Free parking continues at all Cleveland Heights meters

FREE PARKING

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Free parking continues at all Cleveland Heights meters

The house that sings on Guilford Road

The Cohen home, were ChamberFest Cleveland was born, was the backdrop for this June 2021 concert, with Itamar Zorman on violin and Zlatomir Fung on cello.

At a home on Guilford Road in Cleveland Heights, a unique type of spring cleaning is taking place. The piano is being tuned, music stands are being dusted off and repaired, and the screened-in porch is being converted to a musicians’ “green room.”

The home’s owners, Franklin Cohen, principal clarinet emeritus of The Cleveland Orchestra, and his wife, Marcia Kodish Cohen, are readying for the annual arrival of the 30-plus musicians who fly in from all parts of the globe and comprise the world-class roster of performers at ChamberFest Cleveland.

This annual festival of chamber music was co-founded by Franklin and his daughter, Diana, who grew up in the Heights and is today the conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic. The Cohen family includes Diana’s brother Alex, principal percussionist in Calgary, and Diana’s

CH rolls out refuse and recycling bins

Cleveland Heights launched its new, automated refuse and recycling collection program in mid-April, distributing thousands of new refuse and recycling carts to every residence in the city. By now, all residents should have received their carts, and begun using them.

The program’s benefits go beyond making the city’s streets cleaner and more attractive. Automated collection is a single-sort recycling system, in which one must only determine whether an item is recyclable and place it in the appropriate cart—no extra sorting is necessary.

Automated collection is faster, more efficient, and safer for city employees, too, and should help reduce the environmental impact of Cleveland Heights’ waste.

The green cart is for garbage going to the landfill. EVERYTHING that goes in the green cart should be in a trash bag.

The blue cart is for recyclables. Recyclables should NEVER be put in bags. Plastic bags can obstruct the recycling machinery and may cause the city to be fined. Instead, rinse off all plastic, glass and metal containers, and cut and flatten cardboard. Then, place the recyclable items loosely in the blue cart.

Cleveland Heights’ recycling program can only accept plastic bottles and jugs with necks that narrow toward their openings. One way to keep track of what types of plastic containers are recyclable is to remember this

Seed banks are open at all Heights libraries

In collaboration with the Cleveland Seed Bank, Heights Libraries is hosting seed libraries at all four branches throughout the summer.

After filling out a short participation form, customers can check out up to five packets of heirloom seeds each month, then grow vegetables and flowers at home.

The Cleveland Seed Bank acts as an independent and accessible source of heirloom seeds at all Heights libraries.

Youth Services Associate Maggie Lawrence helps oversee the seed bank at the Noble Neighborhood branch of Heights Libraries.

Participants in Crowdsourced Conversations #1: Sustainability, on April 27.

Crowdsourced Conversations is gearing up for its next discussion-based forum, which will focus on housing and neighborhood preservation. Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents are invited to attend this free community event on Tuesday, June 28, 7–8:30 p.m., at Forest Hill Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd.

This forum series utilizes responses from Heightswide surveys.

June 28 conversation will explore housing and neighborhoods

Participants in Crowdsourced Conversations #1: Sustainability, on April 27.
Celebrate Susanna Niermann O’Neil

To the Editor:

The celebration that was held at Cleveland Heights City Hall on May 2 honored Susanna Niermann O’Neil for her 38 years of service to Cleveland Heights.

The atrium at City Hall now bears her name. Over the years, Susanna worked with and supported many citizens, city employees and city councils. She was always present at council meetings, and made sure all the details were well planned.

One work describes her as “through and through all of those relationships with so many in Cleveland Heights—that word is grace.”

Susanna headed off to a well-deserved retirement on May 2. I wish her all the best as she starts her next adventure in Cleveland Heights.

Gail Larson (CH City Council Member) Cleveland Heights

Ballot Issue 9 provides a lesson about petitions

Robert Shwab

There is a lesson to be learned from the fiasco of the Issue 9 vote, which created much gratuitous expense and effort to defeat a dubious referendum.

Fortunately, voters steered clear of the reputational harm a “yes” vote would have caused.

Next time, if you are walking to your car and approached by an earnest petitioner with a clipboard, do not sign it—at least, not without asking some questions.

Let’s not make a habit of government by referendum. Petitions and referendums have saddled Cleveland Heights with such time-wasting and misguided resolutions as a day devoted to anti-business speeches (deceptively named “Democracy Day”), and the designation of the city as an “Nuclear-Free” zone.

Our republic has moved beyond the ancient Greek-style of democracy by referendum. We elect representatives to do the job for us, at the local, county, state and national levels. We elected them to represent our unique geography and to address both sides of the issue.

On April 27, the June 28 event is actionable by participants and community, while focusing on what we can learn from one another and build community, while focusing on what is actionable by participants and other residents.

The first session in the conversation series, in which participants discussed sustainability and earth-friendly practices, took place on April 27. The June 28 event is the second of four, the next two Crowdsourced Conversation forums will explore community safety and civic engagement.

Robert Shwab is an arbitrator for FINRA and a business consultant. He has lived in Cleveland Heights since 2000.

Advertise in the Heights Observer

Sarah Wolf is the community building programs manager at FutureHeights.
Pride is insistence in the face of intense resistance

Kahlil Seren

Pride is not a month. Pride is the insistence that the LG-BTQ+ community deserves real respect and substantive access to the rights that we all expect to enjoy.

The United States of America is still a place where the simple act of outwardly expressing who you are inside can be, and has been, a death sentence—where choosing not to hide who you love can lead to a violent response. It is for that reason that Pride is, and has to be, every day of our lives.

I was raised by two moms, out lesbians, who have been unashamed of who they are for as long as I’ve known them. They taught me that our silence will not protect us (thank you Audre Lorde).

In fact, if you are shamed or scared into silence, it won’t just hurt you. It will harm everyone who may otherwise have relied on your bravery and used your Pride as an example to follow.

I saw firsthand how my mothers’ Pride inspired others who were able to find the strength to come out and live authentic lives.

I also saw how their Pride inspired people to grow from bigotry, fear, and rejection—beyond tolerance—to acceptance, respect, and love. In that way, Pride is a service to our community, opening people’s eyes and making the world a safer and more understanding.

But despite the service of my parents (both as activists and as parents), I was raised by two moms, out lesbians, who have been unashamed of who they are for as long as I’ve known them. They taught me that our silence will not protect us (thank you Audre Lorde).

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I also saw how their Pride inspired people to grow from bigotry, fear, and rejection—beyond tolerance—to acceptance, respect, and love. In that way, Pride is a service to our community, opening people’s eyes and making the world a safer and more understanding.

But despite the service of my parents (both as activists and as people just living their lives in the open), and all of the brave humans who put themselves on the line in riots, parades, advocacy campaigns, and legal battles, there is still a coordinated attack on the humanity of the LGBTQ+ community.

Those who oppose full equality and respect are passing laws across the country to force LGBTQ+ children into closets, endanger their lives, and punish the people who would seek to support and care for them.

They will not stop there. All of our rights are intertwined, which means any one person’s fight for justice is everyone’s fight.

The U.S. Supreme Court, a body we’ve entrusted with the power to protect our rights, is instead working right now to deny our right to an abortion. In itself that is enough for rage and riot, but they will not stop there.

Along with abortion, they would take our rights to privacy and bodily autonomy. After all, what claim to “settled law” status can Lawrence v. Texas or Obergefell v. Hodges have if Roe v. Wade and Casey v. Planned Parenthood fall?

The disingenuous would try to convince you that we are not all put at risk; but as Martin Luther King Jr. taught us, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. And this persistent coalition of bigots, misogynists, and theocrats have made their intentions clear for decades.

During this Pride Month, and every month after, I hope that you remember that silence isn’t a shield, it only steals the strength of you and Casey v. Planned Parenthood fall?

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CH should not invest in broadband Internet

Alan Rapoport

You may remember Betamax. It was fine for recording and playing videos. But then along came VHS, and Betamax went the way of the dinosaurs. Then the DVD effectively replaced VHS. Now streaming video is making the DVD obsolete.

All this brings to mind a recent presentation before the Municipal Services Committee of Cleveland Heights City Council by the Citizens for Heights Municipal Broadband. As it states on its website [https://heighebreadband.com], this group wishes the city to pay for “a new utility, a publicly owned Internet Service Provider (ISP) connecting fiber Internet to 100% of Cleveland Heights residents, businesses, and municipal services.” It wants the city to make a major financial commitment to an old technology at taxpayer expense.

No council member at that initial presentation pushed back against this ridiculous proposal. To be fair, discussion then was only preliminary. Hopefully, council members will be skeptical in the future. But at that initial meeting, no one expressed any of three obvious concerns:

First, our city does not have spare cash to spend. At a time when taxes are high and inflation is raging, local government should be doing less and not more. This project will involve consultant fees, construction costs, and the use of a lot of staff time. It will be extremely expensive. A new publicly owned utility should be considered an unaffordable luxury.

Second, our city should not invest in a technology that soon will be obsolete. True, many residents are not well connected to the Internet. Some are unable or unwilling to pay connection costs. Others have problems with poor offerings of current Internet providers. But all that most certainly will change: 5G is becoming more available, and 6G is on the near horizon. Elon Musk recently demonstrated an alternative to fiber optic cable by providing satellite Internet access in Ukraine. Cleveland Heights should not adopt something trendy today that almost certainly will be irrelevant tomorrow.

Third, our city should not go into competition with private companies. It is being asked to use a frankly socialist approach to the provision of Internet access. Council instead should take actions to encourage current Internet service providers to increase and improve their offerings.

This proposal for government investment is awful, and should not be allowed by council members to distract them from a pursuit of more important projects.

Alan Rapoport, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, served on CH City Council (1980–87) and as mayor (1982–89).

_____________________________

Completely engaged. That’s how Joe Coyle feels about his life at Judson Manor.

“Expanding my curiosity about life is what it’s all about.”

An award-winning journalist who has lived in Paris, Santa Fe, and New York City, he arrived in July 2020 via the suggestion of a fellow resident. Joe’s been delighted ever since.

“As a writer, I enjoy spending time alone, and these surroundings are perfect: my apartment is quiet, and the views overlooking the Cleveland Museum of Art are lovely. But by far the best part of Judson is the people. Everyone is so knowledgeable about art and culture. I wanted to have stimulating company to spend my time with, and I’ve found that here. These are wonderful, interesting people,” says Joe.

Read the full story at judsonsmartliving.org/blog

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Guilford Road continued from page 1
Denial is the act of declaring something to be untrue. Sadly, we have lawmakers who want to deny the existence of racism. This kind of denial amounts to lying. It inflicts pain on those whose lives are being denied, and makes the denier untrustworthy.

Denial also has a psychological definition: self-protection from uncomfortable truths. For many of us living with painful experiences and loss, denial is useful. It allows us to go about our lives with a semblance of normalcy. On the other hand, explicit recognition of painful emotions can produce healing and a chance to move forward—an affirmation of our agency and humanity.

I find it outrageous that state Reps. Mike Loychick (R-Bazetta) and Jean Schmidt (R-Loveland) have introduced legislation that would supposedly protect us from the painful historical and current reality that racism, sexism, homophobia, hate and structural inequality exist.

Their solution: bury these topics from view. Their legislation, H.B. 616, would make it illegal to discuss the truth in Ohio’s public schools. Teachers accused of telling the truth by encouraging an open exchange of ideas could lose their teaching licenses, and any school where this takes places could lose state funding.

Apparently, these legislators find the truth to be so upsetting that they must protect themselves and everyone else by prohibiting discussion of these realities. Instead of encouraging understanding, reducing conflict and fear, or promoting unity through open discussion, they prefer denial.

Their legislation censors the content of classroom discussion in favor of indoctrinating youth with the history and cultural values that make the authors comfortable. This is an overreach of their authority.

They are using the law to impose a kind of psychological defense of denial for all of us. Legislators have no right to require denial. Do they really think one can prohibit, by mandate, discussion of things that students see every day? These two cultural warriors are degrading public office and public trust by selecting the truth they like, enforcing silence, and encouraging people to lie. The bill rejects the essence of education, and does not fit in a democracy.

Fortunately, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education (BOE) will not stand for this nonsense. At its May 3 meeting, BOE Member Dan Heintz introduced a resolution to oppose H.B. 616. Said Heintz, “There is so much wrong with this bill that it is genuinely hard to know where to begin.” He listed the lawmakers’ desire to deny the existence of institutional racism, the hypocrisy of protecting students from indoctrination, and the efforts of small-government advocates trying to micromanage local schools. The resolution received unanimous support.

Our community has acknowledged that discrimination, oppression, injustice and structural inequality are real and harmful. We try to dismantle the barriers to equality and validate our shared humanity by confronting our own behavior through public policy and practice.

Cleveland Heights is a national model of integrated living because we put the issues at the center of community activism, city government and public education. We are state leaders in the search for equity in education outcomes because we put success for all children at the center of our education policy. Now, two Ohio lawmakers who know nothing about our community and its values want to tell us what is good for us. They want us to hide the truth, retreat from our values, and abandon our kids. Really?

The BOE resolution rejects H.B. 616, and we should all do the same. It urges the legislators to “return to their traditional home-rule stance by not imposing their cultural agenda onto our community.”

The schoolhouse has become the battlefield for a culture war promoting fear and chaos. I am grateful that our local elected leaders stepped up to challenge the most recent legislation designed to take us backward. We need to stand with them.

Susie Kaaser moved to Cleveland Heights in 1979. She is the former director of Reaching Heights, and is active with the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the League of Women Voters. A community booster, she is the author of a book about local activism, Resisting Segregation.

Legislatively denying reality won’t change reality.
Join us for Democracy Day

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

This column begins our seventh year of collaborating on Heights of Democracy. We are grateful to the Heights Observer staff, readers who respond to us in writing and face-to-face, city officials and personnel, and everyone else who puts up with us—critics and supporters alike. It is a pleasure and a privilege to have this outlet for our opinions on the workings of, and challenges to, democracy at the local level.

In our first Heights of Democracy column, “How ‘public’ is public education?” we wrote about some terrific testimony presented by two Cleveland Heights High School seniors, at the January 2016 Democracy Day public hearing in front of Cleveland Heights City Council. Since Elijah Snow-Rackley and Emma Schubert recounted their experiences with the privatization of public education, things have only gotten worse—in the schools and in most other American public institutions.

What is Democracy Day? In 2013, with 77 percent of the vote, Cleveland Heights voters passed a citizens’ initiative calling for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to establish that human beings, not corporate entities, have constitutional rights, and that money is not speech. The initiative also created, by city ordinance, an avenue for residents to testify at, or listen and learn from, public hearing in front of Cleveland Heights City Council. Our right to speak is a part of the American Revolution, and the right to be heard is a part of the American Constitution, signed by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802. We pointed out that “tension between corporate interests and the public good has been a feature of civic life in Ohio for a long time,” and that “[c]orporations could only be created one at a time, by petitioning the legislature, and were subject to strict rules.” Those rules included limits on the duration of a corporate charter, the amount of land a corporation could own, and capitalization or owners’ total investment. Critically, in addition, the state was required to issue each corporate charter for a specific purpose, and was allowed to revoke it.

Ohio’s Constitution has seen several major revisions, most notably and democratically in 1912; but despite the many ways that corporations have usurped government powers since then, the state still has the power to revoke corporate charters. We must ask, then, why is FirstEnergy still in existence?

A lawsuit recently filed by FirstEnergy shareholders notes, “The public and investors have suffered enough from FirstEnergy’s above-the-law attitude. It is a confessed criminal enterprise, based not on one isolated crime, but rather a years-long crime spree targeting the public and its investors.” (Ohio Capital Journal, April 25, 2022.) So what will it take to put FirstEnergy out of business?

Are you fired up about abuses of corporate power and the gazillions of dollars distorting our politics beyond recognition? Share what you know by testifying at, or listen and learn from, your fellow citizens on, Democracy Day 2022, June 9, 7 p.m., at CH City Hall. Are you ready to take back our democracy? We are grateful to the Heights Observer staff, readers who respond to us in writing and face-to-face, city officials and personnel, and everyone else who puts up with us—critics and supporters alike. It is a pleasure and a privilege to have this outlet for our opinions on the workings of, and challenges to, democracy at the local level.

The city’s ninth annual Democracy Day event will take place on Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m., at Cleveland Heights City Hall, in council chambers. With our governor and other members of the state redistricting commission thumbing their noses at Ohio Supreme Court orders to draw the fair district maps that Ohioans deserve, with FirstEnergy getting away with only fines for creating the biggest bribery scandal in Ohio history, with unregulated, unaccountable political action committees bankrolling candidates; and with the General Assembly still gaming school funding to the detriment of public education, we will have plenty to talk about.

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg are writers, editors and longtime residents of Cleveland Heights. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
UH will celebrate city’s first Juneteenth at The Walt

Mike Cook

The inaugural University Heights Juneteenth Celebration will take place on Sunday, June 19, 1:30–8:30 p.m., at Walter Stinson Community Park.

Juneteenth is the holiday commemorating the end of slavery by marking the day enslaved people in Texas learned they were free.

Last year, after Juneteenth became a national holiday, Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called for the establishment of a Citizens Committee to plan for an annual celebration. Geoff Englebrecht swerved out of his lane as the city's director of Housing and Community Development to help organize the city's celebration.

"For both visitors and residents, I am hoping they are both educated and entertained during the event," Englebrecht said. "I believe the Juneteenth celebration will help showcase the city as a great place to visit, and will give residents something they will be able to enjoy and look forward to every year."

Performers at UH's Juneteenth celebration will include the All City Choir; DJ Marcus Alan Ward; local poets, including Raja Belle Freeman; dancers; and a concert by Forecast. Local Black fraternities and sororities will participate. The emcee for the event will be Kierra Cotton from WKYC-TV.

Food trucks will be on site at The Walt, including The Dawg Bowl Cajun Cuisine. Forecast will headline the event. A quintet from Cleveland, Forecast plays a musical blend of jazz, funk, rock, reggae and pop. The group has served as the house band for the Cleveland Cavaliers, and the stage band for the regional Emmy Awards.

Cotton, the event’s emcee, shares with WKYC-TV’s audience the top-trending stories in entertainment during her daily segment, “Pop Break.” She covers additional stories, with a focus on local businesses, the Black community, and unique characters across Northeast Ohio.

Members of the city's planning committee, who helped make the event possible, are Alicia Sloan, Lauwanna Anderson, Faye Benson, Saundra Berry, and UH Council Member Justin Gould.

This year, Juneteenth falls on Father’s Day—an overlap that Englebrecht considers perfect. “Instead of just grilling out at home, bring your dad to Juneteenth,” Englebrecht said. “It’s a family-friendly event that everyone will enjoy.”

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

Kierra Cotton, digital reporter for WKYC, will be the emcee for the inaugural University Heights Juneteenth Celebration.
Cleveland Heights honors Susanna Niermann O’Neil on her retirement

On May 2, Mayor Kahlil Seren and Cleveland Heights City Council members honored Susanna Niermann O’Neil on her last day of work for the city, and thanked her for her 46 years of service. Niermann O’Neil began working at CH City Hall in 1976; the building’s atrium has now been renamed in her honor. From left to right: CH Council Member Tony Cuda, Council Member Josie Moore, Council Vice President Craig Cobb, Council President Melody Joy Hart, retired CH City Manager Susanna Niermann O’Neil, CH Mayor Kahlil Seren, Council Member Anthony Mattox Jr., Council Member Gail Larson, and Council Member Davida Russell.
Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

APRIL 18, 2022

Present were Mayor Kohli Seren, Council President Melody Hart, and council members Tony Curia, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattos Jr., Josie Moore, and David Russell. Also present were Susananna Niemann O’Neill, city manager, Amy Himmelain, clerk of council and finance director, and William Hanna, law director. Council Vice President Craig Cobb was not present.

Public comments

Robert Loer, representing Covery PEACE PEACEx, announced the desire of the building’s tenants to purchase the former Coventry School building. He voiced dissatisfaction with recent Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library Board decisions regarding property management, leases and rents, and urged city council to support the project.

Denison Park splash pad RFP

Mayor Seren notified council that a request for proposal (RFP) would be issued for the creation of a splash pad at Denison Park.

First readings

On first reading, council approved:

- Expansion of the admissions tax suspension.
- Authorization for participation in the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program for road salt for winter 2022–23.
- Authorization for the mayor to contract with Glass, Pyle, Schomer, Burns, and DeHaven Inc., for engineering services to design traffic signal system upgrades on Monticello Boulevard.
- Authorization for ODOT to improve sidewalks and pedestrian crossings.

Street assessments

Council renewed special assessments for 2022 and 2023, at the current rate, to fund a portion of street lighting expenses, and a portion of street improvements and pedestrian crossings.

Executive session permission

Council amended Chapter 107 of the city code to permit executive sessions for purposes [referenced in Section 107.02], for any purposes allowed under the Ohio Revised Code.

LWV Observer: Jill Tatem.

MAY 2, 2022

The mayor and all council members were present, as were the city manager (acting as clerk of council) and law director.

Public comments

Penny Allen, an officer of Friends of Horsehose Lake, announced that the group will be presenting an alternative plan from its engineers and experts for the future design of Horsehose Lake. Another resident noted the amendment to the Horsehose Lake ordinance that encourages openness to alternative plans, thus obligating council to consider such proposals.

Actions passed on first reading

Council adopted several items on first reading including:

- Authorizing a contract with Janus Small Associates for council real estate facilitation services, in the amount of $2,700.
- Appointing Josie Moore to the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership board.
- Recognizing Covery PEACE PEACE manager Susananna Niemann O’Neill for 46 years of service to the city, and naming the city hall atrium in her honor. (A ceremony and reception took place after the meeting.)
- Actions passed on second reading Council authorized participation in the NOPE Green Community Choice Program for residents, businesses, and other electric customers for the city’s electric aggregation program starting January 2023.
- Council authorized agreements with Wade Trim Inc. for professional engineering services for the Snaker Sawer Overflow Control System [action for different portions of the project; the one is not to exceed $249,118; and the second is not to exceed $738,000].

Taylor Tudor Plaza

Also on second reading, council authorized the mayor to negotiate a memorandum of understanding with WZK Development Inc. for the redevelopment of Taylor Tudor Plaza. WZK was considered to be the most qualified development respondent with the most comprehensive vision.

Committee reports and council member comments

Community Relations and Recreation Committee: Council Member Russell announced a VERGE summer youth employment program for about 200 young people, 18 to 24 years old, in partnership with businesses. The positions will pay $15 per hour.

Housing and Building Committee: Council Member Guda mentioned a meeting [held] earlier [in the evening] the discussion to resurface and tax-delinquent properties, on which $18 million is owed.

Municipal Services Committee: Council Member Moore reported that the committee has discussed increasing sidewalk shoveling and tree canopy. Every Sunday at 10 a.m. there is an invasive species cleanup at Lower Shaker Lake.

Planning and Development Committee: Council Member Mattos Jr. said the committee discussed the Taylor-Tudor project last week. He urged residents to submit ideas for the renovation project.

Public Safety and Health Committee: Council Member Larson (said she) had discussed the lead certification project with the law director. This will be the topic of the committee’s June 21 meeting.

Susanna Niemann O’Neill retires

Throughout the meeting, council members made comments praising Niemann O’Neill and the service she gave to the city. She spoke at the end of the meeting, thanking council for naming the atrium in her honor. She said she worked for the city for 46 years (she worked for the city) went fast, and thanked the city’s law directors for helping her get things right.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Meeting packets, legislation, and other information can be found at www.clevelandheights.com/1142/2021-102 Agenda and Minutes.

Videos of council meetings can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/clevelandheightsOH.

The city of Cleveland Heights distributed blue recycling bins and green refuse bins in April.

Be sure to keep non-recyclables out of the blue cart. Mixing recyclables and non-recyclables can cause an entire load of materials to be redirected to a landfill, which will increase the city’s costs, and is bad for the environment.

City employees are driving new trucks that allow a single driver/operator to use a robotic arm to pick up and empty refuse and recycling carts along their routes. To get to the carts, the operator needs to pull the truck as close as possible to the curb, leave at least 10 feet between the carts and any vehicles parked on the street.

The truck’s robotic arm needs to reach the carts, so they need to be within 3 feet of the curb and can’t be hidden by any obstructions.

The robotic arm needs room to maneuver, so be sure to leave at least 3 feet between the carts.

Make sure the carts’ lids open toward the street. Make sure to close the carts’ lids, and don’t leave anything sitting on them.

The adjacent list (at right) outlines what materials can and cannot be recycled. If you have questions about materials that aren’t listed, many answers can be found online at www.cuyahogarecycles.org.


The new program has had an immediate impact: Carts now line Cleveland Heights’ tree lawns on collection days instead of bags, and yards are cleaner because animals have fewer opportunities to tear open bags.

If you have questions or concerns about your carts and the automated collection program, fill out the form available at www.clevelandheights.gov/Carts-Refuse-and-Recycling-Cart-Homepage, and a Public Works Department employee will contact you.

The city of Cleveland Heights is committed to helping everyone make this transition successfully.

Collects Clinkscales is the director of public works for the city of Cleveland Heights. Mike Thomas is the city’s director of communications and public engagement.
The Grant Deming House was unusual for its time

Mark Souther

Grant Wilson Deming, a native of Sarnia, Ontario, moved to Cleveland with his brothers in the 1890s. They quickly became fixtures in local real-estate development.

The Demings built upper-middle-class residential districts in Cleveland’s Glenville area to the north of University Circle in the 1900s. Grant’s brother Barton set out on his own to redevelop Rockefeller’s old Euclid Golf Club in the “Heights” to the east, as a fashionable destination for millionaires Row families seeking a more sylvan setting away from the city.

Grant Deming built his own home in 1909 at 3154 Redwood Road, just behind the present-day Zagara’s Marketplace. Designated a Cleveland Heights landmark in 2003, it is an unusual design for Cleveland Heights because it reflects a late-Victorian idiom more commonly found in older urban neighborhoods with homes constructed around the turn of the 20th century.

Although the plan for Forest Hill would include its own grand boulevard, Washington Boulevard, as a fork off of Euclid Heights Boulevard, the earliest marked entrances to the allotment were on its north side, at the fork of Lincoln Boulevard and Woodward Avenue, and on its east side, where Redwood Road once met Lee Road (before it became part of Zagara’s Marketplace’s rear drive).

Obelisk-shaped stone piers with pyramidal bases and decorative iron street signs flanked the Redwood entrance, which led directly to the site where Grant Deming built his family homestead in 1909. His choice of a homesite, at the farthest point from Cleveland’s eastward growth rather than on the Euclid Heights allotment side to the west, may have reflected a desire to live closer to the open countryside, if only for a short time.

Deming’s homestead originally consisted of three lots, each 50 feet by 202 feet, with the house occupying the center lot. The cross-gabled wood shingle home almost precisely replicated one built for the Deming Company’s secretary, Albert C. Newton, still standing at 10607 Drexel Ave. in the Grantwood allotment off East 105th Street in Cleveland’s Glenville neighborhood. Both houses reflect elements of the Queen Anne and Shingle styles, with cedar-shingle siding, half timbering in the side gables, irregular massing, simple detailing, bay windows, and large porches.

A matching carriage house with a front-gabled gambrel roof stands to the rear of the Deming house.

In 1914 Deming added a castellated porte-cochere with a second-story bedroom on the house’s east side. Deming employed two maids, a chauffeur, and full-time gardeners to tend his estate. Later, after World War II, the lot to the right of his house was sold for a new Cape Cod bungalow—as unusual in its 1910s to 1920s setting as Deming’s house.

Since 1999, Mike Madorsky, Elizabeth Stern, and their children have called Deming’s house their home. Madorsky recalls meeting Grant Deming’s grandson late in his life. Deming shared old photos and stories that add to the historic appeal of this Cleveland Heights landmark.

This article is adapted from Mark Souther’s National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Grant Deming House. Souther is a member of the CH Landmark Commission, which preserves and protects buildings, works of art and other objects of historical or architectural value to the community. The commission’s seven members are appointed to three-year terms by CH City Council.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS NEWS

The Grant Deming House as it appeared in 2009.

Grant Wilson Deming, a native of Sarnia, Ontario, moved to Cleveland with his brothers in the 1890s. They quickly became fixtures in local real-estate development.

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SUMMER READING
JUNE 6 - AUGUST 31

Celebrate growing, gardening, going green with us by signing up for our Summer Reading Program! Preschoolers through Teens select a prize book at sign up and after reading for 30 days, all the while earning raffle tickets for a chance to win some awesome grand prizes! Parents: don’t forget to sign up your babies and toddlers for our preschool program!

Adults shouldn’t feel left out. They’ll have their own summer reading program, with garden-focused prizes like a two-person yearlong membership to the Cleveland Botanical Garden and Holden Arboretum, a gardening prize package including a $50 Bremec Garden Center gift card and gardening books, and an indoor herb garden grow kit.

Register at any branch starting June 6. www.heightslibrary.org
Students join forces with Noble Litter Busters

Susan Sanders

Students, family and staff from CH-UH district schools in the Noble neighborhood joined Noble Litter Busters to clean up school grounds in late April.

Susan Clement, leader of the Litter Busters and organizer of the school grounds pickups, met with students to encourage their participation and share the importance of keeping neighborhoods litter free.

The principals of Noble Elementary, Oxford Elementary and Monticello Middle schools are enthusiastic about promoting litter awareness among their students.

Noble Litter Busters began in 2018 with the support of a Future Heights mini grant.

Approximately 15 on-the-move neighborhood residents combine litter pickup with their regular exercise walks. They often can be spotted along Noble Road and throughout the neighborhood, in blue Noble Litter Buster vests. A sign encouraging and recognizing their efforts can be seen at the intersection of Noble and Bluestone roads.

New members are always welcome. If you’d like more information on joining, or perhaps starting a litter-busting group in your neighborhood, contact Clement at susan_clement48@yahoo.com.

Monticello residents undertake a neighborhood curb-appeal project

Jan Milic

Residents of Monticello Boulevard have been working together to enhance the “curb appeal” of the 70 properties along the busy corridor from Lee Boulevard to N. Taylor Road. Extending through the east-west borders of Forest Hill, the corridor is a prominent showcase for Cleveland Heights.

The project is simple: edging along both sides of the sidewalk, removing weeds from sidewalk cracks and along the curb, and removing debris from street gutters.

The project’s success reflects residents’ interest in improving the appearance of this busy street. It also serves as an example to build awareness of this simple process, to enhance curb appeal on other streets, in Forest Hill or elsewhere.

The project’s first step was the distribution of flyers showing the difference edging can make, through before and after photographs. Edging and curb cleansing enhances the appearance of lawns as well as the entire street.

Wright and Henry have achieved great success with their “simple” process. Drivers on Monticello should notice a marked improvement in the street’s appearance, and residents can be happy with the work they did. Working together, residents also made new friends and met neighbors they did not previously know.

Jan Milic is a 46-year resident of Forest Hill. She is currently a trustee of Forest Hill Home Owners Inc., and has served as its president.
LEI workshops offer college-essay prep

Eileen Ryan Ewen

For the second consecutive year, Communion of Saints (COS) school families hit the streets of Cleveland Heights for a scavenger hunt, solving clues about their city while supporting local businesses.

In 2021, following numerous pandemic cancellations, COS’s parent-teacher organization looked for a way to bring families together safely, and help local businesses that had struggled due to the pandemic. Using the app GooseChase, family teams followed clues compiled by the scavenger hunt’s organizers. While some clues were local-trivia questions, solved by the parents, others could only be solved by scavenger-hunt participants: lining up running shoes, hopping on bicycles, or driving to different locations around the Heights.

Tapping into the city’s rich history, teams solved clues that led them to places such as the Preyer House, Roxboro tennis courts, The Alcazar, the Coventry Village and Lee Road libraries, Noble Fire Station, William Quilliam’s house, Lakeview Cemetery, and other landmarks.

Kids and adults had fun discovering little-known facts about their neighborhoods. Karen Secor, a COS parent and Heightsc resident, said, “Completing last year’s and this year’s scavenger hunts has brought a renewed appreciation for the many hidden treasures our city has to offer.”

As a way to support local businesses that had supported COS in the past, the school prepaid for items at Mitchell’s Chocolates and On the Rise Bakery, and then led participants to those locations for complimentary treats. Similarly, families were encouraged to stop by certain restaurants for dine-in or take-out meals, earning their teams points when they did. Prizes were awarded to the winning teams—baskets filled with items and gift cards from additional local businesses. “We wanted to find a way to support our neighborhood businesses. They’re always so good to us, and we wanted to say ‘Thank you, we support you too,’” said co-organizer Taria Pesta.

This year’s scavenger hunt, which began at 3 p.m. on April 29 and finished at noon on May 1, sent participants to On the Rise, Tommy’s, Mitchell’s Chocolates, VooDoo Brewery, Cilantro Taqueria, BottleHouse Brewery, Sophie la Gourmande, S’ll Vous Play, and Koby’s Kakes.

Gift cards and more were purchased from The Wine Spot, Anatolia Cafe, Marotta’s, The Stone Oven, CLE Urban Winery, Rising Star Coffee, and Appletree Books.

Eileen Ryan Ewen is an artist and children’s book illustrator who lives in Cleveland Heights. She’s also a volunteer librarian at Communion of Saints School, which her children attend.
Recycling beyond the blue bin

Catalina Wagers

Cleveland Heights’ new recycling and waste bins have residents talking trash, literally, and Carol Miller, education specialist at the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, couldn’t be happier.

“With Cleveland Heights’ transition to automated waste collection, recycling has become the extra mile by choosing to compost. But the new blue bins came with guidelines, and the guidelines shed new light on well-intentioned, yet misguided, wish recycling cycles.”

For Miller, this is a watershed moment for re-establishing and re-enforcing what is and is not recyclable by Kimberly, Cleveland Heights’ recycling processor.

Natalie Elwell, co-founder of the Cleveland Heights Green Team and Cuyahoga County Recycling Ambassador, wants to make sure that residents understand that just because an item cannot go in the blue bin, it often can still be upcycled, or recycled elsewhere.

According to Elwell and Miller, the most common recycling questions are related to plastic bags, computers and electronics, spray metal, and batteries.

Plastic film, such as produce bags, dry cleaning bags, and packaging wrap for paper towels and diapers, can be recycled along with plastic bags at some retailers, including Giant Eagle, Dave’s Markets, Lowe’s, Marc’s, Zagar’s Marketplace, Target, and Walmart stores.

Check with the store to confirm the types of plastic bags and film it will accept.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District recommends the user-friendly www.plasticfilmrecycling.org as a good source of information.

When it comes to metal, said Elwell, “Most people do not realize that they are discarding a valuable resource that can be re-used, upcycled, and recycled into myriad products.”

“The only metals that belong in curbside recycling are aluminum and steel cans,” said Elwell. “I keep a large box in my basement designated for scrap metal. Once you become aware of all the products made of recyclable metal, the box will fill faster than what you’d imagine.”

“This includes scrap metal like aluminum foil, trays and pans; tin cans and jars; nuts and bolts; license plates; and wire hangers.

“Many larger metal objects, such as car parts, appliances, and hot water tanks, can also be recycled. Once the bin is full, I take it to the scrap metal yard. Not only do I feel good about diverting waste from the landfill, but I also make a couple of bucks from the effort, since most scrap yards pay for the metal.”

Elwell recommends All City Recycling, at 17449 St. Clair Ave.

Heights’ residents can recycle computers and electronics at the Cleveland Heights Service Garage, at 34200 Superior Road, and at Best Buy, Staples, and the county Solid Waste District.

“Before you decide to drop off computers and electronics at a recycling center,” advised Miller, “think about alternatives, such as donating, gifting, or fixing.”

“Where can I recycle batteries is the most asked question we hear from residents,” said Elwell. Alkaline batteries and other primary batteries, such as 9V and D-cell, are not hazardous and can be put in the regular trash.

Rechargeable batteries can be recycled for free through local Call2Recycle drop boxes found in retail stores, such as the Apple Store, Best Buy, Home Depot, and Lowe’s.

“We realize that navigating through information about recycling alternatives seems daunting and time consuming,” noted Elwell, “but recycling beyond the blue bin is easier than you think.”

“Our goal is to search for Cuyahoga County’s Solid Waste District’s website (cuyahogarecycles.org): What Do I Do With? It provides concise and clear answers and resources for most household items.”

The Solid Waste District produced a book to help county residents donate items for reuse, in which it lists community service organizations that need and use donated items. Residents can download the book, or request a copy, by visiting www.cuyahogarecycles.org.

“Ideally, recycling should be a last-resort choice,” said Miller. “Simple changes, like using a reusable bag for groceries; joining groups such as Buy Nothing; buying gently used rather than new; and repairing and repurposing can go a long way in reducing waste.”

Catalina Wagers lives in Cleveland Heights’ Fairfax neighborhood, and is a co-founder of the Cleveland Heights Green Team.

Heights voters say no on Issue 9, yes on 10 and 20

Kim Sergio Inglis

In the May primary election, Cleveland Heights voters passed Issue 10, approving an amendment to the city charter that shifts the clerk of council role to the legislative, from the executive, branch. They voted down Issue 9, an ordinance which called for the city to build a “public activity park” in Cedar Lee, on a 1.07-acre plot that is part of a development agreement between the city and Flaherty & Collins, the developer.

According to unofficial results reported by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE), 75% of voters said yes on Issue 10. They opposed Issue 9 by approximately the same percentage, with 72.83% voting no on that issue.

In University Heights, voters passed Issue 20, a charter amendment that expands “the number of permitted eligible candidates for open positions in the police and fire service.”

The BOE’s unofficial results for each of the local ballot issues are:

• CH Issue 9: 2,358 (27.17%) voted Yes; 6,312 (72.83%) voted No.
• CH Issue 10: 6,031 (73%) voted Yes; 2,135 (27%) voted No.
• UH Issue 20: 2,177 (75.9%) voted Yes; 714 (24.1%) voted No.

Complete May 3 primary election results, and updates, can be viewed on the BOE website, boe.cuyahoga.gov.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, and is a Cuyahoga County master gardener volunteer.
No problem! I will take care of it...

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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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Cleveland Heights – University Heights Public Library Board
Meeting highlights

APRIL 18, 2022

Board members present were President Gabe Crenshaw, Patt Carlyle, Dani Flaxman, Annette Irwin, Tyler McGuire, and Vikas Turakhia. Vice President Max Gerboc was not present.

Public comments

Covenant PEACE Inc. (CPC) Board President Krista Hawthorne presented a letter of intent outlining CPC’s desire to purchase the Washing- ton Boulevard building (the former Co- vington school). Hawthorne noted that since the library took ownership of the building, the nonprofit businesses located there have paid more than $450,000 in utilities, rent, and upkeep, and have been responsible for all costs related to the building. CPC does not want to purchase the parking lot or the park. Purchase of the building was presented as a way to resolve issues tenants face: a 25-percent rent hike and the costs of private management of the facility. The letter stated, “CPC is willing to assume full responsibility for the building, including obtaining financ- ing to make capital improvements. However, CPC is ineligible for such financing if it does not have legal, long-term control of the build- ing. The library’s sole purpose of the building is to support the ecosystem, helping food and flowers grow. Let’s celebrate them with a Pollinator Parade! Dress as your favorite pollinator and meet at the Noble Neighborhood Library garden for face-painting and a musical warmup, then get ready to par- ade at noon! Stop by the Noble Neighborhood Library during pollinator week (beginning June 20) to get supplies to create cos- tumes.

Lee Road Branch
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Thursday, June 2, 2 p.m.
Tech for Kids Workshop: Artificial Intel- ligence. This workshop will cover the basics of artificial intelligence, data, and ethics with easy-to- understand, hands-on lessons and projects through Code.org’s AI for Oceans and Google’s Teachable Machine! Open to kids ages 8–12. Registration required.

University Heights Branch
13660 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Wednesday, June 8
Monthly Murder Mystery Kit. Are you a true crime fan? Do you enjoy solving mysteries? If so, you are invited to solve a murder. Follow the clues and pay close attention to the evidence. See if you can solve the case before time runs out. Drop by the University Heights Library on June 8 to pick up a murder-mystery packet (available while supplies last). Solve the case by yourself, or with friends or family. For those 13 and older.

Noble Neighborhood Branch
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-6665
Friday, June 24, 11:30 a.m.
Pollinator Parade. Bees, bats, and butterflies—oh my! Pollinators support the ecosystem, helping food and flowers grow. Let’s celebrate them with a Pollinator Parade! Dress as your favorite pollinator and meet at the Noble Neighborhood Library garden for face-painting and a musical warmup, then get ready to pa- rade at noon! Stop by the Noble Neighborhood Library during pollinator week (beginning June 20) to get supplies to create cos-

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Oceans and Google’s Teachable Machine! Open to kids ages 8–12. Registration required.

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No problem! I will take care of it...
Michael Weber kicks off UH summer concerts on June 16

Mike Cook

The word is out about the University Heights Summer Concert Series—it’s been getting bigger and better over the last few years. Larger crowds have piqued the interest of popular bands, and those bands have thus drawn even more fans from University Heights and surrounding areas.

“University Heights has a nice vibe,” said Michael Weber, lead singer and guitarist of The Michael Weber Show. “The way University Heights supports the arts made me want to be a part of this.”

The Michael Weber Show will perform at the 2022 University Heights Summer Concert Series on June 16 at Walter Stinson Community Park (“The Walt”). The free show begins promptly at 7 p.m.

While this will be Weber’s first-ever concert in University Heights, residents may have seen him before from the comfort of their own living rooms. In 2018, Weber won MTV’s “Amazingness” talent and variety show.

The rest of the season features an eclectic mix of performers. Concerts take place at The Walt, unless otherwise noted:


June 30 and July 28 – One World Tribe. A nine-member band based in Cleveland, Rubix Groove pushes the limits of new blue funk. The band has a rich, full sound, featuring a three-piece horn section, drums, bass, keyboards, electric guitar, and powerful lead vocals from Shannon Hogarth. The band’s self-titled EP, plus singles “Box of Wine” and “Get it Together,” are available online.

July 7 – Old Skool. Back by popular demand this season is Old Skool, with its ever-evolving song list. Old Skool will play tribute to the 1980s’ and ’90s’ golden age of hip-hop, R&B, pop, rock, funk, and even classic disco, if the mood is right.

July 14 – Rubix Groove. A nine-member band based in Cleveland, Rubix Groove pushes the limits of new blue funk. The band has a rich, full sound, featuring a three-piece horn section, drums, bass, keyboards, electric guitar, and powerful lead vocals from Shannon Hogarth. The band’s self-titled EP, plus singles “Box of Wine” and “Get it Together,” are available online.

July 21 – Back 2 The Future (concert + movie). Exploratory rock-jazz band Oregon Space Trail of Doom will put on a concert like none other this summer. Stick around after the concert for a free showing of the 1985 movie “Back to the Future,” starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd.

Aug. 4 – Oregon Space Trail of Doom (concert + movie). Exploratory rock-jazz band Oregon Space Trail of Doom will put on a concert like none seen before at The Walt. After the show, enjoy a screening of the science-fiction classic “It Came from Outer Space.” The night will be hosted by Leopold and Lenora from WUAB’s “The Big Bad B-Movie Show.”

Aug. 11 – One World Tribe.

Offering a musical feast to delight even the most well-traveled listener, One World Tribe is an Afro-beat, funk, Latin and world-beat orchestra with myriad musicians, dancers and extras. With members hailing from Africa, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, One World Tribe is a true multicultural ensemble.

Aug. 18 – Yiddishe Cup. Summer isn’t over until Yiddishe Cup says it’s over. A University Heights tradition, Yiddishe Cup (a.k.a. Funk-a-Del) is a local klezmer band with a Motown twist that’s been around as long as anyone can remember. Don’t miss Yiddishe Cup’s mashup of “Tradition” from “Fiddler on the Roof” and “Ball of Confusion” by The Temptations.

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

There are these three houses in a row on a street in Cleveland Heights. I drive past them all the time. I walk past them often. I always look at them. The first house, the one on the left when you’re facing them, my parents used to point out every time we drove past when I was a kid. They’d say, “That’s Dorothy Fuldheim’s house. You know who she is, don’t you?” I’d say, yes, and then they’d tell me, anyway, that she was the first woman in the country to anchor a TV news broadcast—right here in Cleveland—and she was now a news commentator, and that she’d started as a newspaper and radio reporter who had interviewed Adolph Hitler in the 1930s, and that she was the co-host of “The One O’Clock Club” on Channel 5. Every time we went by. So, I thought the house was famous, and I was always proud to, well . . . pass it.

When I got a little older, high school age, I became friends with three brothers who lived in the next house, the middle of the three. We attended shows together at Cleveland’s main folk and rock music venue, La Cave, in University Circle. And sometimes we’d hang out in Lake View Cemetery, near their house.

But most often, especially in the summer, we’d lounge around on the floor of their large, old house’s once-formal parlor, listening to the latest Beatles, Rolling Stones, Kinks, Bob Dylan, Paul Butterfield Blues Band and other albums on their record player, chain-smoking packs of cigarettes, and playing cards—games of 500 Rummy, not to 500 points, but way past, up to a million one summer, because we had the time.

These guys’ father had been a newspaper reporter and columnist since the mid-’30s, and now, in the mid-’60s, served as a writer for and the editor of a popular section of the Plain Dealer. He’d sometimes come home late and join us in the parlor (sitting in a comfortable chair, not on the floor). He would have been out in one or more of downtown Cleveland’s hot spots, like the Theatrical Restaurant, drinking and schmoozing with other newspaper people, and famous entertainers and sports figures, cops and criminals and their lawyers and judges. When he joined us, he’d have just mixed himself a fresh drink.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th house on the left

One of his sons would say, “Hey, Pop. Tell us about the time you (whatever . . .)” and their father, in cigarette dangling from the left corner of his mouth, left eye closed to avoid the smoke, would light into a story in his gruff voice, as if he were banging it out on his load manual typewriter. “It was the 1930s, the hideous Depression years,” he’d begin. And the five or six of us guys would sit there drinking in every booze-soaked word of his gripping story, feeling like we were right there with him, back 30 years earlier. He’d finish and go off to bed, and we’d resume talking, smoking, listening and dealing, enduring deep into the night.

A few years passed. High school was suddenly over—more suddenly for me than most of my friends, since I’d quit that year. When September came, most of my school friends left town for various colleges around the country, and a few just took off to do other things, or nothing. By then I was homeless, having been invited by my father to leave his house. But I had some new friends—Cleveland’s music community; mostly folk, but also some rock musicians.

And a new person entered the scene, a 26-year-old independently wealthy strange Pete, who loved music. He bought a house—the third of those— and moved into this big place all by himself. Pete started frequenting the other folk venue, Farragher’s, in Cleveland Heights, on Taylor Road, just north of Cain Park. He asked a bunch of us musicians if we’d be interested in making demo tapes. And sleep in the recording studio in his basement. The answer, of course, was, “Of course.”

So, he put in a nice studio. And he filled the house with furniture and invited a bunch of us to hang out there. And make demo tapes. And sleep in the bedrooms. As a homeless musician, I thought this was pretty ideal. The bedrooms were usually taken, though, so I often ended up sleeping on the floor of the studio. But I still have unexpectedly fond feelings for that time.

A few months later, I left for New York City, which is another story. But, I mean—three houses in a row, on a street other than my own, all with strong, positive memories from different eras of my life. I can’t say whether that’s unique or not. But it’s probably improbable. And I think it’s very Cleveland Heights.

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. He writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop music history.
Cain Park announces summer lineup, and free arts festival admission

Jorge Ramos Pantoja

This summer, Cleveland Heights’ Cain Park Arts Festival celebrates 45 years. Admission will be free on all three days of the juried event, July 8, 9 and 10. In addition to the art exhibits, the festival will feature live entertainment, and food concessions will be available.

Cain Park’s summer performance season will kick off on June 9, with “School of Rock the Musical,” and will close on Aug. 21, with a free concert in Cain Park’s Sunday Concert Series.

Residents Day, when the Cain Park Ticket Office opens for Cleveland Heights residents only, is Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To purchase tickets, residents must have photo ID and show proof of residency. For additional information, and tickets, visit www.cainpark.com/316/Residents-Day.

The full summer lineup of musicals, dance, and concerts is below. For information, visit www.cainpark.com. Admission to the three-day Cain Park Arts festival will be free this year.

Jorge Ramos Pantoja is an Emmy-nominated journalist with experience covering global affairs, culture, and breaking news. He now works as a public relations specialist for the city of Cleveland Heights.

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Heights Arts presents a summer Member Show to remember

Tom Masaveg

Heights Arts takes pride in the arts programs it offers, and in the exceptional community of volunteers, staff, board members, patrons and members—all of whom help keep the organization vital. Heights Arts presents a Members Show roughly every other year, to provide a showcase for the talents of its members. The 2021 Members Show opens Friday, June 17, 6–9 p.m., and runs through Sunday, Aug. 14.

This year’s show features art by all of the 38 Heights Arts members who submitted work, offering a diverse exhibition that embodies a rich and persevering collective identity.

The work of the following artists will appear in the show: Cynthia Bearer, Sue Berry, Paula Blackman, Melissa Bloom, Stephen Calhoun, Micheal Costello, Leoma Eckles, Julienne Edberg, Marjorie Falk, Zac Gorell, James A. Hall, Thomas Hanger, Jean Hoffman, Lari Jacobson, Renata Jelito, Beverly Joyce, Amelia Joynes, Tricia Kaman, Jerry Keller, Coretta Kurtsch, Jennifer Leach, Cherie Lesnick, Janet Luken, Janet Mikolajczyk, Charles Mints, Joyce Morrow-Jones, Roy Pekoc, Sam Pekso, Gloria Plevin, Elizabeth Prindle, Betz Richards, Charles Schweigert, Jane Small, Maureen Sylak, Jean Wendland Porter, Will Wilson, Mark Yasenchack, and Denise Ziganti.

Also opening at Heights Arts on June 17 is a powerful solo exhibition by local sculptor and mixed-media artist Wayne Neimi, also a Heights Arts member.

Neimi’s work represents a journey from the mind to the finished composition, on display for all to see and consider. After viewers have experienced his work, Neimi hopes that they walk away with the visual encounter deeply embedded into their memories, to be frequently recalled and revisited.

“When beginning a new work, I am not interested in color, form or anything else,” said Neimi. “I’m interested in expressing basic human emotions—fear, sorrow, doom, happiness, and so on. The materials I use are many and unlimited. Any material that contributes to the development of human emotion will do.”

These simultaneous exhibitions by Heights Arts members encourage viewers to consider the nuances of identity and expression. Heights Arts plans for the June 17 opening of the two shows to be a “normal” public opening, but advises those planning to attend to check its website, heightsarts.org, verify event details, and check for any new or reinstated COVID protocols.

Tom Masaveg is a local public artist specializing in augmented reality installation and graphite works on paper. He’s also the programs manager at Heights Arts. Contact him at programs@heightsarts.org.

Klezmer supergroup takes the stage at Cain Park on June 26

Bert Stratton

Yiddische Pirat (“Jewish Pirate” in Yiddish) is an all-star klezmer band, featuring Jack Stratton (of Vulpeck) on drums; Josh “Socalled” Dolgin on piano, accordion and vocals; and Michael Winograd on clarinet. Yiddische Pirat will perform on Sunday, June 26, 7 p.m., at the 42nd annual free Yiddish Concert at Cain Park.

The concert is not a Vulpeck show. (Vulpeck is a funk-pop band that sold out Madison Square Garden in 2019.) Yiddische Pirat is a straight-ahead klezmer band. Stratton, itsandleader, said, “Our show at Cain Park will be a klezmer-revival revival, meaning we will mostly play golden oldies from the 1990s klezmer revival.”

The “klezmer revival” was the 1970s-1990s renaissance of Eastern European Jewish instrumental music. The revival was, sort of, a Lower East Side pickle with baby-boomer spices. Yiddische Pirat is the next step in the klezmer revival, generationally.

Stratton, who lives in Los Angeles, grew up in Cleveland Heights and is an alumnus of the Cain Park Tennis Camp. He first appeared at Cain Park with Yiddische Cup in 2001, and then with the Josh “Socalled” Dolgin Sextet in 2014.

Clarinetist Winograd, from Brooklyn, N.Y., played with Vulpeck at Madison Square Garden. Winograd has taught clarinet at klezmer conferences throughout the world and is esteemed for his virtuosity and authenticity, as well as his ability to go outside the boundaries of traditional klezmer. He recently released the album “Kosher Style,” and performs with his band, The Honorable Mentshn. Winograd’s first appearance at Cain Park was in 2010 with the New York-based National Yiddish Folk Theatre—Folksbiene.

Dolgin, from Montreal, is a moviemaker, puppeteer, magician, rapper, hip-hop and klezmer artist. He plays piano and accordion, and sings in English and Yiddish. He has toured extensively with clarinetist David Krakauer’s Klezmer Madness, as well as with Abraham Inc., a klezmer-funk group. Dolgin previously performed at Cain Park in 2004 with Shotreiml, the Montreal klezmer band.

The Yiddische Pirat concert at Cain Park is free. Tickets are not necessary. Simply show up prior to 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, for the show at the Evans Amphitheater in Cain Park.

Bert Stratton, of Cleveland Heights, is the leader of Yiddische Cup, and is Jack Stratton’s father. He writes the blog “Klezmer Guy.”
Two UH tastes go great together

Rachel Gross and Libby Stineman.

Mike Cook

If you’re old enough, you certainly remember the Reese’s commercial. A young guy is dancing down the street eating chocolate, while around the corner, a young lady is eating from an open jar of peanut butter with her fingers. (It was the 1970s, and things were weirder then.)

The two collide. She protests that he got his chocolate in her peanut butter, while he expresses the inverse concern about her peanut butter being on his chocolate. But they soon are delighted that, while perhaps unwelcome, blast of garlic is an excellent, salty, sweet, and unique but not awful rendition of the cookie, we couldn’t believe how well they both turned out! The cookies have been flying off our shelves.

The cookie base is slathered with a sweet cream-cheese frosting, and a few already.

The crossover, I couldn’t wait to get into the kitchen,” Stineman said. “It’s a convert. "Being a big fan of both Rachel and Sarah Gross of Bialy’s Bialy’s famous Mish Mosh seasoning." Like our clumsy and hungry pedestrians from a generation ago, two female-owned businesses in University Heights have discovered their own taste sensation—the Mish Mosh Mix Cookie.

Rachel and Sarah Gross of Bialy’s Bagels have teamed up with Libby Stineman of Milk and Cookies on the new taste sensation.

“When Rachel and Sarah suggested creating a Mish Mosh cookie collaboration, I couldn’t wait to get into the kitchen,” Stineman said. “It’s the perfect balance of sweet from my cookie and the salty and savory from Bialy’s famous Mish Mosh seasoning.”

Persistence pays off, said Rachel Gross. “After sending us a few messages, Libby offered to bring us samples of her cookies in hopes of partnering up to collaborate on a cookie. Well, that was all it took! Sarah and I each took one bite of Libby’s Simply Chocolate Chip and knew instantly we wanted to work with her,” she said.

“This cookie was next level!” said Gross. “Mish Mosh Mix goes well on anything, so why not all mixed up in a cookie? Libby’s excitement to work on developing a Mish Mosh Cookie was all the confirmation we needed. When she returned with two renditions of the cookie, we couldn’t believe how well they both turned out! The cookies have been flying off our shelves.”

The two female-owned businesses in University Heights, female-owned business is beyond exciting,” she said.

Raymond J. Wohl, CPA

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Raffle winner announced at 4:45
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9am-4pm Sat. June 11
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