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

Renovated high school on track for August 2017 completion

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Renovation of Cleveland Heights High School, the first part of Phase 1 of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District's Master Facilities Plan, is on schedule for completion on or before Aug. 14, 2017, the first day of the 2017-18 school year for teachers.

The project includes renovation of the original 1926 façade, clock tower and auditorium, and newly constructed state-of-the-art classrooms, athletic facilities, arts spaces and common areas. The renovated building will feature more-efficient use of space, improved traffic flow and security, a new mini-theater and a community-accessible, competition-size swimming pool.

The building will be one of the most energy-efficient high schools in the nation. Features such as a geo-thermal heating and cooling system, a tight building envelope—made possible by new roofing, insulation



New Heights High science rooms will overlook the new library and cafeteria.

and new energy-efficient windows—and LED lighting throughout the building will help the project achieve

LEED Gold certification, a measure of energy efficiency. Other building
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UH Library breaks ground on renovation



Breaking ground on the UH Library's renovation were (from left) Heights Libraries board members Jim Roosa, Suzann Moskowitz, Abby Botnick, Chris Mentrek and Ron Holland; University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld; Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin; Heights Libraries Board President Rick Ortmeyer; and UH Library Manager Sara Phillips. Also pictured: two young customers who are, along with their parents, frequent library visitors.

Sheryl Banks

On Sunday, Aug. 28, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System broke ground to signal the start of renovation of the University Heights Library.

Among the ceremony's attend-

ees were Heights Libraries board and staff members, University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, and library customers.

Employees from the architecture firm CBLH Design and contractor Regency Construction were also

continued on page 2

Edgerton block party steps up its game

Anne O'Shaughnessy

Block parties have long been a way for neighbors to connect with one another over food and conversation—and what kid doesn't love a chance to play or ride a bike in the street without getting yelled at? In late August, Edgerton Road neighbors between Washington Boulevard and Silsby Road in University Heights convened a block party and, in doing so, took this traditional form of community engagement to a new level, drawing adults, kids and guests from not only that stretch of Edgerton, but also from surrounding blocks.

"We've always had an inclusive approach," said Jackie Gould, the driving force behind the Edgerton block party since it became a regular event in the early 2000s. "If one of the residents on Edgerton wanted to invite someone from one of the nearby streets, they were welcome to do so." Traditional methods of promoting the event included flyers left in mailboxes and word-of-mouth.

The planning team thought perhaps the door-to-door flyer drop wasn't enough. "Some years we'd see neighbors home on the day of the block party, though they weren't attending," said Gould. "We'd wonder, did they not know about it?"

Enter social media. Josh Hunter, a planning-team member for this year's block party, figured he would add to the team's communication effort by posting the event on Nextdoor, an app that lets neighbors share information online via closed communities. When Hunter posted a reminder on Nextdoor two days
continued on page 2

Trump statue to benefit public art in the Heights

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Regardless of your politics or your thoughts on the "Naked Trump" statue that briefly appeared in the Coventry Village Business District in Cleveland Heights on Aug. 18, you may appreciate that some good will come of it. On Sept. 16, artist Joshua Monroe, who goes by the name of Ginger, flew into Cleveland to pay an impound fee of \$110 and retrieve his property from the Cleveland Heights Police Department. Representatives of Heights Arts and Coventry Village Special Improvement



Artist Ginger stands next to his statue of Donald Trump as he retrieves it from the CHPD.

District (SID) were on hand to help with the transaction as Ginger had agreed to offer the statue for auction

to benefit the funding of public art in Coventry Village and throughout Cleveland Heights.

Ginger had created five life-size foam statues of U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump, pro-bono, for an anonymous artists collective called Indecline. The group placed them in prominent public spaces in four major U.S. cities on Aug. 18—New York, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles—and in Cleveland Heights.

Ginger, who grew up in Garfield Heights and now lives in Las Vegas, said
continued on page 8

Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life. 2843 Washington Blvd. #105, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216-320-1423 Copyright 2016 FutureHeights, All rights reserved. Reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

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

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

About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org and click on "Member Center" at the left.

- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail info@futureheights.org.

Articles to be considered for the November issue must be submitted by Oct. 10. 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.

EDGERTON continued from page 1

before the block party, the number of RSVPs surged.

Attendance nearly doubled at this year's block party, with additional neighbors from the surrounding streets joining in because they'd heard about it online.

On Aug. 27, police barricades closed Edgerton between Bushnell and Westwood roads. Residents brought chairs and side dishes to share. The planners provided pizza, cake, and supplies for face painting. Close to 50 people showed up and, for four hours, the streetscape was transformed.

Kids rode bikes, created chalk art, painted one another's faces, and played ball in the safety of the closed-off street. Patrolman Ben Feltoon from the University Heights Police Department brought his cruiser to the party, letting young residents check out the interior and turn on the flashers.

Mayor Susan Infeld stopped by to say hello, answering city services-related questions as well as questions about her family's recent trip to Rio de Janeiro to watch daughter Emily compete in the Summer Olympics.

A highlight of this year's event was live music, courtesy of resident Neil Gould and his longtime jamming partner, Dave Franduto. The duo played an eclectic mix of tunes on acoustic guitars.

Edgerton neighbors also shared news about a future get-together at the block party, promoting their second



Kids have fun with face paints at the block party.

annual holiday cookie bake-off and cookie exchange via a sign-up sheet.

The camaraderie of these neighborhood events appeals to many residents, including new homeowner Catherine Sluss. "Growing up in a very close-knit community, I was beyond thrilled to be included in a tradition that had been near and dear to my heart. As the newest residents on Edgerton, Joey and I feel very lucky to be a part of this warm and welcoming neighborhood."

Interested in planning a block party for your part of University Heights? Contact UH City Hall for information on how to get permission and barricades to close off a section of your street.

Nextdoor is a free app you can download to your Apple or Android phones. New members must verify their identities and addresses before they are allowed to join a specific community and participate in its forums.

Anne O'Shaughnessy is a communications advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She and her husband moved to University Heights in 2015.

Please vote against the school levy, excess and opaqueness

To the Editor,

Cleveland Heights, University Heights and South Euclid voters should vote against the school levy that will be on the ballot on Nov. 8, 2016.

I support this statement with the following data from the *Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015*.

The district and the levy campaign will fail to mention these, as they are, as always, putting all responsibility for another tax increase on HB 920:

- Between 2006 and 2015
 - General Fund Expenditures increased by 32.3 percent.
 - Student Enrollment decreased 13.5 percent.
 - The Cost per Student per Year increased 53 percent, to \$20,534.
- Between 2006 and 2013, the Graduation Rate decreased by 17 percent.

The Board of Education and those responsible for fiscal control are not managing the taxpayers' funds in a manner that is sustainable or transparent.

That the temporary Wiley renovations could exceed the Lay Facilities Committee's estimate by over \$10 MILLION (100 percent) and this overage be unknown to the community is inexcusable.

The vaunted "community led Bond Accountability Commission" that was promised to voters has been nothing of the sort in its downgraded stature as Facilities Accountability Committee, led by the district's project management, not by the community.

Until accountability, wisdom, and transparency are hallmarks of the board and the district, voting for school tax increases will accomplish nothing beyond raising taxes and increasing school spending.

Garry Kanter
Cleveland Heights

LIBRARY continued from page 1

on hand to celebrate the beginning of the construction phase of the project.

The renovated building will feature a full-functioning elevator (it currently has a lift), restrooms and meeting rooms on both floors, a door from the parking lot, and designated spaces for adults, teens and young children.

Construction is expected to take 12-14 months.

More information, and regular project updates, can be found at www.heightslibrary.org.

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

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School district has a spending—not funding—problem

Robert Shwab

The CH-UH school board fails to provide a fair communitywide explanation for a tax increase and needs to show more concern for the broader interests and health of the 60,000-person community beyond the roughly 5,400 student families, and including the children who are not attending district-run schools. Data [from] the CH-UH district's financial report or the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) provides a fuller picture.

In 2015, the unemployment rate in the district was 6.7 percent, which is higher than national and state levels. In Cleveland Heights, the median family income has dropped to \$49,056, far less than half the compensation of the average school administrator. The figure was \$58,028 in 2006. The district is getting poorer, and smaller. Population in Cleveland Heights has decreased, from 50,769 in 2006 to 46,121 in 2015. For a home valued at \$100,000, the 2015 property taxes were \$3,920, compared to \$3,203 for Lakewood, [another] inner-ring suburb. There is no doubt that high taxes are a deterrent to families seeking homes in the district, which puts an even greater burden on the remaining residents.

Our poorer and more unemployed population has been extremely generous to the district schools! The school board cannot ask for more without a deeper examination of its product, service delivery, marketing and oper-

ating model (to use enterprise terms). CH-UH ranks #1 in expenditure per student among 50 similar-size public school districts (ODE 2015 Report Card), and 15 percent higher than #2, Shaker Heights, which [has] a far wealthier population. In 2006, the annual budget (CAFR) was \$83,685,378. This increased 32 percent to \$110,738,646 in 2015. So, the budget increased two times faster than inflation over that period. It is even more astonishing that these huge increases occurred as enrollment decreased from 6,235 to 5,393.

Yes, I agree that legislators in Columbus need to address the unconstitutional funding arrangements throughout the state. Nevertheless, according to ODE figures, last fiscal year (FY 2015) the State of Ohio spent more on primary and secondary education than at any point in state history. FY 2015 State General Revenue Fund and Lottery Profit spending for primary and secondary education exceeded FY 2010 funding by nearly \$1.3 billion, or 17.8 percent.

CH-UH has an extra high proportion of students classified as "economically disadvantaged" and we must recognize the extra resources and efforts needed to help these students. The state allocation formula factors those needs into consideration. One can argue it is not a perfectly fair allocation, but that discussion obfuscates the larger point: the district does not have a funding problem, it has a spending

problem.

It is becoming both nasty and unfair to bemoan the modest vouchers paid on behalf of students who choose not to go to a [public] school. The charter and school-choice movement is the civil rights movement of this generation, and is leveling the playing field with affluent families that can afford private and suburban school options. Graduation rates at CH-UH dropped from 96.4 percent in 2006 to 81.3 percent in 2015. I am sure those voucher parents, mostly from low- and-middle income families, are making what they believe is the best choice for their child[ren]. Consider that the district needs \$20,000 per student, while the EdChoice voucher is between \$4,650 and \$6,000. (And, note to voters: the average cost per pupil at Hebrew Academy or Gesu is 50 percent lower.) We are fortunate and should be grateful to retain these families in our neighborhoods, and that they have not moved with all their tax dollars to another locale.

The school board needs to examine the totality of its enterprise and devise a better model. I, for one, might support a levy that was tied to major changes and a plan for better educational and sensible economic outcomes for all residents of the district, regardless of their choice of school.

Robert Shwab is a Cleveland Heights resident.

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Why conservatives should vote for the Heights school levy

Ryan Routh

Why should political conservatives consider voting FOR the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school levy this November? Here are a few reasons why doing so is consistent with conservative principles and why I, a lifelong Republican, am voting FOR the levy.

Conservatives care about fiscal responsibility—and this school board is committed to fiscal responsibility. The district has negotiated hard with local teacher and governmental employee unions and limited their raises in recent years. The district has closed schools in the past decade to eliminate overhead. The district took the unpopular step of laying off teachers and eliminating teaching positions this spring to right-size staffing. It is clear that the district is committed to spending taxpayer resources wisely.

Conservatives prefer local control over governmental [entities]. In public education, Washington and Columbus do not dictate to our community—we get to decide right here what kind of schools we have. We exercise that local control by electing a school board to carry out our community's wishes. Our school board has concluded that it makes sense to ask voters for additional operating resources through a school levy. I support that request from our locally elected officials who have closely examined the issue.

Conservatives believe in ac-

countability. People should be held responsible for their actions—those [who] commit crimes should be punished, and governmental assistance should not be generous. It is fair for society to hold people accountable, however, only if society [gave] them a fair opportunity when they were children—and we do that as a society in part through our public schools. Our district provides essential programs that focus on at-risk youth—those [who] have made mistakes at a young age—and gives them real opportunity to get back on track. I support funding second-chance programs for our youth.

Finally, conservatives prefer policies that preserve the value of their homes. It is true that local property taxes can be a burden and make our community less attractive to some. But those same taxes support our schools and make them strong. And strong schools attract prospective homebuyers. Young middle-class families thinking about moving to our district might accept higher taxes, but they won't accept failing schools. When we make our schools attractive, simple economics dictates that demand for our houses will rise and home values will be preserved.

For these reasons and more, I hope that my fellow conservatives and community members join with me in voting in favor of the levy on Nov. 8.

Ryan Routh has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1999 and is co-chair of Citizens for Our Heights Schools.

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Real facts about school funding

Diane Hallum

There is a false belief being perpetrated about tax levies for the CH-UH school district.

To begin with, in over 90 percent of the districts in Ohio, operating tax levies expire after 3-5 years. Those districts have to go back to voters to request the same millage level (such as a "replacement" levy), or to increase the millage to cover unexpected, often short-term, expenses (typically called "addition" levies), every 3-5 years. The reasoning is that the districts are supposed to have demonstrated good stewardship of the money they are given to educate children in order to keep getting that much money or more "additional" money.

Once a levy is passed, the dollar amount that millage provides [to] the district remains unchanged during the life of that levy—typically 3-5 years. When districts put replacement levies on the ballot every 3-5 years, the millage reflects the dollar amount that district believes it needs to cover its operating expenses for the next 3-5 years. The millage is chosen to provide that dollar amount.

None of that applies here in CH-UH.

We have PERMANENT levies. They do not expire. The arguments a few decades back for doing this were that voters were tired of returning over and over again to give the district money. This means that the district never loses revenue from property taxes because, per HB 920, the dollar amount for each and every levy remains unchanged forever and ever.

However, the mindset here still operates on the nonexistent belief that our district "needs" to come back to us every 3-5 years to keep

getting the same level of operating revenue. Decisions by CH-UH voters to approve "permanent" levies that never expire meant that our district would always have enough operating money to educate our children—because we trusted our administrators would continue to do a good job of educating our children and be good stewards of that money.

I present this because it appears to be difficult for some to understand that should this levy NOT pass, the district WILL NOT LOSE money! Currently the district receives \$113,107,478 and will continue to receive \$113,107,478 should this levy fail. Currently, the district receives \$20,799.46 per student and spends \$13,170 per student for actual classroom instruction. These numbers are from the district's financial report (CAFR).

And, since the district, according to the CAFR, expects the student enrollment numbers to drop, the funds allotted per student, which already takes into account those students who go to charter or private schools, will increase—without any "additional" operating levies.

Since I am presenting facts that some might view as "points" of view, I hope I have presented them clearly and understandably. Again, my attempts are to provide facts and hopefully to clarify where some may have a misunderstanding related to those facts.

Diane Hallum is director of Citizens Leadership, [a group that believes that] change in the status quo starts with citizens leading their officials in the right direction. [Group members] offer factual information on CH council decisions, meet to focus on key issues that matter, and develop methods to make a change for the better.

A teacher suggests ways to help your student succeed

Ari Klein

Many parents and guardians want to support their students in school, but may not always know what to do. School is not the same for students today; what students are responsible for has changed significantly over my career teaching in the CH-UH City School District.

Here are a few tips for parents and guardians to help the students in their care:

Organization: Students may require help staying organized. Sometimes they need help creating a system where they can find their work.

Help students by asking these questions: Do they know how to use a folder or notebook? Do they have a single place where completed assignments go? How do they remember what was assigned—are they using a planner or some other tracking tool? If it is clear they have no system for knowing where work is, where it goes when completed, what was assigned and when it is due, then perhaps you can help create a system.

Nothing is more frustrating for students and teachers than when a student does the work and then fails to bring it to school. Organization is a skill that transcends school—children need to find solutions that work for them and may need guidance.

Ask about school: Questions about school should be commonplace. Asking "How was school?" may not prompt as complete an answer as questions that cannot be answered with a single word. Instead, try asking "What was the most interesting thing you learned today?" or "What did you learn today in social studies?"

For students who need a little prodding, a question might be "Please show me your planner so I can see what homework was assigned." Instead of asking "Did you finish your homework?" say "Please show me your completed

homework and explain what you did." This works especially well if things were taught differently when you were in school and you want to give your child an opportunity to teach you something.

Engaging your child about school throughout the week helps keep even a reluctant learner on his or her toes. Deep discussions about school help show children you are committed to and interested in their education. This complements the work teachers do in the school and shows students we are on the same team.

Navigation: Teachers value partnerships and communication with parents, even if it is only by e-mail, but teachers are not the only resources available. Getting to know how things work in a particular school requires a little time.

The PTA, agencies that work directly with our schools to help advocate for students, and school personnel are valuable resources that can help your student. We have school social workers, psychologists, nurses and counselors who regularly help students and families with various issues. These professionals—part of the teachers union—are becoming more and more essential for our students and families.

We know that many districts do not invest as much in these services as CH-UH, and we hope our district will be able to continue providing these resources.

Knowing where links are on the district and school websites is helpful for finding out what is happening and what opportunities are available. For example, parents and guardians can view students' grades and follow their progress online through Infinite Campus. This program and a hundred other resources are available. Vow to try something new this school year.

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

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Advocate, alum and mom is 'All In' for Heights schools

Lisa Hunt

As a graduate of Heights High and mother to one current and one former student, I am a firm believer in our community's public schools. My belief, however, is not blind; it is based on what I have seen and experienced as a parent and advocate over the past 13 years.

My older son graduated from Heights High last year and has just begun college, where he continues to build upon what Heights instilled in him: the confidence to pursue his passions. Each year when football season ended, he would jump headlong into school and theater. Between the Heights drama department, clubs, sports, and community theaters, he had a wealth of opportunities to grow as an athlete and a performer, and he took advantage of all of it.

My younger son has had a dramatically different experience. He was diagnosed with a brain abnormality known as Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum (ACC) when he was 7 months old. He faces numerous challenges, including difficulties with learning, language, motor coordination and understanding social cues. He began receiving early intervention and special education services from our school district even before he started kindergarten at Fairfax Elementary School. I can honestly say that the staff members working on his Individualized Education Program (IEP) throughout the years have cared deeply for him as an individual, not a case number.

Raising a child with special needs is never easy and can be an isolating experience. In 2012, feeling overwhelmed and alone, I asked several parents to join me in changing special education narratives and removing barriers that families might be facing alone. With the support of Reaching Heights, the Exceptional Children's Advocacy Group (ECAG) was born, to provide a place for parents to support one another, advocate for clear pathways to resources, improve parent partnerships with the district, and increase understanding on both sides.

Since that time, I've witnessed the district's willingness to collaborate, improve practices and provide better support to the more than 1,000 families whose children receive services. Despite obstacles, this experience has solidified my belief that we all have a stake and responsibility in helping shape our schools and the lives of the students within them. We must be, to borrow a phrase, "All In."

My feelings about our school district are akin to those I have about Cleveland—it isn't always easy nor is it flawless, and we spend an awful lot of time defending ourselves against those who don't know who we really are. Like our hometown teams, I believe our schools need the same active belief and support from the public to keep winning. That does not mean we stop asking tough questions, expecting accountability or anticipating positive results—it means we participate.

I am frightened by the thought of not passing the upcoming levy in November, because a loss could result in cuts to teachers and programming, such as the strong sports and music programs that unite students, parents and community. I think about what both the college prep and the special education programs have meant to the success of my sons and countless others.

If we fail to provide basic, critical funding, then educators and vital programs for our children could be eliminated. I believe a community shows its value by the quality of schools it keeps, and that support requires both investment and commitment. This November's vote for the levy will send a message that we expect and believe in strong schools, and that we will work as a community to ensure we have them. Join me in going "All In" for education.

Lisa Hunt is a staffer at Reaching Heights and founding member of the Exceptional Children's Advocacy Group. She is a resident of Cleveland Heights and a graduate of Heights schools. She also serves as board secretary for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and seeks to help build awareness about ACC (see nodcc.org).



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Angela Dufresne
Nicola Tyson

Nicola Tyson, courtesy the artist and Petzel Gallery

**Cleveland Institute of Art
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opening reception
Fri Nov 4, 6:30–8:30pm

Visceral and immediate, the paintings of American artist Angela Dufresne and drawings of British-born Nicola Tyson confront the risks of walking the line between figural and abstract work.

Cleveland Institute of Art
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'We the Corporations' or 'We the People?'



HEIGHTS OF
DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

On Sept. 14, State Representatives Kent Smith (District 8) and Nickie Antonio (District 13) announced their primary co-sponsorship in the Ohio House of Representatives of a resolution calling on “legislators at the state and federal level and other communities and jurisdictions to support an amendment to the United States Constitution that would abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as speech.”

Also present at the Sept. 14 press announcement, held in South Euclid, were 30 Move to Amend supporters, and State Senator Michael Skindell (District 23) who introduced an identical resolution, SR 187, in the Ohio Senate in 2015. State Rep. Janine Boyd (District 9), who represents Cleveland Heights, University Heights and Shaker Heights, is one of 11 co-sponsors of the House resolution, which has not yet been assigned a number. The text of SR 187 is here: <http://bit.ly/2d3ywoj>.

Why this resolution, and why now?

Many Americans became aware that corporations claim the constitutional rights of actual persons—and that huge amounts of money, often from secret sources, rules our politics—only when the Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision made it glaringly obvious. Since then, various constitutional amendments have been proposed to overturn Citizens United, but this is not enough.

Cleveland Heights resident Greg Coleridge of Ohio Move to Amend explained, “Simply reversing Citizens United, or even overturning the 1976 Supreme Court decision that first equated money with free speech rights, leaves in place other tools corporations have corrupted to assert their rights over those of actual people—namely the 4th, 5th and 14th Amendments and the Commerce Clause. Only by denying corporations legal personhood can We the People (re)gain the authentic right to decide what takes place in our communities, nation and world.”

Move to Amend’s “We the People” Amendment is the only proposed amendment that would end both constitutional rights for corporate entities (including unions) and the definition of money as “free speech.” It is gaining traction in local, state and national jurisdictions:

- House Joint Resolution 48, introduced in the 114th U.S. Congress by Richard Nolan (Minn.), has attracted 22 co-sponsors from 15 states, including Congresswoman

Marcy Kaptur (Ohio District 9), who signed on after her constituents passed local resolutions and ballot initiatives. (www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-joint-resolution/48.)

- Initiatives fundamentally identical to that passed in Cleveland Heights have been approved by voters in eight Ohio municipalities, including a 64 percent “yes” vote in Toledo in March 2016.
- Registered voters have put initiatives on the November ballot in Shaker Heights (Issue 95), South Euclid (Issue 102) and Newark, Ohio.
- A ballot initiative campaign is starting up in University Heights. (E-mail heightsdemocracy@gmail.com for information.)
- Municipal councils in 12 Ohio communities have passed resolutions supporting the “We the People” Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- The Ohio Move to Amend network of grassroots activists is growing, with affiliates and partner groups in Athens, Brecksville, Chagrin Falls, Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Columbus, Dayton, Fremont, Kent, Mentor, Oxford, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Toledo.

SR 187 and the House companion resolution have been introduced in the 131st General Assembly due to the efforts of hundreds of Ohioans from around the state who spent thousands of hours promoting local resolutions and collecting the signatures of tens of thousands of registered voters to put the nonpartisan Move to Amend on their local ballots.

Whether the issue is charter schools, food safety, climate change, economics, trade, world peace or health care, corporations are using never-intended constitutional rights to control the outcomes. Passing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires a long view and hard work; it took 72 years for women to win the vote. Like women’s suffrage, Move to Amend poses a fundamental question: In a democratic republic, who rules?

[Note: A reader alerted us that last month’s column on public transit omitted the fact that RTA’s No. 7 bus continues past Richmond Mall to Mayfield and SOM Center roads during M-F rush hours only. We appreciate the correction and regret the error. Also, to clarify: Transfers are available to riders holding farecards and passes, but not to those paying for a single ride.]

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.

Quality education requires making teaching an attractive job



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Jeff Chapman was my daughter's fifth-grade teacher at Boulevard Elementary School in 1992. He co-taught with his wife, Laurie Chapman, who was my son's teacher a few years later. Parents and students couldn't wait for fifth grade. They knew it would be exceptional!

In that era, before testing ran schools, these teachers inspired students and trusted parents. They were wonderful partners and they were school leaders, innovators, and people who researched their fields. They experimented and were willing to take risks and bend rules to break down barriers to equal results with rambunctious pre-teens. Much of my respect for teachers comes from knowing them.

Because teachers are such important participants in the development of our children, it is easy to forget that for them it is also a job. Jeff Chapman is the person who awakened me to the reality that teaching my children was his employment. He chose teaching as a way to contribute to the lives of

children and as the way to support his own family.

A 2016 report from the Economic Policy Institute titled "The Teacher Pay Gap Is Wider than Ever" indicates that it is harder and harder for teachers to rely on their jobs to support their families. A review of labor statistics that compares teachers' incomes to those of people with comparable levels of education in other fields shows that teachers are losing ground. In 1979, teachers earned about 5.5 percent less than their peers. By 2015 that had widened to 17 percent less.

As taxpayers we may begrudge the seemingly lucrative pay of teachers, but we shouldn't. They are just making it, like almost everyone else in the middle class these days, and they are making an income sacrifice to teach.

Public schools have always depended on women to teach. Female teachers had few other employment options so they were paid less. In the 1970s, teaching was one of the best career opportunities for women. They earned about 4 percent more than women in other fields then, but that has changed. Women have more options now, and those who teach earn nearly 14 percent less than their peers who are not teachers. Because women dominate the teaching field, wages are depressed, so men who enter the field fare even worse. In 1979, male teachers earned about

22 percent less than other men with comparable education, and today it is 25 percent less.

The same report indicates that, while the demand for effective teachers is growing, the supply is not. Women have more options, teachers are "less satisfied and more stressed" because of testing and accountability that blames them, and the pay gap is growing. All this makes the choice to teach much less desirable. School funding took a hit during the recession, and now privatization is draining critical resources from school district budgets. This limits what districts spend on their teachers.

Today, fewer young people are entering the profession. More mid-career teachers are leaving early, and many of our experienced teachers are reaching retirement age. We have a teacher shortage, and it is going to grow.

Teachers are the key in-school factor affecting student learning. If we don't invest in them and respect them as professionals who do work that is highly valued by our community and society, the future of education is in trouble.

I am dumbfounded that our policymakers acknowledge the importance of teachers but twist and distort this truth into placing blame on teachers. Teachers are responsible for about 10 percent of test score results, yet we insist on measuring

kids with these tests and evaluating teachers with their results. None of this really has anything to do with the quality of education children receive or the quality of teaching that their teachers provide.

Education policy that measures and ranks and labels does not produce better results, nor does it help teachers reach their potential as resources for children. The system does not acknowledge out-of-school factors in student test scores, so teachers and schools that serve the neediest learners take the biggest hit. The negative labels don't improve learning. They discourage teachers from working with the neediest students and make it easier for voters to disinvest in education.

As a community we need to look beyond the labels and remember the teachers who have changed our lives. We need to create an appealing workplace for great teachers and fight policies that undermine them.

If the Chapmans were starting their careers now, would they choose teaching? Quality education depends on making sure teaching is a job people want.

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.

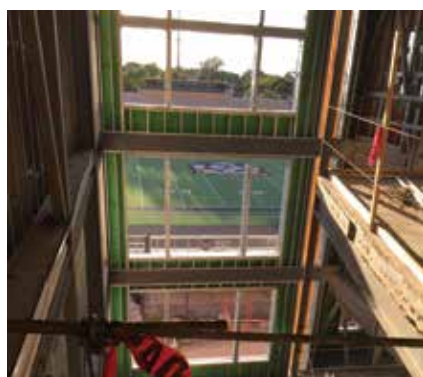
HIGH SCHOOL continued from page 1

practices, such as renovating an existing building and reusing and recycling materials, also contributed to the rating.

The high school project is estimated to cost \$6 million more than the original 2014 estimate, primarily because of higher-than-expected labor costs, soil conditions and additional abatement of hazardous materials and conditions.

Voters passed a \$134.8 million bond issue in November 2013 to help finance Phase 1 of the facilities project, which has a budget of \$157 million. Additional funds will come from the State of Ohio and grants from private foundations.

Phase 1 of the project also included repurposing the former Wiley Middle School for use as the district's high school for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. This part of the project cost the district \$18.9 million—\$3.2 million more than the original estimate—because of a delay in the commencement of construction, upgrades and an increase in the scope of the project.



The new multi-story west entrance.

Renovation of the district's remaining two middle schools, Roxboro and Monticello, is the final part of Phase 1 and is scheduled to begin in June 2017, at the close of the school year. The estimated budget for this portion of the project is \$38 million, less than the original \$46.3 million budgeted in 2014.

Find out more about the district's facilities renovation projects and see construction updates at www.chub.org/facilities.aspx.

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

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all proceeds benefit mission work

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\$10 admission 9:30 - 10:30, free thereafter

Saturday, October 15, 10 - 2

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CH residents open homes to visiting artists

James Henke

Cleveland Heights considers itself a home to the arts, and, when many out-of-town musicians and other artists are in the Cleveland area, they

stay at the homes of Cleveland Heights residents.

“Cleveland Heights bills itself as ‘home for the arts’ because of the many arts organizations in our community,” said Mary Dunbar, Cleveland

Heights council member. “But the city is also home to a great many artists, including visiting artists. Heights hospitality to musicians in town for a short term for performances is an essential contribution to some of our most innovative, regionally and even globally celebrated musical-arts organizations.”

Apollo’s Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, plays concerts all around Northeast Ohio. Only about half of its musicians live in the Cleveland area, and, according to Allison Richards, the organization’s artistic operations manager, there are about 25 households, most of them in Cleveland Heights, where the musicians stay when they are playing with the orchestra. “We rehearse at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on Fairmount,” said Richards, who has lived in Cleveland Heights for the last three years. “So we like to keep the musicians close to there.”

ChamberFest Cleveland is another musical organization whose musicians stay at Cleveland Heights homes. “About 20 or 30 musicians come to Cleveland to take part in our festival,” said Mary Beth Karakul, who is on the ChamberFest advisory board. “So they need somewhere to stay when they are here.”

Karakul, who also lives in Cleveland Heights, has had musicians stay at her house several times. “It has been a wonderful experience,” she said. “We like it if they can stay in this area. That way they can walk to practice.” She added that it’s nice when

someone can consider the musicians to be like family members.

CityMusic Cleveland is another musical organization whose out-of-town musicians frequently stay in Cleveland Heights. CityMusic performs free chamber-music concerts all around the Cleveland area.

Musicians are not the only people staying in Cleveland Heights when they are in the Cleveland area. An organization called Warm Showers helps people from all over the world go on extended bicycle rides. Gary and Deb Franke, who live in Cleveland Heights, recently hosted a high-school math teacher from Oxford, England. “Warm Showers is a network of people who bicycle,” Deb said. “You stay with someone, then other people stay with you. And there is no rent.”

She added that many people who live in Cleveland Heights host families, and that recently a couple bicycling with two young children for a year came through this area. “We have met people from Germany, England, Belgium and many other countries through this organization,” she said.

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

TRUMP continued from page 1

that it was important to him that one of the statues be placed in Cleveland. “I choose Cleveland Heights because when I lived here it was always one of my favorite places to go,” he said. “It was kind of more of the heart-of-the-artist center of the city. It’s where I felt like something of this nature would be appreciated—and I thought it would definitely stand up a little bit longer, but unfortunately it got taken down pretty quick.”

The Cleveland Heights statue was placed in front of the Huntington Bank building at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry Road on Aug. 18. It wasn’t there long enough for the glue to dry before Cleveland Heights police swooped in to remove it, citing an ordinance that property cannot be left unattended in a public place. The statue was taken to the city’s evidence storage unit. Ginger had 30 days to claim it.

The city decided not to press charges.

Community arts organization Heights Arts is holding the statue at an undisclosed location until it can arrange for a consignment sale or auction. Proceeds will benefit funding public art in the Coventry Village SID and will help establish initial funding at Heights Arts for future public art projects in Cleveland Heights.

Heights Arts has played a leadership role in commissioning and managing previous public art projects in Coventry Village, including the Coventry Arch by

artist Barry Gunderson, the whimsical wrought iron fences by artist Brinsley Tyrrell, and the colorful street benches and Coventry-specific street sign system, both designed by Raymond Bugelski.

“We are hopeful that the sale or auction of this statue will allow us to bring more public art to the community in the future,” said Rachel Bernstein, director of Heights Arts. “This is the result of a wonderful collaboration typical of Cleveland Heights in which many people worked together to make it happen. The result will benefit the entire community, which is as it should be.”

“We’re beyond delighted that artist Joshua ‘Ginger’ Monroe has generously agreed to donate a significant portion of the sale of the statue to kick-start public art funds for both the Coventry Village Special Improvement District and Heights Arts,” said Angela Hetrick, director of Coventry Village SID. “It’s truly wonderful that this work, which mysteriously appeared in Coventry Village and become national news, will benefit new permanent public art in our community. At this time, we’re exploring options to facilitate the auction and working with our collective boards to discuss specifics, which we expect to announce very soon.”

“I love Coventry, I love Cleveland Heights. It’s one of my favorite areas. Every time I come to Cleveland, I always visit here,” said Ginger.

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

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

Council Member Melissa Yasinow was absent.

Public comments

Communications with the deaf: Rico Delaney of East 49th Street, Cleveland, president of [the local chapter of] National Black Deaf Advocates, asked to speak with someone in city government about communication with deaf citizens, especially in law enforcement. He was referred to Susanna Niermann O’Neil, assistant city manager.

Neighborhood beautification: Barb Systowski, representing the Noble Neighbors Beautification Team, spoke about areas the group is developing, and litter control. She thanked the Building and Public Works Departments for the [flower] pots that were moved from Lee Road to Noble Road this summer.

Adjoining driveways: Resident Sterling Stenerson asked if owners of buildings having adjoining driveways may put posts or cement blocks between the drives. He was referred to Niermann O’Neil, to put him in contact with the Building and Housing departments.

Parking meters: Resident Roz Peters said residents want to know more about the task force working on the parking meters and also [want] to give input. Mayor Cheryl Stephens and City Manager Tanisha Briley responded that business owners are included in discussions. Niermann O’Neil and Council Member Kahlil Seren are responsible for a pilot study. A public meeting on parking will be scheduled in the future.

Deteriorated property: Resident Fred Gearhart said he has been contacting the city for several years about deteriorated property at 1610 South Taylor Road, which sits behind his home. He said the building needs to be torn down, and detailed problems with squatters, a fire and terminated water service. Mayor Stephens said he would receive a notice when its demolition is scheduled.

Stormwater management

Council authorized an agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) for stormwater management service.

Traffic signal project

Council authorized an agreement with Glaus, Pyle, Schomer, Burns and DeHaven Inc. (GPD Group) for engineering services for the final design and right-of-way acquisition phase of the Mayfield Road traffic signal project, with payment not to exceed \$133,932. Council Member Carol Roe noted the intense discussion and inclusion of citizen concerns in the planning of this project. She emphasized council’s priority on public safety.

Top of the Hill

Council approved an agreement with Silverlode Consulting Corp., to provide additional consulting services relating to the Top of the Hill development. The initial agreement, dated April 7, was not to exceed \$50,000. This agreement would provide additional consulting services relating to the development, not to exceed \$25,000. Seren voted against the resolution. [When asked after the meeting about his “nay” vote, Seren said his vote was not a critique of the consultant or city manager, but he felt inadequately briefed and, therefore, could not judge the need for the amount requested.]

Department of Homeland Security SAFER grant

Council accepted a SAFER (Staffing for



Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant of \$591,435 from the Department of Homeland Security for the Fire department. The SAFER grant may be used for personnel costs to ensure adequate resources for providing protection from fire and fire-related hazards for the city.

Overnight parking permits

Council added on-street overnight permit parking on specified portions of Hampshire Road. It also authorized the sale of overnight parking permits to residents and owners of property on Hampshire Road between Hampshire Lane and Overlook Road at Euclid Heights Boulevard, through Dec. 31, at a cost of \$35 per month.

Assessment boards reports

Council approved the Aug. 16 reports of two assessment equalization boards: the first board was appointed to hear objections to the estimated assessments for a portion of the expense of street and parkway maintenance and improvement; and the second to hear objections to estimated assessments for a portion of the expense of street lighting. Both reports contained three objections, all of which were overruled.

Assessment rates

Council approved ordinances to levy assessments for 2016 and 2017 of \$1.08 per front foot of property for street maintenance and improvement, and of \$.92 per front foot of property for street lighting.

Mayor’s report

Mayor Stephens thanked residents for working with the city through the microburst weather a few weeks ago. She expressed appreciation for the hard work and long hours that fire, police and public works employees worked in dealing with this emergency.

Stephens announced she has joined with mayors of the 30 largest cities in Ohio to work with the state government to find ways to make state financial actions friendlier to cities. She thanked residents for their patience and understanding of the functions of city government, citing the citizens who spoke about parking and the Noble Neighbors association early in the meeting, concluding, “It is our job to work on your behalf.”

LWV Observer: Blanche B. Valancy.

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

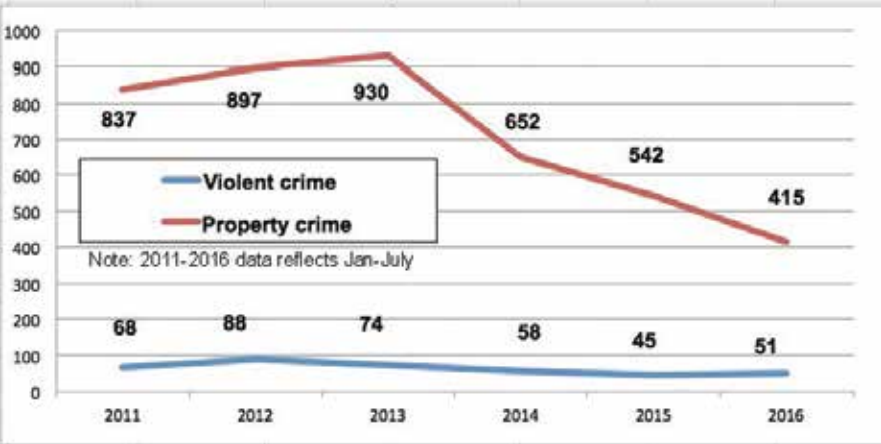
Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

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.

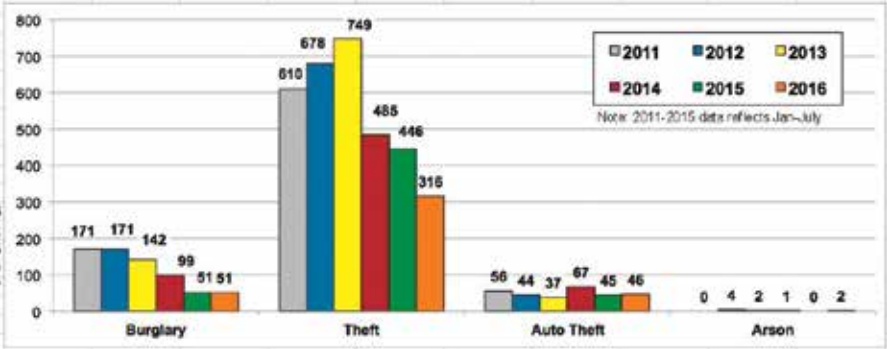
These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

CH crime trends for first half of 2016

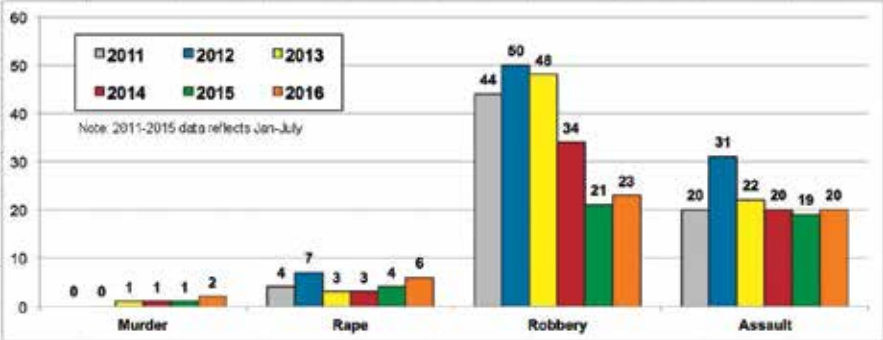
Total crime, January-June by year



Property crimes committed in Cleveland Heights– January-June 2016



Violent crimes committed in Cleveland Heights– January-June 2016



Bob Rosenbaum

Crime rates in Cleveland Heights for the first six months of 2016 have remained steady compared to the same period in recent years.



The data in the charts represents the period January through June 2016; data from previous years represents January through July. The difference in reporting periods results from changes in the communication routine between the *Observer* and CHPD following personnel changes in the police department earlier this year. The discrepancy will be fixed by the time year-end data is published.

The information is compiled by the CHPD according to federal

standards defined by the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting system, and is also published on the Cleveland Heights city website. It represents serious offenses defined as “Part I” crimes. It does not include “Part II” minor offenses, such as trespassing or DUI—which the FBI does not seek from local agencies because it would be too costly to report with the same level of detail.

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

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

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Sunday, October 2 : Inside Prison
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Sunday, October 9 : Reentry
The challenges of employment and housing after being released from prison.

Sunday, October 16 : Hope
A call to action to help create opportunities for those who have been incarcerated.

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist (ASL)
10 a.m. Church School for all ages/Adult Forum
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Morning Prayer on second Sunday)

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Forest Hill Historic District



CLEVELAND
HEIGHTS
LANDMARKS

Margaret Lann

The Forest Hill Historic District spans the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland and comprises the Rockefeller homes, the Forest Hill Homeowner Association cottage, the Heights Rockefeller Building and Forest Hill Park.

In 1923, John D. Rockefeller Jr. purchased the estate of his father, John D. Rockefeller Sr., and began working with architect Andrew J. Thomas to develop a unique residential community featuring nine styles of French Norman homes constructed of the finest materials. At that time, Rockefeller Jr. also donated the land for Forest Hill Park to the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland and sold other Rockefeller land to the Deming brothers, residen-



Abeyton Realty office, 2015.

tial developers in Cleveland Heights.

To market and sell the homes, Rockefeller established the Abeyton Realty Corporation, named after his wife, Abby. A small shingled cottage, designed in the French Norman style, housed the real estate office and welcomed prospective homeowners. Inside, they could learn about the development, including plans for apartments, a country club and inn, a business block and stately homes. Now used by the Forest Hill Homeowners Association as a meeting space, the office was landmarked by the city in 2005.

After years of planning, construction of 81 homes—of 600 planned—

occurred rapidly between 1929 and 1930. A combination of events brought a halt to the sales and construction of the remaining 519 homes, leaving Rockefeller's plans largely unfinished. By 1933, Rockefeller was actively selling land, finally selling the remaining 650 lots in 1948, 20 years after the project's start.

Those lots were in demand during the post-World War II housing boom. Later development of Forest Hill includes ranches and colonial revival homes, with architectural features inspired by the Rockefeller homes, such as slate roofs, attached garages and houses built in pairs of mirror images, updated to suit post-war architectural styles.

The quality and history of this housing stock has the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society working to expand the National Register District to include the remainder of the community.

One post-war home of particular note is the Morris L. Finneburgh House, designed by architect Albert J. Sgro in 1954. This mid-century ranch was made a Cleveland Heights Landmark in 2002. Inspired by Frank

Lloyd Wright, Sgro incorporated the home into its landscape, using redwood and brick. The floor-to-ceiling windows bring the outside in, and the inclusion of an oak tree as the focal point of the courtyard gives the impression that the tree is growing out of the home.

Margaret Lann is a member of the CH Landmark Commission, which preserves and protects buildings, works of art and objects of historical or architectural value to the community. The seven members are appointed by CH City Council.

Cleveland Heights trials new parking app

Kim Sergio Inglis

Those parking in three Cleveland Heights parking garages—in Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry Village—can now use a mobile Passport Parking app that they can download to iPhone and Android smart phones.

The City of Cleveland Heights made the announcement on Sept. 23 and has posted information about how to download and use the app at www.clevelandheights.com/parkingapp. The information is also accessible via a Passport Parking icon on the website's home page.

The parking rate for those using the app is the same 50 cents per hour as for those using quarters, which meters will continue to accept. Parking app users are charged a 35-cent convenience fee per transaction.

The app will enable users to add additional parking time without having to return to the garage. The convenience fee is charged once; there is no additional convenience fee for adding extra time.

Susanna Niermann O'Neil, vice city manager, said the city expects some initial glitches, and will evaluate the parking app for a trial period before extending it to the surface lots: "I'm hoping in February—in five to six months—we'll have enough data and understanding to go forward."

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

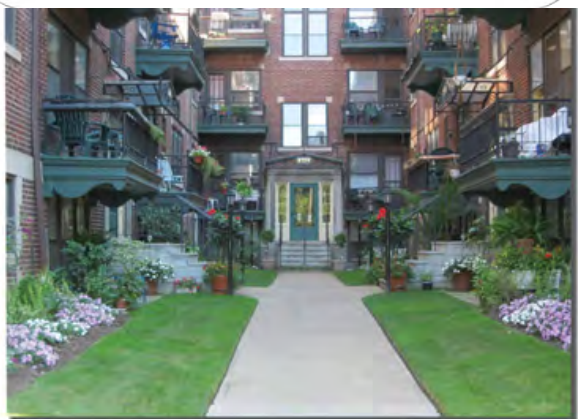
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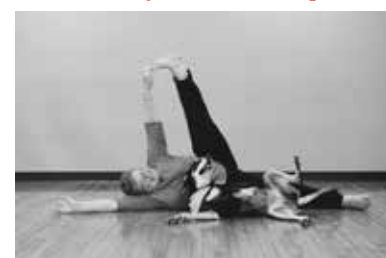
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Noble Neighbors hosts back-to-school celebration

Susan Sanders

On Friday, Aug. 19, Noble neighbors gathered to enjoy a summer evening on the front lawn of Bethel Church. The back-to-school celebration, organized by the Noble Neighbors group, featured Euclid Beach Rocket Car rides, an ice cream social and a chalk walk. The event brought together children and families to celebrate their neighborhood and build community, and had two primary goals: to celebrate and encourage children and teens in their educational endeavors, and to reach out to families living in apartments along Noble Road.

The event successfully brought



Children line up to take a ride on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car.

people together, with 200 frozen treats consumed, 170 Rocket Car rides enjoyed, and more than 50 sidewalk canvases created by chalk artists of all ages.

Representatives from Reaching Heights and Open Doors Academy shared information about their respective educational initiatives. Par-

ticipants of Developing Alternatives for Women in New Communities (DAWN) brought sewing crafts to display and sell to the community, and brought their children and families to join the celebration. Also present were members of FutureHeights, and Cleveland Heights Fire and Police departments' community engagement and canine units. Cleveland Heights Mayor Cheryl Stephens and Council Member Carol Roe also visited.

Noble Neighbors (www.noble-neighbors.com) is a neighborhood organization that started in January 2014. The group has quickly grown in participation, activities and presence. Noble Neighbors has developed into an action team of people who want to see neighborhoods along Noble Road thrive in friendliness, beauty and safety. Noble Neighbors creates events like the back-to-school celebration to foster community and inclusiveness, and to advocate for the neighborhood.

In the words of one Noble Neighbor, Brenda May, "Noble Neighbors is all about celebrating our community. We cherish our diversity and we gladly join together to help each other thrive. The word that describes us best is—home. This is home."

Susan Sanders is a participant in Noble Neighbors, a community group working to make the neighborhoods along Noble Road friendly, safe, attractive and welcoming for everyone.

Oct. 27 talk at Lee Road Library will cover new recycling guidelines

Cathi Lehn

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District rolled out new recycling guidelines for county residents earlier this year. The district's goal was to reduce confusion about what could and could not be recycled by creating a consistent countywide message about how to recycle properly.

Diane Bickett, executive director of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, will speak at the Lee Road Library on Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m., and provide information on how Heights residents can become better recyclers.

Residents are throwing a lot

of things in their recycle bins that should not be there—food, clothes, toys, engine blocks, garden hoses—even bowling balls. This causes problems because sorting out these contaminants comes at a high cost. To improve recycling, the district is seeking ways to encourage people to recycle more and recycle better.

Working with a national recycling nonprofit, the Recycling Partnership, and with two local marketing firms, the Fairmount Group and Trait Studio, the district developed a common set of recycling instructions that apply to every community in the county and prepared educational templates for each community to use. To develop

these guidelines, district staff and their partners met with the four recycling facilities that collect and sort the county's curbside recyclables, to learn what can and cannot be recycled.

Now, it's one simple act to recycle: Combine cans, cartons, glass, paper, and plastic bottles and containers in your curbside recycling.

Visit the district's new website, cuyahogarecycles.org, to find answers to recycling questions and learn about the many programs available to county residents.

Cathi Lehn is a Cleveland Heights resident and a graduate of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's Master Recycler program.

Abby
• Wrote series for MHS Blog
• Earned four IB certificates

John
• Studied deforestation in Spain
• Performed with MHS theatre program

Ethan
• Went to Costa Rica on sustainability intensive
• Earned IB Diploma

Didi
• Managed MHS service program
• Received 2015 Smart Living Award

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Neighbors gather to dedicate Spirit Corner in Coventry Village

Robert Brown

On Sept. 10, 30 local residents gathered at the corner of Hampshire and Cadwell roads in the Coventry Village neighborhood to dedicate the community green space known as Spirit Corner.

A house built on this corner in 1898 had sat vacant for more than 50 years before it was demolished in 2012. Neighborhood residents, led by Laura Marks, asked city officials to allow them to adopt the site and make it a green space and gathering space.

Neighbors named the site "Spirit Corner" in memory of the spirits that, purportedly, had inhabited the otherwise long-vacant house, known to neighborhood children as the



Coventry Village neighbors gathered to celebrate Spirit Corner.

"haunted house."

In the past year, Spirit Corner has been enhanced with a Little Free

Library, a history sign, a table and stools upcycled from a fallen tree, wildflowers, a stone engraved with

the name Spirit Corner, and even designation as a Pokemon Go "gym."

Attendees at the dedication event toasted residents who had made special contributions to enhance the green space, and recognized a contribution by the Frohring Foundation, represented at the event by former Coventry Village resident Steve Szilagy. The event ended with a ceremonial ribbon cutting to dedicate Spirit Corner as a focal point for the Coventry Village neighborhood.

Robert Brown is a city planner with 40 years of experience, including nine years as Cleveland's City Planning Director. A resident of Cleveland Heights for more than 40 years, Brown has lived in the Coventry Village neighborhood for more than 13 years. He is a volunteer on the Civic Engagement Committee of Future Heights.

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SHN suggests sustainable tips for October

Sustainable Heights Network

The Sustainable Heights Network (SHN) offers monthly tips to help reduce your bills and environmental impact while making your life more comfortable. For more information, visit www.sustainableheightsnetwork.net.

Energy Savings: Autumn is a great time to weatherize

your home. Why not begin by asking a professional to evaluate your home-energy use? The SHN steering committee recently interviewed Empower G&E and was impressed. Empower offers homeowners free one-hour inspections, focused on insulation, air leaks, lighting and thermostats. In addition, Empower will introduce homeowners to a team of vetted, local contractors, and inspectors to verify that the job is properly completed. Empower can also help arrange financing so that the loan payment each month is nearly equivalent to what the homeowner will save each month. Contact Empower at 937-830-3189 or visit <http://empowergasandelectric.com/empowers-1-hour-energy-assessment>.

Solid Waste: There are many ways to recycle items. "Recycling" means a material will be made into a new item, such as plastic bottles being made into fleece or lumber. Many kids love to make crafts, and many otherwise unusable items are great for this. For example, CDs make great, shiny mobiles. They also can be hung in gardens to keep the birds away. They can be painted, or used as stands for pipe cleaner figurines. Be creative!

Transportation: Go ahead, put the snow brush in the car. (Maybe that'll keep it from being needed!) Cooler nights mean it's time to check tire inflations more frequently. Tires lose about 1 psi per 10 degrees F; lower psi means lower mpg and more carbon in

the air. Don't forget to check the spare. This is a good time for an oil change. Check your heating system before winter truly hits. There are still cyclists, runners, and pedestrians out and about. Hopefully they'll all be sporting reflective clothing and blinky lights by now, but be alert anyway. Halloween calls for extra vigilance by drivers as costumed kids, their peripheral vision obscured by their masks, scamper out from between parked cars or piles of leaves. Walking with your kids is far safer than creeping the car along their Halloween route, and saves gas as well.

Environmental Health: Please leave the leaves! Mulch leaves with a mulching lawn mower and leave in place to provide free fertilizer for your soil. Or rake the shredded leaves to mulch your flower or vegetable gardens. There is still time to plant a tree, just make sure to water it if we have insufficient rain. Drain rain barrels (they can be destroyed if water inside freezes) and put them in winter bypass mode so water goes into your rain garden or storm sewer for winter.

Linda Butler is a photographer, writer and environmental activist who, with her husband, built a passive solar house. Ditte Wolin, a lifelong community member, has been involved with sustainable efforts with the city and schools for many years. Other SHN members contributed to this article, written primarily by Butler and Wolin.

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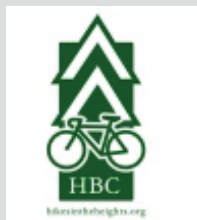
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Oct. 5 is Walk or Bike to School Day



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Have you noticed more kids bicycling to school this year, and more parents or siblings walking to school with younger children?

We have!

Since fall 2010, Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) has been working with schools to promote Walk or Bike to School Day twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring. This year's fall event will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

For several years, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has listed the two Walk or Bike to School Days on its calendar. Initially, HBC produced flyers for elementary and middle schools to distribute to families. For the past couple of years, the City of Cleveland Heights has produced the flyers for the schools, thanks to a grant from the Safe Routes to School program.

These concerted efforts are beneficial for our children. Kids need 60 minutes of exercise each day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Walking or biking to school can help give kids the exercise they need for good health. Exercise is especially important for the 17 percent of U.S. children aged 2-19 who are obese, with all of the grave, long-term consequences obesity entails. But all kids need the exercise, because research indicates that kids who get exercise on the way to school arrive more ready to settle down and learn. Walking or biking to school is good for academic reasons.

Going to school on foot or by bike can also reduce the traffic congestion and air pollution that motorized vehicles cause around schools.

Active modes of transportation can build community and neighborhoods, as kids and adults come together for this purpose. Adult involvement especially can add eyes on the street. Walking to school can be a chance for kids to form friendships or for quality time with a parent.

Walk to School Day is celebrated internationally in the fall. Bike to School Day is a national event in the spring. We encourage both bicycling and walking to school in the Heights—both contribute to our quality of life.

Heights Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to educating and encouraging Heights community members to use bicycles as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation. Mary Dunbar, president of HBC and a member of CH City Council, wrote this month's column.

Trump visits Cleveland Heights; Heights residents speak up

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Donald Trump held a "town hall meeting" at New Spirit Revival Center, 3130 Mayfield Road, on Sept. 21. Trump was the guest of Pastor Darrell Scott, who has received national attention for his support of the Republican presidential candidate.

Fox News taped the meeting, which began at 9:30 a.m., for broadcast that evening. While Trump spoke inside the church, a counter-event took place across the street, in front of the Heights Rockefeller Building. Protesters began lining Mayfield Road when the event began. Elected officials held a press conference at which Cuyahoga County Councilmember Anthony Hairston, Cleveland Heights Mayor Cheryl Stephens, State Senator Sandra Williams and State Representative Janine Boyd spoke.

Stephens quoted John Lentz, a Cleveland Heights resident and pastor of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, located a block away, who had stated the previous Sunday: "Jews and Christians in Cleveland Heights, home of the arts, and a place of diversity with a big D, always believe that God creates all of us and everything and that belief means that kindness, a mani-



CH Mayor Cheryl Stephens (center) addresses the crowd. State Rep. Janine Boyd is at right.

festation of Christianity, is welcoming everyone. Any church or any community worthy of its name believes that we accept everyone, whether they are Muslims or Mexicans. They should not be eliminated. They should not be removed. They should not be returned. They should stay in our country and there should not be walls for any of it. This community, Cleveland Heights, believes that we moved beyond this 50 years ago, not today!"

The mayor cited herself as an example of the progress the country had made; although Forest Hill once had deed restrictions that prohibited people of certain origins and ethnicities from living there, she owns a home in the neighborhood.

"We in Cleveland Heights have stood up to racists before, and I'm here to do it

again for my community!" said Stephens.

Boyd commented on growing up in Cleveland Heights, where she learned Hebrew at Park Synagogue's preschool and graduated from St. Ann and Beaumont, two Catholic schools: "In Cleveland Heights, we practice Shabbos and Ramadan; we chant as Buddhists and we sing in our gospel choirs on Sunday mornings. . . . We celebrate Pride and advocate for equality. We welcome and assist our refugee families. . . . We are a microcosm of the America that every American can be proud of, and that is why Mr. Trump's candidacy and platform do not work here."

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



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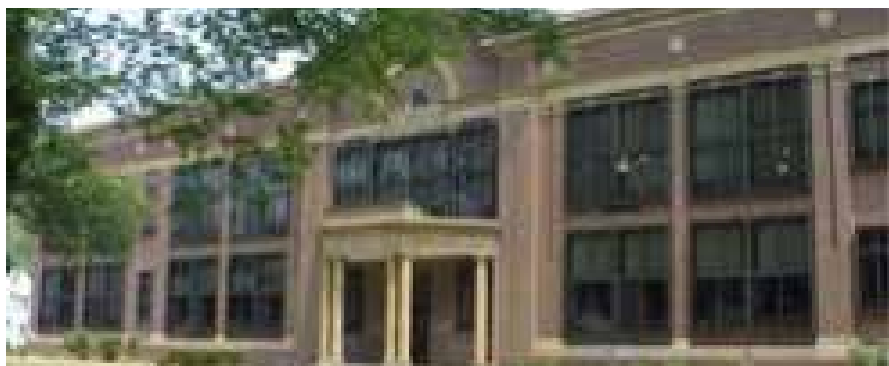
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COURTESY CHUH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The potential closing of Noble Elementary School will be a topic at the forum.

Noble Neighbors to host Oct. 11 forum on school levy ballot issue

Brenda H. May

Noble Neighbors invites the Heights community to learn more about the proposed school levy on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m., at Noble Road Presbyterian Church, 2780 Noble Road.

Voters will vote “yes” or “no” on a 5.5 mill CH-UH City School District operating levy on the Nov. 8 ballot.

The Oct. 11 meeting will be an informational event at which Talisa Dixon, superintendent of schools, and other members of the district are invited to present their pro-levy position.

Also invited to speak are representatives of those who oppose the school levy.

Dixon will also discuss the potential closing of Noble Elementary School, and its impact on the students and families who live in the neighborhood.

All members of the community are invited to attend. For more information, visit www.nobleneighbors.com.

Brenda H. May is one of the Noble Neighbor leaders. For more information about the group, visit www.nobleneighbors.com.

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Annual book arts festival has roots in the Heights

Laura Martin

Octavofest: Celebrating the Book and Paper Arts is in its eighth year of organizing and promoting book-related events throughout Greater Cleveland during the month of October. (Referencing the page size produced by folding a sheet of paper three times to produce eight leaves, the octavo is still a common size for printed books.)

Octavofest events range from lectures, workshops and public demonstrations to exhibitions and tours of rare book collections. Heights Libraries always sponsors several programs, and this year is no exception.

On Oct. 3, explore the world “on one sheet of paper” at a cartography presentation at the Lee Road Library. On Oct. 13, at the Noble Neighborhood Library, adults can construct bird houses made entirely of discarded books. On Oct. 24, the Lee Road Library will host a Readers’ Theatre with Dobama Theatre that celebrates book history from ancient Alexandria to the present day. See the Heights Libraries (www.heightslibrary.org) or Octavofest (<http://www.octavofest.com/>) websites for details on these and other Octavofest events.

Octavofest began in 2006 with The Artistry of Words, a weekend books and art festival that celebrated the Lee Road Library’s grand reopening. Coordinated by library staff member Carole Wallencheck, the event showcased her idea that “books can be lovely objects in and of themselves, and over the centuries have been carriers of knowledge and beauty.”

In 2007 and 2008, the festival was reworked as The Joy of Text, drawing in the Heights Arts Collaborative and Heights Writes. Enthusiastic audiences participated in workshops and public art events

led by Cincinnati book artist Kate Kern. Her month-long residency at Heights Arts, coordinated by then director Peggy Spaeth, highlighted the book as art object.


In March 2008, three Cleveland Heights book artists, Bonné de Blas, Melissa O’Grady and Amy Fishbach, founded Art Books Cleveland (ABC) to “advance appreciation of the book arts.”

An immediate success, ABC soon had more than 20 members, and in October of that year mounted its first Abecedarium Exhibition, featuring handmade books with an alphabet theme.

The Joy of Text was reframed as Octavofest in 2009, when the program featured eight events. This year, there are more than 50, hosted by more than 20 collaborating organizations and institutions from Oberlin to Akron. ABC continues to coordinate Octavofest.

Since the 1950s, when the first modern “artist books” began to appear, the popularity of the book as art object has thrived. Octavofest has, since its inception, taken an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating diverse institutional philosophies and types of programming into each year’s schedule. Octavofest participants look at the book with a new appreciation and a new awareness, contemplating both the history and future of books, and revisiting their own interest in and experience of the book as a “container,” not only of information but also aesthetic enjoyment.

Laura Martin, a 25-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a book artist, is chair of the Octavofest Steering Committee. Steering committee members Louis Aldrean, a Cleveland Heights resident who works at CMA’s Ingalls Library, and Carole Wallencheck, a University Heights resident who works at Heights Libraries, contributed to this article.



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Gesu Catholic School moves full STREAM ahead

Mary Kate Farrar

Thanks to leadership donations totaling more than \$1.1 million, generously given by John and Mary Jane Breen; Kathleen Breen; Robert and Heidi Heltzel; Gerald and Helen McDonough; June McGinty, of the McGinty Family Foundation; and the Conway Family Foundation, Gesu Catholic School is introducing an innovative program, called Gesu STREAM, into its curriculum.

"The goal of Gesu STREAM is to prepare students for a 21st-century world with a focus on science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math," said Lucy Iemmolo, principal of Gesu Catholic School.

Gesu joins a handful of area Catholic elementary schools that are implementing STREAM, a relatively new concept supported by the National Catholic Educa-



Gesu students engaged in the new STREAM program.

tional Association. Because of this program, students at the school are engaged at an earlier age in areas such as robotics, architecture, space exploration and technical design.

Marjorie Gessner has been named the full-time STREAM coordinator. She will be working

with faculty and students to develop curriculum standards and methods for developing interdisciplinary units and activities. Gessner's goal is to help teachers collaborate across content areas and enable students to make more meaningful connections in their learning. She will be facilitating the integration of STREAM activities into everyday lessons.

"Gesu has a strong academic history," said Gessner. "Students will have project-based learning that allows them to focus on goal setting, critical thinking and problem solving." The core of the educational experience remains consistently based on values and a faith foundation.

With donated funds, the school has already completed construction and renovation of the current second floor science room into a more versatile instructional space for experi-

ments and projects. The next phase of construction is scheduled to begin in October and will be the north side of the school building, currently the Religious Education Center.

The three-story space will be designed to enhance classroom learning in science, technology, religion, engineering, art and mathematics, all dedicated to the Gesu STREAM initiative. The chapel will also be updated for students and staff to use as a reflective prayer space. When completed, the wing will be known as The Breen Family Educational Center for STREAM Learning.

"The goal of STREAM is to encourage an inquiry-based environment and effectively integrate more hands-on learning experiences into the curriculum. All areas of the curriculum will be reviewed, including extracurricular clubs and programs. This initiative is to challenge our students' minds and equip them with the tools they can use in a world of ever-changing competitiveness, grounded in a strong Catholic faith [that is] an integral part of our learning and daily lives," said Iemmolo.

For more information about Gesu Catholic School and the Gesu STREAM program, contact the school office at 216-932-0620.

Mary Kate Farrar, a former resident of University Heights, is development director for Gesu school and parish.

Heights High announces AP scholars



Class of 2017 and 2018 AP scholars: (back row, from left) Daniel Fields, William Van Den Bogert, Jeremy Kauffman, Benjamin Schuster; (fourth row) Cody Radivoyevitch, David Fleischer, Andrew Bell, James Smith; (third row) Charles Adams, Paris Colbert, Andrew Kilbride, Akash Bartlett; (second row) Soli Collins, Melanie Graham, Calie Swaim-Fox, Anya Chew; (front row) Cecilia Payne, Isabela Jaffrey, Gilda Weinstock, Faith Morris. (Not pictured: Linnea Covault, Laural Matia, Tladi Motsamai and Nina Yao.)

Joy Henderson

In spring 2016, Heights High juniors and seniors took the end of course exams for Advanced Placement (AP) courses. On Sept. 14, the CH-UH City School District, which offers 19 AP courses, announced that 53 students were recognized for their exceptional achievement on the AP exams:

National AP Scholar – Class of 2016: Regina Bellian.

AP Scholar with Honor – Class of 2017: Andrew Bell, Anya Chew, David Fleischer, Jeremy Kauffman, Faith Morris, Tladi Motsamai, Nina Yao; Class of 2016: Anna Crowley, Kirkland Pearce.

AP Scholar with Distinction – Class of 2017: Charles Adams, Akash Bartlett, William Van Den Bogert, Benjamin Schuster, Cody Radivoyevitch, Callie Swaim Fox; Class of 2016: Andrew Schellenberg,

Emma Schubert, Allegra Steiger, Linden Wike, Graham Ball, Regina Bellian, Michael Beyersdorfer, Taylor Jones, Aviva Klein, Isabel Mcgaugh, Grace Peppler, Michelle Posch.

AP Scholar – Class of 2018: Melanie Graham; Class of 2017: Paris Colbert, Soli Collins, Linnea Covault, Daniel Fields, Isabella Jaffery, Andrew Kilbride, Laurel Matia, Cecilia Payne, James Smith, Gilda Weinstock; Class of 2016: Daniel Adognravi, Orion Brock, Henry Gray, Maya Hubbard, Flannery Jewell, Naomi Marsh, Kelly Moore, Arianna Murray, Amelia O'Donnell, Isaac Pittmon, GiaFrancesc Quartell, Adam Rosenbaum, Elijah Snow-Rackley, Terry Wheeler, Emma Zordan.

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

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

AUGUST 16, 2016
All board members were present.

Counselor evaluation policy
The first reading of the Standard-Based School Counselor Evaluation Policy was presented.

Middle school construction plans
Pat O'Brian, of Moody-Nolan (architects), reported on plans for the two middle schools.

The square footage will be reduced, but [each school] will still hold 600 students. There will be a realignment of space. At Monticello Middle School, the administration area will be moved to the back near the main entrance of the building.

Turner Construction presented a review of the pre-construction schedule with the dates of May 30, 2017, for approval of design, and February 2017 for approval of documents. Construction will require 16 months. Plans are needed for use of the outside area around Roxboro Elementary School.

Board Member James Posch asked about community meetings. None are planned yet.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016
Board Member Eric Silverman was absent.

Public comments
School levy: A representative of Citizens for Our Heights Schools expressed his opinion on why the November school levy should be supported. He cited the many educational options and great courses and programs, including career tech and impressive AP (Advanced Placement) programs. He said the district is working hard, trying to be fiscally responsible, and that strong schools attract residents.

Counselor evaluation policy
Paul Lombardo, the district's human resources director, presented the second reading of the Standard-Based School Counselor Evaluation Policy. He said the policy was in line with the teacher evaluation policy.

Summer school
Felisha Gould, assistant superintendent, gave a comprehensive summer school report. She noted that the summer school program addressed two strategic goals: increasing the graduation rate to 90 percent, and closing the achievement gap. The report included the following:

- The 190 enrolled high school students took blended (in-classroom and online) classes; eight students failed. Of the 190, 33 students needed to pass the Ohio Graduation Test. A fee of \$100 was charged per class. Financial help was available.
- Of 133 middle school students enrolled in the program, 13 failed.
- Of 101 elementary students enrolled in the program, eight failed.
- A summer program for Boulevard, Noble and Oxford elementary schools successfully advanced those students to the next grade.
- Summer enrichment was available for English language learners.
- An AP boot camp for 33 students developed effective study habits and time management [skills].



High school renovation change orders
The board approved change orders totaling \$784,332 in increased expenses and a \$254,368 credit. PMC/Regency [the owners representative overseeing the project] explained that the change orders included unforeseen existing conditions involving brickwork support, added code requirements for aluminum windows, installing an auxiliary sound system in the gym, and adjusting a design clarification to include fritted glass panels in the pool area. The change order credit was for E-rate rebates received to fund cabling and network electronics. [E-rate is a federal program that provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the U.S. obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.]

PMC/Regency said the school will be a world-class structure and finish on time. The classrooms are large with well-lit spaces.

Middle school renovation
The educational space of the middle school renovation was discussed. Board President Kal Zucker commented that he wanted the dollars used wisely, and [wanted] to lower the number of change order submissions.

- Donations**
The board accepted the following donations:
- \$622.22 to Canterbury Elementary School
 - An evaporation cooler to Canterbury Elementary School
 - \$8,600 to Fairfax Elementary School
 - Art supplies to Monticello Middle School
 - \$315 to Heights High
 - Neckties to Heights High

Charter schools
Board Vice President Ronald Register said that the resolution sent to the state concerning monies to charter schools was moving forward with other districts that are responding.

In-school tutoring
Reaching Heights is promoting in-school tutoring and role model speakers. Information is on the Reaching Heights website, www.reachingheights.org.

Clock tower
The Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation has donated money for the clock tower.

LWV Observer, Lillian Houser.

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



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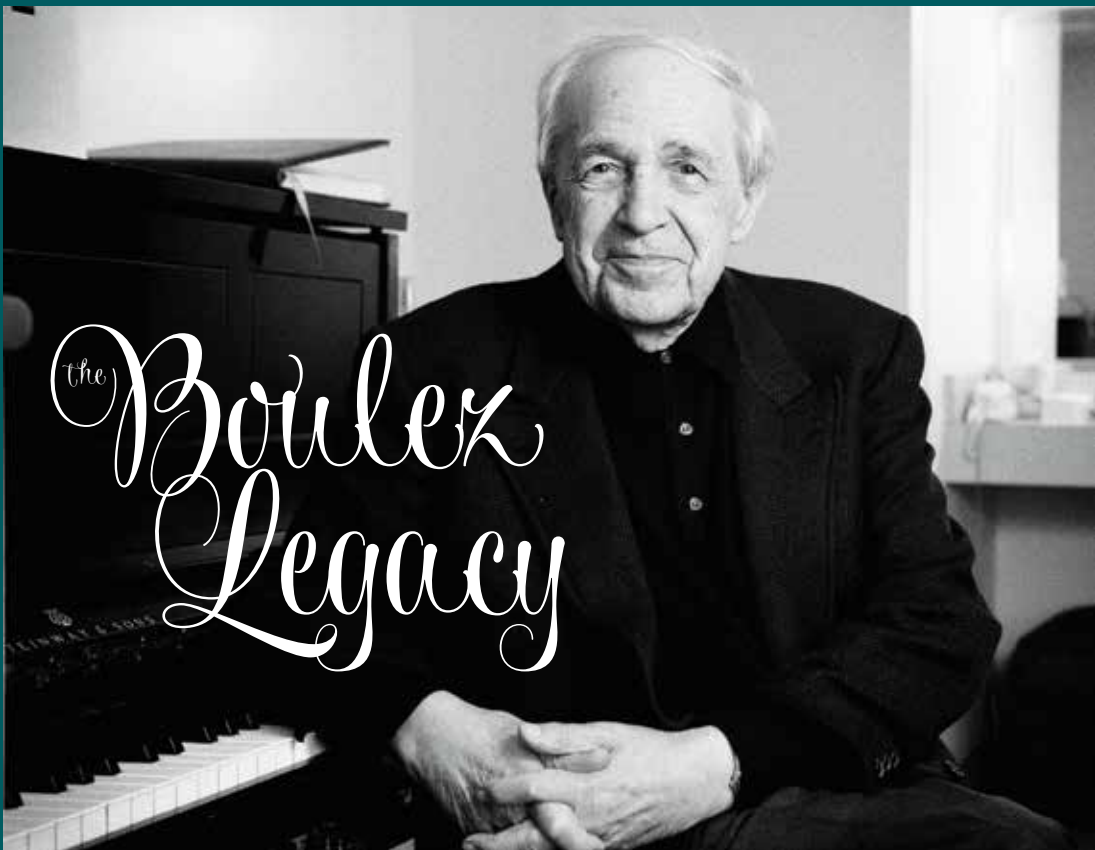
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Heights High musicians are swingin' in the 'Swing State'

Joy Henderson

For six Heights High jazz musicians, swing is the thing. A year ago they formed Swing State, a jazz combo, through the school's small-group ensemble program. Within a few months, they were playing gigs at local establishments.

The group members—drummer Andy Bell, trumpeter William van den Bogert, baritone saxophonist Nicholas Edwards, pianist Jeremy Kauffman, and bassist Ian Nocente—are all seniors. Alumnus Ryan Wilson, a tenor saxophonist who graduated this past spring, now attends Ohio University.

"Our first gig was at The Wine Spot on Lee Road," said Bell, "and

we packed the house, mostly with our friends and family. That was an awesome experience. We had goose bumps, getting to do what we love and get paid a little bit for it. Wow."

They continue to line up a few gigs, and they practice twice a week—once at an in school session with Tim McDonald, jazz combo coach, and once at a member's house.

Brett Baker, instrumental music director, is proud of the students' dedication to music. "The ensemble program encourages students to form these small groups," he said. "And the guys in Swing State have taken the work to a very high level."

Performing music also requires



Swing State members (from left) Andy Bell, Nicholas Edwards, Ian Nocente, Jeremy Kauffman and William van den Bogert.

business skills. "We are learning all kinds of things about how to manage, negotiate and handle publicity for our performances," said Edwards. Baker, along with Ben Ammon, band director, and Larry Smith, percussion coach, provide support in the business end of music performance.

Swing State, like all Heights High ensembles, is coached by a local musician. McDonald, a 2005 Heights High graduate, sees the young musicians growing as performers and musicians. "They are writing their own music more and honing their improvisational skills and ear training," he said.

They chose their group's name because it is the name of one of their early favorite pieces. "And

of course, Ohio is the swing state going into November's election," said Nocente.

After these seniors graduate from high school in the spring, they plan to attend college. Bell plans to study finance, van den Bogert plans to apply to Columbia and Carnegie Mellon to study engineering, Edwards plans to study music and will apply to the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, Kauffman plans to study bio-chemistry, and Nocente plans to apply to Ohio University and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The band can be contacted through its Facebook page.

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

Anything Goes in Heights production



Leading cast members in Heights High's production of *Anything Goes*: (back row, from left) Grant Heineman, Gerald Shazor, Cecilia Payne, Callie Swaim-Fox, Lily Kerr-Jung; (middle row) Ivan Sexton, Carlilse Hall, Alexis Thompson, Kasia Bufford, Tulsni Black; (in front) Tedd Byers.

Joy Henderson

Heights High students will perform the Cole Porter musical *Anything Goes* on Nov. 3, 4 and 5, at 7 p.m., and Nov. 6, at 4 p.m. "This is an amazing score," said Jesse Lange, vocal music director. "It is a showcase for the jazz standards that are a true American artform."

Two casts will perform this comedy love story that is set on an ocean liner in the 1930s. "This show has everything," continued Lange. "Love, sailors, gangsters, show girls and, best of all, tap dancing!"

Choreographer Katie Zarecki is the tap dance coach. "We love the tapping, but we have discovered that it is harder than it looks," said Carlilse Hall, who plays Hope Harcourt.

The lead actors agree on two

things: They love learning to tap dance, and the fellowship and camaraderie among the cast makes the experience "really fun."

The production includes 43 members of the Instrumental Music Department who will perform in two alternating pit orchestras. The stage crew is constructing a cruise ship set.

"The music is fun and part of our American songbook," said Lange. "Everyone will enjoy this show and will leave singing these amazing songs."

Tickets went on sale on Sept. 26 at the Heights High choir website: www.clevelandheightschoirs.com. Ticket prices are \$10 and \$6.

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



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What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 4 p.m.
A Celebration of Dreams. Celebrate 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 is open.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665


Friday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m.
Tinker Lab. Calling all future scientists, engineers and inventors, in grades K–5, for hands-on learning and fun. We'll attempt exciting experiments using the scientific process. Registration is open.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.
Great Librarians I Have Known – A Readers' Theatre featuring WCPN's Dee Perry. Dobama Theatre celebrates the library's centennial with this sweeping saga of the movers and shakers behind tablets, scrolls and books. From ancient Alexandria to the present day U.S., the play uncovers tales of quiet heroes who uphold civilization, champion literature and defend free speech.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



AUGUST 22, 2016
All board members were present.

Centennial programs continue this fall

- Dee Perry stars in *Great Librarians I Have Known*, Reader's Theater presented by Dobama Theatre on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.
- Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers presents *Look Back in Wonder* at the Lee Road Library on Oct. 30 at 3 p.m.
- Heights Bicycle Coalition will present *Cycle Through Time*, a brief history of our libraries, with a bike ride, at Coventry Village Library on Oct. 2 at 1 p.m.

National Library Card Sign-Up Month features fine amnesty for juveniles

Heights Libraries joins other Cuyahoga County libraries to encourage library card sign-up during the month of October. In addition, if a juvenile borrower's card has been blocked for fines of more than \$15, they may appear at one of the four branches with a library card or other ID to have their card reinstated.

Unattended child policy

The board considered changes to the current policy, which is that a child under 6 years old must be attended by a parent or other caregiver. The specific change would define "adequate supervision" as, "... a caregiver who can understand and follow the library's code of conduct and be mature enough to care for the child without an adult present. We suggest the caregiver be at least 11 years old."

Brown Girl Dreaming is the community book for fall

Author Jacqueline Woodson's novel in verse was awarded the Newbery Honor, the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, and an NAACP Image Award for outstanding literary work for youth and teens.

July public service report highlights:

- The Art Study Group is a partnership with the Ingalls Library at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The July program, *The Artistry of Words*, considered the ways that literacy, printing, reading habits, technology and words themselves have inspired artists to comment on social change, personal identities and public life.
- The Science and Nature Study Group is a partnership with the Harold T. Clark Library at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The July program was a talk by nationally known conservationist Harvey Webster, director of wildlife resources at the museum. The program was the first in a series celebrating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service.
- The release of the book *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* inspired a late-night program at the Coventry Village Library in collaboration with Mac's Backs Books on Coventry. Staff provided crafts and games throughout the night, and raffled no-hold copies of the book. Beginning at midnight, a small troupe of actors read the script to an excellent turnout of customers who enjoyed this unique event.
- New library card sign-ups in May totaled 475.
- Responding to requests from the Nepalese community, Noble Neighborhood Library is offering citizenship classes, Nepali language classes for children, English classes for adults, and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Boot Camp for children.
- Adult Services Librarian Nancy Zelman partnered with the Western Reserve Calligraphers to offer a three-part calligraphy workshop series. Fifty-four people attended the three classes, and the library received many inquiries about the popular program.

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.

Library series gets community 'On the Same Page'

Julia Murphy

This fall, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System is hosting the second installment of On the Same Page, its community-wide reading and program series. This year's series features Jacqueline Woodson's autobiography of poems, *Brown Girl Dreaming*. The series, which started in September and runs through November, includes book discussions, arts and crafts programs, and movie nights.

The library first started On the Same Page programming in 2014, centered on the book *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie.

"We chose a book that would be meaningful to people in our particular community," said Sam Lapides, who led the charge in 2014, and helped choose Alexie's book.

This year, the library let the

community choose the book. In November 2015, the library shared a poll online, and *Brown Girl Dreaming*, winner of the 2014 National Book Award and 2015 Newbury Honor, was selected. Author Woodson was born in Ohio, and grew up in both the South and the North during the turbulent civil rights era.

Beth Hatch, special projects manager, is coordinating efforts for this year's series. "Woodson captures her devotion to family and the joy of finding her writer's voice through a series of poignant poems," said Hatch. "She addresses family history, divorce, race, the North and South, and the joys of learning to read and write poetry. The book serves as a great springboard for programs and discussions of how these topics fit in our lives today."

The series kicked off on Sept. 26 with a free film screening of the documentary "Romeo is Bleeding," about

how poet Donte Clark transcended violence in his hometown of Richmond, Calif., by writing poetry about his experiences and inspiring an urban adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Among many upcoming programs is a presentation by the Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Look Back and Wonder, on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. This presentation is a series of powerful personal narratives of African-American women from the past 100 years.

In addition to the many programs, the Lee Road Library's art gallery is home to an interactive display throughout October called "Dream

Space: Poetry, Place and Person," also inspired by *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Visitors are invited to enter the gallery and add their own personal narrative to the collage of poetry, read other's contributions and, using an interactive touch screen, listen to quotes from the book read by the author.

Check out a copy of *Brown Girl Dreaming* at the Lee Road, Coventry Village or Noble Neighborhood libraries, and learn more about On the Same Page programs at www.heightslibrary.org.

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

Friends of Heights Libraries plans annual meeting and fall sale



Thousands of books, CDs and DVDs will be offered at the next Friends of the Heights Libraries' Mega Sale, Nov. 10-13. The group will hold its annual meeting on Oct. 16.

Vivian Pospisil

For 54 years, Friends of the Heights Libraries has provided funding and countless volunteer hours to support the nationally recognized Heights Libraries system.

Friends invites community members to its annual meeting on Sunday, Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m., at the Lee Road Library. It will celebrate the Heights Libraries' centennial with a presentation by Amia Wheatley, local history librarian, on the history of the Heights Libraries.

The organization's semiannual Mega Sale of thousands of books, CDs and DVDs will kick off on Thursday, Nov. 10, 5-8:45 p.m., with a preview night for members (memberships will be sold at the door for \$10), and will continue through Sunday, Nov. 13.

The sale is held at the Lee Road Library, in the meeting rooms on the first floor and in the Harvey & Friends Bookshop on the second floor. The sale always features a variety of fiction, nonfiction, children's and teen books, and a great selection of "specials"—individually priced art books and other treasures—that are scooped up by eager book lovers.

Helping staff its benefit sales is

just one of many volunteer opportunities available to Friends members. Volunteers also work at the Harvey & Friends Bookshop on a daily basis and during special monthly First Friday sales, when books are available for \$4 a bag. They also sort donated books and help at library events, such as the Indigenous Peoples Read-In on Oct. 9, the African American Read-In in February, and the Favorite Poem Project in April.

Friends' efforts in recent years have included grants to the library for programs and purchases, and funding murals at the Coventry Village Library's Children's Room and the Lee Road Library, as well as the decorative tree in the Noble Neighborhood Library's Children's Room. Friends awards \$3,750 in annual scholarships for library science students, and purchased the Book Bike, which distributes free books at community events.

For more information on Friends of Heights Libraries, e-mail friends@heightslibrary.org, call 216-932-3600 x1234, or visit friendsheightslibrary.org.

Vivian Pospisil is a board member of the Friends of the Heights Libraries.

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Noble eatery makes changes but stays in the family

Diane Hallum

Doyle Fayne, the longtime owner of Moran's Bistro, located at 2548 Noble Road (at the corner of Noble and Roanoke roads), has stepped aside to turn over the day-to-day operation of the establishment to his daughter, Shawnnell, and her husband, Michael.

Shawnnell and Michael Thomas have already put their stamp on the business, now called Mike's Corner Deli.

The young entrepreneurs have created a fresh, bright look inside, and offer a new menu of over-stuffed sandwiches, wraps and paninis. Early morning patrons can enjoy a breakfast sandwich, as well. Sweeter options include a banana split.

The Noble Big Daddy sandwich (\$13) will fill any large appetite with its stack of turkey, chicken, ham, roast beef, pastrami, bacon, a spring-mix of greens and melted cheese sauce. The



Mike's Corner Deli on the corner of Noble and Roanoke roads offers up a variety of sandwiches, wraps and heroes.

Big Daddy comes, as do all sandwiches, with chips, a pickle and a drink.

Not to be outdone, the Noble Big Momma (also \$13) changes things up

with a stack of turkey, chicken, ham, corned beef, salami, bacon, greens and swiss cheese.

Mike's Corner Deli also offers

all of the popular deli standbys: Reubens, corned beef, clubs and heroes, along with meatball subs, gyros, and a variety of wraps that feature Romaine, spinach, or spring-mix greens rather than the tired iceberg lettuce. Customers also have the option of creating their own custom sandwich, wrap or panini. Prices start at around \$5.

Mike's Corner Deli (216-465-4852) is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and offers both carry-out and limited dine-in service. Parking is available behind the building, as well as on the street.

Diane Hallum is director of Citizens Leadership, [a group that believes that] change in the status quo starts with citizens leading their officials in the right direction. [Group members] offer factual information on CH council decisions, meet to focus on key issues that matter, and develop methods to make a change for the better.

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SHOP HEIGHTS

Lee Road Ethiopian restaurant plans fall opening

James Henke

A new restaurant specializing in Ethiopian food is due to open this fall in Cleveland Heights. Zoma Ethiopian Restaurant will be located at 2242 Lee Road, between Mama Joyce's Soul Food Café and Heights Uptown Barbershop. Co-owner Zeleke Belete said he is working toward, and hoping for, an opening sometime in October.

The restaurant will be only the second Ethiopian restaurant in all of Greater Cleveland. The other one, Empress Taytu, is located at 6125 St. Clair Ave.

Belete and his wife, Betty Kassa, are the owners of Zoma. Belete, 34, was born in Ethiopia, as was Kassa. He moved to the United States in 2004 with his brother, who had re-

ceived a scholarship to attend Cleveland State University. Kassa moved to Cleveland, where she met Belete, in 2010. The couple married in 2014, and have a son, Noel, who is 2 1/2 years old. They live in Shaker Heights.

Belete, who has never worked in a restaurant before, has always loved Ethiopian food and thought it would be a great idea to open an Ethiopian restaurant in Cleveland. Initially, he looked for potential spaces in Ohio City, Tremont and Lakewood. He ultimately chose Cleveland Heights as the location for his restaurant because he thought it was "the best spot, compared to what else was available."

"There's a lot of foot traffic in this area, and there are a lot of other restaurants, so I thought it would be a great space," Belete said.

Ethiopian food typically consists of spicy meat dishes or vegetables served on sourdough flatbread called "injera." Belete explained that most Ethiopians eat their food by hand, although Zoma will offer forks, spoons and knives for those who need or want them.

Belete said his restaurant will offer many vegetarian options, as well as fish, lamb, beef and chicken

dishes. Most of the dishes are served as stews. "They include spices from back home," Belete said. "In addition, there will be no artificial flavorings, and the flatbread is gluten-free."

Belete said his plan is for the restaurant to be open seven days a week, from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Lunches will cost around \$14, and dinners will cost slightly more.

Zoma will seat about 49 people, and half of the restaurant will feature traditional Ethiopian seating, at grass-basket tables.

The restaurant will also offer a traditional coffee ceremony, in which coffee is made from scratch, with green coffee beans that are washed and roasted. Coffee is a large part of Ethiopian culture and cuisine, and the coffee ceremony generally takes place after each meal.

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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How to decide when it's the right time to move



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

As time goes on, lifestyles naturally change. Kids move out, we retire, we take on new hobbies, our income level and our health changes. It's a good idea to occasionally reassess whether one's current home is supporting one's current lifestyle, or hindering it.

Many continue to live in their homes out of habit or nostalgia—it's the home they bought when they got married, it's where they raised their kids, it's the place where they have lots of memories, and it's where all of their personal possessions are kept.

As time passes, homeowners should ask themselves the following questions: Does taking care of your home leave you enough time to pursue your current hobbies and interests? Are you sure that your home will not need costly or complicated repairs in the future? Do you still use all of the rooms in your house on a regular basis? Is it still easy for you to go up and down stairs? Are you able to maintain your yard and clear snow by yourself? Is it convenient for you to visit family and friends from where you live now?

If you answered "no" to any of those questions, you may want to consider either modifying your home to make it safer and more convenient for you, or moving to a

new home that better supports your current lifestyle.

The Home Repair Resource Center in Cleveland Heights (216-381-6100 ext. 22) offers free workshops for seniors who prefer to stay in their homes and "age-in-place." The workshops teach homeowners how to make their own small repairs, advise them on hiring contractors for major repairs, and provide guidance on modifying a home.

If you think it might be time for you to move, a relocation specialist can help you make that decision and help you through the process. Lee-Ann Spacek, owner of North Coast Residential Relocation (216-513-6800), recently worked with a Cleveland Heights widow whose children live in another state. Spacek helped the woman clean out her possessions, sell her home, and purchase a smaller home that gave her more time for her hobbies and to visit her children.

As a moving coordinator and advocate, Spacek creates a schedule and to-do list, and connects homeowners with specialists who will list a home for sale, help clean out and organize a home, conduct an estate sale, make repairs and cosmetic improvements to get it ready to sell, and pack and move the homeowner to a new home. "As an advocate for seniors," said Spacek, "I help manage and monitor the entire process from start to finish."

Jim Ventura, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty (440-227-4988), recently worked with a retired Cleveland Heights couple whose home was

too big for them, and who were weary of cold winter weather. Ventura helped them downsize to a smaller house in a warmer state, and connected them with professionals who assisted them at every stage.

Ventura had to modify his own house after suffering a debilitating illness two years ago. He then became an aging-in-place specialist,

and advises people how to make their homes safer, more comfortable and convenient.

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

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.

Oct. 6: The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Kay Carlson, its director, will discuss the work of this nonprofit to conserve a natural area, educate visitors about nature, and promote better environmental stewardship. The nature center's All People's Trail, which the National Park Service named a National Environmental Education Landmark in 1971, showcases a panoply of wildlife and plant species.

Oct. 13: Meredith Bond, dean of the College of Sciences and Health Professions at Cleveland State Uni-

versity, will discuss the new Center of Innovation in Medical Professions and its Partnership for Urban Health, a collaboration with Northeast Ohio Medical University. Recently awarded a \$5.5 million grant from the Cleveland Foundation, the partnership prepares primary-care physicians to practice in urban settings, within the context of interprofessional learning communities, to meet the unique health-care needs of underserved urban neighborhoods.

Oct. 20: Jeffery Streaan, director of design and architecture at the Cleveland Museum of Art, will discuss its 100th anniversary celebrations and exhibitions, as well as its many special events, including Parade the Circle. He'll also talk about the museum's Centennial Art truck, which takes museum programming into neighborhoods.

Oct. 27: Instrumentalists and vocalists from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform.

CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

October at the Cleveland Heights Senior Center is full of classes designed around the concept of creating a healthier you. Some classes are free; some have a fee. Call 216 691-7379 for registration information.

Healing Heights: Attend this workshop, Oct. 6 at 1 p.m., featuring local healing arts practitioners for an afternoon of learning and fun.

Dance 101: So you think you can't dance? You can! Dance 101 begins Oct. 7 at 11:15 a.m., and continues for eight weeks. Enjoy dance movement to improve strength, balance and flexibility, and explore the art of improvisation with instructor Leslie Keller.

Brain Health: Join the Center 4 Brain Health on Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. for Strengthening Your Brain, an interactive brain aerobics class.

MetroHealth Talk: On Oct. 11 at 11 a.m., a MetroHealth professional will provide an educational session on a variety of topics.

Breathe/Flow Yoga: This new yoga class combines yoga movements with a focus on breathing. It begins Oct. 7, 2-3 p.m., and continues for eight

weeks. (Bring your mat.)

Healthy Surroundings: On Oct. 18, 11 a.m., Laura Armbruster from Smooth Transitions talks about downsizing, getting organized, and what to do with items you no longer need or want.

Hearing Health Talk and Screening: On Oct. 18 at 1 p.m., a CVS audiologist will answer questions and screen for hearing health.

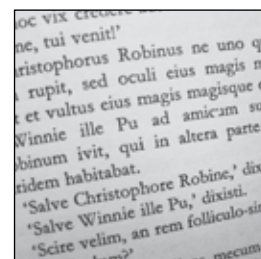
Benefits Check: On Oct. 25 at 11 a.m., Fairhill Partners sponsors a session where you can find out what assistance programs you may qualify for.

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.

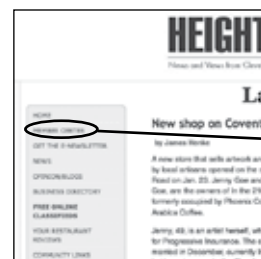
Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the CH Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by e-mail at ajenkins@chvhts.com.

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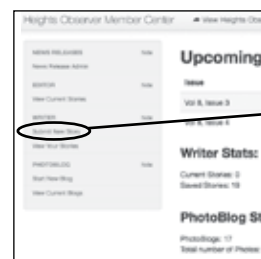
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4th Annual Heights Music Hop draws record crowds

Andrea C. Turner

Cleveland Heights was brimming with record crowds in its Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Lee business districts on Sept. 23 and 24, respectively, at the 4th Annual Heights Music Hop, presented by FutureHeights. Event organizers estimate that more than 5,000 people attended the popular live-music festival, which featured 77 acts in 28 venues.

The districts' businesses, restaurants and bars—many of which served as venues for the music performances—filled to capacity with event attendees.

"We were thrilled that so many

people came out to enjoy both nights of the festival. It was a huge success," said Daniel Budin, FutureHeights board member and Music Hop chair. "Cleveland Heights was in the spotlight as we provided two nights of fun for thousands, and combined top regional acts with homegrown talent in our unique and exciting business districts. I'm especially grateful to the city and the police department for their cooperation and support."

Hop highlights included a packed performance by Honeybucket, *Scene* magazine's Best of Cleveland 2016 band of the year, at the Motorcars Stage in the Cedar Lee parking garage.

rage. It was the final performance of the year for this group with roots in the Heights, as it takes a hiatus before member Abie Klein-Stefanchik becomes a first-time father. Honeybucket's Brendan O'Malley and Klein-Stefanchik grew up in Cleveland Heights. The "newgrass" band attracted more than 300 music lovers to this newer Hop venue. Honeybucket's Facebook page stated, "Well it took us almost five years, but we're finally a garage band."

"FutureHeights is proud to be the presenter of this event, but it wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous sponsors, or the dedicated work of our board

members, staff and volunteers who pull this event together. We are extremely thankful for all of their work, and to our audience who supported the event through our FutureHop benefit, Chance Raffle ticket, T-shirt and beverage sales," said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights.

Winners of the Chance Raffle prize packages will be announced in the Oct. 4 *Heights Observer* e-news, on the Heights Music Hop social media sites and on the FutureHeights website, www.futureheights.org.

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



Heights Arts hosted the oddly beautiful instrumental music of Trepanning Trio.



Maura Rogers & The Bellows performed at The Tavern Company.



Headliner band Honeybucket performed at Motorcars Stage in the Cedar Lee parking garage.



Jazz musician Ryann Anderson performed at the Rib Cage.



The Heights Music Hop crowd gathered at the Motorcars Stage in the Cedar Lee parking garage.



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Dobama Theatre presents An Octoroon

Jonathan Wilhelm

Dobama Theatre continues its 57th season with *An Octoroon* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, a modern deconstruction of Dion Boucicault's *The Octoroon*.

Premiering in 1859, *The Octoroon* was one of the most successful stage productions of its time. At one point, seven different theater companies toured the United States with their productions of the play. It is famous for sparking a national debate about the abolition of slavery and the role of political theater. But when its melodramatic depiction of the antebellum South is viewed from a modern perspective, it appears not only simplistic, but also somewhat racist.

Using Boucicault's plot as a template, contemporary playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *An Octoroon* critiques the earlier play's depiction of race and confronts how theater interacts with identity. *An Octoroon* was the co-winner of the 2014 Obie Award for Best New American Play (along with another Jacobs-Jenkins' play, *Appropriate*).

"Our country is trying very hard to have a conversation about race and equity," said Nathan Motta, Dobama's artistic director, who is directing this production. "Due largely to events in Ferguson, Cleveland, Houston, and many other communities, the United States is being forced to confront [its] history of violence and the reverberations that are very present today. *An Octoroon* makes us face our history, places it in a modern context, and shakes things up

by forcing us to see, hear, feel, and ultimately talk about these issues."

There will be pre-show and post-show discussions prior to and following every show. The pre-show conversation begins 20 minutes before curtain time. Motta explained the conversations this way: "We felt it was important to give audience members context for the play. Some of the moments in the play are shocking and will likely offend a modern audience. Giving background and a frame of reference as to how and why these theatrical tactics are used is imperative. It's in no way to apologize for the work, but rather to prepare an audience for the theater experience they are about to have. Theater can help start conversations that otherwise would not take place. That's what we're hoping for with this production."

An Octoroon won accolades during its initial run. Ben Brantley, drama critic for *The New York Times*, said, "Strange as it seems, a work based on a terminally dated play from more than 150 years ago may turn out to be this decade's most eloquent theatrical statement on race in America today."

An Octoroon runs from Oct. 21 through Nov. 13, with a preview performance on Oct. 20. Preview tickets are \$10, general admission.

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.

Jonathan Wilhelm is the associate managing director at Dobama Theatre.

HYT celebrates community with *The Music Man*

Pamela Fine

If you're looking for an entertaining and meaningful activity for the whole family, consider attending Heights Youth Theatre's (HYT) production of *The Music Man* at Monticello Middle School in Cleveland Heights. The show opens on Saturday, Oct. 22, and runs through Sunday, Oct. 30.

Cast and crew, and everyone involved in the production, are excited to bring this classic American musical to a local stage. Talented kids from Cleveland Heights, University Heights and Shaker Heights, and several other Cleveland suburbs, are ready to transform the theater into the small Midwestern town of River City, Iowa. They will take the audience back to a simpler time when community and family were the paramount values by which society lived.

Kelly Monaghan directs the show, with music direction by Stacy Bolton. Sixty-eight student actors in grades one through 12 will sing and dance. The lead cast members are Brian Tuohey as Harold Hill and Courtney Foerg as Marian.

The stage manager, who coordinates all the moving parts to bring this production to life, is Claudia Lief Zalevsky, a resident of Cleveland Heights. She is ably assisted by Jack

Ina, assistant stage manager.

Attending an HYT performance supports the theatrical arts in the Heights. Founded in 1954, HYT produces three or four complete musicals each year, offering kids and families an unmatched opportunity to gain valuable experience in the theater.

HYT's goal is to make theater affordable and accessible to people of all incomes and backgrounds, in a nurturing environment that encourages social and emotional growth.

Many first-time HYT theatergoers are surprised by the high caliber of the work. Comments such as these have been heard: "The kids put on a great show" and "It's like Broadway in the Heights!"

Performances of *The Music Man* will be held at Monticello Middle School auditorium, 3665 Monticello Blvd., on Saturday, Oct. 22 and Oct. 29, and Sunday, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30, at 2 p.m.; and on Thursday, Oct. 27, and Friday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$9 for seniors and children under 6. The box office opens 45 minutes before each show. For more information, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org. For group seating information, call 216-410-7500.

Pamela Fine is executive director of Heights Youth Theatre.

Heights Arts announces 11th Close Encounters chamber music series

Greg Donley

Auditioning for and winning a job with an ensemble like the Cleveland Orchestra is a dream come true for a classical musician. Anyone who has attended a few concerts at Severance Hall can attest why: The combination of awesome power and incredible refinement is astonishing. But symphonic music is rarely the only reason a virtuosic performer loves to play. For many, the intimacy and expressive intensity of chamber music—just a few instruments playing together in a small space without a conductor—is the utmost expression of their personal connection to music.

For 11 years, the Heights Arts Close Encounters series has provided audiences the opportunity to hear music that is never performed in symphony halls, and is played with passionate intensity in intimate settings where the instruments are as close as a person sitting across the dinner table.

Tickets are on sale now with full-series subscriptions available for \$200 to the general public, and \$160 for Heights Arts members. Individual concert tickets are \$15



The audience listens entranced at a 2015 Close Encounters concert in a downtown Cleveland loft.

for students, \$45 for Heights Arts members, and \$55 for the general public. Venues will be revealed as the season progresses.

Here are this year's programs, as described by artistic director Isabel Trautwein:

Friday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m.: Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet in A-Major* and Schubert's *Cello Quintet in C-Major*, performed by Isabel Trautwein and Yun-Ting Lee, violins; Yujin, viola; Tanya Ell and Paul Kushious, cellos; and Robert Woolfrey, clarinet. Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet*, written for his dear friend

Stadlmayr, explores an instrument that had recently been invented and must have spoken deeply to Mozart, based on the utter perfection of this composition. Schubert's epic *Cello Quintet*, which, among musicians, is possibly the most popular of all his works, is the lone Romantic example of a string quartet, with the added depth of a second cello. It is a monumental work of transcendent beauty.

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, at 3 p.m.: This program features contemporary and 19th-century works, including Martinu's *Madrigals*, Widman's *Etude for Solo Violin*, and the delightful, but rarely played Dvorak *Viola Quintet*, with JinJoo Cho, Peter Otto and Isabel Trautwein, violins; Yujin and Kirsten Docter, violas; and Tanya Ell, cello. What is better than one viola? Two! This is

why Dvorak wrote one of his finest works for viola quintet—though it's rarely heard. A unique and incredibly difficult new composition for a playing (and sometimes-singing) violinist will be performed by Peter Otto. Martinu's *Madrigals* for violin and viola round out an afternoon of 80 percent Slavic and 100 percent fantastic music.

Sunday, April 30, at 3 p.m.: French horn players Hans Clebsch, Alan DeMattia, Richard King and Jesse McCormick, who have been playing together in the Cleveland Orchestra's phenomenal horn section for more than 10 years, let their hair down with an entertaining and beautiful program of original works and arrangements for four horns, ranging from Baroque to contemporary.

Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m.: Isabel Trautwein, violin, Joanna Patterson, viola, Tanya Ell, cello, and Patti Wolf, piano, offer the Debussy *Cello Sonata*, Ysaye's *Sonata for Violin Solo #2*, and Fauré's *Piano Quartet in C-Minor*. French language and music often have an almost-liquid elegance, and both Debussy's late cello sonata and his teacher Fauré's exciting piano quartet are masterful examples of French Impressionism. Composer and violinist Ysaye added to Bach's a set of six (demonically difficult) sonatas for solo violin.

Greg Donley is president of the Heights Arts board of trustees.

Library wraps up its centennial with original theater production



Jonathan Wilhelm, associate managing director of Dobama Theatre, wrote a play to honor Heights Libraries centennial.

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries will wrap up its year-long centennial celebration with an original Reader's Theatre production, *Great Librarians I Have Known*, on Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m., at Dobama Theatre.

Jonathan Wilhelm, Dobama's associate managing director, wrote the play to honor the library's rooth birthday and to pay tribute to the role libraries and librarians have played in his life.

"Every summer, my mother would drop me off at the swimming pool, where I would stay for several hours," said Wilhelm. "I would then walk over to the library, where she would pick me up. As the summer progressed, I would spend less time at the pool and more time at the library."

Part of Wilhelm's inspiration for the play was an experience he

had as a child, when a librarian taught him to have a healthy dose of skepticism when reading.

"As a child I loved the book *Wild Animals I Have Known* by Ernest Thompson Seton, naturalist and co-founder of the American Boy Scouts. Originally published in 1898, the book purported to be true stories of wolves, crows, horses, dogs and rabbits," said Wilhelm. "A school librarian subsequently taught me the word 'anthropomorphic' and gave me information about the Nature Fakers Controversy of 1903. This controversy proved Seton probably never knew these animals and his natural science was subpar."

Two of the librarians featured in the play, and Wilhelm's favorites, are Eratosthenes, who became the chief librarian at the Library of Alexandria in 240 B.C. at the age of 35, and Sarah Byrd Askew, who established 250 libraries in New Jersey between 1906 and 1942, and designed one of the first bookmobiles, a modified Model T.

The production stars recently retired WCPN radio personality Dee Perry, who will give voice to the main character, a young girl researching the history of libraries.

The play is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served after the production. Dobama Theatre is located at 2340 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

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

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The little, old man in 1954



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

When I was a kid, there was a little, old man who lived on my street, Belmar. When I say “little, old, man,” I mean all those words: He was a man, he was old, and he was little. And when I say “little,” I mean he stood about 4 feet tall. He wasn’t a Little Person; he was just a little person. Let’s call him Mr. Fink. By the time I was 5 years old, I was as tall as Mr. Fink. In October of the year I was 5, the Cleveland Indians were playing in the World Series. Well, for two days in October. There were no playoffs back then. There were only 16 MLB teams, eight in each league. The Indians had set the record that year for the most wins in a regular season—111, in a shorter season than the current ones—and then they got swept in the Series, 4-0, by the New York Giants, led by Willie Mays.

But, anyway, back to Mr. Fink: He lived alone and he never talked to anyone, at least not to anyone who lived on our street. He may have talked to people over the telephone. But I doubt it. He probably didn’t even own a telephone. Owning a phone was still sort of a luxury to some people then, especially to people who had grown up without them. And Mr. Fink probably had been born in the early 1880s.

Even my family had a party-line phone when I was really young—a telephone line that was shared by one or more other households, at a discounted rate. Party lines were quite common until around the mid-’60s. We had one for a while, and so did my father’s aunt and uncle, who owned the duplex we lived in and who lived downstairs. A relative of mine died as a result of some teenager’s refusal to get off the line so another relative could use the phone downstairs to call for an ambulance. Back then, most people didn’t think of suing or even pressing charges for things like that. I guess we were stupider back then.

But, anyway, back to Mr. Fink: He walked everywhere he went. But so did many people back then. Some people—the healthier ones—still do. He lived about halfway down our block, between Mayfield and Avondale. I’d see him walking up or down the street many times a day, half of the times (when he was on his way back home) carrying a small paper bag of things he’d bought. It was still common back then to just go out and get things—a lightbulb, a pencil, a lamb chop—that you needed right then. The cook in the home would figure out that evening’s dinner menu and then go out and get the ingredients.

But, anyway, back to Mr. Fink: I’m sure he kept kosher, and he had plenty of shops to choose from back then, living so close to Coventry Road. Until the late-’60s, most of what later became known as Coventry Village consisted of kosher butcher shops, fish mongers, bakeries (three of them), delicatessens, and the guy with the small building—behind what is now Marc’s, which was then Pick-n-Pay—full of wooden cages with live chickens in them, which he would slaughter for you, and pluck, if you wanted him to. That was a loud place. We kids would stand outside it and listen to the chickens squawking, and watch for the feathers to come flying out the door.

But, anyway, back to Mr. Fink: He always wore a suit, or a sport coat, and tie and white shirt, and a fedora hat. All of his clothes were too big for his body. Sleeves and pant legs were too long; everything was too loose. But, other than the ill-fitting look of his attire, he was not unusual. Most adults wore much dressier clothing, in general, back then, than most do now. My father would wear a jacket and tie to Cleveland Indians games, and he’d make me and my older brother do the same. My mother always wore a dress and hat and white gloves to go downtown—like when we went to movie theaters, which were all downtown when I was a kid, until the early ’60s.

But, anyway, back to Mr. Fink: All I wanted to say was that on Halloween in 1954, while I was out trick-or-treating, my mother stood on the sidewalk in front of our house to pass out candy to all the trick-or-treaters, because we lived upstairs and the kids would have had to walk up 21 steps to get to our door. At one point, after dark, a kid came by dressed as a little, old man, with clothes that were too large for him. My mother handed him some candy and he yelled something as he threw the candy back at her. And that was the only time my mother ever heard Mr. Fink’s voice.

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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Heights Arts's Pet Project supports animal welfare



Chagrin Falls artist Maggy Brown, with her Pet Project sample portrait in cut-paper collage.

Mary Ryan

Starting this fall, art is going to the dogs—as well as cats, rabbits, and possibly even guinea pigs—as Heights Arts launches Pet Project, an ongoing custom-portraiture program in which pet

owners and adopters can provide a photograph of their pet and choose a participating artist to create an original, personal portrait of their animal. A percentage of the portrait fee goes directly to Northeast Ohio animal welfare organizations.

The idea for Pet Project originated with the community arts organization's executive director, Rachel Bernstein. "My passion for the arts and my passion for causes that promote the humane treatment of animals collided in my brain and out popped the idea of Pet Project!" she said. "My hope is that this project will cross-pollinate awareness between the two causes: to make art accessible to those who might not otherwise have considered it, and also benefit the community of animals and animal lovers in a creative way."

Pet owners may commission portraits of their furry family members in an array of sizes, from 4" x 6" to 12" x 16", and in a variety of media ranging from cut-paper collage to drawing, painting, and transferware on plates. The majority of the portrait fee goes directly to the artist, with Heights Arts

donating a portion of its commission to participating animal welfare organizations, including Friends of the Cleveland Kennel, Geauga Humane Society Rescue Village, One Health Organization, Waterloo Alley Cat Project, and the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter. Each commissioned portrait takes about six to eight weeks to complete.

Participating artists in 2016-17 include Maggy Brown, cut-paper collage; Lindsey Bryan, watercolor and graphite pencil; Kristen Cliffler, image transfer on ceramic plate; Carolyn Merklein, painting; Jessica Miroglotta, drawing; Sunila Paul, charcoal and watercolor; and Danielle Rueger, digital illustration. "This work is a celebration of the intimate bond that humans and animals have developed over the centuries. Friendship and love know no boundaries in the realm of the inter-species bond," said Cliffler.

Pet Project has been in the works for months: while artists created sample portraits to illustrate their

creative portraiture styles, program organizers recruited animal shelters and health organizations throughout Cleveland, and set up collaborations with sponsoring organizations, such as Camp Bow Wow in Highland Heights. The initial launch of the ongoing community program was made possible by funding from the Jean, Harry and Brenda Fuchs Family Foundation.

The public can view samples of portraits by participating Pet Project artists in the Heights Arts gallery at 2175 Lee Road, and online at www.heightsarts.org. Information is also available at participating animal welfare organizations and local veterinarian offices throughout the Cleveland area.

For more information on Pet Project and other public programs and community events, visit www.heightsarts.org or call 216-371-3457.

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

Apollo's Fire celebrates 25 years



Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra.

Matt Flynn

Celebrating 25 years in Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Heights-based Apollo's Fire is set to begin its 2016-17 season under artistic director Jeanette Sorrell. Committed to performing Baroque music the way it was meant to be performed—alive and full of emotional impact—Apollo's Fire brings world-class performances practically to your doorstep.

The season will begin in October with *Resplendent Purcell*, a large-scale program of choral works never before heard on period instruments in Northeast Ohio. Henry Purcell wrote his most majestic music for royal events at Westminster Abbey—from joyous birthday celebrations to the heartbreakingly beautiful lamentations at Queen Mary's funeral. The program will bring together vocal soloists and the acclaimed Apollo's Singers, with strings, lutes, recorders, trumpets, percussion and organ.

"I am thrilled to open the season with this majestic and rarely heard music of Henry Purcell," Sorrell said. "Purcell is like Monteverdi, in that

they are both among the top six or seven great composers of all time, but are not household names, since their music doesn't really work on modern instruments. So symphony orchestras don't play their music. I think people will be stunned to discover this resplendent music that Purcell wrote to mark the joys and sorrows of the royal family. This music was intended for Westminster Abbey, so we are delighted to present it in reverberant stone churches."

You can hear the program locally on Oct. 7 and 8, at 8 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Shaker Heights.

Information and tickets are available at www.apollosfire.org or by calling the box office at 216-320-0012.

Matt Flynn, marketing manager for Apollo's Fire, joined AF in 2015, following five summers on the staff of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute at the Tanglewood Music Festival. He received a bachelor's degree with honors in cello performance from Boston University and a master's in musicology from Brandeis University.

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CH duo Red Brick Rhoades makes beautiful music

James Henke

Becca Rhoades and Red Chrosniak have been making music together for about five years. The two met in 2011 when they were both contra dancing (similar to square dancing) at Grace Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights. Both of them loved music, and they became good friends.

The couple, who married in 2014, perform as a duo, Red Brick Rhoades. Rhoades explained how they came up with the name: "Before we started dating, there were a lot of brick roads in our lives. In addition, on one of our first dates, we went for a walk on two brick roads."

Rhoades, who's 30, grew up in Lubbock, Texas, the hometown of rock music pioneer Buddy Holly. "There's a lot of good music there," she said. She started playing violin when she was 4, and by the time she was in high school, she decided to make music the focus of her life. She attended Texas Tech University, where she majored in music performance. After graduating in 2009, she moved to Cleveland to attend the Cleveland Institute of Music, and received her master's degree in music performance in 2012.

Chrosniak, 32, grew up on Cleveland's East Side, in the Collinwood neighborhood. Though



Becca Rhoades and Red Chrosniak with their baby, Moses.

his real first name is Patrick, he has gone by the name "Red" for many years. He graduated from St. Edward's High School and then the College of Wooster, where he majored in religious studies and received a minor in philosophy. He then attended St. Mary's Seminary in Wickliffe, where he earned a master's degree in theology.

Chrosniak started playing guitar about six years ago. He had a guitar at home that he didn't know how to play. One night, he was hanging out at the Barking Spider on Juniper Road near University Circle, and while he was listening to the music, he decided that

he should start teaching himself how to play his guitar. "I started teaching myself, and I started writing songs," he said.

He and Rhoades started getting into music together shortly after they first met. "He came up to me and said that he had a song he had written that would sound better if it had a fiddle on it," Rhoades said. "The song is called 'Bad News,' and it's on our newest CD, which is called *This Road*."

The CD, which is the duo's first full-length one, was released in June 2015. "It was meant to be our wedding album," said Rhoades. "All of the songs on it are very

significant to our relationship." *This Road* is available on Amazon and other websites. In June 2013, the duo released *The Barn Sessions*, which was recorded in a barn in Peninsula, Ohio.

The duo's music is very folk, with Chrosniak on acoustic guitar and Rhoades on violin. The two both sing on the CDs, usually alternating vocals. Rhoades said she really got into folk music during her freshman year of college.

They played at this year's Heights Music Hop and will perform at CLE Urban Winery on Lee Road in December. They will also play a Paul Simon tribute show at the Beachland Ballroom on Oct. 9.

On May 5 of this year, the couple had their first child, Moses. The family lives in Cleveland Heights, off of South Taylor Road between Cedar and Mayfield roads.

"We like Cleveland Heights a lot," Rhoades said. "There is a sense of community, and there is a good balance of people and wonderful diversity."

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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