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

Heights Hall of Fame inducts 10

Cathan Cavanaugh

On Sept. 17, the Heights Schools Foundation and the CH-UH City School District inducted 10 Heights High graduates into the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame (HOF), as part of homecoming weekend.

The 2022 inductees are Peter Bendix '04, Al Carr '84, Diana Cohen '97, Nancy Eppler-Wolff '71, Tenessa Gonzalez-Jennings '98, Habbebah Rasheed Grimes '95, Stan Silverman '65, Jerome White '88, Juliana Woda '92, and James Wyban '69.

Addressing their families, friends, and current Heights High students, each member of the new 2022 Hall of Fame cohort shared how their experiences at Heights shaped their successful futures.

Inductee Habbebah Rasheed Grimes recalled feeling, as a young



COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The 2022 Hall of Fame inductees include Habbebah Rasheed Grimes, James Wyban, Peter Bendix, Al Carr, Stan Silverman, Juliana Woda, Tenessa Gonzalez-Jennings, Nancy Eppler-Wolff, and Jerome White. [Not in attendance was Diana Cohen, who delivered her remarks via video.]

child, uncertain of her own potential—until she came to CH-UH schools and met caring teachers who believed in her.

"I felt that love start to chip away at that crushing weight. My desire for all Heights scholars, for young people all across this nation, is

that adults will show you that you have every right to rise, to shine, to be immaculate and brilliant," said Rasheed Grimes.

Each inductee was paired with a current Heights High student, who had an opportunity to get to know

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Heights Eco Fair is Oct. 8



KATRINA WALKER

Visitors to last year's Eco Fair learned about eco-friendly services and lifestyle tips.

Catalina Wagers

The second annual Heights Eco Fair will take place on Oct. 8, noon to 4 p.m., at Coventry PEACE Park.

The Cleveland Heights Green Team (CHGT) again has partnered with Heights Libraries, FutureHeights, and the Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID) to host the fair.

"The Heights Eco Fair was conceived as a space where we could connect Heights residents with all

of the amazing resources that we have in the area to support a more environmentally friendly lifestyle," explained Natalie Elwell, CHGT co-founder. "The fair is designed to raise awareness about issues and solutions, opportunities to volunteer and contribute to ongoing efforts, and to spark ideas for new collaborations."

The lineup of exhibitors and partners is extensive and organized in four categories: Sustainable Liv-

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CH seeks resident input on ARPA funds via survey

Kim Sergio Inglis

The city of Cleveland Heights is asking residents how they would like it to spend its remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

A public input form (survey) posted on the city's website, clevelandheights.gov/arpa, asks residents to prioritize areas of investment, and suggest specific ways in which the funds might be spent.

Cleveland Heights received \$38.8 million ARPA state and local fiscal recovery funds. Of that total, \$10.84 million has not yet been allocated.

According to the city's website, the other \$28.46 million has been allocated as follows:

- \$10 million to make up for lost revenue during the pandemic, so [the city] can continue to provide vital services and make needed capital investments.
- \$18 million for sewer repairs. The city's sewers need major repairs, and using ARPA funds to pay for some of them will help lower future residential and business quarterly sewer bills.
- \$460,000 for premium pay to first responders during the height of the pandemic.

The city has not yet set an end date for the survey.

Residents who lack Internet service can contact CH Council Member Davida Russell (drussell@clevelandheights.gov) to learn how to obtain assistance in completing the survey.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, and is a Cuyaboga County master gardener volunteer.

Library completes Coventry branch renovations

Sheryl Banks

On Jan. 5, 2022, Heights Libraries, the Albert M. Higley Company, and Robert P. Madison International Inc. broke ground on a \$1.7-million renovation project at the library's Coventry Village branch.

Nine months later, contractors have delivered on multiple renovations to the century-old building.

"We are committed to keeping this beloved building in shape for at least another 100 years, and continuing to serve the residents



SHERYL BANKS

Coventry branch staff member Jennifer Herchek gets ready to demonstrate the new AV equipment of this unique neighborhood," said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. "These renovations will do both, with a new elevator and main floor restrooms, new HVAC system, updated electrical, improved staff work areas, and new program and

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Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Articles to be considered for the November issue must be submitted by Oct. 10. We publish some articles online only. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

CH resident issues plea for access to information

Robin Koslen

In 2019, I voted for an elected-mayor form of city government, and the following year I voted for Kahlil Seren. I want him to succeed because, if he does a good job, we all win. I supported his candidacy because of positions he took regarding accountability to voters, community involvement, and an effective working relationship with city council.

I don't know where that candidate went when he became mayor, but I want that first guy back. Although he's been on the job for a short time, it is important to many of us that his current approaches to leadership be re-evaluated and improved.

Candidate Seren was an avid supporter of resident involvement, but Mayor Seren seems less so. In the LWV Voters Guide, the candidate spoke about his dedication to not overstepping the executive role, and to the vital exchange of information between branches of city government needed for an effective relationship with council and for informed decision-making.

Examples of Seren's departure from his campaign rhetoric include his disparaging public remarks about

the city's refuse and recycling task force and a proposed environmental sustainability committee, his subcontracting the city's learn-to-swim program to an outside group without input from the residents who use that program, the removal of staff from citizen advisory groups, and the directive to staff to avoid answering questions from members of city council or from residents.

Residents of Cleveland Heights want and expect to be involved in city government. To do that, we need access to information about how our city is being run. We want our advisory groups to have actual policy input. We want answers when decisions are made on our behalf without public discussion.

Most of what I know about the role of the executive and legislative branches, I learned in my ninth-grade civics class. Our council should be setting policy and enacting legislation. Council members need unfettered access to information to do their jobs effectively. Preventing council members from communicating with city staff is overstepping the executive role, full stop! My assumption is that council members and the mayor have as their mutual goal a

well-functioning community. Access to information is critical to achieving that goal.

The lack of access to information affects other aspects of community life, as well. When I recently requested information about sharing facilities with University Heights from the CH director of parks and recreation, I was told that I needed to get that information from the mayor. Requests for that information from the mayor were met with silence.

I understand that the mayor cannot possibly respond to each and every citizen inquiry. But if staff are not permitted to respond, how can residents and council members get the information they need? That is not what I voted for.

This letter is a plea to the mayor for improvement. Some have suggested that the mayor needs more time to settle into his job and to acquire the skills needed to be an effective executive. I am of the group that believes it is vital that Mayor Seren immediately review and expeditiously implement the positions he took as a candidate.

Robin Koslen, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a mom, grandma, retired teacher, part-time activist, full-time rebel.

CH council members have the right to inquire

Alan Rapoport

A major problem with the operation of government in Cleveland Heights needs immediate correction.

The CH City Charter grants council members a right of inquiry. They cannot order city employees to take actions, but they can approach any city employee privately to ask questions.

This right of inquiry is necessary and beneficial. It allows council members to make informed decisions. It allows them to monitor the performance of city departments. It helps them decide how to allocate financial resources. It prevents them from being totally dependent on what the mayor chooses to tell them.

Unfortunately, the mayor has been frustrating their exercise of this right.

For example, the city's new Employee Handbook states: "The line of communication between Staff and Council runs through the Mayor, pursuant to the City Charter."

It does not refer to the right of inquiry also found in the Charter. Employees must communicate with council members only through the mayor; otherwise, they risk disciplinary action.

The mayor effectively has prohibited conversations between council members and city employees.

A council committee can request that city employees attend its meetings. The mayor, reportedly,

has refused some such requests, claiming they had "no legislative purpose."

But in restricting access to information, the mayor has violated the Charter. He has proclaimed himself sole arbiter of how each council member has a right to inquiry. Imagine the reaction if the President told congressional committees they could not invite federal employees to oversight hearings.

The Charter provides that the mayor "shall attend meetings of any committee of the Council when so required by such committee." But council members must [be able to] learn directly from those who implement city programs. They must learn what government does. They must learn what government might do. They must learn what government cannot do given present resources. Attendance of the mayor at committee meetings is helpful, but not sufficient to keep city council informed.

The mayor may believe direct communication between council members and city employees threatens his authority. But an absence of such direct communication threatens the entire system of government.

The right of inquiry makes council members effective. Without it, they cannot perform oversight and cannot legislate. Without it, council becomes a mere rubber stamp.

The right of inquiry only is meaningful if council members as-

sert and defend it. Hopefully they will. And hopefully, the mayor will recognize its importance to the city and work with council to improve communications.

Alan Rapoport, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, served on CH City Council (1980-87) and as council president/mayor (1982-87).

LIBRARY continued from page 1

meeting spaces in the basement."

"The additional main floor restrooms, basement meeting rooms, and new elevator will improve accessibility for mobility-challenged customers in particular," noted Levin. "No more trips downstairs to go to the bathroom. And our handicapped-accessible entrance, which opens into the basement level by the elevator, is now also on the same floor as the new meeting and program rooms."

For the first time in the building's history, its public meeting room will have AV technology that local groups can use. The new programming room includes a maker space that will allow staff to expand into enriching topics such as culinary literacy and healthy lifestyles.

The new ground-level program rooms also make for easier access to the outdoor property, including the library's PEACE Park, which will enhance and expand activities for children and teens.

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

Correcting the record on the Doan Brook

Christopher Wetherill

I am writing in response to Bert Stratton's opinion, "Hey, where's my lake?" (*Heights Observer*, September 2022.) He made a number of points which were either misleading or simply factually inaccurate, and which bear correcting.

The author takes issue with restoring Horseshoe Lake to, as he puts it, a "primordial" natural environment. Obviously, nobody is advocating goatskin lean-tos as a return to the natural environment, as Stratton suggested. When we talk about restoring a natural environment, it is specifically about mitigating those problems that artificially created reservoirs can cause, and being careful and intentional when we make significant alterations to existing ecosystems. It is expressly not a slippery slope on the way to eschewing modern life and returning to our agrarian pre-historic roots.

Stratton's comments regarding Cumberland Pool and the Cleveland Museum of Art belie further ignorance of the actual issues facing the Doan Brook Watershed. Man-made structures are not inherently at issue here; the central problem is that human activity can have serious,

negative, and long-term effects on local environments and the humans who inhabit them. When this is the case, we should reasonably revisit those old choices and ask ourselves, "Hey, do we think maybe there's a less destructive alternative we could consider?" Nobody is seriously suggesting demolishing the Cleveland Museum of Art; incidentally, it is also not an ecological hazard. It is not a fish-migration barrier; it is not continually filling with sediment; invasive, non-native plants do not proliferate around it and require active management. These issues are, however, abundant in Horseshoe Lake.

To the author's remark that "nobody ever . . . lost her life in a flood in the history of Shaker Lakes," a man did actually lose his life to flooding of the Doan Brook in 1975, after being caught in the flood and swept under a culvert near East 105th Street and East Boulevard. A second drowning occurred during flooding in July 1990. Granted, these deaths predated the ubiquity of the Internet, and the author may be excused for not discovering this in a cursory Google search; however, records of this have been preserved through the

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Nostalgia doesn't save lives

Moshe Koval

I'm writing in response to Bert Stratton's opinion [published in the September 2022 *Heights Observer*], and the "Save Horseshoe Lake" movement, who argue [for] keep[ing] Horseshoe Lake a lake, providing no practical reasons other than pure nostalgia.

There's a reason the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NE-ORSD) is concerned about flooding. If Stratton has been following the goings-on around our country and the world, he'd notice that severe flooding due to climate change and the effect of increasing impervious surfaces is happening more and more.

His dismissal of the direct flooding risk to "that old University Circle brick apartment building," because of the fact that it's the only building at direct risk of being flooded, seems cavalier toward the lives of the people who live there, and his solution to "vacate the ground floor and pour concrete in it" would displace real people in an already tough housing market.

While we can all agree that Horseshoe Lake looked beautiful while completely filled, I personally find much beauty in its current state as well. Migratory shorebirds have been flocking to the wetland habitat that partially draining the lake has created, and the diverse habitats of having a lake in Lower Shaker Lake, and a marsh-like native wetland at the Nature Center have been quite successful at attracting songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

I encourage everyone to take the survey "Doan Brook Restoration Near Horseshoe Lake Park" that the NE-ORSD has created to seek input from citizens, and suggest options for a sustainable, beautiful tomorrow. Change can be good, and is often necessary.

Moshe Koval is a student who lives in Cleveland Heights.

Vote for more Heights representation

Gary Benjamin

As city leader for the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, one of my tasks is to look at voting patterns in Cleveland Heights. For example, in November 2018, more than 21,000 people voted in the Senate race won by Sherrod Brown. That vote was overwhelmingly Democratic—21,438 for Brown and 266 for his opponent. There were 35,474 registered voters, so our turnout was 61 percent. This makes Cleveland Heights a political powerhouse whose votes are necessary to elect state Democratic leadership.

In Cleveland Heights we already have two sitting Supreme Court Justices elected in a statewide election, and now we have our own Cheryl Stephens on the Democratic ticket for Lieutenant Governor.

Most of us who vote know who Cheryl is—former Cleveland Heights City Council member; former vice mayor and mayor of our city; and, presently our Cuyahoga County Council member.

She's been a rock-solid person on policy and practice, and is especially strong in economic development. Her day job is CEO of the East Akron

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

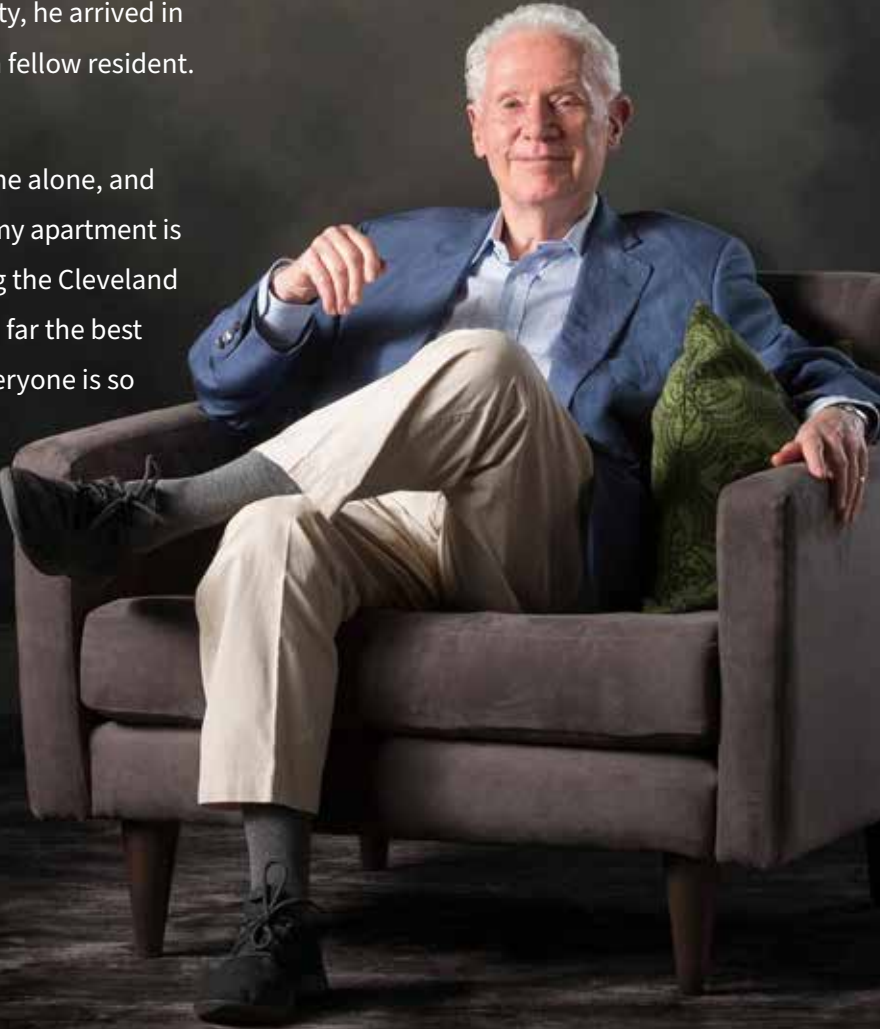
“Expanding my curiosity about life is what it's all about.”

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. He'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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MANGIA

CH has a chance to lead on lead safety



HEIGHTS OF
DEMOCRACY

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

Cleveland Heights' best feature may be its great variety of century-old homes; yet these charming beauties harbor a threat to the lifelong health of our children. Lead-based paint was not banned in the United States until 1978. Houses built earlier unquestionably contain lead.

Eradicating all traces of lead-based paint from an old house is exorbitantly expensive, requiring replacement of windows, doors, walls and soil, and installation of new exterior siding. Increasingly, U.S. cities are requiring more practical measures, called "interim controls." If applied correctly, these methods can significantly reduce lead in and around a home. They consist of keeping the original pre-1978 paint contained, or "encapsulated" by new paint, and covering bare soil with grass, ground covers or mulch. The resulting environment is not lead-free, but, if properly maintained, is much safer. ("Lead-safe" is the technical term.)

Even when lead paint is successfully encapsulated, friction from opening and closing pre-1978 windows and doors inevitably produces fine lead dust, which young children ingest when putting their hands in their mouths. Once poisoned, a child

suffers lifelong cognitive, behavioral and physical health consequences.

Making a home safer for children younger than 6 is a two-part process. Even with interim controls in place, parents or other caregivers must minimize dust by frequently cleaning floors, windowsills and other surfaces, and by washing children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys.

Throughout much of the U.S., lead hazards are identified only after a child is diagnosed as poisoned. In other words, the vulnerable bodies of young children comprise our lead-detection system. However, in recent decades, one-by-one, cities have begun to institute preventive programs, and some have reduced lead poisoning dramatically.

To launch and operate a successful lead-safe program, a city's building, housing and communications departments must be fully staffed and competently led. Inspectors must be thoroughly trained, professionally licensed, conscientious, and scrupulously honest. Frankly, this is a heavy lift for many cities.

In 2019, Cleveland City Council, responding to pressure from Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) and other groups, enacted an ordinance to tackle the problem of lead in older rental homes.

Last year, then-Cleveland Heights council member (now mayor) Kahlil Seren drafted legislation closely modeled on Cleveland's.

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The benefit was held Aug. 20 at Proximity Golf, located in the historic Heights Rockefeller Building.

Cumberland Pool is good for CH



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Labor Day always marks the end of the swimming season at Cumberland Pool. It's a disappointing moment for me and the rest of the swimming crowd. I've spent as much time as possible at this community treasure during the last 40 summers. It is where we get to hang out together and encounter friends and strangers who share our interests. This is a public space, and the public uses it!

I love the sounds of splashing water, youthful horsing around, and quiet conversations. It's the best place to cool off, exercise, watch the clouds and feel like I'm part of our community.

You can enjoy the pool at every stage of life. Little kids cool off, play and learn to swim—a life skill. Teenagers have an inviting place to enjoy with their friends. Young families have a destination where they can discover other young families. And lap swimmers have plenty of space to work out.

The pool is also a workplace for lifeguards and other staff. It's a wonderful place for our high schoolers to build their résumés, while they keep us safe and serve as role models for younger kids. Each year these

energetic young people work with the kids to pull off a water show for the community—another project with multiple benefits.

There is nothing that epitomizes the Cumberland experience more than the deep-water aerobics class that meets on Saturdays. Joyce Braverman, who grew up in the neighborhood and for whom summer vacation meant going to the pool, has been teaching the class for nearly 25 years. It's a multi-generational gathering of mostly women who strap on flotation belts and go through a series of exercises that help develop core strength. Many have participated for years.

Braverman, the Shaker Heights planning director, said she has stuck with the Saturday class she loves because, "It is good exercise and allows people to get moving at their own pace. And it builds community."

When I watched the class on the final Saturday of the swim season, there were about 20 women spread across the diving area in neat lines. Braverman would raise her voice to give directions, and the swimmers would, in a seemingly effortless fashion, change position or move to a different location, all while maintaining their conversations. It's both a physical and social activity! At the end of the class, they gathered for a farewell picnic.

The exercise class is a commu-

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Cartoon by Anne Skove | Reprinted from Funny Times

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Flooding at UH Library causes damage and service changes

Sheryl Banks

Beginning Aug. 27, the lower level of the University Heights branch of the Heights Libraries experienced flooding that lasted, off and on, for roughly two weeks. The lower level is home to the branch's children and teen areas, including the collections for both age groups.

While flooring, walls, and built-in furniture were severely damaged, none of the collection was damaged, thanks to the work of the University Heights staff.

"Our staff was truly heroic," said Sara Phillips, University Heights branch manager. "They worked non-stop over the course of eight hours to move about 14,000 items up to the first floor. I don't know how we did it—I guess it's because we had to."

Phillips also sang the praises of SafeSteam, a Solon-based water-remediation company that removed roughly 10,000 gallons of water from the building. The company has also removed damaged flooring, walls, and built-in desks and cabinetry; sanitized the spaces; and performed mold testing to ensure that staff and customers are safe in the building.

Phillips said she is optimistic

that the building can reopen its main floor to the public on Oct. 3. Staff have converted the building's first-floor meeting rooms into a temporary children's section, and the northeast corner of the main floor into a temporary home for the teen collection. Adult services will continue, with public computers and seating still available. However, the small study rooms will be unavailable until further notice due to their current use as storage for items rescued from the lower level and as staff work spaces. The lower level will remain closed until further notice.

The cause of the flooding is still under investigation, and the library administration has been communicating with the city of University Heights as well as the Cleveland Water Department to determine what could have been the cause.

Customers are encouraged to call the branch at 216-321-4700, or check the Heights Libraries website (heightslibrary.org) and social media, before heading to the building, as the situation could change quickly.

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

DOAN BROOK continued from page 3

Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, in *The Doan Brook Handbook*.

It is difficult to agree with Stratton's proposition that the flooding of an apartment building is a reasonable sacrifice to make in order to preserve a reservoir that no longer serves the purpose for which it was built. I doubt that the residents of that apartment building share his views. Regardless, this is an explicitly misleading statement by Stratton: Although that specific apartment building may indeed be impacted by flooding, it is not the only structure at risk. Major flooding along Cedar Hill, and of University Circle, has occurred (non-exhaustively) in 1901, 1956, 1959, 1962, 1975, 1976, 1990, 1994 and 2018.

Everyone, of course, is entitled to their own opinions on the future of Horseshoe Lake. However, the author's bad faith arguments and fractured logic are nothing if not disheartening. If he simply happens to like the view of Horseshoe Lake's north bank, that he sees out his front window, that's a valid perspective. If he believes that the ecological and hydrological consequences of the reservoir can

be mitigated, that's a valid perspective.

Unfortunately, Stratton's opinion simply employs slippery-slope fallacies, appeals to fear, and cherry-picks facts to dissemble whatever his actual motivations for wanting to preserve the Horseshoe Lake dam might be.

Christopher Wetherill is a resident of University Heights.



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To: Residents of Shaker Heights
and Cleveland Heights

AMOUNT:
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What do we know about the Sewer District's Plans for Doan Brook?

The Sewer District has NOT committed to paying the full cost of Doan Brook park. Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights Residents could be left to foot the bill. If the cities couldn't pay to maintain Horseshoe Lake, where will the funds come from to maintain this proposed park?

**Don't let the Sewer District Destroy Horseshoe Lake and
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Fill out our survey on the future
of Horseshoe Lake here



Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

AUGUST 15, 2022 - regular meeting

Present were Mayor Kahlil Seren, Council President Melody Joy Hart, Council Vice President Craig Cobb, and council members Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Josie Moore, and Davida Russell. Law Director William Hanna also attended the meeting.

Public comments

Three residents spoke in favor of, and five in opposition to, the proposed charter amendment regarding council's right of inquiry. Several speakers, both pro and con, criticized council members for their rude and unprofessional treatment of one another.

Charter amendment

Council rejected a proposed charter amendment to [go on the ballot] in November 2022. Voting yes were council members Cuda, Larson, Moore, and Russell. Voting no were council members Cobb, Hart, and Mattox. (Five votes are required to approve a charter amendment proposal.) The proposal [sought to] amend the charter to formalize procedures for council to request information from department heads and the police and fire chiefs.

Other council actions

Council appointed an Assessment Equalization Board to hear objections to assessments for public services plans for the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Council authorized purchase of real property at 13234-13238 Cedar Road for \$765,000.

Council authorized an agreement with Link Computer Corporation for purchase, installation, and maintenance of the Muni-Link software system for utility billing.

Council member comments on the proposed charter amendment

Tony Cuda (pro): The charter is vague on how council exercises its right of inquiry, and the amendment will clarify the matter.

Josie Moore (pro): Council needs information to legislate, advocate for residents, and respond to residents' questions.

Gail Larson (pro): Council needs access to

information to respond to citizens' requests, avoid duplicating administrative efforts, and legislate responsibly.

Anthony Mattox Jr. (con): Previous charter amendments have not been thoroughly reviewed and have created problems. The current proposal leaves critical elements ill-defined. Instead, a Charter Review Commission should be established.

Davida Russell (pro): City staff need to be protected, but council cannot do its job if prohibited from communicating with staff.

Craig Cobb (con): The proposal undermines the new strong-mayor form of government. It is the responsibility of council and the mayor to develop productive working relationships, which is better done outside the charter. A comprehensive charter review is necessary.

Melody Hart (con): The charter needs to be reviewed as a whole. Council and the mayor working together to develop a process for [sharing] information is a more flexible method.

Other council member comments

Hart explained that criticisms of council members' interactions have been heard, and that it is necessary [that council members] maintain decorum and treat one another with respect.

LWV Observer: Jill Tatem.

AUGUST 22, 2022 - special meeting

Mayor Kahlil Seren was not present. All council members were present.

Clerk of council

On first reading, council appointed Addie Balester as clerk of council, effective Aug. 22. Anthony Mattox Jr. voted no.

LWV Observer: Jill Tatem.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 - regular meeting

Council Vice President Craig Cobb was not present. All other council members were present, as were the mayor, clerk of council, and law director.

Clerk of council

Addie Balester was sworn in as clerk of council.

Mayor's report

Mayor Seren described the work of Heights Community Congress (HCC) in making Cleveland



Heights an inclusive community, and congratulated HCC on its 50th anniversary. He presented proclamations recognizing the 1972 St. Ann Audit of Real Estate Practices, by Suzanne Nigro, Lana Powell, Linda Johnston, Nancy Cappelletti, and Jeanne Martin-Diamond, which demonstrated racial bias and discriminatory practices among real estate companies in Cleveland Heights.

Racial Justice Task Force

Rhonda Davis Lovejoy, Gary Benjamin, Lisa Hunt, and Robert Lampley of the city's Racial Justice Task Force presented interim reports from the Housing and Economic Mobility, Health and Education, and Public Safety subcommittees.

Council actions

Council approved several pieces of legislation on first reading, including three resolutions approving the reports of assessment equalization boards hearing objections to assessments for expenses for 1) street lighting, 2) improvement of streets and parkways, and 3) the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District public services plan; and three ordinances implementing assessments for expenses of the above.

Union agreement

Council approved compensation rates and benefits negotiated with the Laborers' Local 860 Laborers' International Union of North America.

Lead-safe ordinance

Presented on second reading, but with no vote, was an ordinance requiring rental units constructed before 1978 to be certified lead safe as a condition for obtaining a rental occupancy permit.

Council member comments

Tony Cuda expressed concerns about some elements of the process used to revise the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, and urged improvements before the next time a SID is expanded. He also advocated starting a discussion about a charter review initiative.

LWV Observer: Jill Tatem.

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

COMMON GOOD continued from page 6

nity. When the pool was closed earlier in the pandemic, the regulars met at Cumberland to celebrate birthdays in drive-by parades; and when one of the senior members, Sheila Blechman, passed away, they honored her life with an artistic balloon sendoff.

The swimming pool is one example of something that social scientist and *Palaces for the People* author Eric Klinenberg calls social infrastructure—physical places that shape the way people interact. The face-to-face contact that occurs naturally when people have a place to interact are the building blocks of public life. “When people engage in sustained, recurrent interaction, particularly while doing things they enjoy,” he noted, “relationships inevitably grow. . . . Building places where all kinds of people can gather is the best way to repair the fractured societies we live in today.”

The Cumberland community is made up of all kinds of people whose summer routines include time at the pool. We are enriched by the time we spend there, and the benefits last beyond swim season. Our experiences nurture pride in our community, and anticipation of the next swim season helps us get through the winter.

Susie Kaeser 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.

INDUCTEES continued from page 1

the alum, and then introduced the honoree at the ceremony.

Peter Bendix is the general manager of Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays. At age 37, he is among the youngest to hold that position in the league.

Al Carr was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2007, after a 20-year career in telecommunications. He is currently serving his third term representing the state's 18th District.

Diana Cohen, concertmaster of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra since 2012, performs in concerts across the globe. She is founder and co-artistic director of the acclaimed ChamberFest Cleveland, and ChamberFest West in Calgary.

Nancy Eppler-Wolff is a sought-after expert and author in the field of child development. She has been in private clinical practice in New York City for more than 25 years.

Tenessa Gonzalez-Jennings is an Emmy Award-winning executive producer for E.W. Scripps in San Diego. She also won a prestigious National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence in Television award in 2021.

Habbebah Rasheed Grimes is CEO of Positive Education Program (PEP), leading a staff of 450 professionals committed to supporting healing in children. *Crain's Cleveland Business* named her one of its 2022 Women of Note.

Stan Silverman, dean and professor emeritus at The University of Akron, and president of Human Resource Decisions Inc., has trained thousands of students, employees and executives in workplace leadership.

Jerome White, a longtime art educator in CH-UH district schools, is a dynamic community artist and activist. His recent commissions include the Heights HOF mural, and a series for Cleveland's historic League Park.

Juliana Woda is a lab manager, experiment designer, evaluator and consultant. She is co-founder of Clarametyx, a company that combats antibiotic resistance.

Jim Wyban developed SPF (specific pathogen-free) shrimp, and is the world's foremost authority in the field. His work transformed the industry, adding \$225 billion to the global shrimp economy.

Now in its 42nd year, the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame honors individuals for their outstanding accomplishments and service to their community.

Since 1981, a total of 431 Heights High graduates have been inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Cathan Cavanaugh is the supervisor of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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HEIGHTS OBSERVER
Published by Future Heights

LEI cookbook stirs up community connections

Maya Watkins

Food and cooking bring people together, linking families and communities. They are an integral part of the stories we tell, and how we connect to others. In the spirit of such connections, Lake Erie Ink (LEI) has launched a Creative Community cookbook project that aims to bring people together through shared recipes and stories.

The cookbook is the latest iteration of an ongoing project that LEI launched in 2020—the Creative Community Challenge.

Originally conceived as a way to bridge social isolation during the quarantine, each challenge is open to all ages and all types of writing and art.

It asks contributors to submit creative work on a given theme, culminating in an anthology and a storefront display.

The project brings together people of all ages from the community to share their stories in a myriad of different forms.

This fall, a collaborative cookbook, *Stirring Stories*, will be LEI's seventh Challenge.

The book will feature recipes, writing and art from LEI students and the Greater Cleveland community, as well as recipes from local chefs, including Shawnda Moye, Doug Katz, and Tommy Fello.

Imagine someone cooking your favorite meal, filling the air with the most amazing scents. Are they sweet or savory? Is it a special occasion? Who is in the kitchen? Entire scenes can be conjured by tastes and smells.

Every recipe has a story that goes with it. Eating a certain dish can evoke memories of specific places and times, and the person who invented the recipe or passed it down. Stories about food are the stories of who we are and where we've been.

Lake Erie Ink invites community members to share favorite recipes and stories this fall, and participate in this creative culinary experience. The resulting publication will be printed and available at local bookstores and other shops. Each contributor will receive a free copy.

To learn more about the project, or to submit a recipe, writing, and art, visit Lake Erie Ink's website, www.lakeerieink.org/creative-community-challenge/.

The deadline for submissions is Nov. 6.

Maya Watkins is the program operations coordinator at Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth. She is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, and a graduate of Hiram College.

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by Jayda D., a former LEI student, 2018

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Disciples Christian Church offers monthly community



Guests enjoy a community meal at Disciples Christian Church.

Ronald Werman



Since August 2008, Disciples Christian Church has been hosting a community meal on the fourth Thursday of each month (with the exception of November, when it moves to the third Thursday). The event brings together church members and neighbors from the community to share a meal and fellowship. All are welcome.


When the pandemic hit in March 2020, coordinator Sandy Taylor-Welch changed the normal routine, providing “to go” home-cooked dinners that guests could come to the church parking lot to pick up. The dinners are always available on a first-come, first-served basis.

This past summer, with a tent erected in the church’s courtyard, guests had the option of eating under the tent or taking the meals to go. Starting on Thursday, Oct. 27, the meals will be served indoors from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (depending on the COVID risk level), and “to go” dinners will also be available. Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road, in Cleveland Heights. For additional information, call 216-382-5344, or visit the church’s website, www.discipleschristian.org.

Ronald Werman is an elder and a member of the communications team at Disciples Christian Church.

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Green Team sponsors e-media recycling drive Oct. 1–8

Natalie Elwell

From Oct. 1 through Oct. 8, the Cleveland Heights Green Team (CHGT), in partnership with Heights Libraries, will be collecting all types of compact discs (CDs); video games; DVDs; Blu-ray discs; 3.5" and 5.25" floppy disks; Zip and Jaz disks; and media cases.

Large blue recycling bins for the items will be located inside the lobbies of all four Heights Libraries branches—Coventry Village, Lee Road, Noble Neighborhood, and University Heights.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District (CCSWD) recently partnered with GreenDisk, a company that provides secure disposal of intellectual property stored on electronic media, and other techno trash.

Because GreenDisk partners with a nationwide network of for-profit and non-profit companies, the formerly almost-impossible-to-recycle materials can be dropped off for eco-friendly processing.

"The materials are ground up and used in the creation of automotive parts, appliance components, and as a compounding base to make other plastics," explained Matt Walters, recycling programs coordinator at CCSWD.

The media collected in the bins

will be transported to the CCSWD office in Garfield Heights. "Residents can be assured that sensitive data will be securely destroyed," said Walters. "This is why we chose to partner with GreenDisk. We have 100% confidence in their ability to safely dispose data and techno trash in an environmentally responsible manner."

According to Walters, a common question he receives has to do with ways to safely dispose of items in an eco-friendly manner.

"We ask people to not place discs and media in their curbside recycling," said Walters. "There are several options for people to free up space and avoid the landfill. We advise people to resell, donate, repurpose, and, when all else fails, recycle."

If the product is in good working condition, Heights' residents may want to consider reselling their CDs, DVDs, and video games at stores such as The Exchange on Coventry Road.

Residents with working-condition media can also bring them to the Eco Fair at Coventry PEACE Park on Oct. 8, from noon to 4 p.m. for the fair's media swap.

If donating is a preferred choice for some, the Waste District's website offers a comprehensive list of

nonprofits (https://cuyahogarecycles.org/CDs_DVDs_video_games).

And for the inventive mind, repurposing these materials into something new can be extremely satisfying. DIY sites and blogs offer inspiration and ideas.

If you miss the local drive, CCSWD accepts these items at its offices (4750 E. 131st St., Garfield Heights) Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on the second Saturday

of each month, from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, visit www.chgreenteam.org or www.cuyahogarecycles.org.

Natalie Elwell is director of gender equity practice at World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C. She is co-founder of the Cleveland Heights Green Team. She works remotely, and dedicates her free time to advocate for environmental protection and activism.

ECO FAIR continued from page 1

ing; Healthy Living; Eco Kids; and Swap Zone, where residents will have the opportunity to bring their unwanted, but in working condition, CDs, video games and DVDs, as well as children's books. They can swap or take media and books. Leftovers will be recycled by GreenDisk, or donated to organizations in need.

The fair will also feature performances by local artists, healthy and sustainably sourced food for purchase, a community bike ride organized by Bike Cleveland and the Heights Bike Coalition, and yoga and dance in the park.

"One major addition to this year's program is an art exhibit by CH-UH High School students," noted Elwell.

About 250 students have been working on upcycle-art projects since the start of the school year, utilizing materials from within the school building that would otherwise have ended up in the trash. Visitors will get a chance to view the students' works of art and vote on their favorites.

"It is evident from their classroom discussions that environmental issues weigh heavily on the minds of our students," said Sarah Cooper, Heights High studio art teacher. "It is empowering for them to make a small impact in the amount of waste that would have ended up in a landfill. I think that working to create an exhibit for the Eco Fair has really helped students in our Heights community to think differently about what 'trash' is."

"This event provides a fun, connective, and inspiring place for our

community to join us in learning about how to live more equitably," commented Mallory Kent, executive director of CVSID. "With businesses all over our district that cut down on plastic, participate in neighborhood cleanups, support sustainable and local shopping, and keep a vibrant resale/vintage cycle going, we're happy to have the Eco Fair in our neighborhood."

"The Eco Fair is a fantastic community-building event where Heights' residents can participate in hands-on activities that can increase their awareness of sustainability practices, while introducing them to a wide variety of vendors with expertise in earth-friendly techniques and pro-tips," said Sarah Wolf, community-building programs manager at FutureHeights.

"People of all ages from all across the Heights and beyond will find something that connects with them at the fair," said Elwell, "be that artful expressions of love and concern for the planet, gathering or disseminating information on sustainability, offering eco-friendly services, swapping goods, sharing tips for naturally healthy lifestyles, or finding comfort in a collective of people working and living to make the world a better place."

Visit www.chgreenteam.org for a complete list of activities, exhibitors, performances, and parking information. Those interested in volunteering at the event can sign up online.

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

VOTE continued from page 4

Neighborhood Development Corporation, a major developer of affordable housing in the Akron/Canton area. Cheryl's work on reinvestment in redlined areas has been a centerpiece of her career.

Having folks from Cleveland Heights in the state government gives us a chance to show what our values are across the state. Nan Whaley and Cheryl speak of protecting reproductive rights, working to control gun violence, ending racial discrimination, providing jobs and housing on an equitable basis, protecting public education so all children can have an opportunity to succeed in life, building healthy and safe neighborhoods. Diversity, equity and inclusion—those are all solid Cleveland Heights values.

If that is not enough to persuade

you, remember that the DeWine administration presided over the biggest scandal in the country. Some now call his governorship the administration from First Energy, which paid \$61 million in bribes to buy the government First Energy wanted. Two GOP speakers of the [state] house have had to resign because of corruption scandals. A prior governor ended up convicted of a crime of filing incomplete financial reports. Then there was "coin gate." Maybe the swamp in Columbus is bigger than the one in D.C., eh? It's been too long that one party has been in power. Time for a change.

Vote the entire Democratic slate!

Gary Benjamin is a local civil rights attorney and is married to CH Council Member Melody Hart.

HEIGHTS DEMOCRACY continued from page 5

If adopted, Ordinance 78-2021 would make Cleveland Heights the first Northeast Ohio suburb with an ambitious plan to reduce child lead poisoning. Various sources of funding are available to cushion financial consequences for landlords only after lead-safe legislation is enacted.

Council is now considering 78-2021, which would apply to rental homes, schools and childcare facilities. As in Cleveland, a rental unit in Cleveland Heights would have to be certified lead-safe by a state-licensed technician before the city could issue an occupancy certificate.

Why limit the focus to rentals? They generally turn over much more often than owner-occupied homes; therefore, each rental unit potentially affects many more children.

We are excited about this move to protect our city's youngest residents, and support passage of 78-2021—with some crucial amendments. We urge council not to pass it without at least these changes and additions:

- Close every possible loophole, so unscrupulous landlords cannot avoid requirements.
- Require all repair, renovation and painting (RRP in technical jargon), not just lead remediation, to be performed according to lead-safe standards.
- Consider adding exterior painting to the list of renovations requiring permits.
- The ordinance assumes work will be done by paid contractors, but many small landlords do their own repairs, sometimes with the help of family or friends. Make the law work for them.
- Build in an education component,

and require a multi-pronged communications campaign, so that all parents of young children living in pre-1978 housing, whether owners or renters, are made aware of the importance of regular practices to remove lead dust. Lead-safe training for do-it-yourself owners should be available, perhaps through the Home Repair Resource Center.

- The ordinance creates a Lead-Safe Advisory Board. Require board meetings to be publicly announced and open to the public, to adhere to all other provisions of the Open Records Law.

If Cleveland Heights is to realize the laudable intentions behind 78-2021, certain conditions at city hall and in the city must change. Rental units lacking occupancy certificates must be identified and the owners rigorously pursued. Dealing with increasing numbers of out-of-town landlords will require close coordination between inspectors and the city's housing court.

Most importantly, the administration must bring the building department back in-house, fully staff inspectional services, and hire highly capable leaders to run these vital programs. If Mayor Seren can meet these goals, his lead-safe initiative will have a chance to succeed.

[Our thanks to Spencer Wells and Stu Greenberg for helping us to understand lead-safe policy, terminology and other issues addressed in this column.]

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg are writers, editors and longtime residents of Cleveland Heights. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.

Outdoor learning at Gearity



The cob oven at Gearity school.

Laura Marks

Heights High teacher Steve Warner has an enduring passion to get students learning, working, and playing outdoors. Warner has guided students through many outdoor projects, including building pollinator gardens. One of the highlights of this past summer occurred when he and students made s'mores in the cob oven at Gearity elementary school in University Heights.

"Cob" is a building technique that uses a mixture of mud and straw to make a weather- and fire-resistant structure. In 2015, Warner was part of the team that expanded Gearity's outdoor learning spaces to include the cob pizza oven, a large high-tunnel greenhouse, and several outdoor classrooms.

"I like seeing the kids enjoying themselves outside. Hopefully, one day the kids can enjoy the outdoors during the school day as well," Warner said.

For the past few years, Amit Shuck, who runs Imitating Eden Garden Design, and Paul Gustafson, a CH-UH teacher, have tended the garden at Gearity, working especially hard during the summer to keep the garden thriving.

The garden comprises a variety of plants, including a huge, fruitful fig tree in the high tunnel. "It's amazing how many figs are on a tree that is not even supposed to grow in Cleveland's climate," said Warner.

Shuck also leads an ongoing fundraiser for the garden by sharing the produce from it through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Members of the CSA pick up fresh food twice a week.

The Gearity garden is full of learning opportunities, and learning outdoors has been shown to improve the health of students and teachers. For example, COVID and other respiratory diseases are less transmissible outside in fresh air. Learning outdoors also has been shown to raise test scores, and kids with ADHD can expand their energy into the greater space of the outdoors.

Although it is challenging to bring students outside, due to logistics and the busy schedules of the school day, Warner hopes the cob oven and other outdoor facilities at Gearity will be used more in years to come.

"Maybe, one day, the outdoor spaces at all the CH-UH schools will be used for learning," Warner said.

Laura Marks's family moved to Cleveland Heights in 1855. She is a member of Heights Tree People.



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October 16
Where Have All the (Affordable) Houses Gone?
Speakers: Sally Martin and Tim Kobie, both of Cleveland Building and Housing Department; Ayonna Blue Donald, Ohio Market, Enterprise Community Partners

October 23
Financial Challenges of Healthcare
Speaker: Donna Graham, Revenue Cycle, MetroHealth Medical Center

October 30
**Midterm Elections: Meltdown,
Referendum or Party Switching?**
Speaker: Tom Sutton, Community Research Institute,
Baldwin Wallace University

November 6
**Clean Water: You Don't Know
What You've Got 'til It's Gone**
Speakers: Kristin Hall, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District,
and Judy Huichun, CWRU Civil Engineering

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Cleveland Heights – University Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights

AUGUST 16, 2022 – work session
Board members present were President Malia Lewis, James Posch, Jodi Sourini, and Beverly Wright. Dan Heintz was not present. Also present were Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby and Treasurer Scott Gainer.

Strategic plan update

Representatives from groups working on the district's strategic plan presented progress on several specific goals.

Goal Three (Family and Community) was presented by Cathan Cavanagh, Nancy Pepler, and Lisa Hunt. In September, schools will develop the means to measure the impact of community partnerships and how they align with school goals. The Noble program is part of the Ohio 21st Century Grants program designed to provide after-school enrichment in math and English, youth development, and family engagement. Extending the program to Oxford Elementary School is being discussed.

Development of the districtwide communication plan is ongoing.

The Educational Equity Policy is accessible on the district's website, under Academics.

Goal Four (Valued Professionals) was presented by Paul Lombardo, who announced a \$50,000 Educators Rising Ohio Grant [has been] awarded to the district by the Ohio Department of Education. It is designed to diversify the teaching staff and is also referred to as the Grow Your Own Program.

The schools will undergo threat-assessment training using the MTSS partnership (Multi-Tiered System of Supports Professional Development and Implementation Services). Vulnerability assessment will focus on arrival and dismissal scenarios. The Safe School Advisory Committee includes cleaners and staff.

Goal Five (Operational Resources) was presented by George Petkac and Christina Bauer. Petkac presented an overview of maintenance and building projects. The master facilities plans are updated, and a new system has been implemented to track projects and reports. Current capital improvements include school window projects, the kitchen at Roxboro, and the bus depot.

Bauer discussed cybersecurity concerns and a need for security awareness training for users.

Treasurer's report

Scott Gainer encouraged people to follow the Ohio legislature as it discusses the Ohio Biennial Budget, which includes the school funding plan.

LWV Observer: Rosemarie Fairman.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 – regular meeting
All board members were present, as were the superintendent and treasurer.

Board actions

The board approved the development of Community Learning Centers. This research-based strategy will support implementation of Full-Service Community Schools. The approved

statement of support, available on Board-Docs, provides details about the program.

Superintendent's comments

Focus on Title IX update: G-W Comprehensive Health Skills series was purchased after collaborating with teachers to review options. Textbooks and online access for secondary students aligns with the National Health Education Standards and the National Sexuality Education Standards. The new health curriculum has a consent component.

Treasurer's report

Scott Gainer shared "Three Things" for the month of September. His report aligns with Goal Five (Operational Resources) of the CH-UH strategic plan. Financial reports and forecasts can be found on the district's website, under Finance & Development.

1. The Permanent Improvement (PI) fund is only for building projects and has specific restrictions. Board members commented that the PI fund reflects planning that provides the community with stability, and said they appreciate the transparency of the reports being accessible on the website.

2. Public record requests increased, but many requests did not meet the definition of a public record. The public record request process and clarification of the Ohio Sunshine Law are reviewed on the district's website. A public record is an existing document or record, not vague or summarized information. People are encouraged to reach out to board members to clarify such information. Malia Lewis said that it's easy to contact board members by e-mail or phone. Public record requests are audited, and the district takes requests seriously.

3. Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) is part of the Fair School Funding Plan, and the dollars spent must be reported. Reporting DPIA funds distribution is a districtwide effort to gather data on CH-UH programs.

The Ohio Department of Education requests more than disadvantaged pupil data. Individual components of reported data allow for school district comparisons relevant to the Fair School Funding Plan. [See District Profile Reports (Cupp Report) online at <https://education.ohio.gov>.] Jodi Sourini noted that the data clarifies differences between school districts as presented in the Cupp Report. Funding varies depending on student population.

[Note: The LWV Observer viewed this meeting via YouTube. The sound did not come on until 25 minutes into the meeting, as Superintendent Kirby was concluding her report. Part of this report was assembled from the PowerPoint presentations and agenda notes.]

LWV Observer: Rosemarie Fairman.

Documents for all board meetings can be accessed online at www.chuh.org/BoardofEducation.aspx. Board meetings are livestreamed at www.youtube.com/CHUHSchools, and recorded for later viewing.

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Libraries will host Oct. 16 'homecoming' celebrations

Sheryl Banks

Fall is the season for homecoming celebrations. High schools, colleges and universities invite alumni to reunite with old classmates, visit campuses, and see how their schools—and classmates—have changed. Former students stroll through their old dorms and student centers, then visit the new stadium or the new computer science building. It's a comforting combination of old and new.

Heights Libraries will have its own homecoming celebration on Sunday, Oct. 16, 1:30–4 p.m., at every branch. Community members are invited to visit their neighborhood library to meet new staff, reconnect with existing staff, and learn about what's new since they last visited.

Since the COVID pandemic struck in 2020, Heights Libraries' circulation and visitor numbers have dipped as a result of periodic library building closures and restrictions, such as social distancing

and mask-wearing, which made programming difficult. However, library staff took advantage of those quieter times to create new resources and services: A new Local History Room at the Lee Road branch, a new STEAM Lab at the HKIC, new meeting rooms at the Coventry Village branch that feature space for culinary programs, a revitalized children's garden at the Noble Neighborhood branch, and weekly take-and-make projects for all ages at the University Heights branch, to name just a few innovations.

The Oct. 16 homecoming events will feature refreshments and activities for all ages, and customers who check out more than 10 items will get a free tote bag, while supplies last.

More information is available at heightslibrary.org.

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



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Cleveland Heights – University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



AUGUST 1, 2022

Board members present were Gabe Crenshaw, Dana Fluellen, Annette Iwamoto, and Tyler McTigue. Patti Carlyle, Max Gerbec, and Vikas Turakhia were not present.

Public comments

Krista Hawthorne, board president of Coventry PEACE Inc., provided 501(c)3 verification, which could be used for the library to issue a check for utility overage. Hawthorne stated that [tenants] have received letters of intent, which were under review, and that mediation has not yet been scheduled.

Additional comments were made by a member of the public regarding Coventry PEACE Campus. They included statements about the benefit of nonprofit involvement in development of Coventry PEACE Campus, and [comparisons] to the practice(s) in place with the West Side Market in the city of Cleveland.

Operations Committee

The board reviewed recommendations from the Operations Committee and approved repairs needed for the HVAC M3 and M4 AC units, totaling \$47,380; and two electrically powered sliding doors for the Lee Road walkway, with fire safety breakaway components, totaling \$26,254, from the Building and Repair Fund. Additionally, the board approved the Public Library Fund allocation of about 4.8 percent to the Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library System.

LWV Observer: Khaliah Fisher-Grace.

Information about the board, board meeting minutes, and audio recordings of board meetings can be found at <https://heightslibrary.org/locations/heights-libraries-board>.

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MetroHealth expands services at its CH campus



MetroHealth's 3D Mobile Mammography Van visits its CH facility on Tuesdays.

Angela Townsend

The MetroHealth Cleveland Heights Behavioral Health Hospital, opening Oct. 8, is the latest expansion of comprehensive care provided at MetroHealth's Severance Circle facility.

The new behavioral health hospital will provide inpatient care for people struggling with depression, substance abuse, and more. Outpatient behavioral health services have been offered since July.

Other new additions to the Cleveland Heights campus:

- The Red Carpet Care Program provides services for chronically ill and/or frail Medicare and Medicaid patients. It works with primary care providers.
- A patient care navigator works with the geriatric patient population. Before patients go home after seeing their primary care provider, the navigator helps schedule specialty appointments.
- Medicare Wellness visits with a nurse practitioner are available by appointment on Thursdays and Fridays. Call 216-524-7377 for an appointment.
- The pharmacy is now open seven days a week (Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). MetroHealth's enrollment in the 340B program—which requires pharmaceutical companies to give major discounts to hospitals that serve low-income patients—results in lower prices for everyone who fills their medications through MetroHealth pharmacies, even people with commercial insurance.

Two of MetroHealth's newest internal medicine/pediatrics attending physicians are Marcus Germany, M.D., and Mary Ryan, M.D. Both joined the staff in 2021, and are accepting new patients of all ages.

"I wanted a career that would allow me to have an adult practice while still treating children," said Germany, who served as chief resident of pediatrics during his final year of residency at MetroHealth. "I wanted a robust and rigorous pediatrics training."

Caring for patients whose backgrounds are as diverse as Cleveland Heights itself has been a bonus, said Germany, who sees patients at MetroHealth Cleveland Heights three days a week, and works with the School Health Program at Cleveland Heights High School.

Ryan, a graduate of Beaumont School, is following in the footsteps of her father, Martin Ryan, M.D., an internal medicine physician at MetroHealth.

Like Germany, Ryan wanted a medical practice that allows her to provide care for people across the age spectrum, enabling her to form long-term relationships with patients and their families.

"Cleveland Heights is a great facility, there's lots to offer," she said. "It's really helpful to have the support of so many specialties here, as well as the Emergency Department for people who may need a higher level of care."

MetroHealth's Cleveland Heights'

continued on page 19



Kathy Carvin

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Apollo's Fire announces its new 2022-23 season



Cleveland Heights-based Apollo's Fire embarks on its 31st season.

Nichole Fehrman

Cleveland Heights-based baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire is gearing up for its 31st season under founding Artistic Director Jeannette Sorrell. The season comprises 26 subscription concerts, including seven in Cleveland Heights, and additional performances across Northeast Ohio. Apollo's Fire is also planning robust education and outreach performances in the Heights.

Highlights of the 2022-23 season include the return of Sorrell's acclaimed version of Handel's "Messiah," a new program, "Exile," focused on the music of displaced cultures; and a return of Monteverdi's sumptuous "Vespers of 1610."

Both "Messiah" and "Vespers" have recently won national praise, with Apollo's Fire's CD version of "Vespers" recently being named one of "30 Must-Have Recordings of Our Lifetime" by *BBC* magazine. Sorrell brings her version of "Messiah" back to Northeast Ohio after conducting it with the New York Philharmonic in 2021. *The New York Times* said about the performance, "Wonderful vitality . . . It's difficult for a Messiah performance to stand out, but this one did."

Performances in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights include: Monteverdi's "Vespers" on Oct. 8 and 15 (at First Baptist), Storms & Tem-

pests on Nov. 12 and 13 (at St. Paul's Episcopal), Handel's "Messiah" on Dec. 10 and 11 (First Baptist), Muse of Fire on Feb. 3 and 4 (St. Paul's Episcopal), Exile: Music of the Jewish & African Diasporas on March 10 (St. Paul's Episcopal), and A Return to Bach's Coffeehouse on May 12 and 13 (St. Paul's Episcopal).

On Oct. 22, an Apollo's Fire ensemble will perform an educational family concert at the Lee Road branch of Heights Libraries—"Sing for Joy!" The free concert, designed for children and families, features soprano Sonya Headlam in a program of joyful folk and baroque songs.

Apollo's Fire's popular Baroque Bistros—casual restaurant concerts—will also return in January, with Drive the Cold Winter Away planned for Bottlehouse Brewery.

Apollo's Fire also performs workshops in elementary and middle schools throughout the year, with Canterbury Elementary among its recent partner schools.

Founded in Cleveland Heights in 1992, Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra is dedicated to the baroque ideal that music should evoke the various *Affekts*, or passions, in listeners. Now a Grammy-winning orchestra, Apollo's Fire has performed sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall, the BBC Proms, the Royal Theatre of Madrid,

continued on page 19

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by Robert O'Hara


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SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

Almost all of my grandchildren's teachers, in their as-yet brief scholastic careers at Fairfax Elementary School, are people who were born 20- or 30-some years ago. Think back on the past 30-some years. Life really hasn't changed very much in that time. These teachers are young. The kids love them, and they love school. I believe there's a connection between those things. That foundation is important.

Almost all of my teachers at Coventry Elementary School were born in the 1890s. Some of my Roosevelt Junior High teachers were, too. So, that was my foundation: teachers who were born in the 1800s.

In the 1890s, cowboys were still riding around the West, trying to kill Indians, just like in the old Western movies. Radio was introduced. The first (primitive) movies were shown. People heard the first

phonograph records. The first patent for an automobile was granted. Ellis Island opened. The Klondike Gold Rush happened. The Battle of Wounded Knee was waged. Carnegie Hall opened (with Tchaikovsky as guest conductor). Idaho and Wyoming became states. Peanut butter and tea bags were new kitchen items. The first official basketball games and the first professional football games were played. The first modern Olympic Games took place.

Here, in what would become Cleveland Heights, there were still some Native American tribes, like the Erie and Seneca. The Shakers operated a grist mill at what is now Coventry Road and Fairmount Boulevard, stone quarries at the present-day North Park Boulevard and Grandview Road, and a broom factory on what is currently Lee Road.

Much of this area consisted of farms. In the 1890s, visionaries (with an eye on big financial gains) started to see this area as a potential escape for the denizens of Millionaire's Row, who wanted to get out of the big city and build "country" homes, leading to the city in which we now reside.

I don't know when my elementary school teachers moved here, but this area didn't become the city of Cleveland Heights till 1921, the year my father was born. He moved here a couple of years later, from the city of Cleveland, then started elementary school at Coventry. I had two of the same teachers there that he had.

My first guitar teacher was also born in the 1890s. I was 7 and went to Motter's Music, which was then on Coventry, looking for a teacher. There weren't many back then, as the guitar was still an outsider instrument. But there was this old cello instructor there who knew how to play guitar. It was an awful experience, but I really wanted to learn, so

continued on page 19

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METROHEALTH continued from page 16

Emergency Department and medical offices opened in 2016. The inpatient hospital—with 12 single-occupancy rooms for patients needing short hospital stays—opened in 2017.

Among the many services and specialties at MetroHealth Cleveland Heights Medical Center are x-ray; CAT scan; lab services; colon cancer screening; allergy shots; dermatology; eye care; sleep medicine; sports medicine; and physical, occupational and speech therapy.

The 3D Mobile Mammography van is on campus on Tuesdays, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The same cancer-screening technology is used at all MetroHealth Breast Imaging sites. Exams take 15 minutes or less. Patients can request a referral by using MyChart

or calling 216-957-BRST (2778).

Since 2019, the Bikur Cholim room has provided a place of respite for Orthodox families visiting patients. The 414-square-foot room, which has a refrigerator, microwave oven and warming drawers, is stocked with kosher meals, snacks and beverages provided by Bikur Cholim Cleveland.

Free valet parking at the east entrance (the same side as the Emergency Department) is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For up-to-date information about MetroHealth Cleveland Heights Medical Center, visit www.metrohealth.org/locations/cleveland-heights.

Angela Townsend is a senior writer in the Department of Marketing and Communications at The MetroHealth System.

APOLLO'S FIRE continued from page 17

the Tanglewood Festival, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and more. A European tour is planned for spring 2023; for details, visit apollosfire.org/touring.

Subscriptions and single tickets are available online at apollosfire.org,

or by phone (216-320-0012, ext. 1. For more information on Apollo's Fire programs and performances, visit apollosfire.org.

Nichole Fehrman is the director of marketing for Apollo's Fire, Cleveland Heights' resident international baroque orchestra.

SONGS & STORIES continued from page 18

I stuck with it.

I used my guitar in a Coventry School Halloween talent show assembly when I was in third grade, and I lip-synched an Elvis Presley record. We had tryouts in our individual classrooms that October. I did my act for the class, and I could see the utter horror on my teacher's face, and I loved that. The class voted me to represent our class in the show, so the teacher couldn't stop it.

A few years later, in eighth grade at Roosevelt, I played a guitar for real in another talent show, with a small combo. I remember the look of disgust and repulsion on my art teacher's face, out in the audience. Again, I knew I'd done something right. (Decades later, I got into a discussion with this same former teacher on Facebook and found out he was a Trump-supporting conspiracy theorist. I explained to him exactly how he was being a gullible idiot—but I also told him that he had been a great art teacher for me. So, we remained friends.)

By the time I got to Heights High, most of my teachers were younger—that is, born later, in the 1900s—and much more open to newer and more modern ideas. And

they were way more appreciative of my musical endeavors. I know they were, because I performed before the whole school several times and teachers—some of whom I didn't even know—would always compliment me afterward, when they didn't have to.

Those earlier teachers of mine never seemed to understand what I was doing or what I wanted to do. I always think about my third-grade teacher telling us what kind of designs we were allowed (!) to put onto the clay candy dishes we were making. I created one that combined my interest in Native American history with my subtly formed initials. She went crazy over that, and not in a good way.

I just learned to ignore my teachers. And to hate school. Neither was a good thing. The situation got slightly better as I got older (as the teachers got younger). But by then it was too late. That foundation is important.

David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Live, an author, and a professional musician and comedian. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop-music history.



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