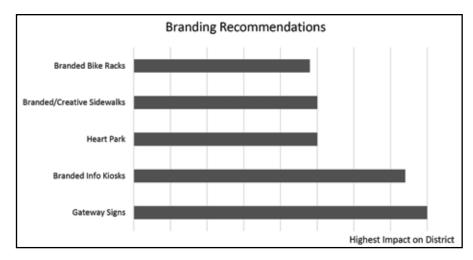
He noted that many of the master plan committee meetings are open to the public, and he suggested that people interested in attending check out the city's website, www. clevelandheights.com.

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





Heights residents respond to CSU Viking Planners' Cedar Lee study





Kirby Suntala

On May 9, Cleveland State University's Viking Planners, a team of graduate students from the school's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, presented the findings of its Cedar Lee Market Study to the Cleveland Heights community at the Cedar Lee Theatre. The students' study produced many recommendations concerning branding, design, wayfinding, and residential development for the business district. Future-Heights, the nonprofit community development organization that had commissioned the study, created an online survey to solicit community feedback on the plan. Forty-six community members responded.

The survey asked for opinions on Viking Planners' branding recommendations for Cedar Lee, which included a "Heart of the Heights" logo and tagline, with three sub-districts named Cain, Cedar and Silsby. The students proposed gateway signs at the district's entrances, information kiosks, a new Heart Park on a lot at the west end of Lee Road and Meadowbrook Boulevard, branded sidewalks and branded bike racks. Respondents said that gateway signs would have the highest positive impact, followed by information kiosks, Heart Park, branded sidewalks, and branded bike racks. Respondents rated branded information kiosks as being the most helpful for visitors navigating the district.

Most respondents were supportive of branding the district, as well as the need for a logo and tagline; however, they believed they needed more refinement and were unsure about creating sub-districts. "I think the breakdown in pieces parts is kind of silly," said one respondent. "It's the whole package." Another said, "Cedar Lee is known for the theater and restaurants. The library anchors the end of the district and is a community draw, not an external draw. The focus

should be on what the area is known for." One respondent suggested that the district consider "banner signage on light poles."

Viking Planners recommended several special events to help "activate" Cedar Lee, including regular live music performances, outdoor movie showings, a sidewalk chef food tour, a pop-up book mobile, and pop-up educational art or acting classes. Respondents said that live music performances would have the biggest impact in bringing new patrons to the district, followed by a sidewalk food tour. Respondents rated outdoor movie events as being somewhat effective in bringing people to the district, while the pop-up bookmobile, and art or acting classes were rated not effective at all.

Viking Planners' design recommendations included a new pocket park and a consistent greenway along the length of Lee Road, as well as enhancements to the existing pocket park next to Heights Arts. Other ideas were for higher building-façade walls; a Lee Road Promenade connecting Lee Road to the parking lot, located between The Wine Spot and Bill's Dry Cleaning; murals and crosswalk art. Survey respondents rated the murals and promenade as having the highest positive impact on the district, while higher building walls were rated as having the least impact. Crosswalk art, a new pocket park, and enhancements to the existing pocket park were all rated favorably by survey respondents, but not as favorable as the promenade and murals.

Survey respondents were asked to rate the current vehicular signs (parking and directions) and pedestrian signs (maps, points of interest). The vehicular signs were rated between effective and somewhat effective while the current pedestrian signs were rated between somewhat effective and not effective. "All signage needs a major update, both in terms of cohesive branding as well as simple clarity in wayfinding. We need big signs with arrows pointing to points of interest as well as many more signs noting public parking," said one respondent.

In addition to branding and design ideas, Viking Planners considered several sites for potential mixed-use redevelopment: the vacant Rite Aid, 2007 Lee Road (a former day care), the Meadowbrook site, the Wendy's lot, and Fairfax Elementary School. Sites on Lee and Cedar roads would feature residential units above retail storefronts. Respondents rated the Meadowbrook site as the highest priority, followed by the Rite Aid site, 2007 Lee Road, the Wendy's lot and Fairfax Elementary School.

One respondent said, "[I] would love to see more apartment or condo options in the neighborhood, especially if they catered to students and young professionals. CH already has

an aging population, but younger people seem to be more engaged and spend money in our bars and restaurants."

Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights, said that the next step would be to discuss the Viking Planners' study and community feedback with city economic development staff and members of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District. "We are grateful that we have a study and several creative ideas for the district," she said. "Once the streetscape is completed, there may be opportunities to secure funding for some of the most promising ones."

Kirby Suntala was a Cleveland Foundation summer intern at FutureHeights. He is a student at Cleveland State University.



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MINI GRANTS continued from page 1

Coventry Village Special Improvement District and neighborhood residents received support for a "silly crosswalk" to be installed in the business district in 2017. The interactive crosswalk will bring even more color, fun and interaction to the neighborhood.

Community gardens

Residents of the Noble neighborhood completed a beautification project. The group of residents planted annuals in perennial beds this summer. Custom garden markers identify the gardeners and planters as "Noble Neighbors."

Oxford Community Garden (OCG) received a mini-grant for its Garden Tasting and Pollinator



Oxford Community Garden members work together to do some planting on a sunny summer day.

Garden Project. OCG is building a 6,000 sq. ft. permaculture edible food forest around the perimeter of the garden. Permaculture combines aesthetics, edibility and low maintenance. The design is intended to make OCG a welcoming neighborhood gathering spot. The neighborhood mini-grant supports a small orchard and the area surrounding the children's garden. The project is nearly complete and residents are invited to check it out.

Montford Community Garden Association was awarded a grant for its Garden Shed and Pocket Park Lawn Project. Funds will be used to create a pocket park open to the community and install a shed to house garden tools, equipment and supplies to make garden visits easier and encourage people to walk through the neighborhood to the garden. The pocket park and tool shed will be completed in 2017.

Civic engagement

Noble Neighbors received funding to create signs for the organization and advertise its communitywide event. The three-day event, held in spring 2016, was a huge success and brought the entire community together to celebrate the neighborhood. The signs helped to promote the event. Keep an eye out for other Noble Neighbors events and programs at www.nobleneighbors.com.

Residents of Forest Hills and the Boulevard neighborhood joined forces with Boulevard Elementary School for the Boulevard Elementary Outdoor Classroom Enhancements Project. The project's goal is to improve the school's outdoor classroom and make the space more attractive to diverse local wildlife, as well as community members who are interested in exploring wildlife. Last year, the school installed an outdoor learning space that includes a rain garden, several butterfly gardens, bird feeders and classrooms. The



CTDA's new a public art project will build community and complement the district's banners.

project will enable the community and school to work together to create a space that is beneficial to the education of the students, the beautification of the neighborhood and the well-being of local wildlife. The community is encouraged to get involved; call 216-320-1423 or e-mail sbasu@futureheights.org to learn more.

Apply for a mini-grant today

Do you have a great idea to improve your neighborhood? Future-Heights invites you to apply for a grant. The application deadline is Thursday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m.

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

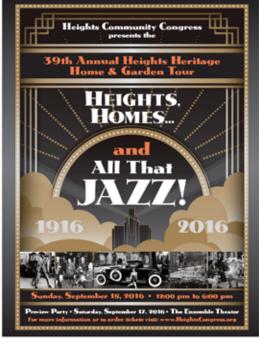
Through grants, FutureHeights seeks to build community with increased resilience through grassroots resident participation in civic life. In so doing, Cleveland Heights becomes better equipped to address challenges in the physical and social environment, drawing and activating the assets of residents,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

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program is guided by a grant-making committee comprising seven Cleveland Heights residents with a history of community involvement. The committee reviews and approves all grants. For more information and to apply, visit www.futureheights. org/programs/community-buildingprograms/.

Sruti Basu is director of communitybuilding programs at FutureHeights.



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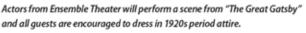
Saturday Preview Party Celebration September 17, 2016

6:00 pm til Midnight • Ensemble Theater

Sponsorships Levels: Hallmark: \$500 per couple • Platinum: \$300 per couple (includes sponsor recognition in Tour Souvenir Program and two Sunday tour tickets)

Preview Party Only Tickets: \$125 per person (does not include sponsor recognition or Sunday tour tickets)

All Preview Party guests will get a sneak peek of three Tour homes via Lolly the Trolley. Guests return to Ensemble Theater to enjoy jazz music and dancing with an open bar, wine tasting, heavy appetizers and desserts catered by The Fairmount.



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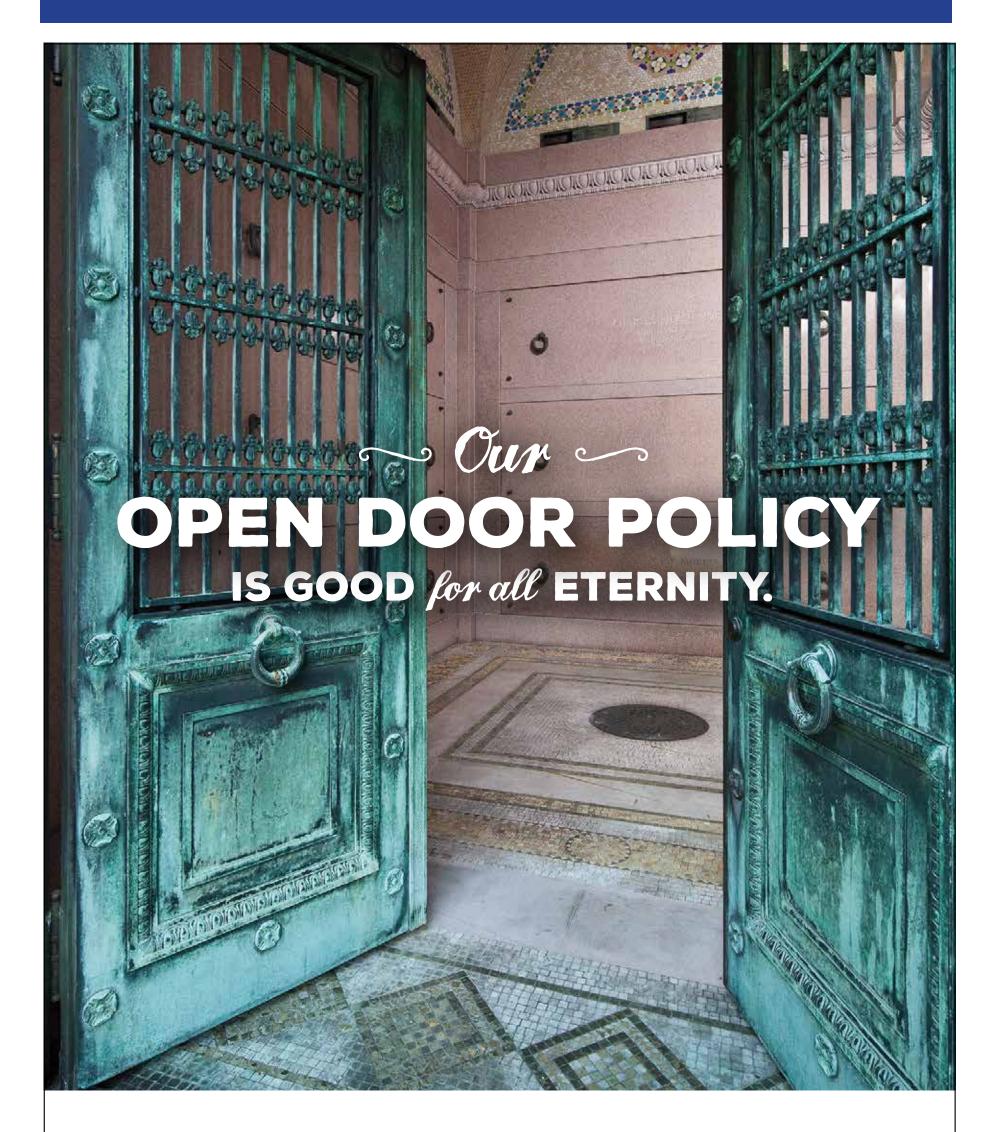
September 25 The Republican Convention: Cleveland's Crucial Investment October 2 University Circle and Adjacent Neighborhoods: What's Coming?

CAMPAIGNS AND CONSEQUENCES

October 16 Negativity in Presidential Campaigns: Is there a Silver Lining? October 23 The Supreme Court: Is 2016 the Most Important Election in our Lifetime?



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Navy reservist Bricker helps provide health care to thousands

Lynn B. Johnson

Some people spend their summer vacation poolside, at theme parks, or on the beach.

Not Cathan Bricker. She spent hers helping to fulfill the medical, dental, and eye-care needs of more than 4,000 residents of western Kentucky.

Bricker is a confidential administrative assistant of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. In 2010 she enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve and, since completing boot camp in 2011, she has spent one weekend a month and two weeks a year with her Akronbased detachment.

In summer 2015, Bricker took part in a war-games training, where people pretended to have injuries related to battle.

This summer, Bricker worked to create medical-care sites at three high schools in western Kentucky, providing free-of-charge health care for citizens in three counties.

The program was a partnership between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Delta Regional Authority, with care provided by members of the U.S. Navy Reserve and the Air National Guard.

"Anyone could come for free medical, dental or vision care," Bricker said. "People lined up at 5:30 or 6 a.m. just to secure their spot for the day. We even ground eyeglasses for patients—all for no charge!"

The chief of public health from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Medical Group even conducted a seminar on pet safety. Other personnel served as translators and photographers for the Innovative Readiness Training.

Although Bricker trained as a dental technician for the Navy Reserve, she had the opportunity to put her considerable communications experience to the test during



Navy Reserve Medic Cathan Bricker in uniform as she works with the Air National Guard Public Affairs Team for a joint services operation in western Kentucky.

the two weeks.

"We wrote press releases and

put a Facebook page online (www. facebook.com/bluegrassmedical),"
Bricker said.

Updates let people know that the clinics were happening, and then documented some of the response from the communities they served. Posts to the Facebook page show the appreciation the patients had for the caregivers. Bricker recalled patients telling her that the clinics were "a blessing, a Godsend."

In all, the clinics provided more than 13,000 medical, dental and optometry services during the field exercise.

"The goal was to train us for a medical mission, which they certainly did," Bricker said. "The bonus was that real people got real care. I got really lucky to be able to be a part of it. It was a win for everyone."

Lynn B. Johnson is the director of marketing and communications for The Music Settlement.

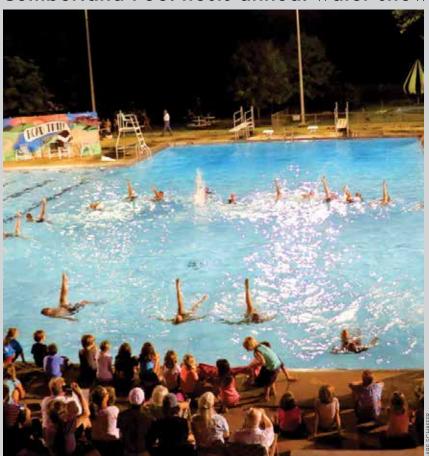


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Cumberland Pool lifeguards were among the performers at the annual Cumberland Pool Water Show, which took place on Aug. 2. This year's show, with the theme "Road Trip to Cumberland Pool," featured skits, music and performances by the diving teams, the synchronized swim team, coaches, and all of the pool's lifeguards. The show's finale came at nightfall with all of the performers donning glow sticks in the water for a choreographed exit.





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CH pesticide ban is a model for the nation

Barry Zucker

In 1995, Cleveland Heights became the first city in the nation to pass legislation banning the use of lawn pesticides on all public turf, including city, school, library and day care center grounds. This was a revolutionary decision.

The "why" is easy: pesticides are poisons. Although they are approved by the EPA, approval does not connote safety, even when used as directed. Thus, Cleveland Heights became the first city to formally recognize that people (especially children), pets and the environment should not be unnecessarily exposed to these toxic materials. Indeed, some pesticides have been associated with an increased risk of acquiring asthma, and an EPA report (1996) states that childrens' developing organ systems make them more vulnerable and less able to detoxify these chemicals. In 2015, the World Health Organization announced that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup®, was a class 2A carcinogen—the highestorder carcinogen possible based on animal studies. Pesticides are similar to second-hand smoke because, when used, they move off the target site, through the air, water and land, potentially exposing others to harmful chemicals.

The pesticide reform movement that started 21 years ago in Cleveland Heights continues to grow. In 2012, Cuyahoga County Council passed landmark county legislation banning the use of pesticides (outdoor and indoor) on all county-owned property. Some observers called the decision heroic, given the chemical industry's attempt to derail it. In University Circle, all six acres of Wade Oval are now managed organically, as are the Cleveland Botanical Garden's grounds. Other major University Circle institutions are in the process of transitioning to natural lawn care, and all 29 Cuyahoga County libraries are using organic lawn-care practices.

Nationally, the Cleveland

Heights ordinance continues to inspire action from the public health community. The states of Connecticut (2009) and New York (2010) banned pesticides from most school grounds and playing fields; Harvard University (2009) adopted organic lawn care; and, last year, Montgomery County, Maryland—with more than one million residents—banned lawn pesticides on both public and private land within its jurisdiction, allowing time for transition, training and public education.

The chemical approach to turf management relies on toxic, fossil-fuel-based synthetic weed killers and fertilizers that destroy beneficial microorganisms in the soil and thus further a dependency on more synthetic pesticides and fertilizers (a treadmill). In contrast, a natural-systems approach to landscape management demonstrates that one can create healthy soil and turf through organic fertilization, aeration, overseeding, and proper mowing and watering. The key to a healthy lawn is to build up the soil through organic amendments that encourage the growth of beneficial microorganisms. This creates grass roots and turf that are more resistant to weeds and disease.

Visit www.beyondpesticidesobio. org for articles, research, factsheets and videos about the hazards associated with lawn pesticides, and natural alternatives that are available. For further inspiration and insight, read biologist Rachel Carson's classic book Silent Spring, which provides a guide to understanding the harmful effects of chemical-intensive practices and also a framework for creating a sustainable future.

Barry Zucker is a University Heights resident and executive director for Beyond Pesticides Ohio. He regularly receives inquiries from cities and school districts across the country wanting to learn more about what Cleveland Heights has done to implement safer pest-control practices for its lawns and playing fields.

HRRC hosts free Boomer Fest on Sept. 17

Penelope Derethik

Are you one of the millions of Americans born between 1946 and 1964? If so, you'll want to be part of Home Repair Resource Center's (HRRC) "Boomer Fest '16: I Can See Clearly Now" on Saturday, Sept. 17. Boomer Fest will take place at the Senior Activity Center at the CH Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd., 10. a.m. to 3 p.m. This free event will offer advice, discussions, products and other resources to help attendees plan their futures, and an opportunity to win prizes.

Highlights of the fest will include:

 Advice tables, featuring advice from experts on home repair and remodeling, health and safety, money management, consumer protection and more.

- Breakout sessions on FLEX Design—how to design spaces that are functional, long-term and expandable—and Creating a Beneficial Community, in which attendees can explore how to share their time, talents and skills with others in exchange for the resources they need.
- Keynote talk by Laurie G. Steiner, noted elder care attorney and the host of WKYC-TV's "Golden Opportunities." Steiner will discuss how to be proactive and enthusiastic about your next adventure in life, and how to use your experience to identify and remove obstacles.

Penelope Derethik is HRRC's communications and development coordinator.

SHN suggests September to-do list

Sustainable Heights Network

Sustainable Heights Network (SHN) advocates for evidence-based community actions and education that will result in a positive impact on our environment and quality of life. This month, SHN suggests the following sustainable things-to-do:

Sustainable transportation: Fall brings cooler nights and more rain, so check tire wear. (Use a quarter to measure remaining tread depth, which should be a minimum of 1/8" for safe stopping in wet weather. If Washington's hair doesn't get cut, you need new tires soon.)

Recheck wipers and washer fluid. Think ahead to colder weather, and use fluid rated to at least -20F.

Set up carpooling arrangements for school or work, and turn off your engine while you wait. Each day, U.S. drivers waste more than 3.8 million gallons of fuel in idling. The break-even point for gas consumption by turning off your engine and restarting later is a mere 10 seconds.

Bicyclists should recheck lights. Increasing darkness makes bicyclists harder to see. The fall equinox means that sun may blind drivers on east-west streets in the mornings and evenings. Blinking lights help, but may not be sufficient.

Environmental health: Plant trees—fall rains and warm days encourage root growth. Reduce your lawn and expand flowerbeds to include plants as food and habitat

for pollinators. Aerate your lawn to reduce soil compaction. Rain and cooler temperatures make fall the best time of year to broadcast grass seed; we recommend a lawn-seed mixture of tall fescue for hardiness and microclover for nitrogen capture, which reduces the need for artificial fertilizers. Microclover also remains greener during drought and is pollinator-friendly.

Solid waste: Recycling is easy in Cuyahoga County, as all basic recyclables now can be put together in one blue bag. Recycle cans, glass bottles, milk and juice cartons, paper and box board, and plastic bottles and containers. Cardboard should be flattened and tied, or stacked inside another box. Recyclables often comprises half of a household's waste. Cleveland Heights and University Heights collect recyclables placed near your garbage on trash day.

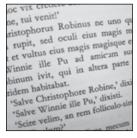
Cleveland Heights also has a drop off location for styrofoam—the solid blocks from packages (no peanuts or food packaging)—at the community center and a drop for technotrash at the CH Service Center on Superior Road.

More recycling information can be found at www.clevelandheights.com and www.cuyahogarecycles.org. For more information about SHN, visit www. sustainableheightsnetwork.net.

Sam Bell, Laura Marks and Ditte Wolin, members of SHN's steering committee, collaborated on this article.

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

Mitigating stormwater in the Heights

Chris Hanson

Heights residents are hearing a lot about damaging stormwater and solutions to its runoff problems, including rain barrels, rain gardens, and reducing impervious surfaces, which include rooftops, driveways and even decks.

Rain obviously can't pass through concrete, cement, or your roof. Driveways, rooftops, patios and other surfaces, if installed correctly, slope away from your home, and guide water into grates on the roadway. Our current system for handling sewage and stormwater was built decades ago. It was not designed for the region's current population, nor the amount of impervious surfaces.

Another problem is that Heights communities are built on an escarpment—a long, steep slope, especially one at the edge of a plateau or separating areas of land at different heights. This is how the "Heights" cities got their names. Think of it as the dividing line between the Great Lakes Basin and the Allegheny Plateau. Although this shale formation saved the region during the last glacial epoch, it left behind poorly draining soils and clay formations.

Because there is little use for groundwater, our buildings were designed to route stormwater runoff directly to storm sewers, then into streams, and finally into Lake



Stormwater falling on an impervious surface.

Erie. At least, that's how it's supposed to work. Because of urban sprawl and the immediate rush of water to our streams, we experience flooding.

In other areas of the country, better landscape design and newer systems solve this problem. Milwaukee, for example, has expanded its gray infrastructure (stormwater and sewage systems). This works when an area is still growing, but what about a city, such as Cleveland Heights, that is shrinking?

That's where institutions, such as Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, can play a role in finding solutions that work for cities with shrinking populations (and budgets). Vacant lots create green spaces that absorb rainwater, but to make a real difference, wide-scale changes are needed. A 2013 study by Case Western Reserve University found that there are a few local solutions that will help with stormwater management. These include downspout disconnects, permeable pavements, rain gardens and rain barrels.

Other solutions include community gardens, bioremediation, constructed wetland, urban agriculture/commodity farming, riparian setbacks and stream daylight-

Because creating a new gray infrastructure would be cost prohibitive, hyper-local changes are

necessary. Downspout disconnects are haphazard because the water runoff can ruin basements. Permeable pavement installation is expensive. The best solutions for homeowners are installing rain gardens and rain barrels.

According to the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, about 60 percent of our municipal water supply goes directly to watering our lawns. It is easy to change that and use a rainwater supply, which also reduces runoff. Installing rain barrels, which are available locally (Rain Barrels N' More) or making a DIY rain barrel is a cinch, too. Oatey, a local plumbing manufacturer, makes a unique downspout attachment that diverts water to the rain barrel using a garden hose mount.

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District began billing for stormwater management the second half of 2016, but help is available to both mitigate the effects of rainwater and the fees. Contact the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership for a property assessment. Solutions are available to help community members divert rainwater and save money.

[A version of this story appears on www.growingheights.com/blog.]

Chris Hanson is coordinator of Growing-Heights, holds a B.A. in urban studies, and is pursuing his M.B.A. He serves in the Ohio Army National Guard.

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HRRC names Allen its new executive director

Penelope Derethik

The board of directors of Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has appointed Tikeesha Allen as HRRC's new executive director. Allen has served as the organization's interim executive director since the departure of Benjamin Faller in May.

A graduate of Case Western Reserve University, Allen has devoted her career to the nonprofit sector, focusing on community and social issues. For the past five years, she's directed her attention



Tikeesha Allen

toward solving problems plaguing Protect your family. homeowners in Cleveland Heights and the region's inner-ring suburbs.

> Since joining HRRC in 2013 as housing counselor, and later serving as program director, Allen has helped countless individuals real

ize the dream of owning their own home.

"I can't begin to express how gratifying it is to share in the joy my clients feel when they reach the end of their journey and finally have a home to call their own," said Allen.

Announcing Allen's appointment, Marc Lefkowitz, HRRC board president, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to have found a leader with the passion and vision that Keesha has for our mission and look forward to opening a new chapter with her at our helm."

These are exciting times for HRRC," noted Allen. "We are poised to not only continue our current efforts but to expand our outreach beyond the borders of Cleveland Heights with the goal of one day becoming the regional leader in housing issues."

Penelope Derethik is HRRC's communications and development coordinator.

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

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Remembering CH's early Olympians

Robert Oberst

Several early Olympians once lived in or practiced near Cleveland Heights, within blocks of one another, not far from Roxboro Junior High School. Three of those Olympians were in the same "Chariots of Fire" Olympics, in Paris in 1924.

Up until 1924, Nordic countries dominated the javelin, winning all the medals at the previous Olympics. Gene Oberst became the first and only American to win a medal (bronze) in the javelin in the first half-century of the Olympic games. This was also America's first medal at the VIIIth Olympiad, when the stars and stripes flew over Colombes stadium for the first time.

The previous fall, Oberst had blocked for the legendary Four Horsemen at Notre Dame when they defeated the national champs— Princeton. He also blocked for the Gipper (played onscreen by Ronald Reagan)—probably the most versatile player in football history—when Notre Dame won the national championship. Earlier that spring, Oberst shattered seven track and field records across the nation, including those at the prestigious Kansas, Drake and Penn relays, when he became the national champion. His track and football coach, Knute Rockne—the winningest college football coach, with a record of .881—was a second father to Oberst, guiding, consoling and praising him through his early career.

Oberst's Olympic diary contains stories of the American Olympians who lived, ate and socialized with one another during the eight-day voyage to France, and at their makeshift, plywood cabins on the Rocquencourt estate (20 to a cabin), along with the British speedsters (of "Chariots of Fire" fame) and the English princes, soon to be kings.

Oberst later lived near three of his teammates, DeHart Hubbard,

who lived in Cleveland, and Johnny Weissmuller and Benjamin Spock, who lived in Cleveland Heights, as did Oberst.

Hubbard, who competed in the long jump, was the first African-American individual gold medal winner. A bright student, he grew up in Cincinnati with no real hope of attending college, until a Michigan State University alumnus, Jim Barringer, encouraged fellow alumni to purchase Cincinnati Inquirer subscriptions from Hubbard. Thanks to Barringer, Hubbard won a full scholarship to Michigan State, where he became an outstanding athlete—despite having to deal with racism during the KKK's resurgence in the 1920s—more than a decade before Jesse Owens's phenomenal performances. Hubbard later moved to Cleveland and worked for the Federal Public Housing Authority, dying here in 1976.

Weissmuller, the athlete who won the most medals, became known as "the fastest swimmer alive," setting a record for the 100-yard freestyle that lasted for 11 years, and winning a total of three gold medals in swimming and one bronze medal in water polo. The first talking Tarzan, Weissmuller later spent a summer at The Alcazar in Cleveland Heights, while performing at the Great Lakes Exposition.

Spock, the famous child psychiatrist, wrote the parenting books used to rear the baby boom generation. Spock helped the Harvard eight-man rowing team win a gold medal in the Paris Olympics (before the "Boys in the Boat" won in 1936).

In 1936, during the depths of the Great Depression, an unemployed and discouraged Oberst was struggling to provide for his wife and four children, ages 1-6. He enthusiastically accepted a position at John Carroll University (JCU) in University Heights, when the town's population was less than 4,000.

Expecting to leave JCU after a couple of years, Oberst would stay on for 35 years as a coach, athletic director and history professor, and live in Cleveland Heights for 55 years. Oberst was among the first class of inductees to the JCU and Greater Cleveland Sports halls of fame.

One of his three sons, Albert Knute Oberst, has lived in Cleveland Heights for more than 80 years.

Robert Oberst, a graduate of Heights High and JCU, was born in Cleveland Heights and lived here for more than 30 years. His third book, Gene 'Kentuck' Oberst - Olympian, describes his father's athletic experiences, long before Robert was born. A copy of his book is available at the Lee Road Library.

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Heights Olympians competed in Rio



Charles Conwell (above left), a 2016 Heights High graduate, represented the United States in the Olympic boxing competition. Emily Infeld (above right), a 2008 Beaumont School graduate and daughter of University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, competed in the 10,000 meter race at the 2016 Olympics.

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.

This fall, SAC is offering new Saturday art workshops: collage, printmaking, silk painting, clay and more. Take advantage of this opportunity to try something new and explore your creative side. Previous art experience is not needed, and the cost is just \$5 per workshop. SAC's art programs are made possible through a Creative Aging Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Also new this fall is Intro to Hum and Strum—a group for those who want to learn to play a folk instrument or those who have played before and want to practice their skills. Bring an instrument with you, use one of the instruments SAC will have on hand, or just sing along. Harry Spicknall, group leader, will provide basic instruction and assist with minor repairs. The first meeting is Monday, Sept. 12, at

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

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

Don't let the bedbugs bite



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Bedbugs are small insects that feed on the blood of sleeping people and animals, and cause an itchy reaction. They travel on clothes to other rooms, and to places outside of the home. One can unknowingly pick up a bedbug at an infested location and bring it home, or they can be brought into one's home on the clothing of people who visit.

Bedbug infestations are spreading rapidly throughout the United States. Removal can be costly, and many seniors are unable to afford the extermination fees.

The best way to deal with bedbugs is to do just as the rhyme suggests—don't let them bite. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises that the best way to prevent bedbugs is to regularly inspect one's home for signs of an infestation.

Bedbugs have long, oval bodies that are reddish-brown in color. They have six legs and two antennae, and can range in size from 1 mm to 7 mm (about the size of Lincoln's head on a penny). They are usually located within an eightfoot radius of where people sleep.

It can take up to 14 days to feel the itch from a bedbug bite, so the CDC advises regularly checking one's sleeping area for live bugs, empty bug shells, rusty-colored blood spots, and/or a sweet, musty

If you suspect that you have a bedbug infestation, take one of

If you rent your home, contact your landlord immediately. Your landlord is responsible for bedbug extermination.

If you own your home, contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health Bed Bug Task Force (CCBBTF) at 216-201-2000. Staff will help confirm over the phone whether you have an infestation. You can also bring a bug to the CCBBTF office for identification, or visit www.cuyahogabedbugs.org to view photos of bedbugs posted there.

If you do have an infestation, call a pest control company immediately. Treating an infestation early on is easier and less expensive. Joe Becka, a technician with TNT Exterminating (216-229-6411), headquartered in Macedonia, advises getting estimates from several companies. Ask them all the same questions so that you are comparing "apples to apples." Becka recommends asking what rooms are infested, if the whole house will be treated, what treatment method is being used, how many treatments will be done, and what the follow-up will be.

Tom Barsa, a CCBBTF sanitarian, advises that do-it-yourselfers with small infestations can buy the chemicals and treat the infestations themselves, at a lower cost. He advises buying the chemicals from a pest control company rather than from a store or over the Internet, and following the package directions exactly.

Becka helped a senior homeowner in Cleveland Heights save money by treating her furniture and carpet, and advising her how to treat her own clothes and bed-

Seniors who are on the PASS-PORT Medicaid Waiver program may qualify for financial assistance for bedbug removal. Call 800-626-7277. Your case manager will evaluate your case and let you know if you qualify.

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

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. in Council Chambers at University Heights City Hall. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to info@ universityheights.com.

Sept. 1: Yolanda Anderson will describe her work as coordinator of Access Your Benefits, a service of trained counselors using a National Council on Aging survey, to help older adults find and enroll in federal, state and local public benefits programs for which they are eligible.

Sept. 8: Brandon Chrostowski, proprietor of EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute, will describe his work to give formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the hospitality industry, provide a support network for future leaders in Cleveland's vulnerable neighborhoods, and prepare them for successful transition to the world of business professionals. **Sept. 15:** Robert Dreifort will relive the Big Band era, 1935-45, with highlights from Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Guy Lombardo and others.

Sept. 22: Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun toy store on Coventry Road, will discuss the history of toys through the ages, including various fads, styles, and changes in toys and toy stores. He will bring some toys to reminisce.

Sept. 29: Instrumentalists and vocalists from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform.

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VETERANS FOR PEACE - CHAPTER 39



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School district offers free breakfast and lunch for all students

Scott Wortman

Starting with the new 2016-17 school year, all students in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District may receive free breakfast and lunch each school day, regardless of family income level.

Every pre-kindergarten through grade-12 student in every district school is eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch daily, at no charge.

The district participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program, and previously accepted free and reduced lunch applications to determine eligibility. Now, the district is able to provide free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.



A salad bar with fresh fruit provided by AVI Fresh, the school district's food service vendor.

AVI Fresh, the district's food service partner, will continue to provide the meals.

Families will no longer need to

submit free and reduced lunch applications.

CEP is a national program that eliminates the burden of col-

> (216) 791-0918 www.feliceurbancafe.com

lecting household applications to determine eligibility for school meals, relying instead on information from other means-tested programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

The district is eligible to provide free breakfast and lunch for students for a period of five years (through the 2020-21 school year) before being reevaluated.

A la carte items will still be available for purchase at the high school and middle schools. Students must pay for these items with cash, by check or using the pre-paid balance on their Infinite Campus ac-

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

Heights High welcomed new students



Incoming freshmen (from left) Hudhaifah Abdur-Razzaq, Kandice White, Damari Loretz and Ka'Yare Dickson at Heights High's New Student Inauguration.

Joy Henderson

More than 200 new Heights High students attended the school's New Student Inauguration on Aug. 9. The full-day event featured workshops on how to develop organizational skills; recognizing how one perceives others; the value of being open to new experiences and people; how to use social media in a positive way; how to build strong, healthy relationships; and the effects of bullying.

The Reading and R.A.M.M. (Recording Arts Music & Media) organization led the workshops, liaison for Heights High.

and Heights High staff and student council volunteers helped guide the new students around the building.

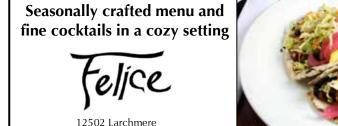
Students also toured the school, ate lunch in the cafeteria, received their course schedules and had their school ID pictures taken.

All Heights High students returned on Aug. 22, to start a final year in the school's temporary University Heights location. Students will return to a renovated Heights High at the corner of Cedar and Lee roads in the fall of 2017.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community



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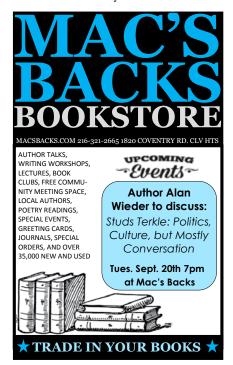


School market program will bring fresh food to CH-UH community

Cathan Bricker

Starting in September, students, families and CH-UH community members will have the opportunity to receive free fresh produce and pantry items each month at two locations, as part of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank School Market program.

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, representatives from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and the food bank will kick off the market at Boulevard Elementary School (1749 Lee Road). The market will distribute food there throughout the school year, on the first Tuesday of each month.



Oxford Elementary School (939 Quilliams Road) will begin its market on Tuesday, Sept. 20, and it will be available on the third Tuesday of each month.

Both markets will be open 2:30-

"This is a terrific service to our school families and communities," said Karen Allen, a school social worker who helped bring the program to the district. "We're so grateful for our partnership with the food bank, which will allow us to help keep our students and community healthy."

At each school market distribution, approximately 5,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with shelf-stable product such as whole-wheat pasta and beans, will be distributed for free to families in need. Additionally, these distributions will often feature nutrition education, health and wellness activities, and food demonstrations.

Families do not need to provide proof of eligibility—the markets are open to all. For additional information, contact Allen at 216-320-4669 or k_allen@chuh.org, or visit the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's website, www. greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/programs/school-markets.

Cathan Bricker is the communications administrative assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.



Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

JULY 12, 2016 Board member James Posch was absent.

Public comments

Building plans and reconfiguration: Residents Allen Wilkinson and Malia Lewis spoke about an alternative plan for Wiley because the bond funds for renovation may not be enough. They believe that restoration of the Wiley site as a grades seven and eight middle school would save money and recover some of the expenses used to convert Wiley to the temporary high school. Instead of [renovating] two middle schools, Wiley could be converted into a grades seven and eight middle school, and only one middle school would have to be [renovated]. A new grades five and six building could be placed on the Boulevard Elementary School site. They also spoke of other options such as rehabbing Monticello or Roxboro middle schools to allow a district-wide pre-K program to be introduced without space constraints. Later in the meeting, board member Ron Register asked the board to study these proposals.

2016 graduation class

Superintendent Talisa Dixon requested approval of the Heights High graduation class of 2016 of more than 370 students. The summer graduation will be in August, and the number of summer graduates will be announced. Board member Eric Silverman asked that the Passport folders for the diplomas be updated.

NEOLA policies

There was a second reading of the NEOLA [formerly known as North East Ohio Learning Associates] policies. The board discussed religious holiday celebrations and what constitutes approved decorations. The third reading will be in August.

Teachers rehired

The board has called back 33 of the 52 laid-off teachers.

High school change orders

The board approved approximately \$1.18 million in change orders for the high school renovation project. The change orders came from uncertainties in material costs and unforeseen circumstances, and generated much discussion. A representative from PMC/Regency [the owner's representative overseeing the project] explained that change orders fell into four categories:

- Existing unforeseen conditions, which included stones protruding and interfering with the new structure, an upper ceiling in the auditorium, and poorly attached bricks at the backside of the auditorium.
- Permit or code requirements, which included revised exterior masonry to bring material to code, smoke vents in the roofing assembly, and increased fire rating for variance.
- Expanded scope of work, which included removing a skylight, adding a wooden floor in the vocal music room, adding technology and

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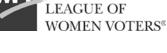
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power to support the fashion career tech unit, and adding 60 security cameras.

 Credit back to the district, which included refund of permit dollars, fireproofing areas, and removing a fixed auxiliary gym sound system for replacement with a portable system. The feasibility of using a portable system was discussed and will be reviewed.

Pre-k

The board discussed strengthening the pre-K best practices movement.

Swimming pool

It was recommended that a building utilization study be done for the swimming pool to determine how the students, as well as the community, will use the pool.

Charter schools studies

Studies show that charter schools don't do as well as the public schools. More than 200 charter schools have failed. The audit controversy surrounding an online charter school, Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, was noted. The administrators of the online charter school want to delay the audit.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

AUGUST 2, 2016

All board members were present.

Field trip

The board approved the Options Program field trip to Johannesburg and King William's Town, South Africa, March 22-31, 2017. Monies will be raised for this field trip.

NEOLA policies

The board approved NEOLA changes on third reading. Before the vote, there was again a discussion of the religious holiday celebrations and what are approved decorations. Comments were also made about the language of the equity tool that tried to explain that race is not tied to achievement, and that there are different challenges among all students.

Personne

The board has called back all but 15 of the 52 laid-off teachers.

Change orders

The board approved three more change orders for the high school renovation project, totaling \$355,698. A representative from PMC/Regency explained the change orders as being due to:

- Existing unforeseen conditions, which include some duct work in the floor of the old building and new foundation work to correct for shale that may lack the proper weight-bearing capacity.
- Permit or code requirements, which include having a structural steel elevator of the correct capacity.
- Design clarifications and corrections, which include purchasing an elevator that would fit into the elevator shaft.
- The board questioned the number of change orders and the PMC/Regency representative explained that old buildings tend to have many unforeseen conditions.

Middle school track improvement

The board approved the July 27 bid for the track improvement project at Roxboro and Monticello middle schools. The tracks will be open during middle school renovations.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

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

See disclaimer on page 8.

Heights Libraries bookmobile is ready to roll

Julia Murphy

This fall, keep an eye out for "Nellie," the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System's newest outreach vehicle. In June, Heights Libraries purchased the bookmobile to serve the University Heights community during the year-long period that the University Heights Library will be closed for renovation. Named after Nell Lynch, a popular former library director, the bookmobile will make scheduled stops around the city; community members can board the bus to browse its small collection of popular books, audiobooks and DVDs for children and adults.

Nellie—a 1995 Cummins diesel engine on a Freightliner chassis—was already retrofitted with bookshelves when Heights Libraries purchased it from Pickaway County District Public Library, near Columbus. It's got a wheelchair lift, and has electric power to enable a computer to check out books and perform other library functions. With its green and yellow racing stripes, the bookmobile can't

A circulation assistant and a



The new bookmobile can't be missed.

to assist visitors in placing holds and checking out books, and answer questions. The bookmobile won't be a location where customers can pick up books they've placed on hold, however; library users who formerly picked up their holds at the University Heights Library will now pick them up at the Lee Road Library, unless they select a different library when placing a hold online.

Sara Phillips, the University Heights Library manager, is excited stop she's organized will be at Cedar Center Apartments on Wednesdays, 1–3 p.m., starting in mid-September.

"We are hoping to reach all areas

of the community and plan to make weekly stops and spend at least two hours at each stop," said Phillips. "Once the plans for the stops solidify, we'll have the schedule posted on our website and create flyers as well.

"And no, I won't be driving it," she added, smiling.

The library's security staff is more than capable of driving the 30-footlong bus. Don Crump, security guard, is a licensed school bus driver, and Kevin Echols, security supervisor, and Keith Acey, security guard, are both former firefighters with lots of experience driving large vehicles.

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

be missed. about her new temporary position as "bookmobile manager," and has been busy coordinating logistics. The first reference librarian will be onboard, Libraries team up for A Card for Every Kid

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System is teaming up with eight other library systems in Cuyahoga County to encourage every child under 18 to get a library card.

The initiative, A Card for Every Kid, will take place Sept. 1–30 to coincide with National Library Card Sign-up Month. This cooperative effort among the library systems seeks to raise awareness of the importance of library card ownership for children and teens, and also seeks to gain a better understanding of the roadblocks that keep some children and teens from owning a library card.

"Libraries are great equalizers," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "They offer any child access to books and other learning resources no matter what city they live in, no matter their socio-economic status. Every public library in our county shares the goal of ensuring that every child can check out materials at their neighborhood library."

During September, every library in the county will actively encourage children and teens to sign up for a free library card, and offer one-time fine forgiveness to children and teens who have been blocked or barred from using their library cards because they owe fines.

Additionally, each library system will invite parents to take a brief survey in an effort to gain a better understanding of parental attitudes toward library card ownership for their children.

"A surprising number of kids in our communities don't have their own library cards, and we want to better understand why," said Levin.



ConnectED Library Challenge

"For instance, out of the approximately 12,000 residents under the age of 18 in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community in 2014, roughly 6,700 had a library card. Is it because the parent didn't know their child could have their own card? Is it because the child doesn't want one? Are there other factors? Knowing this information will help us be more effective in our outreach to our families."

A Card for Every Kid was developed in response to the Obama administration's ConnectED Library Challenge. Launched in spring 2015, ConnectED calls upon library directors to work with their mayors, school leaders and school librarians to ensure that every student has access to the learning resources and books of America's libraries.

Besides the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library system, other participants in A Card for Every Kid are: Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, East Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library, Lakewood Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library and Westlake Public Library. For more information, visit www. heightslibrary.org/signup_month/.

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





What's going on at your library?

In September, as the University Heights Library closes for renovations and centennial celebrations wrap up, Heights Libraries kicks off On the Same Page—its communitywide reading program centered on Jacqueline Woodson's Brown Girl Dreaming.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Tuesday, Sept. 27, 4 p.m. A Celebration of Dreams. Join in celebrating the moving memoir, Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson. Bring the whole family for conversation, creative writing, crafts and other activities. (Reading part or all of the book before a program is suggested.) Registration



begins Sept. 13.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. Original Voices Book Club: Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. This autobiography—the community's choice for On the Same Page—unfolds through a series of poignant poems. Born in Ohio, and growing up in both the North and the South during the turbulent Civil Rights era, Woodson captures her devotion to family and the joy of finding her writer's voice.

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

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Noble Library and its Neighbors. When the Noble Neighborhood Library opened in 1937, it was part of a well-established neighborhood of churches, shops and public buildings. Marian Morton will discuss the past and present of the library and its neighbors as Heights Community Congress helps Heights Libraries celebrate its centennial.

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

Sept. 4 is the last day the University Heights Library will be open before it closes for renovations.



Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

JULY 18, 2016 Board member Susan Beatty was absent.

Public comments

Changing library name: Scott Wachter of University Heights addressed the board about the possibility of changing the name of the University Heights Library to the Cedar Road Branch Library. With the renovation of the UH branch imminent, he suggested this could be a good time to make its name parallel to the other branches, which are identified by their streets: Coventry, Lee and Noble.

Larraine Parker retires

The board passed a resolution honoring Larraine Parker's 26 years of service. She began as a page in December 1989, and her last position was as a circulation assistant at the Lee Road Library. The library will miss her positive attitude and dependability. Parker thanked the board and promised to make her witch costume available for the Halloween season.

Board accepts design plan for **University Heights library**

Mark Bittinger of CBLH Design presented the design plans for the University Heights Library, which were accepted by the board. CBLH will next produce construction documents for the next phase of the project. John Sanders from Regency Construction will supervise the site work and will be the liaison for the neighborhood. Neighbors received letters about renovation details. and the groundbreaking ceremony planned for Aug. 28 at 3 p.m.

CSU Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Katie Van Dyke presented the work of this center, which is housed in the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center of the Lee Road Library. It is the first SBDC in the nation to partner with a public library. The center, allied with the Monte Ahuja College of Business at Cleveland State University, provides services at no cost, and has a data scientist on staff.

Strategic plan survey available

The library's strategic plan for 2016-17 will include information from the community survey, available on the library's website and in print at the branches. Director Nancy Levin also mentioned the Cleveland Heights Community Vision Survey, available on the city's website.

Friends report revenue

The June First Friday sale brought in \$650, and sales on Ebay were more than \$1,700. August's First Friday sale will focus on teachers' needs, with additional children's and young-adult material. A benefit of Friends membership is free attendance at Dobama Theatre dress rehearsals.

LEAGUE OF

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U Lead projects open to staff

U Lead projects seek to identify material for future planning, building cross-department partnerships, and developing leadership. The top five ideas voted on by staff were: Book & Literary Arts Project (L.P. Coladangelo); Early Learning Kits (Mary Looby); English Language Conversation Club for English as a Second Language speakers (John Piche); Girl Engineers (Angelica George); and Young Architects (Angelica George). Full proposals are due

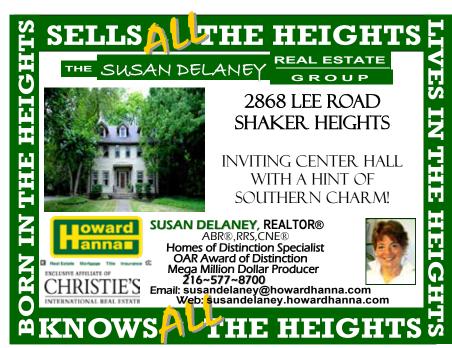
June service report highlights:

- Karen Long presented The Past and Future of the Anisfield-Wolf Awards and featured founder Edith Anisfield-Wolf, poet and philanthropist. The awards are given to books exploring diverse themes.
- Coventry Village Library's Explorastory program featured K-9 Officer Vin and his police handler Sergeant Gideon. Children were able to pet [the dog] Vin, who loved the attention.
- Oxford Elementary School first- and thirdgraders visited the Noble Neighborhood Library, and approximately 50 children signed up for the summer reading program and library cards.
- New library card sign-ups in May totaled
- In cooperation with ASIA, Inc. and Garfield Memorial Church, the library hosted a screening of the film "Refugees of Shangri-La," which chronicles the plight of Nepali/Bhutanese refugees. Members of the refugee community and neighbors attended the movie, which was followed by a discussion. A children's movie was shown at the same time in another room.
- The training department added a new class, Coding Made Easy, on the basics of coding for websites. The program was well-attended. Another new class featured tech education websites.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8





Artist workspaces are coming soon to Coventry Village

Lois Jeavons

Less then two years ago, Artful was just an idea in the minds of Shannon Morris and Brady Dindia, longtime Heights residents. Their passion to provide affordable workspaces for artists on Cleveland's East Side soon attracted other artists, educators, professionals and local business owners.

The two women formed a board of directors with Morris as executive director, and Dindia as board president. Rachel Williams is board secretary, Kevin Khayat is treasurer, and Sarah Curry, David King, Eric Mundson and Hillary Lyon are among the remaining founding members.

After a thorough search, the board is excited to announce that Artful has leased approximately 5,300 sq. feet of space in Coventry School building, located at 2843 Washington Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

"We've been inspired by the talented residents who have volunteered their time and expertise to our project. With their help we have created some wonderful content to



ARTFUL's board of directors (from left): Brady Dindia, Kevin Khayat, Rachel Williams, Eric Mundson, Sarah Curry, Dave King and Shannon Morris. (Not pictured: Hillary Lyon.)

shed light on the talent our city has to offer, like our "ARTworks" stories that are vignettes of artists in their workspaces, photographed by Stephen Cutri," said Morris.

Local sculptor Steve Manka is creating a piece that will become a permanent installation in the community. The board has already received requests for space, and John Williams of Creative Process Studio is providing initial designs for about 15 artist studios of various sizes.

"I always thought there were other artists in the area like myself

who desired an affordable workspace within their own community, where they could maximize their time and be surrounded by other creative minds. When we reached out to the community, it was encouraging to learn that Cleveland Heights is home to more artists than any other suburb in Cleveland, but it didn't surprise me," said Morris.

Having established 501(c)3 nonprofit status and secured a space that it can rent for below-market prices, Artful is beginning its fundraising drive. "It's amazing to think that in just 18 months we have come so far. We know that a space like this will have a lasting effect on our community, and that drives us," said Dindia. The board has set a goal of \$50,000, which will enable Artful to receive a matching grant of \$25,000. The board expects this to cover the cost of renovations, as well as the lease for the first year, enabling the group to develop programming and classes to benefit the artists and community members.

Artful has also planned events to engage the community and help increase revenue. Upcoming events include a second-annual PlayFUL Kickball Tournament on Sept. 18, The Cleveland Flea Do-Gooder of the Month on Oct. 8, and a second-annual Gods and Monsters Halloween costume party on Oct. 29.

For more information, or to make a donation, go to www.artful cleveland.org.

Lois Jeavons is a novelist and political blogger. She lives with her grandchildren (Brady Dindia is her granddaughter) in University Heights during the summer.

Dobama opens season with a love story



Owen Schneider

Dobama Theatre is off to a strong start in its 2016–17 season, leading with *The Mystery of Love & Sex*, written by Bathsheba Doran and directed by Shannon Sindelar. Dobama's theme this season is identity, and Doran's play is the perfect example of the meaning and importance of identity.

The play focuses primarily on two characters, Charlotte and Jonny, best friends since they were 9 years old. They have identifiable differences, however. Charlotte is white and Jewish; Jonny is black and Christian. These differences strengthen their connection . . . until love and sex complicate things in surprising and compelling ways.

The play, a love story about the consequences of growing up, spans five years and is filled with twists and wry wisdom. The production features Wesley Allen, Heather Anderson Boll, Tess Burgler and Scott Miller.

Performances of *The Mystery of Love & Sex* begin on Sept. 2 and run through Oct. 2. The season continues with four more regional premieres: *An Octoroon, The Night Alive, The Flick* and *Hand to God*.

Dobama's holiday hit from last year—*Peter and the Starcatcher*—returns for an encore production.

For more information and to purchase tickets for any and all of this season's productions, go to www. dobama.org or call the box office at 216-932-3396. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

Owen Schneider is a marketing intern at Dobama Theatre.





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UH Symphonic Band welcomes new members



A University Heights Symphonic Band concert on Hamlin Quad at John Carroll University in June.

Mark Souther

This month, the University Heights Symphonic Band begins its 47th year as a community ensemble and its second year under the direction of Matthew Salvaggio, who is also music director for the Hiram College Wind Ensemble and music librarian/ staff arranger for the Cleveland Pops Orchestra. Sponsored by the City of University Heights, the 45-member band draws musicians from throughout Northeast Ohio. The band's diverse membership includes professional musicians, along with engineers, homemakers, professors, nurses and others—even a rocket scientist. From students in their 20s to retirees in their 90s, they are drawn

together by their love of music.

The University Heights Symphonic Band began in 1970 as a summer-season performing group under the direction of Harvey Sisler. Organized under the auspices of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education, the band initially rehearsed and performed at Wiley Middle School. In 1974, the band adopted a yearround schedule, University Heights became its sponsor and it moved to John Carroll University (JCU). Fourteen years later, the band moved back to Wiley Middle School, until the school closed in 2014 to become the temporary home of Cleveland Heights High School. The ensemble now holds its rehearsals at Roxboro

Middle School and its summer concerts at JCU.

The band plays a variety of music, including classic wind ensemble repertoire from many prominent composers, adaptations of classical pieces, marches, medleys from Broadway musicals or Hollywood film scores, and holiday tunes. Members enjoy the band's emphasis on lifelong development of musicianship.

The band periodically plays concerts in the fall, winter and spring, but its primary performing season is summer, mainly in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland. In addition to several concerts on the quad at JCU, the band also performs at community bandshells, auditoriums, churches, synagogues, and senior centers throughout Greater Cleveland. It is always interested in learning about opportunities for booking new venues.

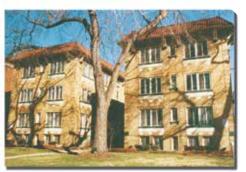
The ensemble welcomes new members and holds open auditions throughout the year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:30–9:15 p.m., at Roxboro Middle School, September through May. To learn more, e-mail univhtsband@sbcglobal.net, visit http://uhsb.org, or follow the band on Facebook.

Mark Souther is a professor of history at Cleveland State University. He lives in Cleveland Heights with his wife, Stacey, and their daughter, Keely, and he plays trumpet in the University Heights Symphonic Band.

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Burning River Baroque to spotlight work by female composers

Paula Maust

Burning River Baroque will present *Twisted Fate: Famed and Forgotten Female Composers* on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m., at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights (2555 Euclid Heights Blvd.)

The history of western art music predominantly focuses on the lives and works of male teachers, composers and performers. In eras when women rarely had access to the same educational and professional opportunities as their male colleagues, it can be easy to presume that women were simply not as productive and successful in the field. A closer look at history, however, reveals that some women were able to rise above the gender restrictions placed on them and achieved great success as professional musicians. Others led more private professional lives, cloistered in abbeys and composing for their fellow sisters.

Burning River Baroque's program will blend works of both famous and forgotten female composers, from antiquity to the present, including Hildegard von Bingen, Jacquet de la Guerre, Elisabetta de Gambarini, Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, Barbara Strozzi, Isabella Leonarda and Martha Bishop. This program will



A Burning River Baroque performance at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

explore the ways in which historical circumstances pushed some women into the spotlight and others into the shadows, and will show diverse portrayals of female characters.

Co-directors Malina Rauschenfels, soprano, and Paula Maust, harpsichord, will be joined by Chicago-based guest artists Josefien Stoppelenburg, soprano, and Phillip W. Serna, viola da gamba. Admission is a suggested donation of \$10-20. More information is available at www.burning-river-baroque.org.

Paula Maust is a doctoral student at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and a co-director of the Cleveland-based ensemble Burning River Baroque.

Artists, music and talks kick off Heights Arts's fall season



Girl in a White Dress Riding a Carousel, Stratford, England (1993), by Herbert Ascherman Jr.

Mary Ryan

For more than four decades, Herbert Ascherman Jr. has been a fixture in the photographic landscape of Cleveland. While best known for his portrait studio, Ascherman has also pursued other threads throughout his career—landscapes, nudes and street photography—as well as portraiture. Opening Labor Day weekend, Herbert Ascherman Jr.: 40 Years which gathers approximately 60 key works, selected by Ascherman and Heights Arts, which powerfully represent his wide-ranging career.

The exhibition features new gelatin silver and platinum prints drawn from the 120,000 black-and-white negatives in Ascherman's archive, printed in small editions on the occasion of this show.

"The essence of a retrospective is the desire of a photographer to share his most personal and intimate observations with his friends," explained Ascherman. "The photographs in this exhibition are moments found or studied, objects of curiosity and interest, thoughts considered and shared. I have never worked with a social, political, reli-

gious or philosophical perspective or bias. I just take pictures of what appeals to me at the moment; printing them by hand and presenting them as tangible artifacts."

The community is invited to an opening reception for *Herbert Ascherman Jr.:* 40 Years on Friday, Sept. 2, 6–9 p.m. A related gallery talk on Thursday, Sept. 29, offers an opportunity to hear Ascherman speak about his life

in photography, as well as hear new poetry written about the works by invited Cleveland poets.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, DadBand brings a lively repertoire of music, ranging from classical, pop, rock, jazz, folk, Latin and children's songs, to the Heights Arts gallery in a free community concert. Members Dan Heim and James Rhodes (violas), plus Derek Snyder and Nick Diodore (cellos), are active orchestra performers and music teachers living and working in the Cleveland area. DadBand's music is often inspired in some way by the musicians' children and students, creating a unique and compelling musical experience for all ages.

A selection of collages by Cleveland Institute of Art faculty member Sarah Kabot takes over the Spotlight gallery space this fall, with an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 16, 6–9 p.m. For the year 2015, Kabot collected all of the front-page sections of *The New York Times* Sunday edition. These photographically documented events were deemed significant enough to be reported in a global newspaper of record, yet less than a year later, in some cases, most have since slipped out of the headlines. In her series, *NYT 2015*,

Kabot collages together photographs of people printed in a single edition from that year, creating delicate cut-out compositions that encourage viewers to get up close and carefully look at the remains.

For more information on Heights Arts's public programs, visit www.

heightsarts.org or call 216-371-3457. The nonprofit arts organization is located at 2175 Lee Road. Public, off-street parking is available behind the building.

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







Lake Erie Ink splashes into its sixth year

Maya Watkins

With the start of the school year comes the start of Ink Spot, Lake Erie Ink's (LEI) creative after-school program. Ink Spot takes place at LEI's Coventry location, 2843 Washington Blvd., and at its satellite location at Noble Elementary School.

Running Monday through Thursday, Ink Spot offers homework assistance and creative expression activities for students of all abilities.

The program has expanded this year to welcome third-graders, and now serves students in grades 3–6.

LEI's fall season officially kicks off on Sept. 13 with a college essay writing workshop geared toward helping teens with one of the most difficult parts of applying to colleges: crafting a personal essay.

On Sept. 17, LEI hosts its first 2016 Weekend Ink workshop, "Building New Worlds: Creating Sci-Fi and Fantasy Settings." Weekend Ink workshops are funded in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

Also, a free open mic night will be held on Sept. 23 where writers of all ages and genres are encouraged to share their words.

LEI recently finished up its sixth summer with the Explore and Express teen camp. Young writers visited places around Cleveland, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, the West Side Market, LAND Studio, Terminal Tower and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, learning about their city while enhancing their storytelling abilities. Visit www.lakeerieink.tumblr.com to view some of their work.

For more information about volunteering or enrolling your child in LEI programs, visit www.lakeerieink.org.

Maya Watkins is a Hiram College student and intern at Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth.

Quintana's Speakeasy is a unique gathering place

James Henke

A year ago this month, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa opened Quintana's Speakeasy at 2200 South Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights. Quintana's became the first barbershop in the state of Ohio to have its own liquor license.

According to Alex and Dawn Quintana, owners of the barbershop, spa and speakeasy, they got the idea to open a speakeasy after a trip Dawn took about five years ago. "I went to New York with some girlfriends of mine," Dawn said. "I stumbled upon a barbershop/ speakeasy called the Blind Barber in Manhattan. That's when I got the idea, and it stayed in the back of my mind."

The Quintanas opened their Dream Spa 15 years ago. It offers manicures, pedicures, facials, massage therapy, body massages and many other treatments. The spa was originally located in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood of Cleveland Heights, above the Mad Greek restaurant. In 2003, they opened a barbershop on South Taylor Road, and in 2009, they merged the two businesses, operating both of them at the South Taylor location.

The Quintanas purchased the building next door, 2190 South Taylor Road, in December 2014 and moved the spa, which had been on the second floor of the original building, into the new building.



Dawn and Alex Quintana inside their speakeasy.

One day, they hosted a party for a groom and his friends. "They had brought some snacks and refreshments, and they were hanging out on the second floor, where the spa used to be," said Alex. "So we thought we should take advantage of the empty space and see if we could get a liquor license. Eventually, it all came to fruition."

"Originally, we thought it would just be for our customers," Dawn said. "But now we think it's a great place that everyone should know about." The Speakeasy presents music every Thursday night during the summer, and also hosts a speaker series every month. On Wednesday, Sept. 7, Rick Porello, chief of the Lyndhurst Police Department, will

talk about the history of the Cleveland Mafia. The venue also hosts regular liquor tastings.

The Speakeasy's menu is different from that of most other bars in this area, consisting entirely of drinks from the Prohibition era, dating back to the 1920s. In addition

to drinks, the Speakeasy also offers a charcuterie board that features cured meats, artisanal cheese, bread and condiments.

The venue, which seats about 25 people, is open five days a week: Tuesday through Thursday, it opens at 3 p.m. and closes at midnight; on Friday it is open 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.; and on Saturday it is open noon to 1 a.m.

The Speakeasy also hosts private parties. For more information, call the main phone number, 216-421-8380.

The Quintanas live in Cleveland Heights. Dawn, 44, and Alex, 43, are the parents of two children, Gabriella, 11, and John, 7.

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.

St. Paul's autumn art show draws on inspiration

Mary Cushing

The fall show at the Nicholson B. White Gallery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, *Drawing On Inspiration*, will open on Friday, Sept. 9, with an artists' reception 5–7 p.m.

On hand to greet guests and discuss their creative processes will be Nancy Underhill (colored pencil on paper), Shyvonne Coleman (lithographs), Jaymi Zents (painting on birch wood) and Judy Goskey (cloisonné).

Underhill's drawings and wall reliefs have been exhibited throughout the Midwest and are included in corporate, public and private collections. In her work, the geometric lines of architectural forms are often accompanied by human, animal and foliage elements. She is a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America.

Coleman's linoleum prints of jazz musicians combine dramatic composition with textured patterns; soft, delicate scored lines; and rough spaces carved into the linoleum to create a visual representation of the sounds of music. Collectively, these prints reflect her observation of the passion, emotion and intelligence that drive jazz performers.

Zents' current work involves finding figures within birch plywood, and then merging the patterns found both inside of and surrounding the figure. "The wood has provided a means of bridging my love of drawing the figure with my love and dedication to my garden and yard," noted Zents, "as so many elements, patterns and creatures can be found in the beauty of the birch."

Goskey creates opalescent and transparent cloisonné enamel set in hand-fabricated settings of gold and silver with stones in the composition. Her one-of-a-kind pieces are displayed and sold across the country;



Cosmos I, by Nancy Underhill.



Tempest, by Jaymi Zents.



Cloisonné enamel pin, by Judy Goskey.

many in juried craft shows. As each piece is unique, Goskey is always trying new techniques, such as engraving the silver under the enamel to produce interesting reflections of light.

The public is welcome at the opening reception. The gallery, at 2747 Fairmount Blvd., is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The show runs through Nov. 27, and the artists receive all proceeds from sales of their work.

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





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Finding Mawby's



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

The school year has begun, but the Cedar Lee area is devoid of high school students. They're in their temporary quarters at the former Wiley Middle School, due to the massive renovation of the original Heights High building. From the 1920s till last year, this area has always been packed with high school kids before and after school. My parents went to Heights, as did my brothers and I, and then my kids. So my family has frequented the Cedar Lee district since the mid-1930s.

The other big difference is the dining scene at this intersection. Over there, where Royal Castle used to be is a non-place called Fresh & Meaty Burgers. The sign went up months ago, but nothing seems to have happened, and it looks like that restaurant is not going to materialize there.

I used to hang out there with friends and we would each order six of Royal Castle's tiny hamburgers and a birch beer in, as they said, a frosty mug. There were no tables and chairs in that small space, just a counter with stools.

One time, in the summer of 1967, I was in there late at night when a customer walked out without paying. The one employee working at the time vaulted over the counter, slipped as he hit the other side with both hands scraping the floor, ran outside, beat up the customer, got his money, came back in, vaulted back over the counter, ran his hands through his greasy hair, stuck his hand directly into the pickle jar and completed the order he had started. It was not my order, so I didn't care. Anyway, in 1967, even if it had been my order, I would have just removed the pickles and eaten the burgers.

On this corner, the southeast one, is the Cedar Lee Theatre, which has expanded all the way to Cedar Road. That corner space used to house Clark's Restaurant when I was a child, and then Inman's when I went to Heights.

Clark's was a local chain of family restaurants, famous, among kids, for Apple Pie Johnny's Toy Chest, from which kids could pick a cheap, little trinket if they joined the "Clean Plate Club." And all that was required for membership to that organization was finishing your whole meal—never a problem for me, then or now.

When that space became Inman's, it lost most of its family feel, which was perfect for us teenagers. Every weekday afternoon, the large place would completely fill up with seemingly hundreds of high school kids, and cigarette smoke, and noise.

Inman's stipulated an afterschool 50-cent minimum. A giant plate of French fries (with gravy) cost 35 cents; a cup of coffee cost 15. Every kid in the place would order French fries and coffee. I used to sit there and imagine gigantic dump trucks pulling up to the back of the place and dumping load after load of potatoes into the former coal bins, and tanker trucks full of hot coffee attaching their huge hoses to vast vats in the kitchen.

A few years later that site became earth by april, a very good and successful vegetarian restaurant. I used to play my songs there throughout the '70s, whenever I was between rock bands, and meals.

But, arguably, the most important restaurant that's missing from that neighborhood today is Mawby's. It sat, from the 1930s to the early '70s, in the area of the minipark between the rebuilt structure where, first, a McDonald's operated

and then Lemon Grass took over and where, now, Boss Dog Brewing is planning to open; and, on the other side, where the Heights Arts gallery is located.

Iknow Mawby's was an important institution because, besides having been a devotee myself, I've found that any discussions of restaurants on Facebook sites dealing with growing up in Cleveland Heights or attending Heights High always lead to long threads of many memories of that place (and, naturally, eventually, arguments about which restaurant was where and when), as do real-life discussions of area eateries.

Mawby's, another place with counter-only seating, served only hamburgers (plus fries, onion rings and milkshakes). What everyone remembers is those great burgers, cooked in front of you on a grill with seasoned onions.

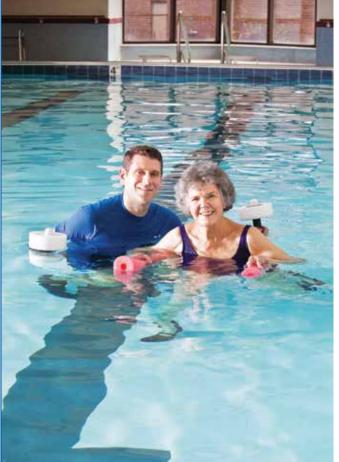
The Mawby family opened three or four more locations around the East Side. Then one of the brothers, George "Dink" Mawby, opened his own place, Dink's, first on Mayfield near Warrensville, in 1950; it then moved to Chagrin Falls in 1960. Dink's in Chagrin Falls became an

institution itself until it closed a few years ago. But now in the old Dink's space is the North Main Diner

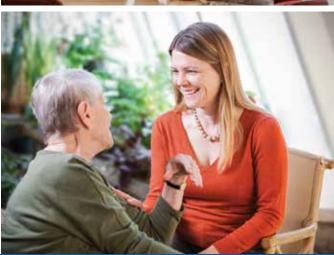
Jack Krissinger opened this place last year with the idea of restoring the old Dink's atmosphere, complete with a rebuilt 1948 Bastian and Blessing soda fountain, and family-friendly menu and prices. Why am I talking about a place in Chagrin Falls and not in Cleveland Heights? Because I ate there recently and found out about this: One of the cooks at North Main Diner worked at Dink's for nearly 30 years. And while she was there, she learned how to make Mawby's hamburgers. And there it is, right on the menu, the "Mawby." I tried it.

I stopped experiencing "acid flashbacks" in about 1970. But apparently food flashbacks exist. Because I had one.

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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Fix Bistro owner opens first of two new businesses

James Henke

A popular Cleveland Heights business owner has moved down the street, into the space at 2195 Lee Road that was previously occupied by Joey's Bistro Bar Italiano. Chef Eric Rogers, owner of Black Box Fix, opened a new and larger restaurant, The Fix Bistro, on Aug. 30.

Black Box Fix opened at the corner of Lee and Silsby roads in March 2015. Rogers closed Black Box Fix on July 16, and plans to open Sweet Fix Bakery in its place.

"The bakery is going to sell gourmet desserts, pies and pastries," said Rogers, who hopes to open the bakery in late September or October.

Joey's closed in June. Since taking over the space, Rogers has changed the interior lighting, and has touched up and remodeled much of the interior.

On Aug. 13, Rogers opened his new restaurant space for a preview, giving the community an opportunity to take a look at the kitchen, bar and other features.

The Fix Bistro menu offers many of the same sandwiches that Rogers sold at Black Box Fix, but also features a variety of entrees, including creole dishes and soul food. Rogers plans to offer specials every day, both for lunch and dinner.

"We are going to have a casual atmosphere, but I really want to up the level of fine dining," Rogers said. He added that the new restaurant will also have live entertainment, including jazz, blues



Eric Rogers inside The Fix Bistro's new space.

and poetry, and will host a gospel brunch on Sundays.

Rogers noted that business at Black Box Fix had been very good,

and he ended with a record number of customers. The Fix Bistro's larger space will enable him to seat more diners.

The Fix Bistro can accommodate about 75 to 85, and Rogers said he doesn't want the restaurant to get too crowded. Next year, after the Lee Road streetscape improvements have been completed, he plans to install an outdoor patio in front of the restaurant.

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 cochair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

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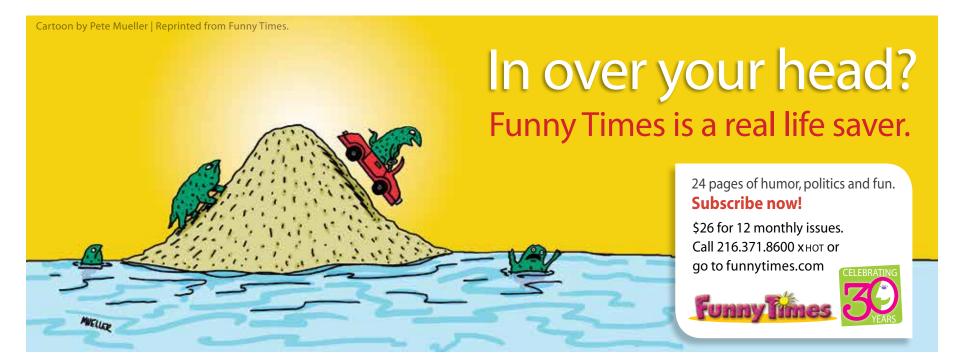
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Post-storm cash mob supports Zagara's Marketplace



Heights resident Justin Alcorn organized a cash mob to support locally owned grocer Zagara's Marketplace at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20. John Zagara, third generation owner, greeted three times as many Saturday morning customers as usual that day.



On the Rise expands seating, kitchen and menu

James Henke

On the Rise, on Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights, has undergone an expansion to double its size, expand its menu, and offer much-needed seating to customers.

On the Rise originally opened in December 2001. It was strictly a bakery until four years ago, when it added sandwiches to the menu. They became very popular with On the Rise's customers, but created seating problems for those who weren't taking the sandwiches to go.

"When it was summer, people could sit outside on the patio," said Adam Gidlow, who owns On the Rise with his wife, Jennifer Gidlow. "But in the winter we simply did not have many seats inside, and people had nowhere to sit."

When Fairmount Letters, the stationery shop that was next door to On the Rise, closed about two and a half years ago, Gidlow saw that as an opportunity to solve the seating problem. He could expand both the bakery's size and menu.

The new expansion more than doubles the number of seats inside On the Rise. The bakery also increased the size of its kitchen, enabling the chef, Brian Evans, to expand the prepared food offerings.

"We now serve a lot more hot sandwiches," said Evans, 30, who



The interior of the expanded On the Rise.

has been the chef at On the Rise for six years. "We also are bringing in a lot more local produce, and we can make many more kinds of salads."

Evans cited a smoked brisket sandwich and a classic French croque-monsieur sandwich as two of his favorite new items. In addition to the new sandwiches and salads, Evans said that On the Rise plans to start serving more breakfast items, such as eggs Benedict and French toast, on weekends.

The bakery has also installed new espresso machines, and hired

a new barista, Meghan Ault. As a result, On the Rise will soon be offering a variety of espresso coffees.

Gidlow, 45, grew up in St. Louis. He majored in environmental studies and psychology at St. Lawrence University, and worked at various bakeries around the country after he graduated. "I was always interested in some form of culinary arts," he said.

While in college, Gidlow met Jennifer Demian, the woman who would become his wife. She was from Cleveland, and, in 1997, they



On the Rise co-owner Adam Gidlow (left) and chef Brian Evans.

married. About three years later, they decided to move back to her hometown, and then decided to open a bakery. The result was On the Rise.

On the Rise is located at 3471 Fairmount Blvd. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays; and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays.

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 cochair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

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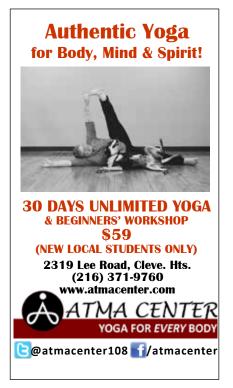
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Café Bon Appetit adds intimate whiskey bar

James Henke

Coventry Village's Café Bon Appetit has added a new whiskey bar and a performance space for musicians. The new bar and music space are located in the basement of the restaurant, at 2767 Euclid Heights Blvd., and officially opened on Aug. 20.

The bar space can accommodate about 30 people, though it seats just 16. Jay Novak, who owns Bon Appetit with his wife, Jade, said he wanted a bar that was "cozy and quiet, with acoustic music, and a little bit of a dress code."

Novak recently turned 40, and said he was looking for a small, intimate bar where he could find a



The new bar in the basement of Café Bon Appetit.

variety of whiskeys and hear some music. "I couldn't find anything," he said. "And we had available space, so why not open one here?" Novak said that he designed the bar for people about 30 years old and older.

Novak got his liquor license earlier this year and started working on renovating the space. The bar serves only hard liquor, not beer, and offers a number of whiskey options. Novak also plans to offer special cocktails in the bar, as well as a few appetizers.

The live music is mainly acoustic, and the bar will feature jazz, folk and other styles of music. Several artists performed on opening night, including Leah Lou Tater, Stanislav Zabic and Noel Black.

The bar opens at 5 p.m. and closes at 1 a.m. People can enter the bar through the restaurant's front door or through a back door designated for the bar.

The restaurant opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. When it opened in

May of last year, the restaurant offered breakfast starting at 10 a.m. It now offers just a few breakfast items, as it opens an hour later than it originally

Café Bon Appetit specializes in healthy food; mainly organic and vegetarian. The restaurant offers a large variety of salads and sandwich wraps. In addition to the Cleveland Heights location, there is also a Café Bon Appetit at East 19th Street and Euclid Avenue, near Cleveland State University.

Novak said that business has been very good since the Cleveland Heights restaurant opened, and he hopes the bar will add to their business.

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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Ohio Fair Trade Expo comes to JCU on Oct. 1

Laura Potter-Sadowski

The Ohio Fair Trade Expo and Teach-In is coming back to John Carroll University (JCU) on Saturday, Oct. I. Thanks to the generous support of Ben & Jerry's in University Heights, and others, this year's event will be free to the public.

Registration for the event begins at 9:30 a.m. at JCU's Dolan Center, where the fair trade marketplace begins. Attendees can expect to leave the expo with an abundance of donated fair trade goodies.

Dana Geffner, executive director of the Fair World Project (FWP), will kick-off the event as keynote speaker at 10 a.m. FWP, an independent arm of the Organic Consumers Association, seeks to protect the use of the term "fair trade" in the marketplace, expand markets for authentic fair trade items, educate consumers about key issues in trade and agriculture, and advocate for policies leading to a just economy.

This year's expo features speakers on such topics as women's empowerment, fair trade fashion, and the environment.

Another highlight of this year's expo is the attendance of Marcos Bautista from Manos Zapotecas, a

Mexican-based fair trade retailer. Born and raised on the outskirts of Teotitlán, Mexico, Bautista walked the dirt road into town almost daily to attend the village school, continuing his education through the Technological University in Oaxaca City.

He now holds a degree in engineering, and currently lives in Indiana and travels the U.S. sharing his love of weaving and the story of his Oaxacan community. Attendees can hear his story during his workshop at 11 a.m., and also find hand-woven goods to purchase in the marketplace.

Various organizations, such as the Fair Trade Federation and Ten Thousand Villages Cleveland, are among the many participants in this year's expo and teach-in.

Workshops will be held at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., with a lunch and shopping break in between. At 2 p.m. featured speakers will join a panel discussion in the auditorium to share information and answer questions from the audience. For more information about the day's events, go to *ohiofairtrade.com/teach-in-expo-2016*.

Laura Potter-Sadowski is executive director of Ten Thousand Villages in Cleveland Heights and a board member of Heights Community Congress.

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Cedar Fairmount's Appletree Books to double in size

James Henke

Appletree Books will soon nearly double in size. The bookstore, located at 12419 Cedar Road in the Cedar Fairmount Business District of Cleveland Heights, is taking over the adjacent space formerly occupied by Sundaez Tanning. Renovations began in June, and the plan is for the expanded Appletree space to open in October.

Lynn Quintrell, the owner of Appletree, said that the children's section of the old store was much too small. "We're the only store in Cleveland Heights that sells brandnew children's books, along with puzzles and other items for children," she said. "And it was really cramped, so I thought I would add some space if any became available."

When the Four and Twenty Mercantile store closed earlier this year, Quintrell decided that space was too large. But she sent a note to her landlord, saying, "Should the space next door to us become available, I would like the right of first refusal." Then, in January, she got a letter saying that the tanning salon was closing. "It all happened sooner than I imagined," she said. "And Sundaez had been there for 25 years!"

Quintrell said that Mike Occhionero, the landlord, has been very generous. "He came up with a really nice arrangement, and he made it possible for me to take over the space," she said. "So I signed a deal in June, and demolition began."



Appletree owner Lynn Quintrell.

Appletree has been in the same space for 41 years. Quintrell bought the store in 2014 with Alice Webster, who left the business in 2015.

"It's really a great piece of the community," said Quintrell. "Even though a lot of bookstores are not doing that well, people come in here and want to talk about the books and see them. They like being part of the community. We try to be an active, vital participant in the community, and the community supports us in return."

In addition to accommodating a new children's section, which will be twice as large as the current one, the new space will also comprise a separate young-adult section, with books for those 14 and older, and a



The former Sundaez Tanning salon is being renovated to become part of Appletree Books.

section of lifestyle books for adults, including books about cooking, gardening, fashion, style and crafts.

There will also be a dedicated space for special events, including author readings and talks. In the original space, Quintrell explained, Appletree was unable to host book readings because there was nowhere for people to sit.

The space in the original store where the children's section used to be will now feature greeting cards, wrapping paper, calendars, note cards and other stationery items.

Quintrell noted that the furniture and details in the new space will be eclectic, and some of the bookcases originally belonged to her great-grandfather. Quintrell expressed her appreciation for all the work that has been done to renovate the current store and to incorporate the new space. In particular, she thanked Turk Construction; Katie Tumino of Reflections Interior Design; Jim Silvestro, the painter; Dan Groth, the carpenter; and Rich Bozic of Blatchford Architects, who came up with the plans.

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.

