

INSIDE



7
U.S. Postal Service honors Heights letter carrier



10
Jan. 23 forum will explore community-building for change



17
Art show "sweetens" Mitchell's back entrance



19
HYT's latest production will open on Jan. 19

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

Vote for Best of the Heights in 2018

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Beginning Jan. 1, Heights residents can show their appreciation for local businesses by voting for their favorites in the FutureHeights 2018 Best of the Heights Awards contest.

In 2005, FutureHeights—a non-profit community development corporation—established the Best of the Heights awards to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned Heights businesses, and their contributions to the local economy. Each year, residents cast their votes for their favorite businesses by nominating them for an award in a variety of categories.

FutureHeights' Planning & Development Committee has selected 12 categories for this year's ballot, including Best New Business and Best Heights Vibe. Residents are encouraged to vote for their favorite businesses online at www.futureheights.org or using the paper ballot that will appear on the back cover of the January and February print issues of the *Heights Observer*. Voting will conclude Feb. 15 and winners will be announced in the March issue of the *Observer*.



John Zagara, owner of Zagara's Marketplace, with the certificate for Best Neighborhood Partner in the FutureHeights 2017 Best of the Heights awards.

All Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses are eligible to be nominated for any of the categories.

"The Heights is fortunate to have so many locally owned businesses that contribute to the unique character of our community," said Julia Kious Zabbell, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors. "I enjoy shopping at our local businesses because I value the expertise of the owners, who know their products and can recommend just the right thing. I also know that

continued on page 9

V&E Hann to giveaway furnace

Bob Rosenbaum

For the second consecutive year, Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc. will give away a furnace, including installation, to someone in need. Chris Hann, co-owner of the Cleveland Heights-based heating, cooling and plumbing contractor, is asking for nominations from the community.

"Last year, it was our honor to install a new furnace for someone so deserving," said Hann. "Again, we want to share our good fortune by continuing to give back to the community. We are hopeful people in our community will raise their hand to let us know if they or someone they know is in need of a new furnace."

Nominations will be accepted through March 15, for individuals or families who live in the extended Heights area. The winner will be selected based on a range of considerations, including age, physical disabilities, financial challenges and military service.

Last year, Verne & Ellsworth



Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc. co-owner Chris Hann (right), with Jon Holmes, who received a free furnace and installation from the company in 2017.

Hann installed a free furnace for Jon Holmes of Cleveland Heights, who was nominated by his sister. It replaced a 66-year-old unit that needed to be oiled daily in order to keep running—a difficult task for the U.S. Army Veteran, who suffers from a nerve disability.

This year, the winner will receive a new high efficiency heating system and installation, with a total value of up to \$3,500. The cost of electrical

continued on page 2

Charter Review Commission sets timeline for recommendations

Robert Brown

The Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission held its first official meeting on Dec. 7. Cleveland Heights City Council appointed the 15-member commission to review all aspects of the city's charter and make recommendations for changes. City council will then decide which items to place on the ballot for residents to vote on.

The commission expects to submit its recommendations to council by May 2018, in time for council to place the revisions on the November 2018 ballot.

The first item the commission will address is the city's form of government. Cleveland Heights is currently governed by a seven-member city council, with all members elected at large (citywide), and by a city manager, who is appointed by council.

Of Cuyahoga County's 57 municipalities, only Cleveland Heights and Bedford Heights are governed without a popularly elected mayor. With respect to local city councils, some are elected at large, some are elected by ward, and others are split between at-large and ward-based members.

CH City Council appointed Larry Keller, a Cleveland State University professor emeritus, to facilitate the group's meetings and process.

The commission selected Jack Newman to serve as its chair and Allosious Snodgrass to serve as its vice chair. The commission agreed to

continued on page 2

St. Paul's Cooperative Preschool seeks new home

Emily Lampe

St Paul's Cooperative Preschool (SPCP) is about to lose its home of 61 years. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, that built the nursery school wing in 1956, has decided, as of Nov. 29, not to renew the preschool's lease.

The cooperative now is faced with the challenge of finding a new home so that it can continue to serve its students. As of the end of December, the co-op currently has 54 of its 58 possible student spaces filled. SPCP was rushing to find a



St. Paul's preschool is hoping to find a new home soon.

place before January, when preschool registration begins for the 2018-19

school year.

SPCP's top priority is to continue to offer affordable preschool access for the 2018-19 school year. "We are looking for a space, ideally located close to the current location [2747 Fairmount Blvd.] so that we can continue to serve the local community's families and children," said Deb Binkofsky, director of the co-op.

"Research continues to come out about how important preschool can be for future academic success.

continued on page 9

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

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About the Observer

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

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

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

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

CHARTER REVIEW continued from page 1

schedule meetings for the first and third Thursday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for Jan. 4, 7 p.m., at CH City Hall.

Several city staff members attended the Dec. 7 meeting, including Tanisha Briley, city manager; Susanna Niermann O’Neil, assistant city manager; Jim Juliano, law director; and Liz Rothenberg, assistant law director. CH City Council members Mary Dunbar and Mike Ungar, as well as five residents, also attended.

The commission’s meetings and agendas will be posted on the city’s website, <http://www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=2206>.

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 February issue must be submitted by Jan. 15. 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.

All meetings will be recorded and broadcast on the city’s cable channel, Channel 20, and on the city’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/cleveland-heightsob>.

All meetings will be recorded and broadcast on the city’s cable channel, Channel 20, and on the city’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/cleveland-heightsob>.

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 is on the board of FutureHeights.

FURNACE continued from page 1

and chimney modifications, which are sometimes necessary, aren’t included in the giveaway, because those need to be handled by other tradesmen.

Verne & Ellsworth Hann plans to select a handful of finalists and then make personal visits to identify any added costs that would have to be covered. “We want this to be good news for someone in need,” Chris Hann said.

Verne & Ellsworth Hann is committed to its customers and community. As part of that commitment, when the company expanded, its owners decided to relocate within Cleveland Heights, to the corner of Lee and Yorkshire roads. Chris and Bill Hann stated, “It was important to stay in Cleveland Heights, where we have been located for the past 65 years. Remaining in the Heights allows us to better serve our valued customers in the community and surrounding area.”

Chris, Bill and their sister Patty Siegfried represent the family’s fourth generation in the trade; fifth-generation nephew Jason Franey manages their service department.

To nominate yourself or someone else to receive the free furnace, look for the nomination form on page 5 of this issue of the *Heights Observer*, or visit www.vehbros.com/helping-hann/.

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

Seeking clarity on December column

To the Editor:

Your “About the Observer” column states that “If you’re writing a news article it should be clear and factual.” That is the basis for my question regarding the “Heights of Democracy” article [in the December issue].

Regarding the proposed legislation, the article contains the statement: The ordinance would not violate state or federal laws.

Although this article is on the Opinion page, the above statement seems to be stating a fact. Neither of the authors is a lawyer or a judge, so what is the basis for the statement?

According to the article in the *Sun News*, the ordinance is still being reviewed by the city’s law director. So, I need to question whether or not the statement in the *Observer* article is factual.

Can someone please clarify this issue for me? Thank you very much for your response.

Craig A. Hoffman
Cleveland Heights

Editor’s reply: Thanks for taking the time to write, and asking the question.

As editor of the December “Heights of Democracy” column, I understood the statement to mean that the ordinance under consideration “would not violate state or federal laws.”

I’ve run your query by the writers; one replied with the following information: “I think Mr. Hoffman asks a very good question, and his point that the proposed ordinance is still being looked at by the city law department is, as far as I know, true.”

“The statement in the column is based on Section 1 (l) of the proposed ordinance, which states, ‘Any part or provision of this Section which is found to be prohibited by State or Federal law shall be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition without invalidating the remaining provisions.’

“Perhaps we erred on the side of brevity. It might have been more accurate if we had written that the intention of the proposed ordinance is not to violate any state or federal law.”

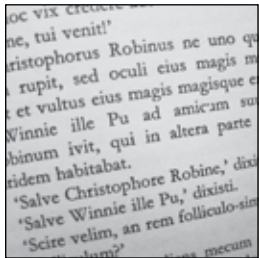
The proposed ordinance [Ordinance No. 106-2017 (PSH) Proposed Substitute] that the writers referenced can be found on the city’s website, as part of the packet for the Nov. 13 city council meeting: <http://www.clevelandheights.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=9504>.

Kim Sergio Inglis
Heights Observer editor

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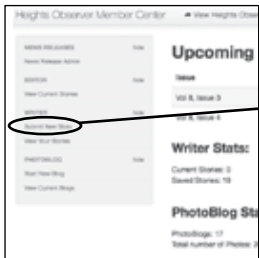
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2. **Register/log in** at the Member Center (www.heightsobserver.org).



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



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

The backstory to Democracy Day



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

On Thursday, Jan. 25, Cleveland Heights City Council will convene the city's fifth annual Democracy Day, and you, dear reader, are most cordially invited.

For the uninitiated, Democracy Day gives the public an opportunity to address council about how the political influence of corporate entities, added to obscene amounts of money spent in the political process, is degrading the democratic institutions of our city, our state and our nation. Following the hearing each year, a letter stating the reason for the event and summarizing citizens' remarks is sent by council to our U.S. senators, our U.S. congress member, and the presidents of the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House. That letter, the full text of the petition, plus written minutes and a video, can be viewed on the city's website under Government, Archived Agendas and Minutes, Public Hearings.

Why do we do this in Cleveland Heights? What's the backstory?

Starting in 2012, about 50 Cleveland Heights Move to Amend volunteers (your neighbors and friends) spent hundreds of hours collecting the signatures of CH registered voters. They did so through a process called the citizen's initiative, the right to which was established by the 1912 Ohio Constitution, still in force today. By July 2013, the campaign was able to submit more than 3,000 signatures to the CH clerk of council—more than enough for the initiative to make the November 2013 ballot as a proposed ordinance:

"Shall the proposed ordinance entitled 'Political Influence by Corporate Entities,' establishing annual public hearings before City Council on this subject, and sending a summary of the public hearing to Congressional and State representatives, and calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring that only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with Constitutional rights, and that money is not the

equivalent of speech, be adopted?"

Of the CH citizens who voted on the issue, 77 percent, voted "Yes," thus establishing annual Democracy Day hearings. Dozens of other cities across the country and 11 others in Ohio have passed similar ballot measures, all calling for a constitutional amendment establishing that constitutional rights are for human beings only, and money does not equal free speech, so campaign expenditures can be regulated. In addition, hundreds of city councils nationwide, and 12 in Ohio, have passed resolutions containing the same language.

Of course, we cannot amend the U.S. Constitution with local action. But we can send a message to our state and federal elected officials, and Democracy Day is one way to do so.

At the federal level, national Move to Amend has worked with Congressman Rick Nolan (D-MN) who, with 20 co-sponsors, introduced the "We the People Amendment," House Joint Resolution 48, in the 115th (2017-18) Congress. Early in 2017, Move to Amend announced the goal of reaching 35 co-sponsors before year's end. That was easily achieved and surpassed; 50 co-sponsors have joined Nolan for a total of 51 signers to date—including Marcia Fudge (OH-11) and Marcy Kaptur (OH-9). The next heavy lift will be to get companion legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate.

Last year, 70 people attended CH's Democracy Day, and 26 spoke on topics covering a wide range of policies that directly affect local citizens, including:

- Privatization of municipal services nationally led to the city's outsourcing of its building department.
- The cost of running for the Ohio House (\$1.6 million) and Ohio Senate (over \$2 million) favors entrenched incumbents and shuts out newcomers.
- Tax dollars are being shifted from public schools to subsidize charter schools and vouchers in an attempt to privatize public education.
- Some CH neighborhoods remain ravaged by the effects of foreclosures; two speakers connected these conditions, and the city's inability to fully rectify them, to the

continued on page 9



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Local accountability fosters common good



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

The Internet makes it easy to gain access to events that you don't attend in person. I recently spent several evenings on the CH-UH City School District's website, viewing recordings of board of education meetings going back to 2012. I recommend it. To view the recordings, go to www.chub.org and select "Board of Education" from the "About" menu.

The board meetings provided a body of evidence about our district's

history and the role of the school board for a project I have been working on. They were fascinating!

My first observation was that board members spend a lot of time meeting. They regularly meet twice a month. The meetings are long, with three hours being typical. On top of that, there are special meetings designed to gather community input on specific issues, as well as attendance at other people's meetings. Thank you, board members, for investing the time it takes to prepare, study, discuss and manage issues big and small.

Facilities, finances and staff cuts have dominated recent agendas, as has the unreliability of funding. The board has moved from silence on state policy to an outspoken stance on the detrimental impact of vouchers and charter schools on public education, and the unfair reliance on test scores to judge children and schools.

Whatever the subject—strategic planning, facilities planning, career technical education, academic priorities, grade configurations, contracts or staffing—the board invariably

focused on how to engage the community: how to help us understand an issue, clarify expectations, gain input on how new buildings should look and function, and build consensus around solutions or expenditures.

This is profound.

As the vehicle for public oversight for precious public resources, the board is responsible for ensuring that the interests of the community are served by our public schools. The videos showed what this looks like. The board makes education democratic. It is one of the critical components of making public schools public.

Charter schools and private schools are not public. Don't let anyone tell you a charter school is public just because it receives public funds. Without oversight by any entity answerable to the public, a charter school misses the boat. We should all be furious that public funds are spent without public accountability.

The lack of oversight is dangerous. School boards are elected to look out for the students. Students attending publicly funded nonpublic schools lack this protection. Their governing boards are more likely concerned with the profitability of their school, rather than the education of its students.

Whether you think public schools need to improve or that charter schools are a good idea, the lack of public control makes charter schools wrong.

As I try with increasing frustration to influence the direction of federal policymakers, I am grateful that public education is first and foremost a local government responsibility. I am especially grateful that our board of education, while not always making decisions that I support, takes seriously its role as a conduit for public engagement. Board members represent the public voice in oversight of public funds, and they know that to do that well they need to listen and discern. Their bottom line is the students.

Former board of education member Donalene Poduska reminded me that big money has infiltrated local school board elections in Colorado, California, Louisiana, Minnesota and New Jersey. This dangerous intrusion into local school decision-making is evidence that the ideological push to privatize public education is a real threat to our most local and accessible form of democratic governance. It has clearly infected federal and state policy to the detriment of the public's interests. It could happen here.

We can all contribute to making our public schools truly public by making sure we engage with the governing body that we have elected to oversee our interests. We must also be vigilant in assuring that entities that would benefit from destroying a public institution do not succeed. The only real option is to be informed, engaged and fully aware of

continued on page 9



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A TEACHER'S VOICE

Ari Klein

We are fortunate to have many locally owned businesses in our community. From grocery stores to bookstores, restaurants to beauty shops, there are many people invested in owning businesses in the Heights. My wife and I believe in supporting those independent businesses because, in many cases, the owners are people we know and trust. It's also convenient to be able to walk to a nearby store instead of having to drive a distance away.

It is distressing to us that many people use local businesses only as a last resort, relying more on giant megastores, both online and on Warrensville Center Road. Large corporations bully suppliers into selling their products at lower prices and pay their workers less than they should with fewer benefits.

The long-term effects of ignoring local businesses in favor of the megastores will be devastating. Short-term gains of "low prices" will harm our friends and neighbors who offer goods and services that are unique to our needs.

Our public schools are a little like these independent stores that

I cherish. They reflect the values and interests of the community. They are governed by a locally elected board, paid for with local dollars, and supported by generations of alumni. Public schools are part of the fabric of the community, from supporting the football team to enjoying a concert. Hundreds of volunteers work with the students in our schools and are invested in their success. Schools are often the centers of their neighborhoods and will probably become even more connected after our CH-UH Community in Schools task force makes its recommendations for enhanced wrap-around services.

Private and parochial schools in our community have many of the same attributes. Many of these institutions have served the community for years. There is a tradition and a sense of belonging. I respect the decision of families to send their children to these schools for whatever reason. While it is their choice, it is also their responsibility to support that choice financially. I believe that families choosing non-public options should not receive public dollars to support these choices. Public money should go to support public schools. We vote for this!

There are people and organizations that don't share this vision of public education. These are the people who see children as dollar signs waiting to be plucked away from traditional public schools and used to pump up corporate profits. Others prey on students with special needs, looking for ways of providing services at taxpayer expense.

We also have online education entrepreneurs, who want money for enrolling students, even if they never turn on their computers. It would be interesting to see a class reunion for one of these online schools. Will students even know one another?

Doug Livingston of the *Akron Beacon Journal* wrote in August, "An average of 18 charter schools have closed in Ohio annually over the past decade." In the next line of the article, he writes that there have been 25 charter school closures per year since 2015. Even a charter that lasts 10 years is a relative newcomer to a public system that is well over 100 years old.

There are some effective charter schools around, but they still take money away from public school students in an inequitable manner. They do not have democratically elected local governance, and they lack fiscal accountability to those of us who foot the bill.

I imagine that if we do not pay attention we could end up living in Generica Heights, with nothing but a few big-box stores, chain restaurants and storefront schools. These meager offerings would be supplemented with online shopping and e-schools. Some people would cheer the lower taxes and great convenience. Our choices make a difference.

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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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Phillip Ertel, John Rach, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Councilman Steven Sims was absent; Councilwoman Pamela Cameron arrived just after roll call. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director William Sheehan, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas.

Message from Mayor Infeld

Mayor Infeld congratulated the people who were elected to office on Nov. 7, wishing the best for the officials and for the city. She also announced that Gearity elementary school is looking for after-school tutors. Those interested should contact Sandy Womack of the school district.

University Square

Council approved two recommendations from the planning commission for possible changes to University Square. The first is to allow variances for the area around Key Bank and the four-unit building partly occupied by Verizon to allow flexibility to potential new owners. The second is to move the lot line on the north side of the property south "into" the garage, meaning part of the garage may be demolished, creating more space and light along the north side. Any actual changes will require specific approval by council, but this will allow for more flexibility in marketing the property. Councilman Wiseman noted the number of actions council has taken attempting to support University Square. He strongly hopes that the space will continue to have some retail and not be converted fully to residential use.

Police and dispatch contracts

Union members and the administration have approved three (3) three-year contracts between the city of University Heights and patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers. The city's labor counsel presented the new terms to council as ordinances 2017-43, -44 and -47, on first reading. Council has 30 days if it wishes to disapprove the contracts; without action, they become binding. The primary concerns were wages, health care, stipends and hours.

Cuyahoga County project grant

Council decided against authorizing the application to Cuyahoga County for a \$50,000 grant to be used for a new gateway plan for the Cedar-Warrens intersection. The proposed grant would have sought funding for three new bus shelters, a recycling receptacle, a sign, and trees. The grant couldn't be [made] for the Cedar-Taylor intersection because the city has already budgeted \$25,000 for that project, making it ineligible. Council would like to develop an overall "brand" for the city before undertaking any additional projects.

LWV Observer: Wendy S. Deuring.

DECEMBER 4, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Pamela Cameron, Phillip Ertel, John Rach, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director William Sheehan, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas.



Property tax for seniors

The Cleveland Water Department is working with Cleveland City Council to manage the homestead rate for those formerly served by the Cleveland Heights Water Department. The homestead rate reduces property taxes for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

UH Citizens of the Year

Bonnye Klein and Sarah Staples were named 2017 UH Citizens of the Year for their work co-chairing the City Beautiful Commission and the Beautiful Home Awards program.

Police contracts approved

Council authorized union contracts with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants, and dispatchers, on second reading.

90-day budget passed

Council approved a temporary budget, from Jan. 1, to March 31, 2018, on second reading. Mayor-elect Michael Dylan Brennan will begin preparing the city's budget when he takes the reins in January.

Tree pruning and removal

Council approved a motion to advertise for bids for tree pruning and removal. Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny said that 500 trees would be pruned and/or removed throughout the city at a cost of \$50,000. Councilman Wiseman requested that the arborists meet with community members to discuss the project.

Car thefts in University Heights

Police Chief Steve Hammet reported that six cars were stolen on Nov. 28 and 29, near Green and Cedar roads. Three of the cars were stolen from the Speedway gas station, one from Heinen's, and one from the John Carroll University annex. The police chief noted that the cars had been left running. He reported that a woman from Lyndhurst was also carjacked at the John Carroll annex on Green Road. Four of the six cars have been recovered, with minimal damage. He said that while the city hasn't made arrests, it has leads and possible suspects. These thefts have occurred in five to six local suburbs.

LWV Observer: Siobhan Leftwich.

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

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

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

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Teddy Wilson delivering mail in Cedar Fairmount.

Cedar Fairmount’s Alfonzo Wilson is nation’s longest-serving letter carrier

Kaye Lowe

At the age of 80, Cedar Fairmount letter carrier Alfonzo (A.T. “Teddy”) Wilson is the longest-serving active letter carrier in the United States

On Nov. 17, the U.S. Postal Service honored him at a special ceremony, presenting him with a 60-year service pin and a table clock inscribed, “Thank You for Your 60 Years of Service.” His fellow workers held a buffet lunch and reception for him.

Current and former postal employees were among the more than 200 people who attended the ceremony in Wilson’s honor.

Asked by Les Wolf, his current manager, how many managers he has had, Wilson replied, “I don’t know, but now you are number one.”

Cedar Fairmount customers value Wilson’s tireless effort, his attention to detail (no one gets the wrong mail), and cheerfulness.

Wilson has delivered mail in Cleveland Heights since 1980, but has a much longer history with the postal service. He began working as a mail sorter at the age of 18,

after graduating from high school, and has delivered mail in Shaker Heights, Bratenahl and Cleveland Heights.

Offered management positions, Wilson has always refused, saying he did not want to be involved with the politics that come into play as a manager.

Kaye Lowe is the director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.



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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 20, 2017
Council members present were Mayor Cheryl L. Stephens, Vice Mayor Jason Stein, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, Carol Roe and Michael N. Ungar. Melissa Yasinow was absent.

Public comments
Civil immigration enforcement: Three residents commented on this topic. Stuart Greenberg discussed his support for council's proposed civil immigration enforcement legislation. He stated his belief that everyone should be treated equally, regardless of immigration status, and that equal treatment leads to improved public safety and criminal justice enforcement. Anne Hill reported that, earlier in the day, leaders of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church attempted to deliver an application for a stay of removal to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Brooklyn, on behalf of Leonora Garcia. ICE officials refused to receive the application. Hill urged council to take a stand and pass the civil immigration enforcement ordinance. Susan Radbourne also spoke in favor of the legislation.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus: Lee Chilcote spoke on behalf of the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus initiative regarding the group's proposal (submitted to council at a meeting on Nov. 6) to extend the occupancy of the Coventry School tenants to June 30, 2019, rather than the current date of June 30, 2018. The group wants to move forward and has developed a strategy that involves Heights Libraries [taking] ownership of the property. Chilcote reported that the library board, which met earlier in the evening, has authorized its executive director to negotiate an agreement. Chilcote expressed hope that, before the end of 2017, city council will support extending the tenants' occupancy and will decide to hold back on the issuance of a request for qualifications/proposal from prospective developers for the site. Mayor Stephens noted that council has requested a meeting with the school board for Nov. 27 to discuss the potential transfer or sale of the property to the city, making it possible for negotiations with the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus group to go forward. [Since this council meeting, the school board and city council met in executive session on Nov. 27.]

Charter review commission
Council Member Roe noted that the charter review commission had its first meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and the facilitator, Larry Keller, gave an overview of the charter review process and answered questions. The video of the meeting is now on the city's website, on the page devoted to charter review.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

DECEMBER 4, 2017
Council members present were Cheryl L. Stephens, mayor; Mary Dunbar; Carol Roe; Kahlil Seren; Michael N. Ungar; and Melissa Yasinow. Jason Stein, vice mayor, was absent.

Public comments
Charter review commission: Resident Melody



Hart stated she appreciates the video availability of charter review commission meetings on the city website. She encouraged the city to post videos of all committee meetings, including committee of the whole.

2018 operating and capital budget and appropriation
City Manager Tanisha Briley presented the 2018 operating and capital budget, the theme of which is "Onward." She discussed advancing city council relations, continuing to build fiscal sustainability, diversifying and strengthening the tax base, continuing to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness, developing plans to address major infrastructure needs, promoting Cleveland Heights' market strengths and opportunities, and implementing the goals and actions prioritized in the city's master plan.

The total budget for 2018 is \$76 million, the general fund is balanced at \$43.3 million, and the capital funding budget is \$8.5 million. Ten positions continue to be held vacant.

Later in the meeting, council approved expenditures for the 2018 budget.

Zoning code amendments
Zoning code amendments were given a second reading, but not voted upon because they need more work.

Charter review commission
The next meeting will be Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. The agenda and archived videos are on the city website.

NOPEC Gas Aggregation Program
Three ordinances dealing with a future natural gas aggregation program agreement with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) received first readings only. NOPEC is a council of governments (COG). As a new member, Cleveland Heights must adopt the governance plan and approve the bylaws for the natural gas program as well as execute the natural gas program agreement in order to proceed. Two public hearings will be scheduled in the new year.

Sanitary and storm sewer maintenance
Cuyahoga County will perform certain services to help maintain the city's sanitary and storm sewers and catch basins. Council approved the 2018 agreement at a cost not exceed \$300,000.

Mayor's report and holiday wishes
Mayor Stephens gave a short address in which she noted that the best gift is democracy. She gave highlights of the year in city government and thanked voters for believing in and reelecting council members. She and council members Dunbar, Roe, Ungar and Yasinow all wished residents happy holidays.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

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

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Cuyahoga Arts & Culture awards grants to Heights organizations

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Nov. 13, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) announced that it would award more than 12 million dollars in grants to a record-number 258 nonprofit organizations in Cuyahoga County through its 2018 grant programs. The grant awards include \$376,459 to 20 Heights-based organizations, which may not be surprising given that the city of Cleveland Heights bills itself as “home to the arts.”

Four of the 20 Heights organizations are based at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus: Lake Erie Ink, Ensemble Theatre, FutureHeights and Reaching Heights.

“Cuyahoga Arts & Culture congratulates our 2018 grant recipients,” said Joseph P. Gibbons, president of CAC’s Board of Trustees. “We are proud to be investing these public dollars to connect residents to vibrant and diverse arts and cultural experiences throughout the next year.”

CAC made the grants through its 2018 Project Support (PSI and PSII) and its 2018 General Operating Support programs. Organizations eligible for operating support are 501(c)3 nonprofits that have a primary mission of arts or culture and have been in operation for more than three years. Five Heights-based organizations will receive operating support for 2018:

Apollo’s Fire, \$100,916; Heights Arts, \$24,303; Dobama Theatre, \$37,954; Roots of American Music, \$22,370; and Lake Erie Ink, \$25,027.

Organizations that conduct specific arts or cultural programs that benefit the community, whose primary mission may or may not be exclusively arts and culture, are eligible for PSI or PSII grants, based on the size of their budget related to arts and culture projects. PSI grants are awarded in amounts up to \$30,000. PSII grants are awarded in amounts up to \$5,000.

Six Heights-based organizations will receive PSI grants for 2018: ChamberFest Cleveland, \$27,249, for “Season Seven: Freedom & Justice;” CityMusic Cleveland, \$30,000, for “Two Faiths, One Spirit;” Cleveland Chamber Music Society, \$14,940, for “The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios in Back-to-Back Evenings;” Ensemble Theatre, \$16,341, for “Who are we, the people? A Cleveland dialogue on major themes in Kushner’s epic ‘Angels in America;’” Heights Youth Theatre, \$16,709, for “The Journey Home;” and Kulture Kids, \$17,650, for “A.J. Rickoff is the Place: A Community with VIBRANT GREEN SPACE!.”

Nine Heights-based organizations will receive PSII grants for 2018: Blue Streak Ensemble, \$5,000, for its

“Voice of the Lake” program; Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement

District, \$4,000, for its annual festival; Coventry Village Special Improvement District, \$5,000, for its annual summer series; DJAPO Cultural Arts Institute, \$5,000, for its 9th annual Cleveland African Dance & Drum Festival; FiveOneMusic, \$4,000, for its “Music of Other Worlds” program; NO EXIT New Music Association, \$5,000, for Cleveland Composers Concert Series; FutureHeights, \$5,000, for its annual Heights Music Hop event; Playwrights Local 4181, \$5,000, for the Double-Bill Theater Production of one-act plays by Faye Sholiton and Robert Hawkes; and Reaching Heights, \$5,000, for its summer music camp program.

CAC was approved by Cuyahoga County voters in 2006 and, since 2007, CAC has invested \$170 million in 375 organizations presenting arts and cultural activities in Cuyahoga County. For more information, visit www.cacgrants.org.

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



Beth El’s food drive honors MLK’s legacy

Carol Bruml

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue will sponsor a food drive in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Sunday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donations will go to the Heights Emergency Food Center.

In addition to food donations, checks made out to the Heights Emergency Food Center will be welcomed. Donations of money enable the center to purchase large quantities of food at a discounted cost. Donations of food are also appreciated, as they help meet a more immediate need.

Those wishing to make a donation should simply drive up to Beth El - The Heights Synagogue, at 3246 Desota Ave., any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Someone will be there to collect the donations—there will be no need to get out of the car, or be inconvenienced in any way.

Each year, Beth El has been able to donate more food and funds than in previous years, and would like to beat last year’s record in collecting donations for this good cause. Will you help?

Carol Bruml is the communications chair and newsletter editor for Beth El - The Heights Synagogue.

ST. PAUL’S continued from page 1

If we were to close, which we are determined not to do, that would leave Cleveland Heights with just one cooperative preschool.” That school, Fairmount Cooperative Preschool, is currently at capacity, serving 44 students.

Already this year, two nearby preschools have closed their doors. Both Parents’ Day Out Preschool in nearby Shaker Heights and the Church of the Saviour Co-operative Preschool closed in May 2017. Both of these preschools were secular, like SPCP, and located on church properties.

A cooperative preschool is unique in that it relies on families to run the school alongside a professional teaching staff. A benefit of a co-op is that tuition is typically lower than at other [types of] preschools, largely because of family participation. SPCP fosters a sense of community for its participants, as families support teaching staff in the classroom during the school day, act as custodians, repair and maintain the school grounds, supply classroom materials, and fundraise throughout the year. SPCP parents also have the opportunity to be on a parent board that helps make deci-

sions for the co-op.

The role played by churches in the secular preschools run on their properties is a significant one. Over the years, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church has been a generous partner with SPCP, helping keep costs down by charging a modest rent and providing amenities such as heat, water, and trash removal services for no additional cost. This has benefited thousands of families and their children during the 61-year relationship.

SPCP’s board, parents and staff are hoping for grace from St. Paul’s church in the form of one more year in its current building so that SPCP can continue to serve families while they search for a new location. They also are seeking information about potential spaces for the school’s new location, and strongly prefer to remain in the Cleveland Heights area. If you have any relevant information, contact Deb Binkofsky at 216-932-0002.

Emily Lampe is an education consultant and parent who has been a resident of Cleveland Heights since 2013. She currently has a child enrolled at St. Paul’s Cooperative Preschool.

BEST OF THE HEIGHTS continued from page 1



Destiny Burns, owner of CLE Urban Winery, won best new business in 2017.

more of my hard-earned money is staying here in the community, not just paying local employees, but also purchasing local goods and services and contributing to local causes.”

According to a study conducted by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, an independent business creates twice as many jobs for the same amount of revenue as the international online retailer Amazon.

“It’s great to step back and appreciate our local businesses,” said Micah Kirman, chair of the FutureHeights Planning & Development Committee. “These entrepreneurs have invested themselves in our com-

munity and made us what we are. The unique businesses we have here don’t exist anywhere else. I mean, where else but on Coventry can you get a Tommy’s milkshake?”

To vote in the FutureHeights 2018 Best of the Heights awards, visit www.futureheights.org or fill out and return the paper ballot on the last page of this issue. For more information, call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or send an e-mail to info@futureheights.org.

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

HEIGHTS DEMOCRACY continued from page 3

political influence of the financial industry.

If the concept of an American government of the people, by the people, and for the people seems a more distant ideal than ever, you can help bring it a little closer. Whether you want to speak up or just listen, don’t miss Democracy Day at Cleve-

land Heights City Hall on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m.

Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a life-long Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, who has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.

THE COMMON GOOD continued from page 3

what makes our public institutions sacred and worthy. We must demand that our elected representatives share this belief.

Public education is best created and improved by people who are close to daily life in schools. That’s why local control of schools is so powerful. It’s easiest to act locally. Tune in and care.

We can nurture our children and our educators and make sure decisions benefit the common good.

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

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School superintendents will discuss their challenges to state policy at Jan. 29 forum

Susie Kaeser

When it comes to public education, Ohio state policymakers have passed laws that shrink resources for local schools, diminish local control, impose limiting graduation requirements, reduce the evaluation of the quality of education in a school district to a letter grade, and attempt to standardize education and outcomes.

As the policies have taken hold, their detrimental effects are being felt across the state. School leaders from diverse school districts are beginning to challenge mandates that work against the best interests of their students and diminish public education.

On Jan. 29, three Northeast Ohio school superintendents will discuss what they have done to advocate for their students and quality public education. The public forum, Superintendents Fight Back, will take place in the Cleveland Heights High School cafeteria, 7-8:30 p.m.

Superintendents Jim Lloyd, Walter Davis and Talisa Dixon,

from Olmsted Falls, Woodridge and Cleveland Heights-University Heights, respectively, will discuss their concerns and actions. Tom Schmida, past president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, AFT Local 795, will moderate the program.

The forum is the first in a three-part series that will explore Education in a Democracy, sponsored by the Heights Coalition for Public Education. Additional forums are scheduled for Feb. 12 and Feb. 26. The forums are free and open to the public. Child care is available by reservation; call 216-321-0020.

The coalition comprises parents, community members and educators who are committed to a system of public schools that provide all children an education that gives them the opportunity to succeed in life. For more information visit the coalition's website, www.chub.net/coalition.

Susie Kaeser is a regular contributor to the Heights Observer and the co-convenor of the Heights Coalition for Public Education.

Jan. 23 public forum to focus on civic engagement and neighborhood organizing

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights invites neighborhood residents who are interested in building a strong community through civic engagement and neighborhood organizing to attend a free public forum and workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., at The BottleHouse Brewing Company, 2050 Lee Road.

Attendees of the Community-Building for Change forum will participate in an interactive workshop that will cover topics such as civic engagement, effective organizing, and creatively solving challenges.

The workshop will benefit interested residents by helping them gain the knowledge and skills needed to create and maintain strong, effective neighborhood groups that

Future Heights

can empower residents to take action to support and improve their community.

Brenda May, one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors; Kaela Geshke, wealth initiatives and community network builder of Neighborhood Connections; and Travelle Harp, director of Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), will collaboratively lead the interactive workshop and discussion.

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

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CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

Helping older adults successfully age in place is a shared goal of Fairhill Partners and Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC). For several years, the two organizations have teamed up to offer health workshops for seniors, to help participants better manage their health, reduce fear of falling, increase physical activity, and improve their quality of life.

In January, Fairhill Partners will bring a six-session Chronic Pain Self-Management (CPSM) workshop, developed at Stanford University, to SAC.

Chronic pain—pain lasting six months or more from a variety of causes—can cause one to feel irritable, tired, isolated, or helpless, and prevent individuals from doing things they enjoy. Workshop participants will learn proven techniques for safely and effectively managing pain, in sessions that will cover nutrition; managing medications; decision-making; communicating with family, friends and doctors; and evaluating new treatments. Participants will also learn and practice a safe, no-impact exercise program for strength, endurance and flexibility.

The CPSM workshop will meet

weekly on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan. 9 through Feb. 20. Call 216-691-7377 to register.

SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older, and 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, and available online at www.clevelandheights.com.

SAC membership is \$5 for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older. To sign up, bring a recent piece of mail (such as a bill) and a photo ID.

University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is \$10 for University Heights seniors.

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

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UH Senior Happenings

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

Speakers for the January programs are listed below; for a full description, view the calendar at www.universityheights.com.

Jan. 4: Michael Brennan, the new mayor of University Heights.

Jan. 11: Ann Porath, who manages the volunteer attorneys of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Jan. 18: Katie Windahl, coordinator of Tri-C's English as a Second Language program.

Jan. 25: Krista Hawthorne, executive director of Reaching Heights.

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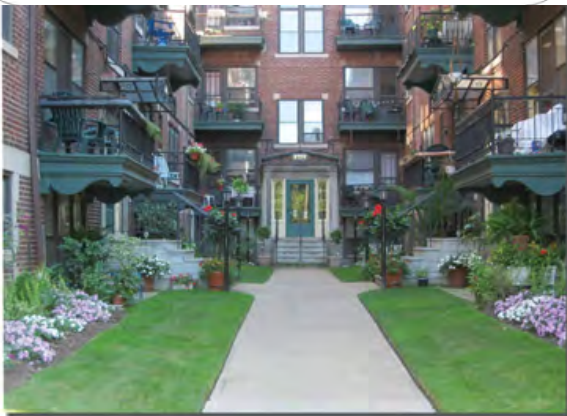
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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Present were President Ron Holland, Secretary Chris Mentrek, Susan Beatty, Max Gerboc and Jim Roosa. Vice President Abby Botnick was absent.

Library issues are successful in November general election

Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin reported that voters approved all 22 public library issues on November general election ballots in Ohio. The unofficial results show an average voter approval rate of 67 percent. The successful library issues included one bond and 21 levies, comprising seven new levies, nine renewals, two replacements, two renewals with increases, and one replacement with an increase. Locally, the Cleveland Public Library and Geauga County Libraries both passed levies.

University Heights branch opening

More than 200 community members attended the opening of the renovated University Heights branch earlier this month. Mayor Susan Infeld read a resolution naming Nov. 21, 2017 University Heights Library Day. Guests enjoyed crafts, snacks and the Barbershoppers music group from Heights High. A final report of costs will be submitted to the library board of trustees before the end of the year.

New trustees sought for library board

The deadline for applications to the library board of trustees was Nov. 21. An information session was held for interested parties at the Lee Road Library. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education interviewed applicants on Dec. 5.

Two are honored at Fund for Future of Heights Libraries event

John Jarvey and Marilyn McLaughlin were honored by the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries at a dinner held at the



Doan Center of John Carroll University on Sunday, Nov. 5. The dinner was attended by 54 individuals and raised more than \$2,000 for the foundation.

On the Same Page

The fall "On the Same Page" initiative, centered on the graphic novel *March: Book Three* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell, continued during the month of October. On Oct. 5, Heights Community Congress had a free screening of the 2014 film "Selma" at the Cedar Lee Theatre, followed by a moderated discussion. On Oct. 20, Compass Consulting led an immersive role-play and discussion program "Selma to Montgomery: What Does It Take to March?" It [invited] attendees to examine what it took for dedicated people to stand up to injustice and racism. Also, Emma Keeshin of the ACLU of Ohio facilitated "Know Your Rights: What to Do If Stopped by the Police" on Oct. 26. Discussions for teens and adults looked at the dos and don'ts of interacting with law enforcement officials.

Hotspot lending program

Due to increased demand and popularity of the hotspot lending program, the library instituted a hold system for the program at the beginning of the month. Developed and coordinated by Jackie Mayse, tech librarian, customers can now place a hold by calling the library or speaking with staff at any Heights Libraries location.

LWV Observer: Khaliah Fisher-Grace.

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

Library eliminates overdue fines

Sheryl Banks

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System customers have more to celebrate than just the New Year. As of Jan. 2, Heights Libraries will have joined a growing number of Ohio public libraries that have eliminated overdue fines for most late materials.

"Overdue fines are punitive, and can become a barrier to many people, especially young and low-income people who want to use the library but can't afford to pay off their fines or are simply afraid that they're no longer welcome," said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. "What we really care about is getting our materials back so everyone can use and enjoy them. As long as customers return our items, we no longer see a need to charge overdue fines."

Customers will still see fines on their accounts, but those fines will disappear once overdue items are returned. Along with the elimination of most fines and fees, the library has also increased the number of times most items can be renewed, from five to ten times.

Circulation Manager Ty Emerson noted that over the past two years the library has added options such as temporary cards for non-Ohio residents, educator cards that give teachers special extended loan periods, and eMedia cards that can be obtained online, and this new policy is simply the latest effort to ensure community members can use library services and materials more easily. "It signals a further

shift in focus from chastisement and restrictions to forgiveness and easier access," said Emerson.

The new fine-free policy does have some restrictions, and it only applies to items owned by Heights Libraries. Through its membership in the CLEVNET consortium, Heights Libraries customers have access to items at other participating Northeast Ohio libraries via a hold system. If a customer borrows an item from a library that charges fines, the customer must pay those fines—Heights Libraries cannot waive them. This applies to any item obtained through the inter-library loan service, as well.

Heights Libraries customers will still be charged fees for damaged or lost items, and late fees for video games and wireless hotspots still apply. The library has also lowered the fine amount that triggers a card account to be blocked, from \$15 to \$10, and a card will also be blocked if the customer has 20 or more items overdue.

"We're hoping these changes will encourage people to return their overdue items more quickly," said Emerson. "Once they do, they get a clean slate, and can check out their next 100 items."

More details about the fine-free policy can be found on the library's website, www.heightslibrary.org, and at any branch.

Sheryl Banks is the communications manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

Library again earns top ranking

Sheryl Banks

For the ninth consecutive year, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received the highest possible rating in *Library Journal's* Index of Public Library Service. The five-star rating is given to the top U.S. libraries each year.

Heights Libraries has earned five stars in nine out of the ten years that *Library Journal*—a national trade journal that reports news about the library world, emphasizing public libraries—has published its ratings.

Libraries are categorized by yearly expenditure and rated on five criteria: circulation, visits, program attendance, Internet terminal use (public computers), and eCirc (eMedia, such as eBooks). Heights Libraries circulation came in at 29.3 per capita, meaning that roughly 29 items were circulated for every resident in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights service area. Visits per capita averaged 17, program attendance averaged 1.2, and public computer use was 4.8.

"This shows what we've always known: people in our community

are using the library more than ever," said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. "For many customers we're that 'third place,' the place besides work and home where they like to be. We are always busy, and I don't see that trend reversing anytime soon."

"On any given day, at any branch, you'll find people with a wide variety of needs being satisfied: Internet access to apply for jobs or benefits, books and early literacy information for their little ones, a free computer class to help them keep their job skills fresh, or an interesting program that gives them something to think about."

Three other Cuyahoga County libraries also received five-star awards: Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Library, and Westlake's Porter Public Library. Ohio libraries did well in general, compared to the rest of the nation: Ohio was second only to New York State in the number of libraries that received star ratings, 25 vs. 31, respectively.

The entire report on America's star libraries can be found on *Library Journal's* website, lj.libraryjournal.com.

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Oxford fifth-grader is Cavs All-Star Kid



Mykaila Davis, the November Cavs All-Star Kid, with Cleveland Cavaliers player J.R. Smith.

Cathan Cavanaugh

Oxford Elementary School fifth-grader Mykaila Davis was the Cavaliers All-Star Kid for the month of November.

Davis' Spanish teacher, Juana Cuervo, nominated her for the award, stating on the application, "Mykaila is involved in Student Council, Spanish Club and Reading Challenge. Mykaila is kind and supportive to other students and also helps tutor them. She is dedicated to her classwork, is willing to do whatever it takes to succeed and never gives up."

Davis was recognized at the Cavaliers' Nov. 17 game against the Clippers, at Quicken Loans Arena.

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

Task force to propose 'wrap-around' services model for district's schools

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

From the outside, Oyler School in Cincinnati looks like an ordinary building, but from the inside, it's "breathtaking," according to Beverly Wright, CH-UH Board of Education member. She and four other members of the district's Community In Schools Task Force recently visited Cincinnati for an in-depth look at "the Cadillac of wrap-around schools."

Oyler gained national recognition for its groundbreaking embrace of wrap-around services: full-scale health clinics (including mental, dental and vision care), child care, enrichment programming, one-to-one mentoring, and other services that meet a vast array of student needs.

The CH-UH district began looking at this model two years ago, led by Teachers Union President Ari Klein and Superintendent Talisa Dixon. The task force, comprising more than 30 district staff, community members, and representatives from potential partner agencies, began meeting last spring and plans to present a proposal to the school board by April.

The United Way of Greater Cleveland is guiding the process to help the district identify student and family needs, explore ways to meet those needs, and develop a plan specific to its individual buildings. United Way representatives will spend the next few months interviewing civic and business leaders, conducting focus groups with district parents, and surveying teachers to determine priorities. The task force

will then use this information to propose a model that could work for CH-UH.

While the CH-UH district already offers various features of wrap-around services, including the Greater Cleveland Food Bank school market and Cleveland Clinic mobile unit at Boulevard and Oxford elementary schools, one key goal of the task force is to devise a plan that would coordinate wrap-around services and include an evaluation component to ensure programs meet identified needs.

Aside from an initial investment in planning and construction, all of Oyler's wrap-around programs are self-sustaining. Each agency comes up with its own funding, by billing health insurance and Medicaid, charging fees for its services, or relying on its own pool of outside donors. The schools simply provide the space and coordinate a steady stream of clients.

At Oyler, the CH-UH visitors noticed a sense of collaboration and coordination among staff members. Lisa Hunt, family engagement specialist for the CH-UH district, noted, "The community, school staff and partner agencies have managed to achieve a centralized vision of 'education first' while simultaneously meeting so many other needs."

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a former district teacher and a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District. A longer version of this story appeared at www.chub.org.

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Drum majors reflect on marching band's fall season

Corbin Covault

Alex Gillooly and Glennis Covault are the drum majors for the Heights High Marching Band, under the direction of Brett Baker of the Instrumental Music Department (IMD). This past fall, the marching band performed pre-game and half-time shows during four scheduled home football games. As junior drum major, Covault worked closely with the more experienced Gillooly, who serves as senior drum major.

The central role of the drum majors is to coordinate and implement Baker's vision, which means being ready for anything. As Covault put it, "Mr. Baker once said that our job as drum majors is to make him 'useless.' We act as the eyes, ears and hands of Mr. Baker at every level. This has



Drum majors Alex Gillooly and Glennis Covault.

COURTESY CHUH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

really helped prepare me for what I'm going to be doing next year, and there isn't anyone I would rather assist than Alex."

Corbin Covault is communications coordinator for the Cleveland Heights High School Band and Orchestra Parents Organization (BOPO).

inspired me to constantly be thinking ahead."

Both Gillooly and Covault agree that their most important responsibility is the steady conducting of the music. "Out in the field," Gillooly said, "the main concern is to make sure that we direct with a very consistent tempo, maintaining eye contact with the percussion and with each other to keep the band together."

The two leaders support each other. "Alex and I happen to be very good friends and get along very well," Covault said. Gillooly responded, "Working with Glennis was easy going; we communicated very well, and when one of us was directing the other would walk around and help the band. We both knew what needed to happen to for the band to perform a great show."

The two drum majors also depend upon fellow student band officers, who, according to Gillooly, are critical for keeping the whole band on the same page: "During performances we rely on the officers to set a good example of how the band should behave and at rehearsal we trust them to keep the motivation and morale of the band high."

Likewise Covault reports, "The band officers are there to make our job easier. I am very proud of our officers this year. They respected Alex and me and helped us keep control of the band."

Now that football season is over, Gillooly and Covault are turning their focus back to playing instruments with Symphonic Winds and IMD jazz ensembles. Covault looks forward to the return of marching band next year. "I definitely learned a lot, probably more than I ever have in that short amount of time. It was fun because I got to wear the uniform and be a leader, while I also had to constantly be on par. It

**Cleveland Heights
University Heights
Board of Education
Meeting highlights**



DECEMBER 5, 2017

Board President Ron Register, Vice President Kal Zucker, Jim Posch and Eric Silverman were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. Beverly Wright arrived in time for the interviews.

Issuance and sale of bonds

The board approved a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of bonds.

Library board of trustees interviews and appointments

The purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for the CH-UH Public Library System Board of Trustees. Two positions were open, with eight candidates interviewing: John Bacha, George Barony, Sara Bartlett, Dana Fluellen, Mary Hobson, Karen Long, Tyler McTigue and Vikas Turakhia.

The school board members asked each candidate the same questions, including the candidate's ability to fulfill a seven-year term, qualities the candidate brings to the library board, the nature of the relationship between the school board and the library board, challenges the library board faces, and the candidate's experience.

After discussion, the board selected Dana Fluellen and Vikas Turakhia to serve for the partial term (through December 2021) and full term (through December 2025), respectively.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

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

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Dunn and Cavender open fitness center



Tim Cavender and Lisa Dunn.

Andrea C. Turner

After a year of planning, business partners Lisa Dunn and Tim Cavender—both professionally certified fitness instructors and Cleveland Heights residents—have opened a new strength-training fitness facility. Their new business, 216 Fitness, aims to help individuals build a fun, supportive community, empowered by strength and confidence. Located at 1415 South Belvoir Blvd., at the corner of Mayfield Road in South Euclid, 216 Fitness plans its grand opening celebration for Saturday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heights residents may know Dunn as the former owner of Revive, the fair trade boutique that had operated on Lee Road since 2006, but closed in April 2017.

While operating Revive, Dunn developed health issues that she sought to relieve through a strength-training regimen. This, in turn, led her to become a fitness trainer at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, where she met Cavender, director of personal training services, who has a degree in exercise physiology from Cleveland State University.

The two soon realized that they both have a like-minded philosophy to wellness: a thoughtful, gentle approach. Both focus on helping clients achieve a higher quality of life through strategic progress, with an intensity that is challenging for every fitness level. Workouts are tailored to fit an individual's needs and exercises can be modified to make them accessible for all levels.

"We specialize in a welcoming, inclusive, non-intimidating approach that often appeals to those who may be newer to personal fitness or need a new introduction," said Dunn. "Many of our clients feel stronger within a few weeks. They're often surprised at how far they've come."

The owners held a soft opening on Nov. 20, and since then have worked to transform the former 7-Eleven storefront into a light-filled, comfortable studio, with plenty of parking, and easy accessibility for clients.

Dunn said the mission of 216 Fitness is to offer high-quality personal training that is also affordable. Group and semi-private sessions are offered six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center offers budget-conscious rates with annual and monthly plans.

"Clients enjoy the wide array of innovative circuit-style training equipment [that] we offer," said Cavender. "The workouts are creative, effective and fun."

The low-impact workouts incorporate a cardiovascular routine that uses traditional and non-traditional equipment, such as a suspension trainer, slider, barbells, deadlifts, kettlebells and stretch bands.

Although 216 Fitness is new, Dunn and Cavender have cultivated many loyal clients.

"I am far stronger and more functional now than I've been in a number of years," said Terry Lilian Segal, 51, of Cleveland Heights. "Both Tim and Lisa have helped me to work through old injuries and limitations, and to prevent new ones from cropping up. They treat everyone with equal attention and care, monitoring each person for safety and maximum benefits, while also bolstering each person's sense of accomplishment. Their skills and personalities [complement] each other."

Curt Coker, 61, also of Cleveland Heights, follows a strength-training fitness routine recommended by Cavender in order to prevent pain in multiple joints. "When I first worked with Tim, I had disabling pain in my lower back. I also have problems with my knees, wrists and shoulders. After listening to a description of my problems, Tim recommended a set of exercises that nearly eliminated my pain. I felt a lot of relief from the very first session. What he recommended worked better than what my doctor suggested."

For more information, visit 216fit.com. To set up a consultation, call 216-532-3348 or e-mail info@216fit.com.

Andrea C. Turner is the owner of ACT One Communications, a marketing communications consulting firm based in Cleveland Heights. 216 Fitness is a client.



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JAZZERCISE

Heights Arts presents a month of music and metal

Mary Ryan

There's no reason to stay home and hibernate in January—Heights Arts offers a number of community-friendly events to kick off 2018.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, at 8 p.m., visiting Minnesota quartet Zeitgeist joins Cleveland's No Exit ensemble for an evening of music from the unique repertoire of each group, as well as collective performances of new music. The free community concert promises a diverse assortment of avant-garde sounds, including music that explores the possibilities of the electro-acoustic medium.

Opening Friday, Jan. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m., is *Materialized: Seven Artists Working in Metal*, curated by Heights Arts exhibition committee member Pamela Argentieri. "Northeast Ohio has a long tradition of sculptors, blacksmiths, silversmiths and designers working in metal," said Argentieri. "This community and its institutions continue to support the careers and education of its artists."

Materialized brings together art by David L. Deming, Mark Hartung, Matthew Hollern, Jacquie Wynn Kennedy, Seth Nagelberg, Stephen Yusko and Argentieri. The works chosen demonstrate the artists' new and traditional ways of using metal and inventing form. "It's an opportunity to see the objects and how they are materialized, through sketches,



Materialized: Seven Artists Working in Metal opens Jan. 19.

models, patterns and prototypes," explained Argentieri. The exhibition will be on view through March 4.

The second concert of Heights Arts Close Encounters Season 11, "Rhythms, Rhymes and the Kitchen Sink," brings a unique afternoon of chamber music and original verse to the stage of the Bop Stop on Sunday, Jan. 21. It's a little-known fact that the Cleveland Orchestra's principal English horn player, Robert Walters, is also a published poet. He'll share the Bop Stop stage in Hingetown with Oberlin College's newest bassoon faculty member, Drew Pattison, and composer/pianist Teddy Niedermaier in a unique program of music and original poetry. The musical journey includes a 2016 composition by Niedermaier, rarely heard romances by Elgar and Sibelius, and Debussy's thrilling "Rhapsodie." Tickets for the 3 p.m. concert are available at Heights Arts on Lee Road or online at www.heightsarts.org/concerts.

On Sunday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m., award-winning pianist and CIM faculty member Andrew Focks leads a masterclass performance at Heights Arts for aspiring pianists. All Northeast Ohio students in grades 6–12 are welcome to apply as participants in the masterclass sessions, which are free and open to the public for observation. The application and information can be found at www.heightsarts.org/master-classes.

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



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Mitchell's Fine Chocolates showcases "sweet" art show



Happy Happy Joy Joy quilt, by Diane Bird.

Melissa Richmond

Through March 1, sweets of a different variety will be on view inside Mitchell's Fine Chocolates in Cleveland Heights, at 2285 Lee Road. The long hallway leading from the back parking lot currently showcases an array of quilts, embroidery and mixed media fiber art—all part

of This Sweet Life—an invitational fiber art exhibit. The participating Northeast Ohio artists interpreted the theme of "this sweet life" in diverse ways. The artists include Diane Bird, Victoria Bocchicchio, Natalie Isvarin-Love, Roz Kvet, Katharine O'Connell, Margaret O'Reilly, Amy Reed, Melissa Richmond, Rima Tessman, Eugenia Vainberg, Nelly Vileikis, Violet Watterson and Marty Young. Mitchell's Fine Chocolates has been in business—offering a taste of the sweet life—since 1939.

Melissa Richmond, a fiber artist who loves living in Cleveland Heights, said of the show's origins, "Every time I came into Mitchell's through the back hall, I felt it seemed so white and empty and needed art! So in August I asked Jason Hallaman, the new owner of Mitchell's, if he'd be interested in an art show. He was enthusiastic so I put together a show of fellow fiber artists interpreting the theme 'This Sweet Life.'"

Artful welcomes Studio Cat

Shannon Morris

Artful is excited to announce that its newest tenant, Studio Cat, has moved into Studio 4. Studio Cat offers a wide range of classes for children and adults. Among the January classes are Winter Break Workshops for kids, including book making, printing and open studio; Mommy and Me Art Time, in which mothers get to work on an art project while their preschoolers are guided through a play-based art class; and a Vision Board Workshop for adults, to clarify their goals for 2018. Recent New York City-transplant Jacqui Brown founded the new studio, which she named Studio Cat in a "funny play on words for Studio 4 in French." Brown is excited by the energy and vitality of the local art scene here. Asked about her goals for the studio, Brown spoke of using art to build analytical thinking skills and helping adults and children de-stress. "Creativity is a tool for problem-solving while the process of creating is very relaxing," Brown said. "Everything is

changing with technology and global issues. The biggest advantage we can give our children, and ourselves, for the future is the ability to think and problem solve. The arts exercise and develop those tools." Brown studied fine arts in college and pursued a film career. After having kids in NYC, she began teaching art in a small independent school. That grew into after-school classes and a summer camp in the Hudson Valley. "Teaching springs from my love of art and the process of creating," Brown explained. "I like to think of myself as a facilitator or a guide as much a teacher. It is rewarding to see growth and creativity come out of the process of making art. Artful is the perfect location, I love being a part of the Artful mission to make creativity and inspiration more accessible to the community." Find more information about Studio Cat and the classes it offers at studiocat.weebly.com and on Facebook at StudioCat at Artful. Shannon Morris is the executive director of Artful.



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'Angels in America' spreads its wings at Ensemble Theatre

Tyler Whidden

Both parts of Tony Kushner's masterpiece "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes" will be staged at Ensemble Theatre this year, with "Part One: Millennium Approaches" opening Jan. 5.

Ensemble's Executive Artistic Director Celeste Cosentino is directing both parts of "Angels in America," with the follow-up, "Part Two: Perestroika," opening April 27 with the same cast of Cleveland actors. Both shows will run four weekends.

"I think it makes sense to produce both parts," Cosentino said of the undertaking. "It's really one big story, and I'm excited for the opportunity to provide audiences with the chance to watch the characters' entire journey."

Considered by many to be one of the best American plays of the last half-century, the 1993 Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winner follows the lives of several people living in New York City during the rise of the AIDS epidemic in the late 1980s.

The play's themes of sexual identity, religious identity, and life after death all play out



Celeste Cosentino

under the umbrella of the Reagan era, when homophobia and fear of an unknown disease was commonplace.

Cosentino sees many similarities with the current political climate, making "Angels" still very relevant for today's audiences.

"These characters struggle in a society that does not allow them to be who they are," Cosentino said. "Not unlike today's administration, the Reagan administration relied heavily on demagoguery and false idealism. Unfortunately, there are those who are still in power continuing to dismantle hard-won progress in the arena of civil and human rights. This play shows us we still have a ways to go."

As for all plays at Ensemble, Cosentino cast Cleveland-based actors, including Derdriu Ring (Hannah), Jeff Grover (Roy Cohn), Kelly Strand (Harper), Scott Esposito (Prior), Robert Hunter (Belize), James Rankin (Joe), Craig Joseph (Louis), and Inés Joris (Angel), with many of them playing multiple characters throughout this theatrical opus.

"Kushner's language is poetic and inspired," Cosentino said. "He uses such imagery and theatricality... like a painter using the richest of their colors. It is a great honor to direct such a monumental and vivid work, which has earned its status as an American classic with its reach and scope. It is not to be missed."

"Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches" runs through Jan. 28, with performances on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., at Ensemble Theatre, 2843 Washington Blvd.

For tickets and information, call 216-321-2930, e-mail info@ensemble-theatre.org, or visit www.ensembletheatre.org.

Tyler Whidden is a playwright and associate artistic director at Ensemble Theatre.



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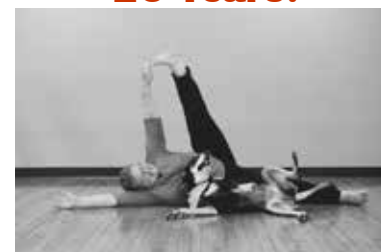
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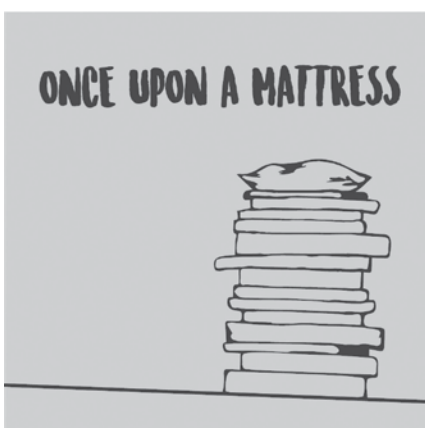
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HEIGHTS ARTS

HYT continues season with 'Once Upon a Mattress'



Pamela Fine

Heights Youth Theatre (HYT), now in its 64th year, starts 2018 off with an entertaining and meaningful musical, "Once Upon a Mattress." The production, which will be performed at Heights Middle School in University Heights, opens on Friday, Jan. 19, and closes on Sunday, Jan. 28.

The show is directed by Eugene Sumlin, music-directed by Stacy Bolton and stage-managed by Jack Ina. Included in the cast are 50 actors in grades 1-12. The lead cast includes Cleveland Heights residents Spencer Skok as Prince Dauntless, Charlie Proctor as the Minstrel, Julien Benchek as the Wizard, and

Victoria Skok as Lady Larken. They are joined by Grace Wilkinson as Winifred, Keegan Polatz as Henry, Olivia Rood as Queen Aggravain, Brian Tuohey as King Sextimus the Silent, and Grace Hoy as the Jester.

"Once Upon A Mattress" is a wonderful retelling of the classic children's story of the princess and the pea," said Sumlin. "Debuting on Broadway in 1959, it introduced the world to the comic legend Carol Burnett. It is a story that teaches us that beauty is skin deep, and how to find your voice. With a strong female character leading the way, it is a hilarious romp that the whole family will enjoy."

Performances will be presented in the school's auditorium (2181 Miramar Blvd.) on Friday, Jan. 19 and 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 20 and 27, at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general admission, and \$9 for seniors and children under 6. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to 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.

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SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

I ate a stranger’s dinner—on purpose—when he wasn’t looking. It was around 1975 and I was playing music at earth by april, the vegetarian restaurant at the corner of Cedar and Lee, a space into which the Cedar Lee Theatre eventually expanded. They spelled earth by april in all-lower-case letters because the name came from an E.E. Cummings poem, and that’s what he did.

I played and sang my songs at that place, by myself, many weekend evenings in the ’70s, when I was in between rock bands. I sat on a high stool against the long wall of the main dining room, about three-fourths of the way back.

This one freezing-cold January night, there were few diners and by about 10 p.m. there was only one customer there. He sat in the front of the room, the Lee Road end of it, as far away from me as possible. He ordered his dinner and waited for it, ignoring me (he wasn’t the only one who did that back then).

The lone waiter still working that night brought the man’s dinner and disappeared into the kitchen, where I would have preferred to be, because there was heat and food back there, and I was cold and the proverbial starving artist.

After a few minutes, the man stood up, put on his coat and hat and left. I immediately stopped playing—mid-song, mid-word—put my guitar on its stand, walked over to the guy’s table, picked up his nearly full plate, carried it to the opposite end of the room, sat down and ate the whole thing.

Just as I was finishing the last bite, the man returned, new pack of cigarettes in hand. He looked at his table, stomped into the other room and came back with the waiter in tow, pointing at the site of his missing dinner, gesturing wildly and saying words I couldn’t discern, but I understood.

I could tell by the waiter’s motions that he was explaining that the bus person must have taken the food away. While they were involved in discussion, I quietly took the plate into the kitchen and left it near the sink.

I went back to playing music and watched as the waiter brought the guy a new meal, which he ate while smoking his fresh, new cigarettes. (I guess he was eating in a vegetarian restaurant because it’s supposed to be healthier for you.)

Some restaurants that hire musicians feed them and some don’t. Before earth by april, I played at Tout Le Monde, the French restaurant on Coventry (later Chester’s, Turkey Ridge, the Winking Lizard, and currently Seafood Shake). Tout Le Monde opened in 1972, the same summer that Tommy’s began serving food at a seven-stool counter in the back of Ace Drugs (where the Grog Shop cur-

rently resides). I got on the menu—the “DB”—that summer, and I’m still on it.

About a year later, Tout Le Monde opened a bistro in its basement and that’s where I played, in between rock bands. They didn’t feed me, either, officially. But I started hanging out at the place during the afternoons, when the kitchen staff and servers didn’t have much to do, and became friends with those people, and they gave me food.

One incident that stands out, from my time there, was when a locally famous disc jockey came in one Saturday night. He had already been on the air for 20 years—from the early days of rock radio—and was then playing easy-listening music, which he continued to do for another 30 years. I made a point of recognizing him during my first set, introducing him to the audience.

After I played several songs, and he drank several glasses of wine, he walked up to me and asked, in his big, deep, mellifluous radio voice, “Would you like me to announce the time?” I said, “Ummm . . . sure.” He took the mic, looked at his watch and intoned, “It is now eleven-oh-two.”

I said, “Thanks.” He winked and made his way back to his seat. All but three or four people in the place ignored



COURTESY DAVID BUDIN

The author (foreground) backstage at a big rock festival in 1979, with the Cars’ Ric Ocasek behind him, in—where else?—the food tent.

him; those three or four glanced at their watches and looked at me to see if something was going to happen. I shrugged and went into my last song before my break. And then I sat down to eat.

I remember every gig I’ve ever played—concert hall, nightclub, festival, restaurant or bar—and every meal I’ve had at each venue. That’s the other part of being a musician.

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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