

Free parking
at all Cleve-
land Heights
meters

INSIDE



7
UH volunteers
clear weeds
and invasives
from park



11
Noble projects
build con-
nections and
community



17
The Heights
Observer Holi-
day Gift Guide
continues with
gift ideas for all
ages

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

2020 Heights Observer Holiday Gift Guide

Jessica Schantz

For the past 13 years, the *Heights Observer* has published its Holiday Gift Guide to inspire residents to shop locally for the December holidays.

Cleveland Heights and University Heights abound with independent businesses—boutiques, salons, restaurants and artist collaboratives—which enhance our local character and anchor our business districts.

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, many of these businesses have temporarily or permanently closed, or are operating at partial capacity.

The *Observer* encourages residents to collectively see them through this difficult time by resisting the ease of Amazon; instead purchase local gifts this year. “A surge of support now could translate to a once-again thriving local economy post-pandemic,” said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of



FutureHeights.

Along with retail stores, most restaurants have updated their business models to better support carry-out and delivery. “Gift cards would be a fine way to support them, too,” said Bremer Fisher.

This year, the *Observer* added two categories in order to cast a

wider net of potential gift ideas: the Non-Traditional Gift and the Socially Distanced Gift. “Colorful face masks make great stocking stuffers,” said Bremer Fisher.

Many Heights businesses have submitted gift ideas to the guide, which starts on page 17.

continued on page 17

Mural transforms parking lot



An aerial view of the new mural on the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. parking lot

Sheryl Banks

On Sept. 26, artists Jimmy Hayden and Wayne Pollard, and a Heights Libraries board member, Gabe Crenshaw, transformed the parking lot by Heights Libraries Coventry branch and Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park with a mural celebrating the achievements of Black Northeast Ohioans, both

past and present.

Embedded in the words “Black Excellence” are images of authors Langston Hughes and Toni Morrison; Oscar-winning actor Halle Berry; athletes LeBron James, Jesse Owens, and Rich Paul; scientist Garrett Morgan; and elected officials Carl Stokes, Louis Stokes, and

continued on page 9

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. reaches agreement with Heights Libraries

Frank Lewis

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus (CPC) has reached an agreement with Heights Libraries on a 15-month lease of the former Coventry school building, which has been home to arts and community-service nonprofits for more than a decade. This agreement includes a path toward a 99-year lease, and allows CPC to sublet spaces to other nonprofits and build on its mission—to create a robust arts and culture center by supporting tenants through affordable rent and special

programming.

An independent organization, CPC represents the building’s current tenants: Ensemble Theatre, ART-FUL, Lake Erie Ink, FutureHeights, Reaching Heights, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union and Cleveland Arts Prize-winning artist Robin VanLear.

Community residents founded Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Inc. in the 1990s, to build and maintain the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Playground. In 2017, the organization expanded its mission to pursue the vision of an integrated campus where everyone can “create,

show, learn and grow.” Led by anchor tenants Ensemble Theatre and ART-FUL, the organization aims to create the capacity to build a unique arts, education, recreation and community service hub that is greater than the sum of its parts.

In 2018, when the library purchased the six-acre property, including the building, for \$1, CPC began developing a path forward for the project—one that neither the library nor the city of Cleveland Heights subsidizes. The tenants have continued

continued on page 6

FutureHeights awards small grants to five CH groups

Tabitha Givens

FutureHeights, the community development corporation for Cleveland Heights, awarded a total of \$2,825 in small grants to five groups through its semi-annual Neighborhood Mini-Grants program this fall.

“We are excited to help fund these projects that will have a positive impact on several Cleveland Heights neighborhoods,” said FutureHeights Executive Director Deanna Bremer Fisher.

Since the program’s inception in 2015, FutureHeights has awarded \$30,386 to 47 groups based in neighborhoods throughout the city.

In the fall 2020 round, FutureHeights awarded Delmore Community Orchard \$500. Founded in March 2020, and located at 3822 Delmore Road in Cleveland Heights’ Noble neighborhood, it is the first community orchard in the city. The funds will be used to enhance the plantings, which already include several varieties of apples, blueberries, raspberries, grapes and pawpaws. “The grant-making committee was impressed by their civic-engagement approach,” said Sruti Basu, director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.

FutureHeights awarded EYEJ Youth Council \$600 for its Empowering Youth Exploring Justice project. The organization, which has served more than 1,500 underserved youths,

continued on page 10

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.

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 2020 FutureHeights. All rights reserved.
Reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

PUBLISHER

Deanna Bremer Fisher
dbfisher@futureheights.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Sergio Inglis
city.editor@heightsobserver.org

E-NEWS EDITOR

Jessica Schantz
jschantz@futureheights.org

ADVERTISING

Bob Rosenbaum
216-401-9342
brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Greg Donley, Judith Eugene, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Jessica Schantz, Kim Sergio Inglis

EDITORS

Jamison Babb, Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Christine Brucker, David Budin, Fred D'Ambrosi, Greg Donley, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Jessica Schantz, Kim Sergio Inglis, Clare Taft.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Temma Collins, Diane Roberto

DISTRIBUTION

Sally Kramer

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 December issue must be submitted by Nov. 9. 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.

This year, more than ever, let's shop local for the holidays



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

At the height of the pandemic, Walmart doubled its online sales for the second quarter (April through June) compared to last year. Its stores, which do far more business than the online operation, were having a banner year, too, with companywide sales up 10 percent in the second quarter. Those extra sales add up to new profits of \$1 billion a month.

Here's some perspective: The city of Cleveland Heights, with an annual budget of \$45 million, could operate for a year and then some on the extra pandemic profit Walmart made this Monday and half of Tuesday.

And that's just Walmart. At Target, second-quarter sales were up nearly 11 percent, and online sales tripled the total from the same time in 2019.

Sales at Home Depot were up more than 23 percent; at Lowes, just over 34 percent.

Amazon's sales jumped 40 percent, for a three-month profit

of \$5.2 billion—doubling last year's second-quarter profits.

And we haven't even gotten to Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the whole month of December.

Not everybody is having the same recession.

It's easy to justify shopping online during a pandemic. But Amazon and the big boxes don't need your money.

You know who does? The people who have set up shop in our own community.

The people who own these shops have invested their life savings to create businesses designed to serve us—the people of Cleveland Heights, University Heights and nearby communities.

They've chosen to locate their businesses here, pay local taxes, support local causes, and participate in local events and traditions. They've assembled products and services to meet our local tastes and interests. Many of them sell stuff you can't get just anywhere, and when they ring up your purchase, they look you in the eye and say "Thank you"—and you know they mean it.

So for the holidays this year, please shop locally. Buy your gifts from people who care at least as much about this community as you

do. Instead of tossing an extra \$50 onto an Amazon gift card, spend it at a local store, where it could mean the difference between an average week and a good one.

If you do your holiday shopping with local merchants, they'll notice.

When people talk about the good life in the Heights, one of the selling points is our collection of business districts populated by interesting shops, restaurants and bars.

The big boxes are here to stay, but you can't say the same for small businesses. Even in good times, independent businesses have an uphill battle to survive among the multi-national retailers. If you like the character these businesses add to the community, you can vote to keep them by putting on your mask, walking in the front door, and making a purchase. Now. When it matters most.

Here's wishing all of us a happy, healthy holiday season filled with the spirit of community and fellowship.

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

State recommends district undergo performance audit

To the Editor:

As many have noted, we should not approve a tax increase that many of our neighbors cannot afford in the midst of a deep recession with a still-uncertain outcome. Now, there is an additional reason to "Vote No" on Issue 69, the school tax levy.

Due to its "potential to incur a deficit during the first three years of the five-year period" [based on the district's five-year forecast], the Ohio Department of Education has recommended the CH-UH City School District to the Auditor of State as one that should undergo a performance audit.

This will review the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and assets, and identify cost-saving options for the district. Voters should not approve additional funding increases until the district has addressed structural deficits.

The Ohio Auditor of State recently outlined more than \$7 million in potential savings for the South Euclid-Lyndhurst school district in its 2019 performance audit.

I was among a group of local citizens who reviewed the CH-UH schools' financial statements, identi-

fied the extraordinary employee-benefits-cost outlier, and brought it to the attention of the school board and the community. Others have pointed to questions about the sale and disposition of district buildings. We think it is likely the performance audit can identify other significant savings. I have suggested that it is time to consider strategic alternatives.

I have signed up to tutor with Reaching Heights, and encourage others to do the same. Those of us with means can support the school foundation. I believe our schools are already very well-funded compared to similar districts, and accolades such as the AP Honors achievements show they deserve to be supported. But, we need to balance school funding with the needs of the community.

Robert Schwab
Cleveland Heights

Correcting the actual EdChoice costs to the CH-UH district

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Eric Silverman's opinion, published online on Oct. 12, [and on page 3].

I am not taking a position on

the school levy vote, and I have not supported EdChoice vouchers in the past. I respect people making informed decisions for themselves. However, informed decisions need to be made with accurate information, and the cost of EdChoice vouchers as stated in Mr. Silverman's opinion are absolutely incorrect.

Yes, the 2019-20 deduction for EdChoice vouchers was \$7,074,113. In his piece, Mr. Silverman omitted the \$4,286,412 the state of Ohio funded for EdChoice vouchers.

To be clear—Ohio funds each EdChoice student the exact same amount it funds each district [public school] student. The net cost of an EdChoice voucher in the 2019-20 school year to the CH-UH school district was \$7,074,113 minus the \$4,286,412 provided by the state. Therefore, the net cost of EdChoice vouchers to the CH-UH school district was only perhaps \$2.8 million of the district's \$130 million budget.

It is disappointing to me that, as a former school board member, Mr. Silverman either doesn't know how Ohio contributes funding for EdChoice vouchers, or he forgot, or worse. However, residents voting for or against the levy need the accurate information that Mr. Silverman did not provide.

James McMahon
Cleveland Heights

EdChoice math leaves district short on funding

Eric Silverman

In a recent conversation with a Cleveland Heights friend, he told me that, in his attempts to set the record straight on the website Nextdoor, in regard to the impact that EdChoice vouchers are having on the CH-UH City School District budget, he was being accused of being “anti-Jewish.” I found this odd, owing to what I know of him and what he told me he had been saying.

Nonetheless, I figured that, as a former CH-UH school board member (2014–2017) as well as someone who is Jewish, I would take a look at the numbers myself and see why his concerns about the impact of EdChoice might be misconstrued.

I went to the Ohio Department of Education’s website for the numbers for FY2020 dated 8/31/2020. This report shows the CH-UH school district losing, to EdChoice vouchers, \$7,074,113 in aid it would normally receive from the state. There are 1,404 students attending 33 different private schools. It would appear that all but two [schools] have a religious affiliation, and those two have only 19 of the 1,404 students [attending].

As such, 98.6% of students using EdChoice vouchers are using them to attend private religious schools. Of those students, 276 attend Catholic or Christian schools, and of those 276, 167 attend schools in Cleveland Heights, University Heights or Shaker Heights, with 41 going to St. Ignatius.

The remaining 78.9% of the students attend [one of] 11 Jewish religious schools, but 4 of these schools only account for 34 students, meaning the 7 remaining schools account for 1,071 students—[comprising] the bulk of not only Jewish school students, but of all students. These 7 schools account for \$5,284,629, or 74.7%, of the dollars that the CH-UH district is losing to EdChoice.

Pointing out the fact that these schools are the principal beneficiaries of EdChoice vouchers is not “anti-Jewish” bias; it is simple math and

statement of fact.

While there is ample evidence to undermine the rationale given—that EdChoice is a program to encourage public schools to improve, and is instead a Trojan Horse to undermine public education and send money to religious schools and for-profit charter schools—what we see in this district is that the primary beneficiaries of EdChoice are schools that the students were likely to attend without the existence of the vouchers.

Usage of non-public schools in CH-UH goes back 100 years, and the district is located in what might be the epicenter of private schools in the region, in particular a number of schools that are unique to the state. In 1982 the Wolpert Study examined non-public school usage as well as overall enrollment trends in the CH-UH district, and found that private schools tended to attract students naturally and, as such, were not in competition with the public schools; this continues to be the case 40 years later.

The fatal flaw in the EdChoice program is that the voucher far exceeds the amount the CH-UH district receives per pupil from the state; so, public school students are, in effect, subsidizing the tuition for students who have never attended, nor were going to attend, the public schools, so they can go to private religious schools. This would be like someone receiving not only an income tax refund, but those earmarked for two or three of their neighbors, as well.

While opponents of the current school levy [ballot issue] say the district should “tighten its belt,” math shows us it has already done this, as the levy doesn’t even cover the cost of monies lost to EdChoice, with the net result being that even with passage of the levy, the district will be “tightening its belt,” with the new revenues only reducing part of the losses.

Cleveland Heights resident Eric J. Silverman was a member of the CH-UH Board of Education, 1994–2001 and 2014–17, and a member of Heights Libraries Board of Directors, 2003–09.

The \$7,074,113 EdChoice deduction was real money lost to the CH-UH district

Jim Posch

Both Eric Silverman and James McMahon, in their *Heights Observer* opinions, correctly state the EdChoice voucher deduction cost to the CH-UH school district was \$7,074,113 for the last school year [2019–20]. As an elected member of the school board I can tell you this amount in the prior year was \$4,187,249 [2018–19] and the amount for this school year will be \$9,017,250 [2020–21] (based on current data).

What is not correct: McMahon further states the district receives additional EdChoice funding from the state to offset these costs.

I want to clarify: the district’s state “Foundation Funding” (the amount the state deducts the EdChoice voucher amounts from) was:

\$21,307,455 [2018–19], \$19,891,985 [2019–20] and \$19,891,985 [2020–21].

Note how the amounts remain the same (except for last two years because of state budget cuts related to COVID). Our district is on a “cap” (frozen); this means our state Foundation Funding is fixed and is not impacted by student counts nor by how many students are receiving vouchers. Currently, if 500 new students showed up on our doorstep to either go to our schools, or qualify for a voucher, our state Foundation Funding remains the same.

Because of changes in the state law, we’ve seen the number of students receiving vouchers increase as follows: 889 [2018–19], 1,412 [2019–20] and 1,792 [2020–21]. Of the students using a voucher, 95% never attended

continued on page 9



Apple Construction

Residential Contractor
Serving Greater Cleveland since 1980
Kitchens, bathrooms, additions and more
216-321-6639

www.apple-construction.com • email: appleconstructioncle@gmail.com

Kim Mastrandrea - Realtor, 20-yr. Hts. homeowner and proud supporter of the *Heights Observer*, “Ohio’s Best Community Newspaper.”

216-288-7014 MaryKimOhio@gmail.com

Wilkes Realty LLC - locally owned brokerage serving buyers and sellers throughout NE Ohio.



100 Artists
1000s of Original Gifts

SHOP THE 2020 HOLIDAY STORE!

All Handmade
All Local

HEIGHTSARTS

2175 Lee Road 216.371.3457 www.heightsarts.org





One step away from an amazing smile

FAIRMOUNT CIRCLE DENTISTRY
Robert E. Schneider, DDS

FREE SNORING & SLEEP SCREENINGS

- Home Sleep Testing
- Oral Sleep Appliances

General, Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry

- Clear Correct Braces
- Digital Dental Technologies
- Tailored to Busy Families
- Comfortable Stress-Free Visits

40+ ★★★★★ Google reviews

Located near John Carroll
Easy free parking

216.321.2545

20620 John Carroll Blvd., Suite 220
dds_r@att.net
www.fairmountcircledentistry.com

The Harvey & FRIENDS Book Shop is Open & FRIENDS Friday \$5/Bag Book Sales Are Back!

EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH DECEMBER | NOON - 4:45 PM

- \$5 a bag - includes CDs, DVDs & audio books
- Cash or Check Only – No change will be given
- Bring Your Own Bag – No bags will be available

www.friendsheightslibraries.org | email: info@friendsheightslibraries.org



Harvey & FRIENDS Bookshop – 2nd floor of the Lee Road branch

The Heights' #1 choice
for interior and exterior
painting

**Neubert
PAINTING**

Serving Northeast
Ohio Homeowners
since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at
216-529-0360
for a Free Consultation!
neubertpainting.com

Organized advocacy is good for our community



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

I moved to Cleveland Heights in 1979, drawn by its racial integration and lively civic culture—good reasons to move to an aging first-ring suburb. Here, being an engaged citizen is not only essential; it is also rewarding.

Our community is no place to

be passive. Our challenges are plenty: We must end state disinvestment in municipal government and public education, overcome the lasting fallout from the housing crisis, build a truly inclusive community, maintain a viable tax base, confront climate change and economic inequality, and end the glorification of exurban living. The list goes on.

We are up against a lot. Unfiltered Internet complaints notwithstanding, we have plenty of people who look out for one another, engage in debate and problem-solving, seek to understand complex issues and participate in the political process. People want our community to be a good place to live. I do not always agree with my fellow citizens, but there is a tradition here of people airing their concerns, and, for the most part, this has healthy results.

It is a privilege to join with other Heights residents to advocate for good policies and to challenge barriers to opportunity. It has enriched

my life, and I hope it has helped push forward changes that allow more people to have the comforts I enjoy.

During this election season, I was thrilled by the chance to work with supporters of the school levy (Issue 69 on the November ballot) to advocate for state-policy changes that would bring relief from the levy cycle. We advocated for an end to “deduction funding,” the harmful state policy that diverts funds appropriated by the legislature for public schools to private schools. More than half of the state aid to our public schools is used to pay for private education.

Deduction funding reduces the state’s contribution to public schools and forces districts that lose state funds to rely more on locally raised funds. State funds pay for less, even though the *DeRolph v. Ohio* decision of 1997 required the state to invest more and carry a larger share of the cost. Long-awaited school-funding-reform legislation has been proposed through House Bill 305. If passed, it would address the constitutional issues of *DeRolph* and end deduction funding.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is a longtime advocate for adequate and equitable funding of public schools. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights chapter of the league, led by Maryann Barnes, connects the local levy to the need to end deduction funding, as HB 305 would. Similarly, the school-levy committee has cited the uncontrolled increase in private-education costs as the driver of the district’s financial problems. In a short amount of time, these two networks mobilized 300 postcard-writers to lobby state senators and House Speaker Robert Cupp to end deduction funding. We ran out of postcards long before we ran out of advocates willing to send them.

I don’t know if this advocacy will change a state legislature that has shown its preference for private education, but legislative leaders now know that people in Cleveland Heights and University Heights will not roll over and accept a policy that undermines our quality of life.

Without the chance to mount resistance, I would have felt helpless to defend my community from this threat. I am so grateful to my fellow Heights advocates who helped with this project, who consistently take the time to get involved, and who are ready to step up and do what they can. They are reliable, energetic and sincere.

This is just the latest episode to make me grateful for putting down roots in Cleveland Heights.

Susie Kaeser is a 40-year resident of Cleveland Heights and the former director of Reaching Heights. She is active in the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the League of Women Voters.

**#1
Roofing**

Tear-offs • Re-roofs • All repairs
Shingles • Slate • Tile • Gutters • Siding • Chimney Work
Metal Roofs Installed
Insured • All work guaranteed • Free estimates
Ice & Snow Removal
Gutter De-icing Cables Installed
Nobody Under Bids Us

**Residential
Commercial**

216-319-0430

STAY SHARP

AND RULE YOUR STUDIES

tutor.com™
A Service of The Princeton Review

Tutor.com

Tutor.com is a FREE one-to-one online tutoring service connecting students to qualified tutors from any internet-enabled device seven days a week, from 2-9 p.m. Students (and parents, too!) can get help with any kind of academic question in math, science, English, social studies and writing. Tutor.com also supports students through online drop-off writing review, practice quizzes, video lesson libraries, and The Princeton Review® SAT®/ACT® Essentials test prep.

Visit heightslibrary.org to create and account and start learning!



Wanted: an excellent mayor for CH



HEIGHTS OF
DEMOCRACY

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

Thinking of running for mayor of Cleveland Heights? The 2021 general election is still a year off; but if that seems like a long time, consider this: petitioning starts in a little over four months. You will have from March 18 to June 16, 2021, to gather the 222 valid signatures required to get on the ballot. If there are three or more candidates, you will run in a non-partisan primary election on Sept. 14. If you survive the first round of voting, you will face a single opponent on Nov. 2.

Last month, three people who successfully ran for mayor of other cities participated in a forum sponsored by Citizens for an Elected Mayor (CEM) and CH City Council Member Melody Hart. The online audience of about 100 heard from mayors Annette Blackwell of Maple Heights, Michael Dylan Brennan of University Heights, and Georgine Welo of South Euclid about what it takes to lead an inner-ring suburb during difficult times. [The forum can be viewed on YouTube, via a link at www.citizensforelectedmayor.com.]

Listening to them got us thinking. What knowledge, skills and qualities are essential in the person who will lead our city into its second century?

We need a mayor with a vision for the city, who will inspire council members, staff and especially residents—from Fairmount Boulevard to Noble Road—to work together to realize that vision.

We need a mayor who is honest, accountable and practical, whose idealism is tempered by an understanding of financial constraints and human limitations.

This is no job for an introvert. We need a mayor who truly enjoys ribbon-cuttings, block parties, forums, festivals, sports events and other occasions that bring together residential and business communities within and across neighborhoods.

We need a mayor who listens. While most staff members go home at 5 p.m., the mayor must be more accessible, willing to give

up private time to be available to residents and community leaders.

We need a mayor with the self-confidence to make tough decisions, and the humility to ask for help. Welo, Blackwell and Brennan stressed the importance of talking to other mayors, of seeking their advice and collaboration. Welo also noted that her transition team interviewed every single South Euclid employee, eliciting their opinions and concerns.

We need a mayor who can put aside desire for power, attention, or approval to serve the needs of the city—to be, as Welo pointed out, a public servant in the truest sense of the term.

While our city administrator will oversee daily operations, we need a mayor with management experience. A background in government, nonprofit organization, business or education can provide transferable skills.

All three panelists cited financial acumen, with the assistance of, as Brennan put it, “a great finance department,” as indispensable to running a city. The best leaders surround themselves with people whose strengths compliment their own and compensate for their weaknesses. Nobody is good at everything.

Above all, we need a mayor who will not only tackle major problems, but do so with passion, vision and commitment. Blackwell recalled that, when Maple Heights seemed to be declining, she considered moving. What stopped her was the thought, “But what about the other 23,000 people who live here? They deserve better.” She decided to stay and run for mayor.

Take a long look inside. Do you have what this job requires? Or consider your circle of neighbors, friends, family members, and people you know through organizations or congregations. If you see these traits and abilities in someone, tell them so; encourage them to step up.

Time is short. Cleveland Heights is depending on you.

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg are long-time residents of Cleveland Heights. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.



No problem! I will take care of it...



SCOTT HAIGH

Website: ScottHaigh.Howardhanna.com
Email: ScottHaigh@howardhanna.com
Direct: 216-272-6889



Sale pending!
3873 Atherstone Rd, Cleveland Heights



**WOOD
TRADER
FRAMING**

Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5

13429 Cedar Rd.
Cleveland Hts.

216-397-7671

Helping display and
preserve your
art and memories
since 1973

We're back
and looking forward
to working with you

- By appointment only - call or email
- Ask about parking lot pickups and deliveries
- Please remember your masks and gloves

woodtraderframing.com

Your plumber, your neighbor
Herb's Plumbing & Heating

Serving the
Heights
since 1989



- Experts in old homes
- Water tanks & heating systems
- Eco-friendly updates
- Fully trained, licensed, bonded & insured
- Residential & commercial



216-691-2300

herbsplumbingandheating.com

HOLIDAY TIME!!

Pavers & Remodelers

Honest & Fair

Update your kitchen & bathrooms

216.392.1335

class1pavers.com

Call for details

Great savings on kitchen refacing

COVENTRY continued from page 3

to pay rent despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic, and CPC has been meeting with outside advisors, including the Cleveland Foundation, to lay the groundwork for launching a multifaceted fundraising campaign.

“As citizens, we have a responsibility to do what we think is right,” said Ian Hinz, CPC’s treasurer. “This gives us an opportunity to contribute even more to the vitality of the Coventry neighborhood, the business district, and to the rest of the city.”

“This agreement is a statement on the times,” added Brady Dindia, ARTFUL board president and CPC board secretary. “Our governments and institutions aren’t able to step up right now, so it is up to organizations with good hearts and vision to do what they can.”

With the signing of a lease com-

plete, CPC will now negotiate subleases with the current tenants, and begin recruiting new, complementary tenants who can help advance the CPC project. Rent rates will be kept as affordable as possible, to attract creative partner organizations. To do this while keeping up with the demands of its lease with the library, CPC plans to raise funds apart from the tenants’ own fundraising efforts.

CPC considers the terms of the lease to be challenging. In addition to covering all of the costs of the building, CPC has agreed to pay escalating rent over the next 10 years, while also funding all capital improvement for the building. For its part, the library has stated it is willing to work on a memorandum of understanding that outlines ways in which it will invest CPC’s rent payments into improving the park and playground, which remain solely the library’s responsibility.

“As creatives and nonprofits, we’re used to people doubting us,” said Dindia. “But we’ve overcome numerous obstacles to get this far, including trying to survive the pandemic. We’ve done our due diligence, and we believe in the viability and importance of this project.”

“We are not quitters,” added Hinz. “This site has been one of the most unique and special places in the region for more than 100 years, and the CPC vision is the foundation for the next 100 years.”

Frank Lewis is a writer and editor, and a neighbor of Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus. FutureHeights, one of the CPC tenants, publishes the Heights Observer.

Local news that speaks to you

Catch the HeightsNow podcast from WJCU

Live:

Mon-Fri
at 9 am and 4 pm

Stream on demand:

wjcu.org/media/heights-now



HEIGHTS OBSERVER



DURING SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY!
NOVEMBER 28TH

Shop with Lee Road merchants. Stop by the Zagara’s Marketplace parking lot between 10am - Noon. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame’s Joy Ride Van will provide classic hits. Your purchases may be eligible for prizes!



For more details, visit CedarLee.org



Renewing our core values



A TEACHER’S VOICE

Karen Rego

The Cleveland Heights Teachers Union was established 75 years ago. I am only the fourth president of our union since 1970. Our primary role is to represent 505 teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses, ancillaries, security monitors, and other staff; but, we are also a presence in the CH-UH community, participating in community events, fundraisers, school functions and political events. Since the beginning, our vision and core values have remained the same: We are professionals whose focus is always on the students we teach.

Our vision statement says “Cleveland Heights Teachers Union will create, enhance, and sustain optimal teaching and learning conditions through collaboration, political action, community engagement.” This means that we become involved in political races and issues that are important to public education. We support candidates who share our core values through voluntary contributions from our members and through political action.

Our students are suffering every year due to the financial losses caused by private school vouchers. In addition, our district receives less in state aid than its private school counterparts. Our community has always had choices available to it when it comes to educating its children. However, we strongly oppose the use of public dollars to support private and religious schools.

Our policymakers must find a funding solution for all the students who live in our community. It is important to us that candidates who support fair funding for public schools are elected. We actively urge our members to support these candidates through their contributions and their votes.

We are not just political, however. We want to ensure that the

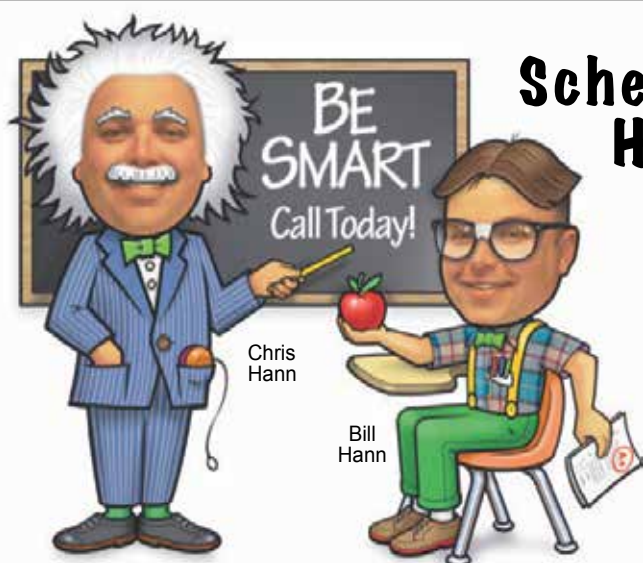
students we teach receive a quality public education. We do this through continuing education, collaboration, and a high-quality learning environment. Our union has provided courses through our Educational Research and Dissemination Program. It is union-sponsored, research-based professional development, designed to help our members receive high-quality professional development from our own trained teachers. Through this program, our teachers not only earn credit toward license renewal but also receive strategies for their classrooms. We believe that we all need to continue to grow and learn best practices.

Through our core values, we recognize and advocate for public education, we demand respect for teaching professionals and support staff; and, most importantly, we value every child. Each student is unique, and many have special challenges. For some children, their schools and their teachers are the only stable part of their lives—a responsibility that our members take very seriously. Our students have always been the reason we continue to adjust our teaching regardless of the ever-changing trends in education.

We became virtual teachers overnight; we adjusted to new programs with little guidance. Some of our teachers were asked to return to in-person teaching with just one week’s notice. All of our teachers will most likely be back to in-person learning with their students soon, and they will be asked to adjust again.

Teachers always adjust to make things work best for their students. What we do best is being there for whatever a student needs on any particular day. We did not choose our profession for money or recognition, but rather for our desire to make a difference in the lives of the children in our charge.

Karen Rego has taught grades K-8 in the CH-UH district, and currently provides math and language support at Monticello Middle School. She is president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union.



Schedule Your Precision Heating Tune-Up!

\$104

Restrictions apply.
Call for details.

5 generations of family experience. Owned and operated by Bill & Chris Hann.

2026 Lee Road / Cleveland Heights



WHATEVER IT TAKES:

216.932.9755
VEHbrothers.com

Bonded • Insured
OH LIC #24462

Heating / Cooling / Plumbing / Specializing in Steam & Hot Water Boiler Systems

5th Annual FREE Furnace Giveaway!
Watch our website for details in 2021!

Weeds meet their match at 'The Walt'

Mike Cook

Walter Stinson Community Park is a popular destination in University Heights. The playground attracts young children. The large open space draws dog walkers. Coffee seekers flock to the park every weekend. And, when we're not in the middle of a pandemic, "The Walt" attracts large crowds for Fall Fest, concerts and movies.

The beautiful organic gardens at The Walt also attract all sorts of birds and butterflies. Unfortunately, the gardens also attract a wide variety of weeds.

The weeds have met their match in The Friends of The Walt, a newly created group of neighbors who have volunteered to help beautify the park. (They're kind of like the Avengers, but without all the high-tech gadgets and elaborate costumes.)

The Friends of The Walt volunteer group formed organically (no pun intended), through the efforts of Eran Shiloh and Emma Shook, after the city organized volunteers to clean the park back in August.

"We started by focusing on the rain gardens at the entrance to the park, and the flower beds adjacent to the road," Shiloh said. "Since then we have been meeting every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. by the Fenwick Road entrance to the park."

A regular group has assembled every subsequent Saturday, and includes Donald Vicarel, Joanna Homann, Darlene and Brian Floden, Rosalia Rozsahegyi, as well



A monarch butterfly enjoys the newly beautified front garden at Walter Stinson Community Park in University Heights.

as Shook and Shiloh.

Walter Stinson Community Park was planned so as to incorporate plantings beneficial not only to people, but to nature. A rain garden and native plants provide beautification as well as stormwater management, and food and shelter for birds and insects.

"Public green spaces like the park are vitally important to residents, yet often a city does not have the means or expertise to maintain them beyond mowing and caring for trees," Shiloh explained. "This is where citizen activism and community involvement can make a difference."

The Friends of the Walt are focused on removing plants on Ohio's noxious weed list, including bull thistle, bindweed and buckthorn. They replace them with beneficial native plants. Thanks to donations from residents and contribu-

tions from the city, the group is also replacing shrubs that have died.

Future plans include installing educational signage to promote ecological gardening.

Shiloh said more volunteers are welcome to help, regardless of residency. To volunteer, contact UH City Hall by e-mailing info@universityheights.com; your request to volunteer will be shared with the group.

This is part of a greater environmental effort in University Heights. Many residents have already joined the Heights Pollinator Pathways project by planting front-yard gardens composed of native plants for an ecologically healthy city environment.

Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.

Free books mailed to your young child!



If your child is
4 years old or younger
and lives in **Cuyahoga County**
Please register online at:

ImaginationLibrary.com

MOJO

world eats & drink

delicious
fun
safe dining
"inda heights"

2196 lee road
cleveland heights
216.932.9000 mojocle.com

 **OPEN 2020**
HOUSE 2021
RUFFING MONTESSORI SCHOOL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 10 AM - 2 PM

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED @ RUFFINGMONTESSORI.NET

3380 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights

FutureHeights moves leadership series to fall in 2021

Sydney Chickos

FutureHeights will convene the seventh cohort of its Neighborhood Leadership Workshop Series in Fall 2021. The series is a multidisciplinary leadership development program that helps participants develop leadership skills, gain knowledge, and acquire tools they can use to help make their Cleveland Heights neighborhoods strong, safe and vibrant.

"We appreciate the value of personal connections made during these sessions," said Sruti Basu, director of community-building programs. "We knew it would not be possible to meet in-person, due to the pandemic, if we kept to our normal, early-in-the-year schedule."

Each year since 2015, FutureHeights has helped residents learn more about the city in which they live and connect with other civically minded people. To date, 77 residents have participated in sessions that explore such topics as individual leadership styles; asset-based community

development; planning neighborhood projects; the history of the city; diversity, equity and inclusion; policy and advocacy; leveraging community resources and community-building.

"I found the workshops to be extremely helpful in giving me a space to work out ideas I had, and shape them with the help of other people with similar interest in working for Cleveland Heights," said Michael Hagesfeld, a 2018 participant. "The speakers were interesting and helped give different perspectives I could apply to my particular situation. Working with other people who also had a drive and love for Cleveland Heights inspired me, in addition to giving me ideas I could apply to my concept, and be able to help them with theirs."

Donna Johnson, a 2019 participant, said that participating in the program "was the perfect impetus to help me rally and engage my neighbors!"

The program is funded by the city of Cleveland Heights through a Community Development Block

Grant and by individual contributions to FutureHeights.

The 2021 five-session series will occur on Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Oct. 31, and Nov. 14 at the FutureHeights office at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus, 2843 Washington Blvd. Applications will open July 15 and close Aug. 31 so that members of the 2021 cohort can be selected.

All Cleveland Heights residents are encouraged to apply to participate. Childcare will be provided. "If there are other potential barriers to your attendance, please let us know so we can work with you to find a solution," said Basu.

FutureHeights plans to return to its spring schedule in 2022.

For more information, visit www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs/, call 216-320-1423 or e-mail sbasu@futureheights.org.

Sydney Chickos is a student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and an intern at FutureHeights.

Cleveland Heights Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

It's time for seniors to review their Medicare coverage. This year's Medicare open-enrollment period, which began Oct. 15, runs through Dec. 7.

Medicare's health and drug plans change every year. On Tuesday, Nov. 10, counselors from the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) will be at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC), to help seniors review their insurance, and answer questions about their Medicare coverage.

Access is by appointment only; call 216-691-7377, to reserve a time to meet with a trained OSHIIP volunteer. Bring your Medicare card and a list of your prescriptions to the appointment.

Find out if your current health or drug plan is the most cost effective for you, and learn about the various coverage options.

OSHIIP is a free service, does not sell insurance, and is provided at no cost through the Ohio Department of Insurance. Take advantage of this opportunity to get free, unbiased information on Medicare coverage.

If you are unable to meet on Nov. 10, you can make an appointment to speak with an OSHIIP representative over the phone instead, on another date.

For those just turning 65 and new to Medicare, OSHIIP offers virtual Welcome to Medicare sessions. Register at <https://insurance.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odi/about-us/divisions/ohio-senior-health-insurance-information-program/resources/medicare-webinars>.

If you are a Cleveland Heights resident, age 60 and above, in need of services or have questions of any kind, contact the city's Office on Aging (216-691-7377 or atajenkins@clvhts.com).

Amy Jenkins is the supervisor of the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the CH Senior Activity Center.

Neff Landscaping & Snowplowing



**Dependable Service
in the Heights Area**

Small Jeeps used in narrow driveways
Block discounts available



(440) 449-3050

**Details at:
nefflandscaping.com**

Going shopping?

Here are 4 reasons to buy from local small businesses:

1. They're part of the community's character
2. They recirculate more of your money locally
3. They support local causes and institutions
4. If you don't support them now, they may not be around later

HEIGHTS OBSERVER
Published by FutureHeights

Cleveland Heights launches ‘All Are Welcome’



Mary Trupo

In September, Cleveland Heights launched “All Are Welcome.” Not a slogan or a campaign, the initiative includes physical reminders placed throughout the community, in the form of “All Are Welcome” window displays, bus wraps and videos, as well as discussions on social media on the theme.

It is intended to be a celebration of the city’s diversity and a display of how much residents value its strong sense of community.

“The city of Cleveland Heights has always been a place that strives to be a city where diversity is valued, and openness, inclusivity and respect are cherished traits,” said Mayor Jason Stein.

“The ‘All Are Welcome’ initiative recommits to the ongoing tradition of our community, that we believe in the value and the importance of diversity in our neighborhoods and in our commercial areas,” said Acting City Manager Susanna Niermann O’Neill. “All are welcome to live, to work, to visit, and to be a part of this special and vibrant city.”

The initiative is anchored by a

video that shows some “favorite things” about Cleveland Heights. It is meant to be uplifting and uniting, providing a sense of pride to residents while positioning Cleveland Heights as a destination of choice to live in or visit.

The initiative is the result of the city’s collaboration with two Cleveland Heights residents—Adam Dew, of Dew Media Inc., and Roger Frank, of Little Jacket.

The city also intends for the initiative to produce positive economic returns (move to Cleveland Heights, buy a house, rent an apartment, spend money in its shops and restaurants, open a business and create jobs).

It is a precursor to the city’s 100th birthday celebration in 2021.

“We’re proud to be a place where progress meets preservation, and as we look toward our next 100 years, we’re committed to making sure the community that lives here and visits Cleveland Heights knows that they are welcome,” said Stein.

The video can be viewed at www.clevelandheights.com/allarewelcome.

Mary Trupo is director of communications and public engagement at the city of Cleveland Heights.

MURAL continued from page 1

Stephanie Tubbs-Jones. The mural also gives a nod to the community with the inclusion of the words “Tiger Nation,” and the logos of the city of Cleveland Heights and of the community group Safer Heights.

Crenshaw said the mural’s creation was inspired by recent events. “The most recent killings of Black people, both by law enforcement and civilians who deemed it their duty to police Black people, is what inspired me to take on this project,” she said. “The phrase ‘Black Lives Matter’ had become politicized, and people were unwilling to separate the ethical and moral statement from the organization. This led me to suggest the phrase, ‘Black Excellence.’”

Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin said the creation of the mural was supported by the library’s board members, who wanted to show support to the Black community in the Heights after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, in May.

“When we saw the Black Lives Matter murals being painted in Washington, D.C., New York, and Cleveland, the board of trustees started to discuss if we should have some sort of affirming artwork at the library. Gabe said she had contacts who could do a great job if we wanted our own mural,” said Levin. “The board decided

that we should ask the Friends of the Heights Libraries if they wished to support the project because they have a long history of supporting artwork for our branches.”

The Friends board approved the request and paid for the project, which cost \$2,357.

“I’m glad we chose Black Excellence because it evokes feelings of joy and pride—it’s a statement of affirmation for the Black community,” Crenshaw said. “And the location is ideal because, as Black children play at the [Coventry] playground, they will be reminded of their excellence, which is not celebrated enough.”

Crenshaw used her local contacts to find the artists. Wayne Pollard was recommended to her by a friend, and she already knew of Jimmy Hayden, an alumnus of Cleveland Heights schools, and a Heights resident, business owner, and artist who uses a graffiti style.

“I hope that the mural’s lasting impact will be to inspire individuals, particularly the Black youth, to explore more deeply Black history and the contributions Black Americans have made to society,” stated Crenshaw.

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

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Board members present were Mayor Jason Stein, Vice Mayor Kahlil Seren, Mary Dunbar, Melody Joy Hart, Davida Russell and Michael Ungar. Also present were Susanna Niermann O’Neil, city manager; Amy Himmelein, clerk of council; and William Hanna, law director.

City manager’s report

The report can be found on pages 2–7 of the meeting packet. [At www.clevelandheights.com, click on Government tab, 2020 Agendas and Minutes.]

- City personnel with increased job roles or reassignments due to COVID-19 will be identified so that salaries and benefits can be properly allocated to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- The “All Are Welcome” program has been launched. Mary Trupo and staff were commended for this.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is working on “slow openings of facilities,” being mindful of COVID precautions.

Police chief’s report

Annette Mecklenburg, chief of the Cleveland Heights Police Department (CHPD), updated council on three fatal shootings that occurred in the previous two weeks. [The full text of a news conference given earlier is on the city website; click on “Police” in upper left corner.]

Malik Moore was killed on Sept. 12, walking on Oakdale Road; detectives are working on leads. Travon Powell was killed on Sept. 16, in his apartment building on Noble Road, after an altercation with two known assailants, both of whom have been arrested. Reginald Thomas Jr. was shot while riding in a car on South Taylor Road; the shooters apparently confused the car with another.

Mecklenburg said the crimes seem unrelated. She solicited tips, large and small, which can be anonymous, through the CHPD or Crime Stoppers. [Contact the Cleveland Heights Police Department at 216-321-1234, or call the tip line: 216-291-5010; for Crime Stoppers of Cuyahoga County, e-mail crimestoppers@cuyahogacounty.us, or call the tip line: 216-252-7463.]

Reward money is offered. She will release plans soon on the city website. Meanwhile, patrols are more frequent, planning is constant, and there is cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.

Mayor and administrator compensation

Presented on first reading was an ordinance providing annual compensation of \$115,000 for the [directly elected] mayor, to be inaugurated January 2022. This is a compromise figure, based on deliberations over collected data and recommendations. Compensation for the new city administrator will be decided soon.

Transfer of properties

In a consent agenda, council transferred four properties from the Cleveland Heights Land Reutilization Program to FutureHeights:

- 826 Caledonia Ave.
- 1043 Elbon Road
- 890 Nelaview Road,
- 1062 Yellowstone Road

LWV Observers: Gail Larson and Blanche Valancy.

OCTOBER 5, 2020

All council members were present, as were the acting city manager, clerk of council, and law director.

Police chief’s report

Police Chief Mecklenburg updated council on the recent murders. The Oakdale Road

case is still under investigation. Police have arrested and charged three individuals for the Noble Road murder. Police have no leads or information on the Taylor Road case. They are sending video of the shooting to law enforcement partners for image enhancement.

Police are investigating an early Sunday morning incident in the 2600 block of Euclid Heights Boulevard. It began as a domestic-violence incident, then moved out to the parking lot, where shots were fired. An adult woman, struck in the leg, is recovering.

Recent shootings on Staunton Road and on Westover Road are under investigation, but no one is cooperating with the police.

The contract with Ronnie Dunn and the Diversity Institute at Cleveland State University should be finalized and submitted to the law department for review this week.

Data has been sent to Dunn on crime statistics for 2019 to the present. Court data will be sent shortly. Officers will attend training in November and December.

PADCO, an outside consultant group, is reviewing the psychological assessment used by the city to improve and enhance evaluations used in hiring new officers.

Council Member Dunbar requested an update on a recent shooting on Lee Road. Chief Mecklenburg said there was no new information. Police are getting no cooperation from residents, but will continue to investigate.

Public works items

Council passed several items related to public works:

- An agreement with GPD Group for utility engineering services associated with the replacement of water lines on East Overlook Road.
- A fourth amendment to the agreement with Wade Trim Inc. of Ohio for professional engineering services relating to the city’s Sanitary Sewer Overflow Control project and the EPA partial consent decree.
- An application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and Local Transportation Improvement programs.
- Approval and support for the development of State Bicycle Route 80. The approved resolution further requested that the route be officially designated by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Mayoral compensation

On second reading, council approved \$115,000 annual compensation for the [directly elected] mayor, for the term commencing Jan. 1, 2022. Council Member Hart, who is considering running for mayor, requested clarification from Law Director Hanna regarding whether she should vote on the legislation. Hanna said she could vote, as this is a possible future plan.

Council member appointment process

At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Stein announced that council had no announcement after its two-hour executive session, in which it considered an appointment to the vacant council seat, but said council members were “getting closer.”

LWV Observers: Gail Larson and Blanche Valancy.

Expanded reports are available online at www.heightsobserver.org.

EDCHOICE continued from page 3

the district [schools]. Silverman outlines this trend and the district’s challenges caused by EdChoice.

The \$7,074,113 we lost in 2019–20 and the \$9,017,250 for this school year was and is real money lost. It’s a LOT of money, and we don’t have any “Choice” over this. All of these facts and figures are audited by the state.

I want to remind our community there’s an organized campaign to

discredit the schools and its leaders because of the school levy. It’s their free-speech right to make claim after claim of misinformation (or not). But there is no denying the challenges we face because of EdChoice and the unsustainable funding path our state has chosen to fund our schools.

Jim Posch is vice president of the CH-UH City School District Board of Education.

Fresh Local Food In Your Neighborhood
Healthy Produce • Healthy People • Healthy Connections

COIT ROAD FARMERS MARKET
Real Food Since 1932

Get \$40 in Free Food through November 21.
Must have annual income within 200% Poverty Level
and minors or expectant in household. Bring SS#.

OPEN SATURDAYS 8:00AM TO 1:00PM

 216-249-5455 www.coitmarket.org
15000 Woodworth Rd near East 152nd & Noble


SWEDISH SOLUTION
AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALIST

Since 1982

Honesty, Value and Communication

Visit our website to schedule your service online

VOLVO • SUBARU • VW • AUDI • BMW • SAAB • PORSCHE


1815 S. Taylor Road, Cleveland Hts. • 216-371-5100 • swedishsolutions.com



Here, so you can be a family.
Here, so you're not alone.
Here for you 24/7 with nationally recognized care.

Offerings like our award-winning palliative care, dedicated pediatric program, healing arts workshops, grief support groups and more provide a full circle of care.

Call us today.

Your family. Our purpose. **Together.**

 **HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE**

 800.707.8922 |  hospicewr.org

Growing up Black in 1970s' Coventry Village

Robert Brown

When Denise Watson was in sixth grade, in 1974, the youngest of eight children, her family moved from Cleveland to a house on Hampshire Road in Coventry Village. At the time, hers was one of the only Black families in this Cleveland Heights neighborhood.

"Coventry Village was a great family place," Watson said. "I have an image of kids doing cartwheels through front-yard sprinklers. Kids walked to the parks and playgrounds, and families actually talked to each other. We didn't have our heads buried in computers or cell phones."

She remembers the neighborhood as very welcoming. "All of my friends were white," she said. "The only racial problem I remember was the fact that some Black kids at school thought I hung out too much with white kids."

Denise's mother, Jessie Watson, quickly became a neighborhood icon, as she ran a popular mail-order business selling a variety of household items. She was known as a person who would always give a helping hand to neighbors in need. Watson remembers her mother promoting her business on a local TV movie program hosted by a local radio personality, John Lanigan.

Watson said she recalls thinking that some of their white neighbors seemed to wonder how this single Black mother could afford such a nice house. "They didn't realize what a successful and resourceful entrepreneur she had become," Watson explained.

Before moving to Cleveland Heights, Watson's mother and father had operated a popular delicatessen on East 93rd Street in Cleveland. Watson's father was a military officer who died in 1970, before the family moved to Cleveland Heights. Her mother died two years ago, at nearly 100 years of age.

Growing up in Coventry Village, Watson said she was always in demand as a babysitter for neighbor-



Denise Watson standing in front of her childhood home on Hampshire Road in the Coventry Village neighborhood of Cleveland Heights.

hood families. She also earned extra money by walking the neighborhood to deliver the *Plain Dealer*. Some of Watson's fondest memories of her childhood in Coventry Village and Cleveland Heights include hanging out with friends in the parking lot next to Coventry Beverage, Friday night ice skating at the recreation pavilion, movies at the fancy, still-relatively new, Severance mall, sitting on the steps of Monticello Junior High, talking with girlfriends about boys, and enjoying the smell of egg rolls wafting up Hampshire Road from the Chinese restaurant on Coventry.

Watson got married in 1982, and moved just a couple blocks away, to another house on Hampshire Road, where she had two sons. Today, she lives in an apartment at Middlehurst and Mayfield roads, just two short blocks from her childhood home. Other than one year spent with a sister in Tacoma, Wash., Watson has lived her entire life in Cleveland Heights.

"When I think back on the neighborhood," she said, "it seems that the sun was always shining."

Robert Brown, a city planner with 45 years of experience, including nine years as Cleveland's City Planning Director, has been a resident of Cleveland Heights for more than 40 years and is currently the board chair of FutureHeights.

SMALL GRANTS continued from page 1

is focused on policy and special events that educate adolescents and community members. "Grant committee members felt strongly about the mission of the project and its dedication to youth," said Basu.

Recognizing the growing need for food security, especially during this time, FutureHeights awarded \$400 to the Euclid Heights Boulevard Block Club's Boulevard Mutual Aid project. The group focuses on community-building, civic engagement, and understanding its neighborhood's needs and assets.

FutureHeights awarded \$500 to the Coventry Village Special Improvement District, for its Coventry Parking Garage Light and Art Installation project. "The visual impact this project will have on the business district will draw people in and add vitality to the neighborhood," said Basu.

Noting the significance of the up-

coming election and the need for future leaders, FutureHeights awarded \$825 to the Heights Youth Council. Established in June of this year, the group encourages local youths to become educated about issues, and vote.

"We appreciate the creativity and hard work of all who applied," said Basu. "It is encouraging to see so many working to revitalize and strengthen our community."

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants program awards small grants of up to \$1,000 to fund citizen-led neighborhood projects. The next grant application deadline is March 15, 2021. For more information, visit www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs/.

Tabitha Givens is a student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and a FutureHeights intern.

Noble's community projects thrive despite pandemic



Don McBride, Bob Rink, Rhonda Mitchell and Marlene Rink installed a Little Free Library at Central Bible Baptist Church.

Brenda H. May

The pandemic may be altering the usual social patterns, but several projects in Noble are proving to be creative ways to foster community connections.

The Roanoke-Noble Mini-Park continues to transform into a garden of delights. In the spring and summer, a new, curved landscape wall enfolded new, raised beds for perennials and pollinators. The crushed brick diagonal walk was reworked to include river stone. This fall, a Little Free Library, built by a neighbor, was installed in an area dedicated for kids. Seating there, made of natural materials, is perfectly sized for shorter legs. Children can easily grab a new book from the library's stock (targeted for them) and sit comfortably to read it. Nearby, two new adult-size picnic tables provide relaxation for adults accompanying their children, while giving the kids a space of their own.

Remarkably, and without fanfare, this mini-park is changing the way people feel about their neighborhood by how they engage with this outdoor space. Once merely a cut-through between residential areas and the business district, people are stopping to enjoy the vista and one another. It has become a place to pause, relax, and revel in the gift of this beautiful space.

The Delmore Community Orchard has become another neighborhood center. Its open design invites neighbors to sit and enjoy the new growth on the fruit-bearing and pollinator-friendly plants, as well as the flourishing of relationships between neighbors. At the orchard's open house event in September, neighbors helped plant hundreds of daffodil bulbs. People came from the neighborhood and beyond to donate perennials—including a special effort from the Northeast Ohio Perennial Society—to fill the beds of the "Welcoming Gardens."

Annual author event will be free and online



Eliese Colette Goldbach

Donna Johnson

The Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O. International hosted its first annual "Afternoon with an Author" fundraiser nine years ago. Traditionally, the event has been held at a lovely venue in the community, such as Notre Dame College or Forest Hill Presbyterian Church; but, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Chapter Q found it necessary to shift to a virtual setting. On Saturday, Nov. 14, at 1 p.m., it will present a free, virtual event with local author Eliese Colette Goldbach.

Goldbach's book, *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit*, was published in March 2020 and has received

notable reviews. In it, she recounts her tenure as a steelworker at ArcelorMittal Cleveland, and shares her personal coming-of-age journey.

"I'm so honored to talk about *Rust* with the members of Chapter Q and their guests," Goldbach said. "The education and advancement of women is a topic that's very close to my heart, and I can't wait to spend an afternoon celebrating the opportunities that P.E.O. helps to foster."

This year's event will also feature poetry by Damien McClendon, a former poet laureate of Cleveland Heights, and a musical performance by Cleveland Heights resident and violinist Stephen Tavani, assistant concertmaster for The Cleveland Orchestra.

While the event is free, donations to support P.E.O. International Projects for [Women's] Continuing Education are welcome. Register online at www.eventbrite.com/d/online/eliese-goldbach/. Questions can be e-mailed to chapter-qohio@gmail.com.

A resident of Cleveland Heights for 25 years, Donna Johnson is a member of Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O. International.

Folks from outside the area came to see what so many are talking about—how a city lot-sized orchard could become a community asset. Expectations are high for both a stunning display of color on Delmore Road in the spring, and for growing neighborhood pride.

Northampton Road is the newest site of a Noble neighborhood Pocket Pollinator Project. As Langdon Road residents did for a forerunner project on that street, several Northampton neighbors agreed to plant new front-yard gardens for both beauty and ecological health. Soil-building began last spring with a lasagna-style plant bed preparation. Worms and microorganisms did their work through the summer, providing a healthy habitat for the new plants installed early October.

As with the Langdon project, the cooperative work to install these flower beds is producing its greatest fruit in neighborhood cohesion. Friendships are flourishing; a sense of safety is elevated, due to neighbors working in their front yards more, and sharing gardening tips

with one another; and residents are talking about an increasing neighborhood identity.

Planting of a different kind took place in early October on Central Bible Baptist Church's lawn, in partnership with Noble Neighbors' team of Little Free Library builders, where the team "planted" a child-centered free-book give-away treasury. Books for children from the Cleveland Kids Book Bank, Heights Libraries, and neighbors are selected particularly for children of color, reflecting the neighborhood's demographics. This Little Free Library is already so popular that the volunteers who stock it need to return twice a week to replenish it. For kids, this is a welcome alternative to all the online reading required in these pandemic times.

Noble is home to many creative and caring people who find unique and delightful ways to build up this community.

Brenda H. May is one of the Noble Neighbor leaders. Check out their story at NobleNeighbors.com



MJM Window Restoration

Preserve the historic look of your home.

- sticky windows
- cracked glass
- broken ropes
- weather stripping

(216) 321-7729 • mjwindowrestoration.com

kellernational

Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Insurance

For all your personal and business insurance needs

An independent agent
Dedicated to your unique needs

3109 Mayfield Road, Suite 203
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
216-965-0646

Call Jared Lavender

www.KellerNational.com



Interior Painting

Power-Washing

Concrete Basement & Garage

Floors/Staining

All Handyman Repairs

Gutter Cleaning

Snowplowing

McALLISTER

216-533-2936

Cleveland Heights - University Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Board members present were President Jodi Sourini, Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis, James Posch and Beverly Wright. Also attending were Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby and Treasurer Scott Gainer.

School reopening update

Staff provided data for the first three weeks of school relating to enrollment; learning platform choice; attendance; technology and internet access; satisfaction surveys of staff, students and parents; and information about the district's in-person services for students with disabilities. They also described COVID-19 reporting and sanitizing, and inspection protocols. The district has received all necessary PPE.

Discussion followed concerning board questions about absentee reporting methods, survey outreach, Chromebook use and Internet access, COVID-19 reporting and tracking for public and nonpublic students using bus services, tech support for online learning programs, clarification that in-person education is opt-in for students in special-education programs, and continued availability of ACT and SAT testing.

After expressing appreciation for how much the staff has accomplished, Superintendent Kirby reviewed the history of the district's initial planning for fall reopening. The reopening planning committees will begin meeting again in early October. Reopening is scheduled to be on the agenda for the board's Oct. 13 meeting, with notice to parents about any changes by Oct. 19. Kirby described the continuing involvement of the state and OHSA in sports planning and enforcing COVID-19 protocols and safety checks.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Gainer reviewed changes in forecasted revenues and expenses compared with the August forecast. The permanent appropriations for the 2021 school year are reflected in the September forecast. The forecast projects a 2022 year-end deficit that is approximately \$1 million less than was projected in August. However, Gainer noted that the September forecast assumes \$2 million in expense cuts that have yet to be identified. He explained that, although the forecast is a planning tool, it is not static, and the board's practice of approving a monthly forecast allows for timely revisions as information changes.

Responding to the board's questions, Gainer acknowledged that the district's financial situation is grim and that, considering the projected 2022 year-end deficit, he expects that the district will be required to submit an expense reduction plan to the state. The board unanimously approved the current five-year forecast.

LWV Observer: Kathy Petrey.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

All board members were present, as were the superintendent and the treasurer.

Approval of resolution concerning

union contract provisions

All members of the board spoke at length about the district's financial constraints due to factors such as EdChoice vouchers and expenses and loss of district funds due to the COVID-19 virus. Many expressed their respect for the district's teachers.

The board then unanimously approved a resolution that the district implement the board's last, best and final offer on open contract provisions until a successor agreement is reached. Highlights of this agreement are: base salaries will not be increased; employees will pay 15 percent of health insurance premiums along with copays and other plan details, beginning January 2021; and the district will no longer pick up 1 percent of the employee share of contributions to the STRS and SERS retirement systems. Regarding the salary schedule, eligible employees will continue to advance in the step scale.

LWV Observer: Robin Koslen.

OCTOBER 6, 2020

All board members were present, as were the superintendent, the treasurer, and George Petkac, director of business operations.

Recognition of AP Scholars

Superintendent Kirby recognized the 2020 AP Scholars and commended the teachers who have promoted student participation in AP classes. Because of their efforts, the number of students scoring at least 3 on the AP exam has increased 20 percent from 2018-19. Participating students have also earned college credit. She also recognized two students who are National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

Superintendent's update on reopening

The District Leadership Team met to review district plans, student attendance, and work done on literacy. The team is reviewing survey data related to reopening the schools. Team members are taking into account the state public health advisory system as they develop a plan for returning to in-person school. Reopening Committee meetings have begun, so families can learn about the educational models they can choose. Kirby said that families need to feel comfortable, whether they choose a hybrid model or continue classes remotely.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Gainer is working to secure funds to offset COVID-related expenses. The Oct. 22 board work session will focus on EdChoice and district finances.

Board comments

Board President Sourini attended the Northeast Ohio School Board Presidents meeting. Schools reported that approximately one-third of their students chose to continue remote learning.

LWV Observer: Rosemarie Fairman.

We must not allow anti-tax agitators to harm our public schools

Jesse Berezovsky

As people start voting, it is important for everyone to have a clear picture of our school district's finances. It is easy to get lost in the weeds when anti-tax agitators try to stir up confusion.

There will always be people who want to cut public services, whether it's schools, libraries, or the post office. They will advocate for funding cuts, then blame the resulting financial crisis on wasteful spending and call for further cuts. That looks a lot like what is going on with our public schools.

First of all, our school district's spending is not "out of control." The Ohio Department of Education calculates each district's effective cost per pupil, allowing for apples-to-apples comparisons between districts. Compared to the other districts in the county, Cleveland Heights-University Heights is in the middle of the pack [in spending], and is significantly lower than Shaker Heights and Beachwood. What is unusually high, though, is the proportion of students

with special needs or economic disadvantage that our district serves. It should be a point of pride for our community that we have strived to provide quality education for all.

But quality education for all in the CH-UH district is under threat. The district's five-year forecast shows where the problem lies. Adjusted for inflation, salaries and benefits have been flat for years, and are even projected to decline slightly, with all other expenses declining significantly in today's dollars. The problem is not "wasteful spending" by the school board; the problem is ballooning payouts for EdChoice vouchers and state budget shortfalls leading to funding freezes for education.

Last spring, we, as a community, voted to stop supporting our schools. Now we need to throw our schools a lifeline, and pass Issue 69 so we can keep giving all the kids of our community a chance at a great education.

Jesse Berezovsky is a professor of physics at Case Western Reserve University, and the parent of a Boulevard Elementary School student.

District treasurer is grossly overcompensated

Maureen Lynn

For 25 years, Scott Gainer has been treasurer of the CH-UH City School District. Since 2000, he has successfully championed six [operating] levies, for a total of more than \$40 million, plus the \$135-million school facilities bond. Mr. Gainer, who doesn't live in Cleveland Heights or University Heights, has himself greatly benefited from our high taxes. In addition, Mr. Gainer has never submitted a balanced five-year forecast, even though the CH-UH schools receive \$22,700 per student in funding (57% higher than the state average).

Below is a summary of his contract and compensation. He clearly has a vested interest in the passing of Issue 69.

- His current contract expires on July 31, 2022, but Gainer and the district can mutually agree to terminate or amend it sooner.
- The contract states that the school board "desires to have a written Employment Contract in order to enhance fiscal responsibility and continuity with the schools."
- His base salary, when the employment agreement started in Fiscal Year 2017, was \$164,401. His FY 2020 salary is \$172,757.
- Gainer's contract requires that he receive a base salary adjustment every year no less (could be more) than the general percentage increase given to administrators in the district's Educational Administrative and Professional Staff Council (EAPSC).
- Gainer gets all the fringe benefits provided to administrators in the EAPSC, including health-care coverage, but:
 - Gainer's premium is \$125 per

month (\$1,500 per year) for family coverage, or \$46 per month (\$550 per year) for single coverage.

- Gainer also receives all other benefits extended to administrators, such as severance pay, longevity, early retirement incentives, etc.
- Taxpayers pay both the 10% employee and the 10% employer portion of Gainer's contribution to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS).
- Taxpayers pay Gainer's Medicare taxes.
- Gainer is paid a car allowance of \$500 per month.
- Taxpayers annually contribute 15% of Mr. Gainer's base salary to his 403(b) plan account. A 403(b) plan, aka a tax-sheltered annuity plan, is a retirement plan for certain employees of public schools. School districts may, but are not required to, contribute to the 403(b) plan for employees.
- Gainer gets 32 vacation days per year. He can carry over up to 10 vacation days. If he has more than 10 days left at the end of a contract year, he receives a payment for those days [(base salary/210) x number of vacation days].
- Gainer is required to have an annual physical for which taxpayers cover the cost.

Again, Gainer has *never* been able to submit a balanced five-year forecast. Why does the school board continue to grossly over-compensate this poor performance?

Maureen 'Mo' Lynn is the treasurer of TigerNation4LowerTaxes and is self-employed with her consulting business. She and her family moved to Cleveland Heights in 2011.

Are you thinking about replacing your old windows?

Are they drafty, painted shut, and/or otherwise inoperable?

Don't replace them! Restore them!

Keeping your old windows is sustainable, energy efficient, cost effective, functional, and maintains the character of your beautiful historic home.

Fiat Lux Restoration is here to help with your old windows! We offer affordable solutions for your old window needs, including weatherstripping, mechanical tune-ups, repairs, and full restoration.

E-mail us at zach@fiatluxrestoration.com, or call us at (440) 384-0100

Heights Libraries seeks new board member

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is seeking a new board member. Applications, which are due on Tuesday, Nov. 10, by 5 p.m., can be requested by sending an e-mail to switchboard@heightslibrary.org.

Completed applications can be returned to the same e-mail address, or, applicants can drop them in a designated box outside of the Lee Road branch's administrative office.

"Our library is such an integral part of our community," said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. "Serving on the library board is one of the best ways a citizen can serve the Heights community, by helping guide the vision of the public library."

The new board member will re-

place Jim Roosa, who is "rolling off" the board after serving one full term and one partial term.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights school board will interview candidates on Tuesday, Dec. 1, beginning at 7 p.m. Interviews last roughly 15 minutes.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an online informational meeting, via Zoom, about library board service, on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. To participate, RSVP to Levin by calling 216-932-3600 ext. 1240.

For additional information, contact Heights Libraries at 216-932-3600 ext. 1200, or visit www.heightslibrary.org.

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

Cleveland Heights – University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Board members present were President James Roosa, Vice President Dana Fluellen, Patti Carlyle, Gabe Crenshaw, Max Gerbec, Annette Iwamoto and Vikas Turakhia.

Public comments

SPARK program: Joanne Federman and Chrissy Zoldark spoke to the board about the SPARK program (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) which provides home-based educational services to preschool-age children and their parents. Currently, services are being provided virtually and through socially distanced outdoor events. Twenty families are served; the goal is to serve 40 families.

Financial report

The board reviewed and accepted the July and August 2020 financial statements. Total cash balance across the operating accounts, Bauer Fund accounts, and investment accounts was \$16,373,460.95. The financial director said the portfolio review shows that interest rates from investments are lower. Non-property tax revenue has decreased from 2019 to 2020. Accordingly, the library previously had reduced expenditures.

Change in public service hours Nov. 3

The University Heights branch and the Lee Road branch will be closed to the public on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. The Coventry Village and Noble Neighborhood branches, as well as the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC) will remain open that day.

CARES Act

The board approved the creation of a special revenue fund, 280 CARES Act, for the receipt of CARES Act funds, and authorized an appropriation of \$100,000 for the expenditure. Each library building is eligible for \$25,000, and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has been approved to receive \$100,000. Funds are to be utilized for the unanticipated costs of safely operating the library during the pandemic, such as the purchase of personal protective equipment, disinfectant, WiFi hotspots, signage and barriers.

Lee Road carpet replacement

The board approved purchase orders to Corrigan Moving Systems, for \$7,650, and to Messina Floor Covering, LLC, for \$42,590, to replace carpet in the HKIC, and \$189,850 to replace carpet at the Lee Road branch.

Washington Boulevard appropriations

The board authorized an increase of \$163,922.27 to pay for utilities for the remainder of 2020 at the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus.



Service and administration policy

The board approved the service and administration policies of the Board of Library Trustees of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library as amended for 2020. Most updates were related to policy changes due to the pandemic. The policy will be posted on the library's website.

Restoration of staff pay and hours

The board approved the following changes:

- HKIC full- and part-time staff hours are increased from 50 percent to 80 percent of regular scheduled hours, effective Sept. 15.
- Reference and circulation staff hours are increased, for part-time circulation assistants and part-time reference staff, from 50 percent to 60 percent of regular scheduled hours, effective Sept. 15.
- Eight library pages are being called back to work at 20 hours a week, effective Sept. 15.
- The elimination of two positions (maintenance technician and shipping assistant), effective Oct. 30.
- Effective Sept. 19, the restoration of managers' regular pay rate, as of Dec. 31, 2019.
- Effective Sept. 19, the restoration of the director's and fiscal officer's regular pay rate, as of Dec. 31, 2019 (no 2020 raise).

COVID-19 Code of Conduct

In anticipation of the return of computer use and browsing, the library developed the following Code of Conduct:

- To achieve safe social distancing, we are limiting the number of customers in the buildings. If a staff member thinks an area is too crowded, or we have customers waiting to come in, we may ask you to move along so that others may enter the building.
- Facemasks must be worn correctly, and at all times. Your facemask must cover both your nose and mouth, and be in place for the duration of your visit, according to the State Of Ohio's Statewide Mask Order. Face shields alone do not count as a safe face covering. Please note that if you fail to comply with our facemask rule, you will be asked to leave and you may be subject to penalties under Ohio law.
- Please maintain six feet of distance between yourself and others. Please be aware of the location of other people while you are in the building, and maintain at least six feet of distance from people who are not members of your household while you are moving about the buildings.

LWV Observer: Elizabeth M. Tracy.

PATIO NOW OPEN
reservations required

216-791-0918

Tuesday-Thursday

4-9PM

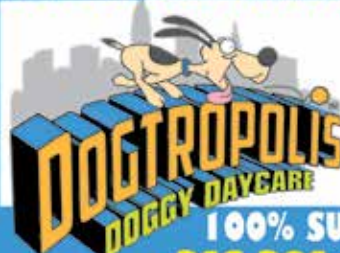
Friday-Saturday

5-10PM

felice



180+ GOOGLE REVIEWS ★★★★★ 5 STARS!



DOGGY DAYCARE
OVERNIGHT BOARDING



100% SUPERVISED PLAY 7 DAYS A WEEK
216.291.0605 WWW.DOGTROPOLIS.NET

Thank you for your support!

We greatly appreciate your business and look forward to serving you in the future.

Both our locations are open for dine-in, & patio dining. Take out, curbside pickup & delivery thru Toast TakeOut.

lunabakerycafe.com

Cleveland Hts • 216.231.8585
Moreland Hills • 216.672.3600



BREMEC
on the Heights
Garden Center

COMING SOON...
Holiday Preparations

FIREWOOD Delivery & Stacking Available

Christmas Trees, Holiday Porch Pots, Wreaths, Poinsettias, Décor and More!

Check www.Bremec.com

Home & Garden
SHOWPLACE

November Hours

Nov. 1st Through Thanksgiving
Daily 10am-5pm

13410 Cedar Road Cleveland Hts - 216-932-0039

Heights Arts Holiday Store opens Nov. 1

URM
USTON ROOF & MASONRY
Installations • Maintenance • Repairs
216-371-5944

- Slate and tile repairs & replacement
- Tear-offs & Shingles
- Gutters and downspouts installed
- Chimney and step tuck-pointing
- Flat roof specialists

MASTERCARD/VISA



WWW.USTONROOF.COM



COURTESY HEIGHTS ARTS

The Heights Arts Holiday Store in 2019.

SAFE HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

www.macsbacks.com

Start Early

Shop Solo

Choose Curbside or Mail Order

Thank you for your support!



Amanda Bohn

Heights Arts' 19th annual Holiday Store will open to the public on Sunday, Nov. 1. Since 2001, the store has delighted shoppers by offering truly unique gift options. This year, the Holiday Store gives more than 80 talented Northeast Ohio artists the opportunity to display and sell their work.

Heights Arts urges the community to make supporting local artists a priority this holiday season, by shopping at local arts organizations and galleries.

"This will be a critical year, not only for artists, but for Heights Arts as well," said Rachel Bernstein, Heights Arts' executive director. "The annual Holiday Store accounts for a significant portion of revenue for us. Like many arts organizations, we have suffered significant loss of visitors, contributions and revenue due to the pandemic."

Holiday shoppers will find a wide variety of gift options at Heights Arts, including glass, metal, ceramics, jewelry, prints, paintings, ornaments, holiday cards, and other rare, hand-made items. Popular local artists whose work is featured in this year's shop include ceramicist Sharon Grossman (a founding Heights Arts member); the glass artists Ambiente, whose fused glass is sold exclusively at Heights Arts; beloved local painter Jeremy Tugeau; and world-renowned jeweler and Cleveland Institute of Art graduate Catherine Butler.

Heights Arts store manager Ann Koslow said, "With no fairs and shows this summer because of the pandemic, the artists in the Heights Arts store are genuinely happy they have a place that they can count on to present and sell their work."

This year, the store's window display will highlight the work of six artists per week. The Holiday Store is restocked weekly with new items, so everyone is encouraged to shop

early and often. Free gift-bagging is available.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable shopping experience for all guests, masks are required. To assist with social distancing, Heights Arts has re-organized and increased space between product displays. Additionally, hand sanitizer is available in multiple locations within the store, and gloves are also available.

Heights Arts is also providing the option of shopping from home, 24/7, through its online store at www.heightsarts.org. Customers have the option of receiving their online purchases through curbside or contact-free pickup.

Heights Arts also offers private in-store shopping appointments, which can be made in advance, by phone.

Current business hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginning Dec. 1, and through Dec. 31, the store will be open seven days a week. Visit www.heightsarts.org for information on the new store hours.

For a list of artists participating in the 19th annual Holiday Store, as well as information on upcoming community programs, call 216-371-3457, or e-mail marketing@heightsarts.org.

Amanda Bohn handles marketing and communications at Heights Arts.



EASTWOOD FURNITURE

3451 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216-303-9862
www.eastwoodfurniture.com facebook.com/EastwoodFurniture

It's Your Home. . . .
Design It.



NOW IN OUR LOFT . . .
Kitchen and built-in displays . . . AND

Jubilee!
Gifts in the Heights

Shop local. Play Local. Hire Local.
Proudly selling the Heights since 2001



216.233.6726 • TheMcKeonGroup.com



Back on the streets again



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

One of Ellen DeGeneres's first jokes was: "My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 now, and we don't know where the heck she is."

I was older than 60 when I started walking. That was six months ago, and, as I wrote in this column in September, I really hadn't walked with any regularity, for any more than a couple of blocks (to the store), in about 40 years. But after doing nothing but sitting at my desk for the first two months of the pandemic—plus most of the past two years, since I developed a hearing problem; or, really, for much of the previous 38-or-so years—I knew I had to do something.

The first time I walked, I saw some things that I thought looked interesting, so I stopped and took pictures of them. I thought maybe I'd show them to some people. I did. I posted them, all together, on Facebook, and just said they were photos of random scenery in my neighborhood. To my surprise, many people liked them and commented on them.

So, I thought, that's my new thing. Walking and taking pictures

to post on Facebook. That was great motivation (mainly in that it gave me any motivation). It also made me go in different directions every day, to photograph new things. But there are only so many directions.

After a while, when I'd gotten up to two miles at a time. I started asking my wife to drop me off in different locations, two miles away, so I could walk back. To her disappointment, I kept finding my way back home. I mean, it wasn't exactly orienteering. I've lived in Cleveland Heights all my life (except for when I left town for a few years).

I walk between two and three miles a day now. And throughout all of this, I've learned quite a bit. For instance, that many people grow flowers in front of their houses. You probably knew that. But when I used to walk these same streets all the time, 40 and more years ago, there weren't nearly as many flower gardens. I took many pictures of flowers and posted them once a month for six months, each with that month's flowers, which, I also remembered, change throughout the growing seasons.

I learned that there are benches all around Cleveland Heights, most placed by the city, some on private property, but still mostly open to the public. In light of that, I developed a new motto: "Leave no bench un-sat-in." That's my motto and I'm a firm believer in that practice.

I learned that there are many houses with colorfully painted front doors. When we moved into our current house,

about 35 years ago, we had the front door painted purple. Ours was the only colorful door on the block, or almost anywhere around here. Now there are many, all over the place, though ours has been replaced with a non-colorful one. I posted two batches of about 15 pictures each of colorful Cleveland Heights front doors. I could post a few more batches, but that's probably enough for people to get the idea.

I learned that there are places with built-in one-mile flat walking surfaces, like in Cumberland Park and Mayfield Cemetery (not the adjacent Lake View Cemetery, which is where they decided to place all the hills).

I learned that there are hidden walks, like the clearly, though subtly, marked trails through the little wooded area immediately to the north of the community center parking lot. A few steps inside that area and you can forget that you're in the middle of a city.

And there are seasonal photo-ops, like the Halloween decorations on Scarborough—or as they re-dub it, "Scare-borough," for the occasion—and the streets around it. I think that kind of thing is especially important this year, when not nearly as many kids were expected to go trick-or-treating. At least families could walk or drive up and down the streets during October and look at those displays, some of which (or should I say "witch"?) were elaborate.

Throughout all of this walking and picture-taking, I also learned a lot of the history of Cleveland Heights,



One of many pictures I took of flowers blooming in a yard in October. Who knew flowers still bloomed in October? I mean, other than probably everyone except me.

because I would come home and look it up. I'd research something I'd seen that looked like it must have some interesting history. That was usually correct. So, go ahead—ask me something about some part of the city. If I walked there, I probably know at least a little bit about it now.

Unlike Ellen DeGeneres's grandmother, I started walking when I was older than 60. And I'm nowhere near 97. And I do know where I am—and where I've been.

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.

Winter is Pruning Season

For healthy, beautiful trees next spring, the time to care for them is now. Let our Certified Arborists assess your valuable canopy. Call today.

Pruning
Fertilization
Cable Support Systems
Disease Identification

Immunization
Stump Grinding
Tree Removal
Yard Expansion & more ...

**RIPLEY
TREE
SERVICE**

COMPREHENSIVE TREE CARE

SINCE 2001

24/7 Emergency Services | Free Estimates | Full Residential Services

440-463-7379
RipleyTreeService.com





fabric · patterns · ribbon · stitch parties

2026 Murray Hill Road, Little Italy
open Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 6pm
boltandspool.com



Kathy Carvin
Licensed Insurance Agent

This is an advertisement.
Not all agents are licensed
to sell all products. Service
and product availability
varies by state.
46275-HM-0920

**Need affordable Medicare
that's in step with your life?**

Choosing the right Medicare coverage can
be confusing.

I can help you find a plan
that's right for YOU
and YOUR BUDGET.



**health
markets.**

**Call today for personalized service!
(216) 375-5902**

Mitchell'sTM
FINE CHOCOLATES
since 1939

SHOWROOM OPEN
CURBSIDE PICK UP AVAILABLE
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY TO 44118 & 44106
SHIPPING COAST TO COAST




**FALL FAVORITES
NOW AVAILABLE!**

PREORDER YOUR CHOCOLATE TURKEYS FOR
THANKSGIVING

2285 Lee Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH
216.932.3200

WWW.MITCHELLSCHOCOLATES.COM

Pick up the *Heights Observer* at Bialy's Bagels



Locals know that Bialy's Bagels is the best place to get fresh bagels. Owners and twin sisters Rachel and Sarah Gross offer both walk-up and online ordering. Visit www.bialysbagels.com for details, and be sure to pick up a copy of the *Heights Observer* while you're there. The shop is located at 2267 Warrensville Center Road, in University Heights.

**Luna Bakery Cafe features *Heights Observer*
along with fresh-baked fare**



If you're looking for delicious baked goods, visit Luna, a European-style bakery and cafe serving made-from-scratch pastry and other fare. Located in the Cedar Fairmount district, at 2482 Fairmount Blvd., items are made fresh daily, on the premises, using the best-quality ingredients. Chef and owner Bridget Thibeault encourages everyone to support local businesses like Luna, and to pick up a copy of the *Heights Observer* while there. For details on Luna's menu and hours, visit www.lunabakerycafe.com, or call 216-231-8585.



**Privileged
to help.**

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

We're honored to serve this community for 25 years. My staff and I look forward to many more with you. Thank you for your continued support and business.
Get to a better State®. Get State Farm.
CALL ME TODAY.



1211030 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

2020 Holiday Gift Guide



SOCIALLY DISTANCED GIFTS

Gift certificate for a distance Reiki treatment. Remote energy healing session for physical, mental and emotional deep healing. Also great for stress reduction, relaxation and positive thinking. Remote method is equally as effective as in-person. (\$75.00, Loving Hands Yoga, Reiki and Wellness)

USA state flowers 1000-piece puzzle. (\$16.99, Mac's Backs) **1**

Charley Harper secret sanctuary puzzle. Features a 1991 poster for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. (\$17.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **2**

Care cover protective face masks. (\$6.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **3**

Fine Art Face Masks. Featuring van Gogh, Monet and others. Masks come with a replaceable filter. (\$12.95, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Hand sanitizer and colorful caddy. Includes a convenient carabiner keyring so you can attach it to things. (\$6.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **4**

Soap by Sam Dominic. (\$10.00, Heights Arts) **5**

Gift Certificate for a video Reiki class. Learn how to facilitate energy healing for yourself, other people and animals. An invaluable skill for better health that anyone can learn. Remote learning is equally as effective as in-person. (\$200.00, Loving Hands Yoga, Reiki and Wellness)

Masks by Leslie Greenhalgh. (\$18.00, Heights Arts) **6**

STOCKING STUFFERS (\$10.00 or less)

Assorted chocolate bars. Available in milk chocolate (33%), dark chocolate (52%), and extra-dark chocolate (80%). (\$5.95, Mitchell's Fine Chocolates) **7**

Happy Bee's gift card. The new ice cream shop in Coventry Village; serves alcohol-infused ice cream. (\$5.00 and up, Happy Bee's Ice Cream & Coffee)

Essential oil lip balm. Handmade lip balms made with essential oils, natural butters, and moisturizing carrier oils. (\$3.50, or 2 for \$6.00, Cleveland Candle Company)

Cleveland sign by David Shafron. (\$10.00); Wood photo print by Nancy Luken. (\$8.00); Ohio magnet by Katie Ford. (\$6.00); Book pin by Ellen Strong. (\$8.50) (All at Heights Arts) **8**

Beyoncé keychain. (\$6.99, Mac's Backs)

Cat felt wool ornament. (\$9.95, Mac's Backs) **9**

Gratitude empowerment cards. Pack of fifty affirmation cards. (\$9.99, S'Wonderful Gifts) **10**

Stainless steel straws. 10 Eco-friendly reusable straws and cleaning brush. (\$8.50, S'Wonderful Gifts) **11**

Wine Club membership. Consists of two hand-selected wines, and a write up of the wines, the producer, the area where they come from, and food pairing tips. (\$50.00 per month, The Wine Spot) **12**

Judson

5-star healthcare.
Engaging culture.
Incredible lifestyle opportunities.

BUT ONE THING COULD MAKE JUDSON EVEN BETTER...

you!



When you call Judson home, you join a friendly, outgoing community committed to staying active, learning new things and enjoying life with less worries. Our engaging culture allows you to easily form new relationships and discover new interests. Our extraordinary community of residents and staff are ready to welcome you home.

Bringing Community to *Life*. With more than 110 years of trusted care, Judson's three beautiful locations are Northeast Ohio's premier, not-for-profit senior living communities.

Learn more at judsonsmartliving.org or call us at (216) 350-0326.



Judson Manor (University Circle) South Franklin Circle (Chagrin Falls) Judson Park (Cleveland Heights)

Local news that speaks to you

Catch the HeightsNow podcast from WJCU

Live:

Mon-Fri
at 9 am and 4 pm

Stream on demand:

wjcu.org/media/heights-now



HEIGHTS OBSERVER



GIFTS LESS THAN \$50.00

Olive bowl by Amy Halko. (\$42.00); Wood box by Thomas Hanger. (\$30.00); Moon paper box by Sue Schieman. (\$48.00); Earrings by Catherine Butler. (\$48.00) (All at Heights Arts) **13**

Hoodies. (\$40.00, Grog Shop); Jake Kelly mural T-shirt, available in both black and white. (\$25.00, Grog Shop) **14 & 15**

Themed sugar-cookie boxes. (\$23.00 to \$25.00, Luna Bakery Cafe) **16**

Mitchell's Advent calendar. Filled with various classic confections and new sweets. (\$39.95, Mitchell's Fine Chocolates) **17**

Wine slushie with chocolates gift basket. Includes your choice of one of three white wines, Frappe Vino wine slushie mix, and one of four hand-dipped chocolate treats. (\$34.99, CLE Urban Winery) **18**

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem. (\$17.95); *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson. (\$32.00, 10% discount to customers); *Bread Baker's Apprentice* by Peter Reinhart. (\$40.00) (All at Mac's Backs) **19**

A Promised Land by Barack Obama. (\$45.00, 15% discount to customers, Mac's Backs)

8 oz. candle. Over 200 scents. Made with long-lasting, clean-burning soy wax, 30- to 50-hour burn time. (\$13.50 or monthly deals on multiples); 10 oz. aromatherapy candles. Aromatherapy candles infused with essential oils. (\$20.00, or 2 for \$35.00) (All at Cleveland Candle Company) **20**

Candle-making experience. The recipient will get to explore 200+ scents and blend their favorites together to make their own custom candle. (\$16.00 to \$36.00 depending on jar selected, Cleveland Candle Company)

Fine-art reversible umbrellas. (\$34.95, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Crystal heart pendant necklace. (\$48.00, S'Wonderful Gifts) **21**

Expanding silicone water bottle. Food-grade silicone bottle can be collapsed for easy storage. Available in either 12- or 20-ounce sizes, and a variety of colors. (\$19.95 & \$24.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **22**

GIFTS FROM \$50.00 TO \$150.00

Live-edge serving tray. (\$75.00, Eastwood Furniture) **23**

Forest green scarf by Susan Skove. (\$80.00); White geometric bowl by Lauren Herzak Bauman. (\$96.00); Glass floral paperweight by Preston Sheeks. (\$115.00); Earrings by Qandle Quadir. (\$115.00); Necklace by Alyson Hollobaugh. (\$155.00) (All at Heights Arts) **24**

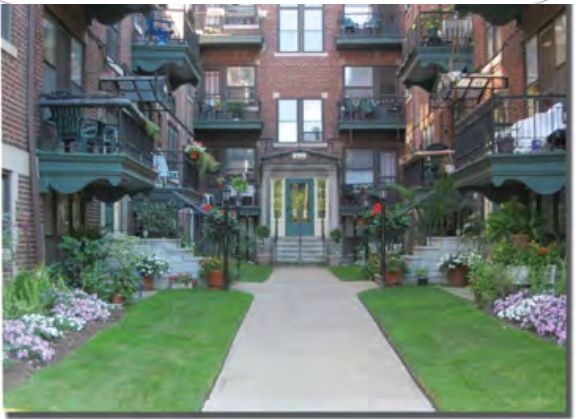
SUITES AVAILABLE



Shaker Heights
Cleveland Heights
Lakewood
Cleveland



- Large 1, 2 and 3 Bedrooms
- Walking distance to CWRU, Shaker Square and RTA
- Refinished Kitchens
- Hardwood Floors
- Parking
- Laundry Facilities
- Dishwasher and Disposal



“All together
sunny, spacious,
superbly
maintained
and well
located
apartments!”

CALL NOW (216) 421-8400

12000 Fairhill Road
Cleveland, OH 44120
office@montlackrealty.com

www.montlackrealty.com



Doll bunk bed. (\$87.00, Eastwood Furniture) **25**

Gift certificate for a Reiki treatment. In-person or remote energy healing session for physical, mental and emotional deep healing. Also great for stress reduction, relaxation and positive thinking. (\$75.00, Loving Hands Yoga, Reiki and Wellness)

Framing gift certificate. (\$100.00, Wood Trader)

Gift certificate for carry-out. (Various prices available, Inn on Coventry)



25

Pedi's with my besties. Receive a relaxing hand and arm massage, foot soak, exfoliation and polish. Approx. 90 minutes. (\$75.00 per person, Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa) **26**

QBDS men's signature package. Swedish relaxation massage with your choice of essential oil, signature men's haircut with Pure-Formance shampoo and conditioning, followed by our a shave with steaming hot towels, essential oils and rich balms. Approx. 125 min. (\$148.00, Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa)

GIFTS MORE THAN \$150.00

Rocking horse. (\$162.00, Eastwood Furniture) **27**

26



27



CLASSIFIEDS

www.heightsobserver.org Call 216-320-1423 to find out how you can advertise your business for \$29/month


Green Tara
YOGA & HEALING ARTS
Iyengar Yoga
Stability • Vitality • Clarity
2450 Fairmount, Cleveland Heights
(216)382-0592 www.greentarayoga.com

Shop Local

CITY LITE ELECTRIC, INC.
For all your electrical needs
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL
(440) 840-8941
Ask for Steve License #48370
"Reliable electrical service and repair"

Gutter Guru
Professional Gutter Cleaning
Local Cleveland Heights Business

Brooks Jones III
216-543-4113 (mobile)
bmj386@gmail.com


Always Buying Paying Cash
MICHAEL'S ANTIQUES
• Gold / Sterling Silver • Clocks
• Jewelry • Swords
• Glassware • Lamps
• Paintings • Violins
• Pottery • Porcelain
• Military Items • Ivory Carvings
• Bronze Figures • Oriental Rugs
• Men's Wristwatches • Marble Figures
7 Days 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
440-461-4611
FREE House Calls for SENIORS
Buying anything unusual

RAYMOND J. WOHL, CPA
Investment Company Representative
2121 South Green Road
South Euclid, Ohio 44121
PH: 216.382.9647
raywohlcpa@yahoo.com

Taxes
Annuities
* Raymond J. Wohl, Registered Representative
* Securities offered through Avantax Wealth Management
Member SIPC
Investment & Insurance Products: Not FDIC Insured.
No Bank Guarantee. May Lose Value.

Heights Hardware
SINCE 1911
 
Monday-Saturday 9-6 - Sunday 11-4
1792 Coventry Road
216-321-4701
www.heightshardware.com


Ohio Licenses 12820 & 30281
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
LIGHT • SAFETY • COMFORT • EFFICIENCY
Family Owned Since 1985
(216) 932-2598
www.skettleelectric.com
2012 BEST OF THE HEIGHTS WINNER
"Best Contractor"


HARVEY & FRIENDS
Bookshop
2nd Floor of the Lee Road Branch
All proceeds support the library
Great Selection of Used Books, DVDs, & CDs For Sale Every Day!
www.friendsheightslibraries.org

MJM Window Restoration
Keep your historic windows and save thousands!
Sticky windows Weather Stripping
Broken ropes Cracked Glass
We'll make them work like new!
(216) 321-7729
mjmwindowrestoration.com
* 30 years in the Heights *

Ardmore Tree Service
Complete Tree Service
Year-round
We Sell and Plant
Trees & Shrubs
(216) 486-5551
• Pruning • Tree and Stump Removal • Feeding
• Firewood • Brush Chipping • Snowplowing
Member National Arborist Association
Free Estimates Fully Insured

Shop Local

www.heightsobserver.org
Call 216.320.1423
to find out how you can
advertise your business for
\$29/month

PLATINUM CONSTRUCTION
COMPLETE 2-Car Garage \$8,999
Concrete Driveways \$2,999
(216) 459-0000
platinum306@gmail.com
www.building-garages.com
LARGEST GARAGE BUILDER IN CLEVELAND


Recycled Gifts Shop Online Shop Local
cle
CLEVELAND RECYCLES .com

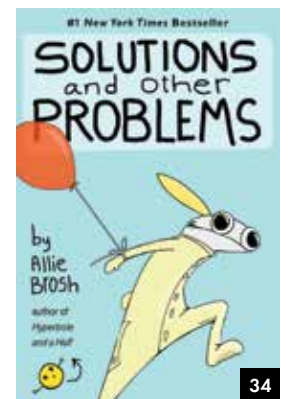
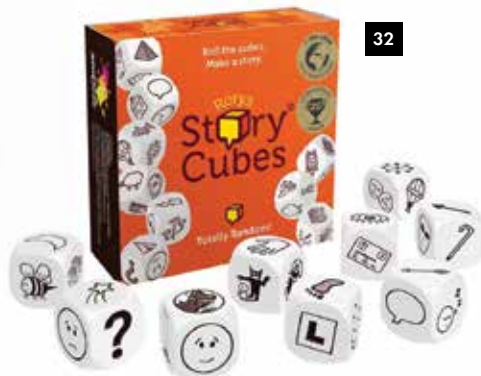
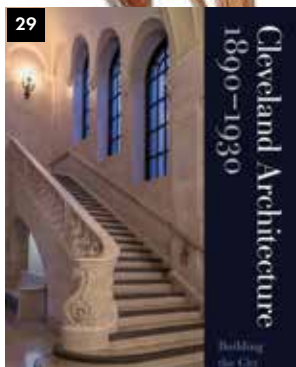
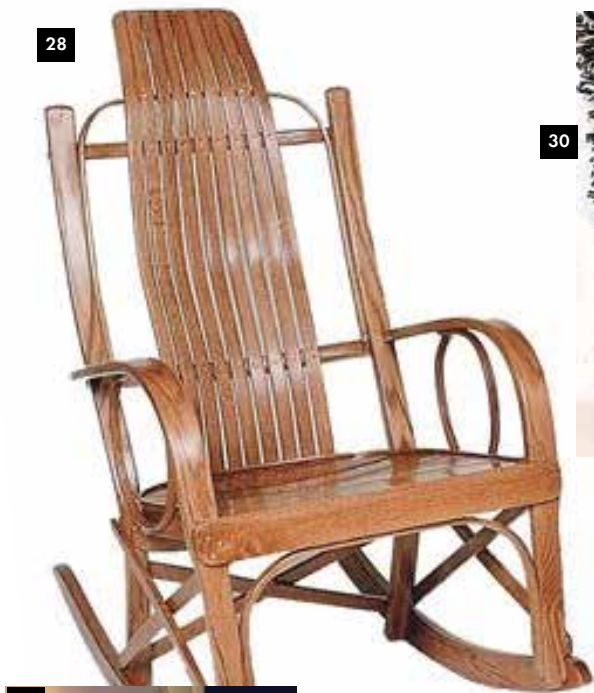
ALAN I. SILVER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Bankruptcy
Chapter 7 & Chapter 13
Tax problems
Member of United States Tax Court
FREE CONSULTATION
REASONABLE TERMS
(440) 461-0277

Eve's Painting & Home Repair
• Interior and exterior painting
• Wallpaper removal
• Plaster repairs
• Housing code violations
*** 10% off interior projects
December through March!
We are bonded, insured, and maintain an "A" rating on Angie's List.
216-387-0525
llebles1@hotmail.com


ESSENTIAL ARCADIA
NATURAL WELLNESS
Karen Seremak ND, BCHHP, MH
Doctor of Naturopathy
Board Certified Holistic Health Practitioner
Master Herbalist
HELPING YOU TO REGAIN YOUR HEALTH, NATURALLY.
EssentialArcadia.com | 216.925.6645
f @EssentialArcadiaNaturalWellness

SAME DAY
Mobile Battery Replacement
BATTERY SALE STARTING AT **\$99⁹⁵**
DYNAMIC 18 BATTERIES MID-TN WARRANTY
440-571-4969

RIPLEY ENTERPRISES TREE SERVICE
COMPREHENSIVE TREE MANAGEMENT
Tree Removal • Yard Expansion
Fertilization • Cable Support
Pruning • Stump Grinding
(440) 463-7379 for free estimate
Certified Arborist Fully insured



GIFTS MORE THAN \$150.00 cont.

Gift certificate for Music Together online classes, for families with young children birth-eight. (\$180.00 for a full session, Sing and Swing LLC)

Bentwood rocker. (\$233.00, Eastwood Furniture) **28**

Cleveland Architecture 1890-1930: Building the City Beautiful by Jeannine Denobel Love. (\$59.95, Mac's Backs) **29**

Step-and-throw blanket by Molly Fitzpatrick. (\$165.00); Gold necklace with a diamond by Grace Chin. (\$450.00); Silver leaf necklace with onyx bead by Pamela Pastoric. (\$385.00); Stone necklace by Michelle Pajak Reynolds. (\$285.00) (All at Heights Arts) **30**

THE NON-TRADITIONAL GIFT

Barbara Claas flowers. (\$29.00, Heights Arts) **31**

Skulls by Mark Yasencheck (\$27.00, Heights Arts)

Live-edge coffee table. (\$1,400.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Rory's story cubes. A set of nine story dice, with different images on each face. Roll the cubes and build a story around the nine face-up images. (\$12.99, S'Wonderful Gifts) **32**

"U-Dub" wine club gift membership. Give a one-, two- or three-month gift membership experience to the "VIP Customer Family" wine club. Each month includes two bottles of wine, a complimentary wine tasting and food pairing experience, and 10% discounts on all winery purchases during the membership period. (\$50.00 to \$150.00, CLE Urban Winery) **33**

Solutions and Other Problems by Allie Brosh. Humorous illustrated essays. (\$30.00, Mac's Backs) **34**

Retro juggling balls. Help pass the indoor months by learning how to juggle. Set of three colorful bean bag juggling balls. (\$7.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **35**

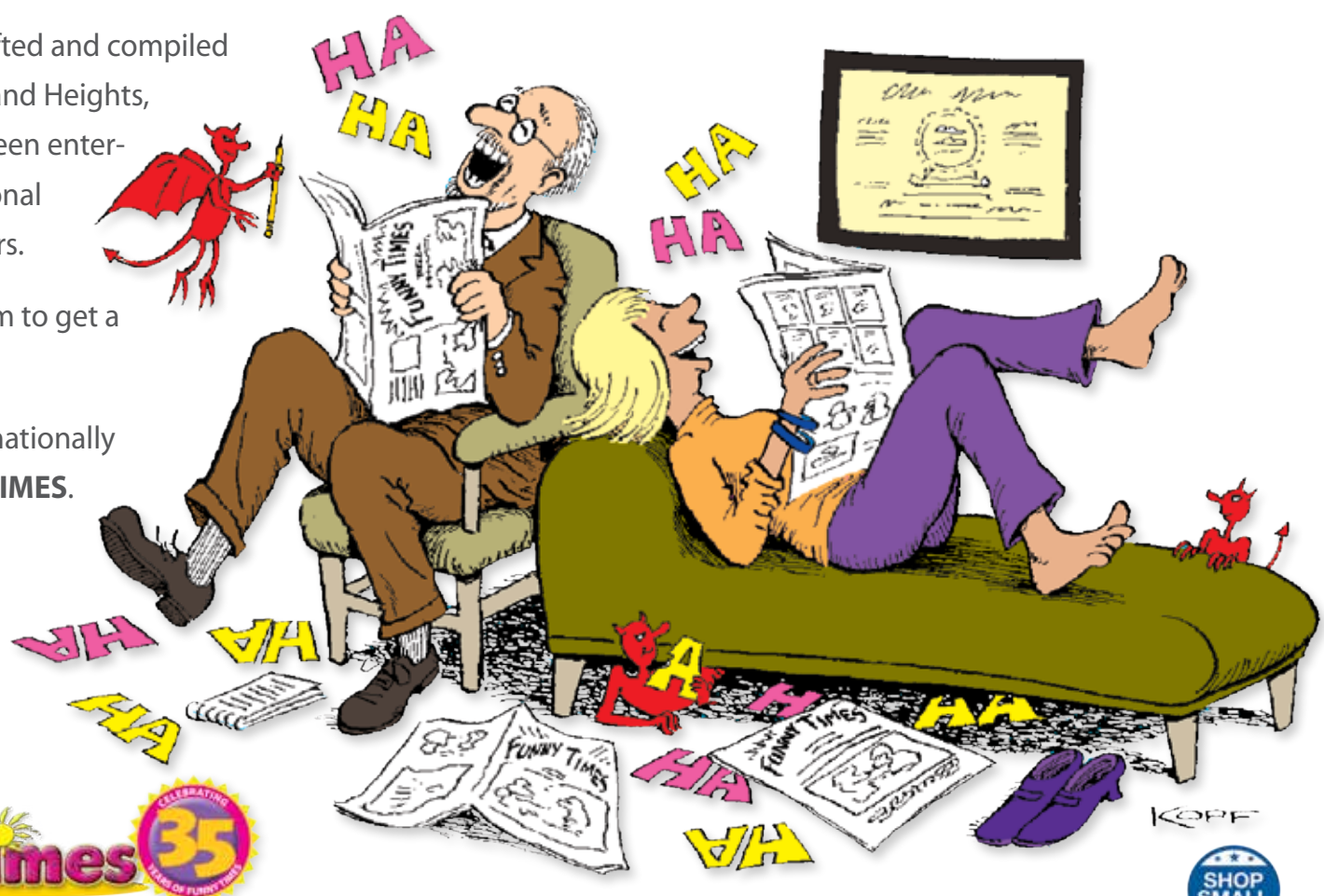
This year, give a gift of therapeutic laughter.

Have 24 pages of ad-free humor, politics and fun delivered right to their doorstep, whether that's on Scarborough or in Scottsdale, on Meadowbrook or in Montreal.

Don't know us? Crafted and compiled right here in Cleveland Heights, **Funny Times** has been entertaining a large national audience for 35 years.

Visit funnytimes.com to get a **FREE** issue today!

Locally grown and nationally known — **FUNNY TIMES**.



2176 Lee Road ... right upstairs from Blank Canvas CLE. Call 216.371.8600 xHOT

