Memorial Day parade celebrates ‘A Better Tomorrow’

Mike Cook

The University Heights Memorial Day Parade not only commemorates those we lost in service to our country, it celebrates the freedoms we enjoy.

This year’s parade will step off at 11 a.m. on Memorial Day, May 27, with a memorial ceremony immediately following. This year’s theme is ‘A Better Tomorrow.’

University Heights has proudly held an annual Memorial Day Parade since 1936 (with the exception of 2020, when it was canceled due to the pandemic).

“This is not only the oldest and largest parade on the east side, it’s also the best,” said University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan. "The community is invested in the event. They want it to be successful, and it is.”

“The theme is a nod to the city's Superman heritage,” explained Deanna Bremer Fisher, who is in charge of special projects for University Heights.

“The co-creators of Superman, Jerry Seigel and Joe Shuster, lived in University Heights in the 1940s, and, while Superman is best known for the motto ‘Truth, Justice, and the American Way’ that he had during WWII, his new motto is ‘Truth, Justice, and A Better Tomorrow’

Our theme honors the fact that the University Heights Memorial Day Parade not only commemorates those we lost in service to our country, it celebrates the freedoms we enjoy.

FutureHeights announces director’s departure

On April 10, the FutureHeights Board of Directors announced that Kristine Paguyon is no longer the executive director of FutureHeights nor the publisher of the Heights Observer, effective immediately.

She held the positions for just over one year.
The Board wishes her well in her future endeavors.

The Board of Directors and staff will work hand in hand to restructure leadership and to continue existing programming in support of the communities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

FutureHeights would like to thank the community for its continued support, both financial and through dedicated volunteerism.

The Board is committed to ensuring that FutureHeights is an organization that represents the best of the Heights community.

The FutureHeights Board of Directors comprises Rhonda Davis-Lovejoy, co-president; Chris Jacobs, co-president; Laura Jungla, interim-treasurer; Harriet Applegate; Thomas Eastman; Kimberlee Jones; Jason McGee; Calvin Singleton; Matthew Wymer.
women in three categories: Inspirational Young Women, Women in Business, and Amazing Women of Cleveland Heights.

The honorees were selected from nominations submitted to council by friends, colleagues, teachers, families and other residents, declaring the ways in which the honorees are excellent representatives of the CH community.

A council member introduced each honoree to the audience, presenting her with a certificate signed by council and Mayor, Surov and, a rose.

The three inspirational Young Women honorees are:

**Astrid Burch**, honored for her advocacy for marginalized communities.

**Jamison Babb**, Maryann Barnes, David Budin, and Robert Berger, honored for their private leadership.

**Laura D’Alessandro**, founder of Cleveland Photo Fest, which seeks to promote worldwide "Unity Through Photography," and hosts exhibits that challenge race, gender issues. A cancer survivor, D’Alessandro advocates for other women going through cancer.

Women of Cleveland Heights honors went to:

**Blanche Valancy**, a retired pediatric social worker, who continues to serve as a leader. She is a forum organizer and city council meeting observer for the League of Women Voters CH-UH Chapter. She spent 10 years as home manager at Dohana Theatre, and helped raise funds for the original Coventry playground.

**Sarah Wolf**, who wears several hats at FutureHeights as its community-building programs manager. Programs include nonprofit's Neighborhood Leadership Workshops and Crowdsourced Conversations.

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**We don’t need another grocery store**

To the Editor: We have lived in Cleveland Heights as homeowners since 1991. We are opposed to any actions by the city of Cleveland Heights to offer financial support to help open a grocery store in the Cedar Fairmont area.

Grocery stores have never been profitable businesses at the corner of Cedar and Grandview. Over the years, we saw a procession of grocers in the space—Russo’s, Giant Eagle, and Dave’s. Each time, the stores make profits on a low-margin basis, and the space is too small and the competition too great for any grocery to make a profit at the site. Would Dave’s have moved without the CEO’s own personal gain? Any funding provided by the city would truly be “throwing good money after bad.”

We don’t need another grocery store here. We have an incredible array of shopping opportunities within a short distance: Marc’s on Coventry, Square, and Heinens on Green Road. We also have three farmers’ markets nearby.

There would be no advantage to the city or its citizens in providing support for a private enterprise that is bound to fail and is not needed. I am certainly not against the city providing financial support and incentives for promising businesses, but a grocery store at the corner of Grandview and Cedar is not a promising business.

Sue and Jerry Hannah
Cleveland Heights

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**CH should not fund Russos’ remodel**

**Robert Berger**

In January an opinion in the Heights Observer praised Sal Russo as a landlord and member of the community, and stated he would be bringing a new grocer to Cedar Fairmount. In February, Mr. Russo announced Grocery Outlet Bargain Market as Dave’s replacement at a city council meeting. In March he held a meeting in the neighborhood, to introduce Grocery Outlet. He stated then that a city subsidy of $1 million would be required to make necessary repairs to the building for a grocery store.

When asked if he could apply for a loan, he did not respond. He asked the meeting attendees to engage in a letter-writing campaign to members of city council to [support funding] the remodeling.

I believe that, as owner and landlord of the Cedar Grandview building, he is responsible for its maintenance and repairs. I do not think it is fair that taxpayers be asked to fund its remodeling to meet the needs of a prospective tenant.

Sal Russo stated he tried 19 times to find a grocery store for Cedar Fairmount. He said his efforts were unsuccessful because the rental unit needs to be remodeled to support a grocery store.

It is my opinion that the opening of Fresh Market is in the city’s best interest in comparison to any supermarket considering replacing Dave’s. Perhaps this is the reason why Dave’s literally fled to Lee Road. They watched a 40,000-square-foot grocery store being built less than 1/2 miles from their 20,000-square-foot Cedar Fairmount store [and probably wondered] could their store compete? Fresh Market opened in January, and is currently the closest grocery store to Cedar Fairmount.

City Council financed Top of the Hill (TOH) with TIPS (Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities). Through TIPS, a city provides funding to a developer by waiving future tax dollars. If the Ascent at TOH fails, the developer will not lose any money on the investment. When government acts as an unregulated bank and funds private business directly with a grant funded by taxpaying citizens, the city is at risk of failure. If the Ascent at TOH fails, we lose our investment. This will happen if Grocery Outlet is unable to make a profit and closes its doors. Moreover, Russo stated, gets to keep his $8 million remodel.

Russo stated he was forced to reduce his rent by half more than a decade ago to get a grocery tenant for his building. He is currently advertising the lease for the vacated Dave’s store for nearly $400,000/year on commercial real estate LoopNet. He may have to [re-]
duce the rent again. He will get a tenant, but the free market will determine the value of his property without the help of the residents of Cleveland Heights.

I was surprised to get an e-mail from the Cuyahoga County Special Improvement District implying member retailers of the organization support the initiative. The mailing did not indicate Russo is president of the organization.

Taxpayers of the [the Neighborhood] recently contributed tax dollars to building TOH. Are we going to ask them again to fund the most successful business district in Cleveland Heights? Grocery Outlet will not replace a traditional grocery store, but it will solve the balance sheet problem of the Russo’s.

Robert Berger is a retired career counselor and a 25-year resident of Cedar Fairmount.
Why Cedar Fairmount grocery space merits $1 million city subsidy

Sal V. Russo

The Cedar-Fairmount community and neighborhood blogs have been abuzz with discussions surrounding the proposed $1 million city subsidy to secure a Grocery Outlet in our neighborhood. The information outlined here is intended to address some misconceptions and shed light on the critical need for this subsidy.

**Modernization is imperative:**
The Cedar-Grandview Building is 100 years old. Times have changed, and so have the requirements of businesses, especially grocery stores. The time-honored business model for grocery stores across the U.S. is to make major capital re-investments every 15-20 years in order to be competitive. When the grocery store was Russo’s, we did major renovations in 1951, 1961, 1969, 1985 and 1992. After Giant Eagle acquired the store, they did a modest remodel in 2003, followed by the mostly cosmetic changes made by Dave’s. Thirty years of incremental updates by our tenants to the grocery space—and the current three-level infrastructure, designed a century ago—plain and simply isn’t conducive to modern grocery operations.

With Heinen’s and Trader Joe’s at the top of our list, we aggressively pursued 18 grocery stores and 5 retail operations. Twenty-two said no. Now, with Grocery Outlet’s willingness to invest $1 million, we have an opportunity to bring this grocery store space up to contemporary standards.

The $1 million we are requesting will be used entirely for capital improvements, including 100% new electric, back to the existing transformers; 100% new HVAC units, wiring, ductwork, diffusers and controls; 100% new plumbing; 100% demolition of the mezzanine and some internal walls, mothballing the basement and totally reconfiguring the space for one-floor deliveries, prep, storage and sales.

**Previous and future investments by the Russo family:**
Over the decades, we haven’t simply maintained our buildings. Rather, we have continually invested profits to demonstrate our commitment to the neighborhood’s continued revitalization—and because it’s just the right thing to do. We have invested substantial dollars to modernize the offices on the upper floors of the Cedar-Grandview and Heights Medical Buildings—improvements that generally go unseen by the public but have been very much welcomed by our tenants.

Perhaps the most visible improvement is the new parking lot we built for $1.65 million behind the Firestone store—a parking lot that has become unexpectedly critical to the success of many store owners on Cedar Road whose employees and customers can no longer use the now-closed-for-the-foreseeable-future parking garage between Lenox and Surrey roads.

It’s essential to recognize the financial realities faced by the Russo family. As a small family-owned real estate company, we lack the deep pockets of larger property developers, which includes not being able to keep 22,500 square feet empty until a Trader Joe’s-style grocery store suddenly appears. Regrettably, we must seek external support.

**Community benefit:**
Securing a full-service grocery store is about preserving the character, vibrancy and walkability of our neighborhood, enhancing property values, attracting visitors and fostering community cohesion. The $1 million subsidy isn’t just an investment in a single business; it’s an investment in the entire Cedar-Fairmount community’s future.

By facilitating the transformation of an outdated building into a modern grocery store, we’re preserving a legacy and laying the foundation for continued growth, sustainability and vitality in one of Cleveland Heights’ most beloved neighborhoods. I hope the city will seize this opportunity to revitalize our neighborhood and ensure its prosperity for generations to come.

For more information and details, go to https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.heightobserver.org/media/docs_1714054739.pdf.

Sal V. Russo is the general manager of a small, privately owned real estate company.
Disabled are unwelcome in CH

Diane Hallum

It is illegal for the city to create barriers to the disabled, according to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The city of Cleveland Heights did, however, bar this disabled person from ready, easy and respectful entry to a city meeting of its Noble Road study module on March 19.

I had notified city staff I required assistance accessing the handicapped entryway for the preceding module held at Oxford Elementary School a month before. They complied.

The March 19 module notice claimed the front door of Monticello Middle School was handicapped accessible. Unfamiliar with the renovated school, I believed that claim.

That claim was a lie. The notice’s false claim was no mistake.

Assistant Planning Director Karen Knittel, standing alongside City Administrator Danny Williams, told me staff did not learn the claim was wrong until they got there that evening. Which meant they just made it up!

It was no joke to be stuck for 10–15 minutes in a mobility device in the bitter cold and wind as all other attendees could stare at me as they drove by along Monticello Boulevard, and then down Yellowstone, to their entrance at the back of the building.

It was no joke when Brian Iorio [a city planner] and a city safety officer, who resembled the city’s fire chief, carried out a rickety platform structure with oddly sized legs. They flipped it over and around in a frustratingly farcical way—all without a thought about the code requirements for a safe, rigid ramp that could accommodate my heavy mobility device.

I gained entrance only after demanding they get the school custodian, who met me at the real handicapped entryway.

Five days later, that experience was still raw down to my soul. The mayor spoke at a FutureHeights Leadership Workshop I was at. He said his leadership style was to welcome every one’s participation with City Hall.

I had to speak out, while close to tears. I said I have not been made to feel welcome by anyone from City Hall.

The mayor did not respond, thus showing him to be either a very cold and calculating actor or truly ignorant of how his directors, just five days before, had humiliatingly barred me from entry to a city event.

There is an axiom which states, “Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.”

Which of those were the cause for my experience on March 19? Which applied to the apparent ignorance of the mayor, five days later, regarding my degradation at the hands of those he put in charge of city operations?

A city should never allow its staff or directors to demonstrate maliciousness, stupidity, or incompetence in their duties as city employees.

Because of one of those personal attributes, I was the victim of a heinously degrading act that violated Title II of the ADA.

That is a fact.

I know the outcome when sharing an uncomfortable fact about City Hall. Those inside City Hall will paint me as the villain in all of this, treating me with greater hostility.

Diane Hallum is a 52-year resident in the Noble Road area of Cleveland Heights with a cognitive disorder affecting her motor functions, speech, and excitability.
Consider lifecycle of CH-UH schools

John Janssen

The CH-UH school district has an aging building inventory. Excluding the fully renovated high school, the average building age in the district is 77 years. Even well-maintained buildings eventually need to be gutted, rebuilt, or replaced to effectively serve their intended function.

Most buildings, depending on the quality and care of construction, have a lifecycle of 25 to 50 years. Good maintenance can extend the life of a building, but some building systems last longer than others, and some systems are easier to maintain and replace. Old heating systems are inefficient and sometimes dangerous. (Anyone still with a coal furnace?) Electrical systems installed 50 years ago are insufficient to support current demands. Changes in code requirements can also lead to costly improvements.

Apart from the high school, not a single building in the district has had a full replacement of the original MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing) systems since they were built.

Roxboro and Monticello were partially renovated, but, due to unforeseen conditions at the high school, some building systems last longer than others, and some systems are easier to maintain and replace. Old heating systems are inefficient and sometimes dangerous. (Anyone still with a coal furnace?) Electrical systems installed 50 years ago are insufficient to support current demands. Changes in code requirements can also lead to costly improvements.

The CH-UH Board of Education needs to produce and implement a plan to fully renovate or replace the entire portfolio of buildings. It is a matter of when, not if, a major system’s failure will overwhelm the maintenance staff’s ability to address it, and a building will need to be closed to students.

The plan needs to include an ongoing strategy to ensure that no building in the district has an effective age greater than 50 years (meaning no buildings whose oldest MEP system has not been fully renovated within the last 50 years). The community and especially our students deserve a plan that will ensure safe, up-to-date learning spaces into the future.

John Janssen is a Heights High alum (class of ’84) and chair of the CH-UH Lay Facilities Committee.

CH City Council is being silly again

Alan Rapoport

Cleveland Heights City Council is at it again.

I do not recall any of its members campaigning for reelection by advertising their foreign policy expertise. But now that they have been elected, they are all committed to expressing official opinions about foreign policy. The most recent example is a watered-down resolution passed unanimously calling for, among other things, a cease-fire in Gaza.

It seems fitting that this resolution was adopted on April Fools’ Day. I have seen similar silliness before. When I was CH’s mayor (when the president of council was the mayor) in the 1980s, a nuclear-free-zone ordinance was placed on the ballot as an initiative measure. It passed. Signs were then posted at city borders. These made Cleveland Heights the laughingstock of Cayahoga County. And they did nothing to end the Cold War. Amazingly, this ordinance today would still require the city manager to notify the Soviet Union (or “any successor entity”) that Cleveland Heights remains a nuclear-free zone. Fortunately, such a silly notice has never been sent.

Since there is no longer a city manager, maybe this notice requirement no longer applies. But the silliness lingers on.

Silliness happens from time to time in Cleveland Heights government. It is not limited to proclamations about international crises. And it matters not when official positions taken bear no relationship to municipal services or city needs. A domestic partnership registry, for instance, had no legal effect whatsoever when created. It served only to virtue signal. Fortunately, laws have changed, and such a registry is no longer considered important by anyone. But silliness continues unabated.

The best that can be said is that the time and expense spent by our public officials on such silly matters usually is minimal.

City council no doubt will continue to sponsor meaningless public meetings on so-called “Democracy Days.” And the mayor will continue to paint rainbow lines on city streets that please some while offending others. And life will go on.

Most people will just ignore the silliness. But it is a shame when our elected municipal officials spend any time at all on what is ineffective and frivolous. There are so many important matters like housing and economic development to which they could devote their attention.

Alan Rapoport, a longtime CH resident, served on city council (1980–87) and as council president (1982–87).
Thank you for all you do for our children, today and every day.

Drop a note to tell a CH-UH educator how much you appreciate their hard work, expertise, and dedication to students. Your submission will be shared with the teacher and posted to District social media (with permission).

tinyurl.com/heightsthankateacher
Let’s celebrate our graduates

THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

In May, another crop of Heights High seniors will collect their diplomas and complete their public-school careers. Watch for those golden “Class of ‘24” balloons decorating graduation parties, and yard signs proclaiming the homes of 2024 graduates.

It’s an exciting moment for the seniors and their families, and it should be for all of us in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. These are our kids, too. We helped make this moment possible, and we welcome our newest voters and citizens.

While they did the work and the learning, we are the ones who benefit. This has always been the thinking behind our system of public education. The public finances a system of common learning opportunity. It’s worth our public investment because all of us benefit when our youth are prepared for adult life.

Our public system: For one, public schools unite. Our public system is built on generosity and recognizes that those parents are owed something and that those parents are not obligated to support a system they don’t use.

Our public-school system is built on generosity and commitment to strangers. It encourages the whole community, whether or not one has children, to have expectations for its young people and to share in creating their success.

In 1989 a dozen community activists met on my deck to create Reaching Heights, a community-based organization to help residents understand that they own the schools, benefit from them and can help them thrive. These ideas now need support more than ever. Reaching Heights (www.reachingheights.org) helps community members connect with teachers, parents and students.

If you know a student or a family with a child who is completing another school year, it’s a perfect time to ask them how it went. Ask them about their favorite teacher, activity, project or friend. Let them know you want them to be excited about learning. It’s great for them and important to you, and it will be key to defining our future.

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.
Do the right thing

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

Early 20th-century developers envisioned Cleveland Heights as an upper-class “garden suburb.” Given real estate market realities, however, mansion districts soon gave way to subdivisions with smaller lot sizes, varied dwelling types and lower prices. By 1921, when Cleveland Heights received its city charter, housing stock determined that we would be an economically mixed suburb.

In 21st-century Cleveland Heights, “diversity” most often refers to the city’s mix of races, religions and LGBTQ+ residents. Economic class is something of an elephant in the room, all the more so since income disparity has grown; in 2022, 38.2 percent of our residents lived in poverty. Wealthy, middle-class, moderate-income and low-income residents tend to be segregated by neighborhood. Obviously, we must find ways to do better. We must find those options for how and where to live. Those who choose Cleveland Heights clearly value our diversity or they would live elsewhere.

Limiting The Ascent at the Top of the Hill and The Marquee at Cedar Lee to “luxury” apartments, therefore, constituted major missed opportunities. And, according to Assistant Director of Economic Development Brian Anderson, rents in the upcoming Cain Park Village Revitalization Project will be exclusively “market rate.”

It’s depressing enough for an historic property like the Taylor Tudors to be sold to a developer for $1, as Cleveland Heights has done. That the city exerts no influence on rents to be charged is even more unfortunate.

To fully embody the reality and values of our community, these projects should have been designed to attract and accommodate residents of every class and stage of life. Is this hard to achieve when developers and financiers seemingly hold all the cards? Yes, but it is a vital goal.

The one truly mixed-income area we can see in Cleveland Heights developed over four decades around the Severance ring road. Severance Tower, providing subsidized apartments to qualified low-income residents, opened in 1979. It is bookended by the moderately priced Concord Apartments (1974) and Kensington Place (1986). Severance Place, a condominium conversion of the former Kaiser medical building, opened in 2006. Townhomes in The Courtyards at Severance (2009) and the Bluestone Community (2012), across Mayfield Road, offer more upscale options.

The economic integration of Severance apparently occurred without intention on the part of the city, at least early on. With income levels varying from building to building, and without public spaces to create a shared sense of place, it is a hodgepodge of mostly aging dwellings surrounding a half-dead mall (which still does conveniently provide groceries, hardware, sundries and medical care to local residents). The economic diversity of housing at Severance, however, is precious. In this one respect, Severance provides a model for all of Cleveland Heights that demands to be preserved once the city gets site control and redevelopment begins.

The city also must require the nearby Park Synagogue project to accommodate a full range of incomes and household sizes and types. In addition, we desperately need single-floor housing for older and disabled residents.

Real-world incentives support economically segregated development, along with gentrification of struggling neighborhoods. We need to change the rules of this game.

The city must seek out development partners who share this vision of true diversity, and have the drive, knowledge and creativity to bring it to fruition.

SAVE THE DATE: On Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m., city council will host the 11th Annual Cleveland Heights Democracy Day Public Hearing in Council Chambers. Democracy Day was created when city voters overwhelmingly passed a 2013 ballot issue stating that corporations are not people and money is not speech, and supporting a U.S. constitutional amendment to that effect. Look for additional info on the city calendar soon.

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg are writers, editors and longtime residents of Cleveland Heights. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
Mayor Brennan presented this year’s State of the City address at the University Heights Library on April 11.

In addition, the annual Summer Concert Series announcement video dropped during the mayor’s speech. The 2024 lineup includes Lauren Lanzaretta, Monica Robins and the Whiskey Kings, Crossfire Hurricane, Sunrise Jones, Radiate Live, Jason Patrick Meyers, and Carlos Jones & the PLUS Band. As always, the UH Symphonic Band will perform its two shows at John Carroll University.

“We. Not I.” Heights Poet Laureate Siara Freeman kicked off the evening with an original poem about University Heights.

“A city is only as strong as its hope,” Freeman said. “University Heights wanted to be more than idle wood. And now, here we are—anything but idle and more concrete than wood.”

The complete text of Brennan’s address, as well as videos of the speech, can be found on the University Heights website.

Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement director for University Heights.
Heights Observer May 1, 2024
www.heightsobserver.org

University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights
MARCH 18, 2024 - regular meeting

Council members present were Michelle Weiss (vice mayor), Christopher Conney, Brian J. King, Thesha Marshall, John P. Bach, Shen Sax, and Win Wezner. Also present were Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas, Law Director LukeMcCormall, Finance Director Dennis Kennedy, City Engineer Brenda Mockbee.

Public comments
Residents affiliated with the political action group “Move University Heights Forward” explained the group’s petition to recall Mayor Brennan.

Mayor’s report
Mayor Brennan reported two major developments regarding University Square. On Sunday, March 17, an agreement was reached with Macy’s so that redevelopment on Sunday, March 17, an agreement was reached with Macy’s so that redevelopment reached with Macy’s so that redevelopment

City council reports
Wess was noted the need to arrange for the CIC (community investment corporation) to meet to create a new CIC to take control of the University Square garage. Weiss brought up the mayor’s local podcast commentary and asked the mayor to retract allegations depicting her as racist. She claimed the mayor misrepresented a conversation during a March 4, 2022 meeting in which citizens discussed use of ARPA funds to improve the west end of the city. She disputed that she had suggested building a shortcut. to keep Black youth from cutting through as

City council reports
City Engineer Mockbee reported the start of projects to re surface tennis courts, undertake pavement marking, and repair water pipes along Sidney Road.

Staff report
City Manager McConville reported the start of projects to re surface tennis courts, undertake pavement marking, and repair water pipes along Sidney Road.

Council actions
Council approved a resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Luke McCormall upon his departure as University Heights’ law director. Council appointed Bradric Bryan as the new law director, effective April 1.

Council adopted an agreement with Yewshush Addel II to invest to purchase the property at 2308 Warensville Center Road for $1.10 million.

Council amended a loose recycling ordinance to establish optin, curbside loose recycling. Backyard trash pickup would be unfunded.

Council authorized an additional $5,185 for the 2023-24 Tree Planting and Removal Contract, bringing the total contract cost to $54,853 to cover additional work discovered through residents’ reports.

Council accepted a 2024 Community Recycling Awareness Grant Award of $6,000 from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to pay for postcards to be mailed to residents regarding appropriate recycling practices and the new recycling program.

Committee reports
City Engineer Mockbee reported the start of projects to re surface tennis courts, undertake pavement marking, and repair water pipes along Sidney Road.

All council members were present, as were the mayor, clerk of council, finance director, city engineer, and new law director, Bradric Bryan.

Public comments
A resident criticized the mayor’s comments regarding the costs of a special election and lawsuits against the city, and asserted that the city needs a mayor who is fiscally responsible and can work collaboratively with city council, department heads, and residents. Another resident complained of harassment by another mayor’s supporter after she commented at a prior meeting regarding the recall effort.

Mayor’s report
The mayor will deliver the UH State of the City address on Thursday, April 11, at the University Heights Library.

City department reports
Service Director Allen Pennington said more than 600 households have already opted in to the loose recycling program. He said there were three reasons for residents to receive assistance in moving the containers to the curb: age (75 or older), disability (specifics are not requested), and “other,” for which the resident can provide reasons. The responses are confidential and reviewed by Pennington for approval.

Director of Communications and Civic Engagement Mike Cook said information regarding the new loose recycling program should reach residents at least three times in various ways by the end of May.

Council actions
Council authorized the city’s participation in a consortium for recycling services, similar to the solid waste program. This will determine what specific items can be recycled.

Committee reports
At its March meeting, the Recreation Committee created a pool fee schedule for the mayor to consider. Other items reviewed were tennis court repairs and construction of two pickleball courts.

On April 3, the Committee of the Whole will tour the Brooklyn City Hall complex. The facilities and infrastructure subcommittee has been invited to join the tour. In May, the Committee of the Whole and subcommittee will assess the tour, with the goal of beginning the police and fire plans to Phase 1 of the city’s facilities plans. City Hall will be discussed if Funding is available.

Over 2,500 gather at The Walt for the eclipse
The Earth has become uninhabitable. The last escape ship from Earth (Seattle, to be exact) arrives to its new home planet centuries after all the others. The pilots are not prepared for what they find there. Last SHIP TO PROXIMA CENTAURI asks us to examine 21st Century America through the lens of futuristic neo-colonialism, 2000 years after the end of Must See TV.

Who takes on the role of “outsiders” in this new world? The planetary tables have been turned. Is the new order on Proxima any better? The author relentlessly pulls on these threads while the action of a hard landing on a distant planet plays out. - Portland Press Hearald

Viewing the eclipse in University Heights.

Mike Cook
More than 2,500 gathered at Walter Stinson Community Park on April 8 for the total solar eclipse.

University Heights and the Heights Libraries, in cooperation with Destination Cleveland, hosted “A Black Out to Remember” to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event, as University Heights was in the path of totality.

Party guests enjoyed the spectacular show in the sky, as well as children’s activities, Odd Dog Coffee, and music provided by disc jockeys Zachary Sinutko and Emily Davala of WJCU 88.7 FM.

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

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or call 216-687-0074
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PARADE continued from page 1 America’s service men and women have fought for ‘A Better Tomorrow,’ for Americans, and, often, for all of us.”

24th University Heights Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal and Memorial Day Keynote Speaker is Iraq War combat veteran and University Heights resident Mitch Leibsla. Leibsla was awarded multiple medals for his service, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

The parade will feature Robin Van-Lear’s Romare Bearden Puppets and Dance Hall Girl Dancers, the Rocket Car, the Batmobile, a Dixieland band, the Ohio Army National Guard, Super Cooper, and more.

Construction at John Carroll University continues and once again necessitates an adjusted parade route. The parade will begin on Silsby Road, between Ashurst and Canterbury roads as before, and conclude at Gatreight Professional Development School.

After the parade, residents are invited to gather at Gatreight to partake of food and beverages from local food trucks; children’s activities, including a bounce house, bubbles with Dr. U.R. Awesome, magic, and more.

The Memorial Day ceremony featur- ing Leibsla’s keynote address, an original poem by Heights Poet Laureate Saara Freeman, and patriotic songs played by the University Heights Symphonic Band, will be held at Gatreight beginning at 12:30 p.m.

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

PARADE continued from page 1 America’s service men and women have fought for ‘A Better Tomorrow,’ for Americans, and, often, for all of us.”

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The parade will feature Robin Van-Lear’s Romare Bearden Puppets and Dance Hall Girl Dancers, the Rocket Car, the Batmobile, a Dixieland band, the Ohio Army National Guard, Super Cooper, and more.

Construction at John Carroll University continues and once again necessitates an adjusted parade route. The parade will begin on Silsby Road, between Ashurst and Canterbury roads as before, and conclude at Gatreight Professional Development School.

After the parade, residents are invited to gather at Gatreight to partake of food and beverages from local food trucks; children’s activities, including a bounce house, bubbles with Dr. U.R. Awesome, magic, and more.

The Memorial Day ceremony featur- ing Leibsla’s keynote address, an original poem by Heights Poet Laureate Saara Freeman, and patriotic songs played by the University Heights Symphonic Band, will be held at Gatreight beginning at 12:30 p.m.

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

Over 2,500 gather at The Walt for the eclipse
The Earth has become uninhabitable. The last escape ship from Earth (Seattle, to be exact) arrives to its new home planet centuries after all the others. The pilots are not prepared for what they find there. Last SHIP TO PROXIMA CENTAURI asks us to examine 21st Century America through the lens of futuristic neo-colonialism, 2000 years after the end of Must See TV.

Who takes on the role of “outsiders” in this new world? The planetary tables have been turned. Is the new order on Proxima any better? The author relentlessly pulls on these threads while the action of a hard landing on a distant planet plays out. - Portland Press Hearald

Viewing the eclipse in University Heights.

Mike Cook
More than 2,500 gathered at Walter Stinson Community Park on April 8 for the total solar eclipse.

University Heights and the Heights Libraries, in cooperation with Destination Cleveland, hosted “A Black Out to Remember” to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event, as University Heights was in the path of totality.

Party guests enjoyed the spectacular show in the sky, as well as children’s activities, Odd Dog Coffee, and music provided by disc jockeys Zachary Sinutko and Emily Davala of WJCU 88.7 FM.

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Gather Well seeks to connect CH
Christie Yonkers

Gather Well Cleveland Heights is a new organization with a mission to build and help establish new connections in the community. Its founders believe proximity is a start, but establishing true community relationships will be the key to strengthening Cleveland Heights further.

For Julie Walker, this idea sprang from a true passion for her community and years of service as a parent, teacher and volunteer. As a lifelong resident and current teacher and parent in the CH-UH school district, Walker has deep knowledge of this community’s leaders and organizations, and wants to help community champions better work in partnership with one another rather than in isolation. She sees the incredible potential of the people and resources in the community, and wants to ensure they benefit residents in all corners of the city.

Walker is partnering with Eric Yatham, another Cleveland Heights graduate, who renamed himself in Cleveland Heights while living there. Walker and Yatham partnered in 2020. Reestablishing himself in Cleveland Heights while working remotely, Yatham fell in love with the community’s rhythm, finding ways to give back. Currently, he is focusing on nature gardening projects, cooperative community-building, and justice-driven technology.

While working on the Boulevard Garden committee, Walker and Yatham established a connection, leading to their partnership and a project that has become Gather Well Cleveland Heights.

Gather Well’s website and social media presence on Facebook and Instagram: www.gatherwellcleveland.com

The organization’s next step will be to launch a podcast, bringing information to other community members in an accessible format that isn’t already available locally. The first podcast episode will be scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, after which Gather Well will release a new episode each of the first three Wednesday of each month. Podcast segments will include (1) a round-up of all gatherings and opportunities that are happening within the community over the course of the two weeks; (2) a deeper dive into a specific organization and a timely upcoming event; and (3) a “meet your neighbor” segment highlighting Cleveland Heights residents.

The podcast’s first guest will be a member of the Heights JC planning committee. All are invited to tune in, subscribe, and follow all socials to keep up with the latest “gathering” here in Cleveland Heights.

Additional information, and links to all socials can be found at www.gatherwellcleveland.org

Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights
MARCH 18, 2024 - regular meeting

Council members present were Tony Cuda (president), Gabe Stock, Jill Larson, Anthony Mattos, Jr. and Jim Petras. Also present were Mayor Kohl Keren, Sen. of Council Addie Kolesar, Atty. Director William Walker, and City Administrator Danny Williams. Da- vida Russell was excused.

Public comments

Four residents addressed the agenda item concerning a cease-fire in the Hamas-Israel war. Some suggested acknowledging the death toll, which had reached 500 in Cleveland Heights High School alumnus Barak Abs Elahar, who was killed. Ohio Rep. Joansi Brent applauded Janine Boyd (who officially resigned from the council at the meeting) and presented a commendation from the state of Ohio.

City administrator’s report

Williams reported that GPD Group engineers ascertained that significant repairs could salvagethe Lawrence garage and would be more affordable than razing the structure and building a surface lot. Arrangements are un- der way for longer term use of the Rus’s lot behind the Firestone store for parking public.

Council actions

Council approved a resolution recognizing Arizona’s (“Teddy”) Wilson’s 66 years as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service. Wilson, who is retiring at the age of 86, started his career as a postal carrier in 1948 and served Cedar Fairmount beginning in 1980.

Council approved a financing plan for the Taylor-Tukey development. This included exempting property taxes for 30 years under Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and authorizing the compensation agreement with the school district. Under the TIF, the property owner, W2Z CPV LLC, will make payments in lieu of taxes, based on the value of the improvements, to be distributed among the developer (70 percent), the school district (24 percent), and the city (6 percent).

Council authorized an agreement with Roper Lock Box LLC to purchase lock boxes to enable fire-department access for emergency services to senior residents, at a cost not to exceed $68,887. The city’s CDGE-CV (CARES Act) fund will fund this program. Participa- tion is voluntary.

Council authorized purchases for the Public Works Department including two semi-trailer trucks, a cab and chassis, and a 1-4-Foot Stainless Steel Dump Body with salt spreader and pour package.

Council member comments

Cuda explained the council replacement ap- pointment process, which must be completed in 45 days. The League of Women Voters will help with interviews April 2-12. Starting April 15, council will discuss and interview applicants.

Janine Boyd resigns

Janine Boyd announced her resignation from council to relocate to Virginia with her family. She spoke about her and her mother’s history on city council and in the Ohio House of Rep- resentatives. She said she was honored to have served.

Committee of the whole

There was a lengthy discussion of the Gaza- Israel resolution drafted by Larson, who said this resolution would be a “strong message of unity that will not furtherdivide residents.

DWP Observer: Blanche Valancy.

APRIL 1, 2024 - regular meeting

Deirdre Russell was excused. Present were the other council members, the mayor, clerk of council, law director, and city administrator.

Public comments

Mike Gaynor, Planning Commission vice-chair spoke about a fatal pedestrian accident along Watervale Center Road and Basley Boule- vard, and requested that the city’s upcoming safety action plan study consider a public sidewalk along that stretch.

Several residents expressed distress at the lack of information from the city regard- ing a proposed extension of Blanche Avenue from where it intersects Corry Road, to the South Euclid border. The mayor said that simple family homes would be developed on the land along the extension with the help of a federal allocation. The mayor said the plan was announced in the March 22 city news, which can be found on the city’s website clevelandheights.gov at Residents/City News Update.

Council actions

Council approved an agreement with Wade Trim Inc., for professional engineering services for four Sanitary Sewer Overflow projects.

Council approved the executive resolu- tion written by Larson. She spoke about the passion of the members on both sides of the issue.

Council appointed Harmony Cross, Mara Schoch, Sam Bivens, and Sardelle Odlesey to the City Budget Advisory Committee; John Talley to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; Lichan Stern to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Charlie Maasbroek, Howard Mate, Cole Ware, and Aaron Hughes-Ware to the Transportation Committee; and Catalina Wagers, John Barber, Tami Masuoka, and William Hananon to the Climate and Envi- ronmental Sustainability Committee.

Council authorized sell purchase for 2024-25 through the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Council president’s report

Seventeen applicants for the vacant council seat are posted on the city website (clevelandheights.gov) under Government/City Council/City Council Applicants.

DWP Observer: Blanche Valancy.

CH council appoints Jim Posch to fill vacancy

Kim Sergio Ingles

At a special meeting of Cleve- land Heights City Council on Thursday, April 25, the six council members appointed Jim Posch to fill the unexpired vacancy created when Janine Boyd resigned on March 18.

The vote was 5-1, with Council Member Anthony Mattos Jr. voting no.

According to an April 25 release from President Tony Cuda, the city’s law director, William Hanna, swore in Posch on Friday morning.

“Vice President Russell and I are pleased to welcome Mr. Posch to our team,” Cuda stated. “We are confident that his dedication to public service on our city council board and as a two-term elected member of the CH-UH school board will allow him to hit the ground run- ning.”

At the April 25 meeting, Cuda offered a “thank you” to all who applied for the vacant seat: “This was a talented group of people. We appreciate their dedication to the city, and willingness to go through this process.”

Cuda stated that council mem- bers encouraged the applicants “to stay involved as potential members of committees, boards and com- missions.”

Council received 17 applica- tions; six were withdrawn during the process.

Kim Sergio Ingles is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, and is a Cuyahoga County master gardener.

CH Charter Review Commission to host May 21 public meeting

Harriet Applegatt and Linda Striefsky

The 2023 Cleveland Heights Char- ter Review Commission (CRC) will hold a public information and input meeting—for comments on its draft charter—on Wednesday, April 19. The CRC’s new schedule for Wednesday, May 1, at 6 p.m., at the Lee Road Library.

The CRC began meeting in July 2023 to consider possible changes to the City Charter. Videos of the meetings are available on the city’s YouTube channel. Links to the videos, as well as the CRC’s meeting schedule, agendas and minutes, are posted on the city’s Web page for the commission (www.cleveland- heights.gov/375/Charter-Review-Commission).

The CRC welcomed comments from the public at a meeting held on Feb. 12, and appreciated the thoughtful input that community members shared. CRC thanks those members of the public who have attended a meeting or sub- mitted e-mail comments.

The CRC is preparing to submit its report, with proposed charter changes, to CH City Council by May 31. Hosting this second public meeting is a step in finalizing that goal. The meeting’s agenda will include a review of the CRC’s recommendations, and an opportunity for public comments.

Before the May 21 meeting, the CRC will share a draft of its report and some of the amendments via the city’s website.

In addition to attending the meeting, the public may also submit written comments via e-mail, to crc@clevelandheights.gov.

Harriet Applegatt and Linda Strief- sky are members of the CRC. App- ledge is also a FutureHeights board member.
CH launches ‘engagement phase’ of climate action plan

Marc Lefkowitz

During June and July last year, wildfires in Canada gave Cleveland Heights a small taste of the threat posed by climate change; poor air quality forced residents inside and created health issues for many.

The city of Cleveland Heights is on a mission to plan and prepare for the effects of climate change through its inaugural Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). This effort is being spearheaded by Andy Boateng, the city’s first Sustainability and Resilience Coordinator, who was appointed by Mayor Kahil Seren in August 2023.

With the help of nationally recognized sustainability experts Nutter Consulting, the city is developing a comprehensive, inclusive, and actionable plan to tackle pressing questions about its future:

• How is—and will—the global climate crisis affecting Cleveland Heights and its residents?
• How is Cleveland Heights contributing to this crisis? And, what can and should we do to protect ourselves—especially our most vulnerable residents—from the effects of poor air quality and extreme weather events?

Plan launch: The city officially launched its CARP effort on Oct. 24, 2023, during Global Climate Week 2023, and the mayor and Boateng hosted an open house at City Hall, engaging residents in discussions about climate change impacts.

Citizen Survey: The city launched a Climate Action Survey last fall to capture residents’ diverse perspectives and opinions. Hundreds of residents have participated. This survey will remain open throughout the plan’s development.

City Climate Action Team: Mayor Seren formed a cross-departmental team to define and advance the opportunities of CARP, and a smaller steering committee meets bi-weekly to guide and collaborate on the plan.

Discovery Phase: Nutter Consulting has been driving the “discovery phase” of the planning effort:
• Reviewing all relevant city and county plans and developing a comprehensive summary of what they contain to ensure any CARP goals and proposed strategies align with existing efforts.
• Crafting a robust strategy for reaching out to the community and engaging stakeholders that makes finding equitable solutions a priority.
• Engaging a climate scientist to assess annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Cleveland Heights and provide an initial GHG emissions inventory.

Engagement Phase: The CARP process is now entering its “engagement phase.” The city will hold its first CARP Visioning Workshop from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, at the CH Community Center. This workshop will be the first in a series of opportunities for all to come together, share ideas, and co-create a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan that reflects the shared values and aspirations of the entire community.

Ready to have your voice heard? Here are three ways you can get started:
• Take the Climate Action Day Survey at https://bit.ly/4q5GWRR.
• Sign up for our e-mail list at https://bit.ly/4gEwOli.
• Sign up to attend the Kickoff Visioning Workshop on May 8 through Eventbrite (https://bit.ly/3N4nLC).

Marc Lefkowitz is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and a sustainability advocate. He has served on the city’s Transportation Advisory Committee and on the board of the Home Repair Resource Center, and is currently a public relations specialist with the city of Cleveland Heights. His son attends the Heights schools.

Celebrate ‘We Are Noble’ May 17–19

Brenda H. May

We Are Noble—the celebration of the people and places in the Noble Road neighborhood of Cleveland Heights—kicks off on Friday, May 17, 6-8 p.m., with NobleFest, the Noble Elementary School family fun fair held on school grounds. There, kids can enjoy games, food and activities with friends and family.

The weekend schedule for May 17–19 is unfolding at www.nobleneigh- bor.com. There, one can find information about participating—holding a yard sale, for example, or joining as a business or institution. Cleveland Heights residents from other neighborhoods are invited to join in the celebration and discover new features of this neighborhood; explore its parks, business districts and eclectic homes; and meet new people.

All area residents are welcome to host a yard sale at their home. Businesses and institutions are invited to showcase their products, services and missions to this community by offering special sales, giveaways, food and performances. Real estate agents will hold open houses for folks to tour.

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will host a small tool sale and open house designed to introduce newcomers to their many programs. Noble Road Presbyterian Church’s pie sale will take place at HRRC on Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to noon. (Insider tip: Come early!)

Later that day, 4-5 p.m., Oxford Elementary School folks will present their Oxford Carnival at the school, featuring games, prizes, food trucks, popcorn, cotton candy, a DJ, and resource tables. The resource tables will provide details to parents about summer programs and camps their kids can get involved in over the summer. Kids can also get temporary tattoos and a creation from a balloon twister.

Noble Neighborhood Library, just a few weeks from its grand opening, is going mobile—in the wheelie sense—all weekend. Find its book mobiles, featuring giveaways and activities, at NobleFest, Oxford Carnival and Noble Gardeners’ Market.

As a returning special feature, on Saturday, May 18, Noble Gardeners’ Market will host a seedling plant sale, 10 a.m. to noon, at the corner of Noble and Roanoke roads (one block north of Monticello Boulevard). Neighbors will sell seeds they harvested last fall, seedling vegetable plants they are growing at home, and flowering plants divided from their bountiful backyards.

The Noble Gardeners’ Market’s full selling season is in August and September, when all this backyard and community garden abundance is ripening. Anyone is welcome to be a seller. Just bring your own table or ground cloth and be prepared to make change for your customers for either

SCOTT HAIGH

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E-Pro, RRS
(Residential Real Estate Specialist)

Scott is honest, likable, trustworthy, and highly competent. Whether we made a decision to buy or sell was always very understanding and patient with our decisions. We feel the best in Cleveland and we highly recommend him.

Brenda H. May

NobleFest, Oxford Carnival and Noble Gardeners’ Market.

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Nearly 30 ago, Tatyana Rehn and John Emerman founded The Stone Oven Bakery Café in Cleveland Heights. It became a beloved Lee Road institution. Now, the co-founders have passed the torch.

FutureHeights will honor Rehn and Emerman as FutureHeights’ Persons of the Year at its annual benefit celebration on July 13, 5–9:30 p.m., at the Dolan Center for Science and Technology at John Carroll University.

A cafe is a simple thing, yet over the years Stone Oven has become a home for many, woven into the fabric of our unique Heights community. That is both rare and beautiful, and worthy of celebration.

I’m thrilled that FutureHeights is honoring John and Tatyana—two people who mean a lot to me and, in many ways, feel like my Heights family. You could say I grew up working at Stone Oven; I started there as a Heights High sophomore at just 14 years old, working until my senior year, when I was 17. If the Lee Road cafe gives off a familial vibe to customers, I can say it is also reflective of how it felt to work there.

Throughout college and post-college, friends would convene at Stone Oven to catch up during trips home. The regulars I had waited on and gotten to know as a teenager were always still there. The staff behind the counter changed, but the cafe always maintained the same welcoming, familial atmosphere Stone Oven was known for.

The Stone Oven as we know it was born out of Tatyana’s desire to create and sell top-quality, European-style bread. Both Tatyana and John are mechanical engineers by trade. Tatyana was first to pursue bread baking as a business, operating first from home, then out of a rented kitchen on Taylor Road. When they opened its first storefront in 1995, Stone Oven served a small menu of gourmet sandwiches, salads, pastries and coffee that has largely remained unchanged over the years. Business was good, and John left his engineering job to join the staff full-time.

In 2005, they moved Stone Oven to its current, larger location on Lee, which features large murals and custom menu boards created by local artists.

“As a result of its location and the unique community of the area, the Lee Road store has always been the heart and soul of the business,” Tatyana reflected. “Its success had everything to do with feeling like this place is our home, Stone Oven is our home. It’s Cleveland Heights and it’s John. John gave it personality, by existing there, by being the person. All these parts came together to make it a success.”

“We have very warm relationships with our staff,” said John. “When you start a business and you grow it and it’s your baby, the people who work for you are sort of your extended family.”

That sentiment was on full display during the Stone Oven Extravaganza of 2009—a choreographed flash-mob style dance routine performed by John and fellow employees during a bustling Saturday lunch rush, much to the surprise of patrons. (It’s still available for viewing on YouTube.) Two marriages have resulted between the Lee Road store and Stone Oven’s Rehn and Emerman ‘persons of the year’

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In 2023, the city of Cleveland Heights filed 97 criminal housing violation cases with the CH Municipal Court. Like all criminal cases, the city has complete discretion in deciding whether to bring a criminal charge and the nature of the charge to bring. Once that discretion is exercised, however, the control of the case shifts from the City to the Court. In a criminal case, if a finding of guilt is made, it is the judge’s responsibility to determine the appropriate sanction.

The severity of the maximum penalty depends on the nature of the charge and how it is charged. For the code violation cases filed by the city last year, the maximum penalty for an individual was a $5,000 fine and six months in jail, and the maximum penalty for an entity was a $7,500 fine. Although punishment may be warranted, as the Municipal Court Judge I emphasize compliance with code requirements as the primary goal of criminal prosecution; we, as a community, are best served when properties are repaired, rehabilitated, and maintained. The court uses community control supervision, also known as probation, as a means to that end.

Placing an offender on community control requires some of the maximum penalty to be suspended. Community control then includes conditions that require the offender to develop and present a compliance plan acceptable to the court and bring the property into compliance within that time frame. If that occurs, the court closes out the case without further penalty. If the offender violates any community control conditions, the court can impose all or part of the suspended sentence.

We also have a housing court diversion program in collaboration with the city and the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC). To be accepted into the program, the subject property must be owner-occupied. The participant must meet with the HRRC and develop and present an acceptable compliance plan to the court. If the participant then follows and completes the compliance plan, the case is dismissed, no conviction appears on their record, and they can apply to have the record of the case sealed or expunged.

Of the 97 criminal housing violation cases filed by the city, 47 were filed against individuals who owned and resided in their homes here in Cleveland Heights, and 50 were not owner-occupied and instead were filed against individuals or entities. The average number of days between when the city first inspected those properties and when it was filed with the court was 455 days. As of April 1, seven of the 97 were later voluntarily dismissed by the city, 12 have warrants for failing to appear, one has a pending trial, 39 remain under the supervision of the court, and 39 have been brought into compliance. Of the 39 that remain under the court’s supervision, 17 are owner-occupied properties in the diversion program, and 22 are on community control. The average number of days those cases have been pending with the court since they were filed is 203.

Of those brought into compliance, 15 were through the diversion program. The other 24 were sentenced and placed on probation with the condition that the property be brought into compliance, and they have since done just that. The average number of days between when the case was filed with the court and when it was determined that the property was in compliance was 106.

For additional information about this and more about what your municipal court does, check out our annual report at www.clevelandheightscourt.com.

J.J. Costello has been the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court judge since 2018, overseeing all criminal, civil, eviction, housing, and small claims filings. He is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, and he and his wife, Alicia, are proudly raising their two sons in Cleveland Heights.

J.J. Costello

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Rangers take CH50+ hockey championship


Chris Trotta

The Cleveland Heights 50+ hockey league closed its 2023-24 season with the league championship game on Friday, March 22, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center North Rink.

The league’s four teams—the Blues, Leafs, Lightning and Rangers—had battled through a season that began in late September and finished up early this March. Only the Blues and Rangers were left standing after the semifinals, and the table was set for the two teams to meet in a one-game winner-take-all final.

The final was a spirited contest that ended with the Rangers on top. The Blues, led by team captain Bob Dobrowsky, jumped to a 1-0 lead in the early minutes of the first period. The Blues, led by captain Colin Johnson, tied the game 1-1 in the second period. The Rangers scored the final (and unanswered) goal in the third period to break the tie and take home the championship trophy.

According to League Commissioner Paul Oppedal, “The Rangers were the team to beat all season long, finishing first in points, wins, GF, and GA (and penalties).”

Games during the season consisted of three 15-minute periods with a one-minute intermission between periods. There is one referee per game.

To learn more about the league (which is for experienced players at the B and C skater level) contact Oppedal at cjh50hl@outlook.com or visit https://oh-clevelandheightspark-sandra.evierplas.com/314/Cleveland-Heights-50-Hockey-League.

The league also is open to players from all nearby cities.

Chris Trotta, a resident of Cleveland Heights, was a member of the Blues this year and just finished his second season in the CH50+ Hockey League.

Officer West memorial fundraiser May 19

Gift baskets, like this one, will be part of the raffle to raise funds for the Officer Jason D. West memorial scholarship.

Joy Henderson

Bass Dog Brewing Company, at 2799 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, will host this year’s Mega Raffle Event to benefit The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Fund, which provides scholarships for cadets in the Cleveland Heights Police Academy.

The family-friendly event is planned for Sunday, May 19, 5-8 p.m., and will include games for kids and adults. The event is free. Attendees will partake of finger food and a chance to vie for silent-raffle prizes donated by area businesses.

Regular menu items, beer and other beverages from the bar will be available for purchase.

Board President Lita Gonzalez said that the organization holds the Mega Raffle each year to raise money for the scholarship fund, noting, “It is the only fundraising event we hold, and all money raised during this fundraiser goes directly to the scholarships.”

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Fund is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization that was started by area residents, businesses, and police officers to remember Officer West’s dedication to law enforcement. He was killed in 2007 when he responded to a domestic disturbance call.

For more information contact Lita Gonzalez at 216-410-4577 or lita.gonzalez2374@gmail.com, or visit the website https://officerjasonwest.org. For event updates, see the group’s Facebook page (The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Fund).

Joy Henderson is a volunteer with The Officer Jason West Memorial Fund.
CAIN PARK
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JUNE 14 • 8 PM
56 Years of Funk & Soul Tour
Tower of Power

JUNE 16 • 6 PM
THE TOGETHERNESS TOUR
Michael Franti & Spearhead
w/ Stephen Marley
w/ special guest Bombaño

JUNE 20 • 8 PM
Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue
w/ Big Boi

JUNE 23 • 8 PM
Los Lonely Boys

JUNE 29
Ohio Contemporary Ballet

JULY 6 • 8 PM
Glen Burtnik’s Summer of Love

JULY 7 • 8 PM
Alexander Star & Sons of Mystro

JULY 18 • 7:30 PM
Best. Summer. Ever. Tour
moe.
w/ Daniel Donato’s Cosmic Country

Inlet Dance Theatre

JULY 26 & 27
Inlet DanceTheatre

JULY 29
2nd Annual Pride in the Park

JULY 12-14
47th Annual Cain Park Arts Festival

JULY 12-21
Hype Man
Alma Theater

AUGUST 6 • 8 PM
Skerryvore

JULY 25 • 8 PM
The Robert Cray Band + Steve Earle

AUGUST 7 • 7 PM
Gin Blossoms
w/ Toad The Wet Sprocket
and special guest Vertical Horizon

AUGUST 31 • 5 PM
17th Annual Multi Music Fest
Kenny Lattimore,
Kirk Whalum &
Jeff Lorber Fusion

FREE EVENTS

AUGUST 8-10
GroundWorks DanceTheater
Alma Theater

AUGUST 23 • 8 PM
Samara Joy

AUGUST 25 • 8 PM
The Robert Cray Band + Steve Earle

FREE Concert Series
Local 4 Music Fund
Select Tuesdays in the Alma Theater

Our Theater Season Expanded!

MAY 30-JUNE 9
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Alma Theater

JUNE 20-30
Big Fish
Alma Theater

JULY 12-21
Hype Man
Alma Theater

SEPTEMBER 5-15
A View from the Bridge
Alma Theater

more shows to be announced soon!

Check out our new website!
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HEIGHTS OBSERVER MAY 1, 2024
16
www.heightsobserver.org
Plans underway for May 18 Tiger 5K and Fun Run

Participants of all ages are welcome at the Tiger 5K.

Alicia Zeigler Costello

Lace-up your running shoes—it’s time for the 3rd Annual Tiger 5K, benefitting all seven CH-UH elementary schools. The community event will kick off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, at the Cleveland Heights High School track.

The race will begin and end on the Heights High track. The certified 5K is open to all ages and abilities. Walkers are welcome! Participants of all ages are welcome at the Tiger 5K.

In addition to the 5K, the CH-UH elementary school PTAs will also host a 10 a.m. Fun Run for younger runners, which will also take place at the high school track.

“Whether you are a runner, walker, cheerleader, or volunteer, there’s a place for you to participate,” said Erin Brunet Espuela, one of this year’s race directors.

Sign up in advance to participate at https://runsignup.com/tiger5k2024. All registered runners will receive an official Tiger 5K t-shirt.

This year, the PTAs have created a community volunteer signup, https://signup.com/go/APkN1Tw, for those interested. Businesses and individuals alike can make a difference by sponsoring the event or volunteering their time. Donations are greatly appreciated.

All proceeds will be split equally among the seven elementary schools, supporting PTA programming across the district.

The race provides an opportunity for community members to get out into the neighborhood, whether or not they are competitive runners.

“This event truly embodies what makes Cleveland Heights special: it is intergenerational, family-friendly, and nature-promoting,” Brunet Espuela said. “The community support we have received really helps our district shine.”

After the 5K and Fun Run, participants are invited to stick around for ice cream provided by alumni Pete and Mike Mitchell, of Mitchell’s Ice Cream, a DJ, a raffle table; and more.

Check out highlights from last year’s run at https://vimeo.com/85646453.

All questions/sponsorship inquiries should be e-mailed to heightstiger5k@gmail.com.

Alicia Zeigler Costello is a 1997 Cleveland Heights High School graduate and lives in the city with her family. Her two children attend CH-UH schools.

Register now for summer music camp

Susie Koester

Students from the middle grades have an opportunity to shine musically this summer by attending the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp. This music-immersion week starts June 10 and ends with a public performance on June 15, when the inter-generational orchestra shares the music it’s shaped during 11 rehearsals.

Instrumental music students completing grades six through eight this school year, who are residents of the CH-UH school district, are eligible to participate in this joyful and demanding week. Registration by May 15 is appreciated and recommended. Space is limited.

The camp experience has been carefully designed to emphasize collaboration and growth in the context of fun. Silly hats and theme days, popsicles, and recreation breaks add a light touch to the week.

The camp’s goal is to give emerging musicians, who have at least two years of experience playing in their school music program, the chance to experience the rewards of sustained effort, guided by expert coaches and inspiring mentors, and enjoy the friendships that are formed by working together.

The music camp is a partnership between Reaching Heights and the school district. It is held at Cleveland Heights High School, and the Heights High orchestra director, Dan Heim, is the camp’s music director. The professional staff includes many alumni of the Heights music program, community professionals, and district music staff members Tamar Gray, Daniel Hershman-Rossi, Kymeron Carter, Katie Malquest and Stew Phariss.

In addition to the 5K, the CH-UH elementary school PTAs will also host a 10 a.m. Fun Run for younger runners, which will also take place at the high school track.

“Whether you are a runner, walker, cheerleader, or volunteer, there’s a place for you to participate,” said Erin Brunet Espuela, one of this year’s race directors.

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MetroHealth CH provides acute stroke care

Angela Townsend

The MetroHealth Cleveland Heights Medical Center Emergency Department is certified as a Stroke Ready facility by the Accreditation Commission for Health Care Inc.

The Emergency Department staff at Cleveland Heights is recognized for the level of initial care it provides stroke victims. The advanced teams can rapidly recognize the signs of stroke, diagnose a stroke and begin treatment, providing the highest level of acute stroke care to patients close to where they live and work.

Heart disease and stroke kill more people in the United States than all types of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined, according to the American Heart Association.

MetroHealth was the first hospital in Northeast Ohio to earn Primary Stroke Center certification and grew to become a Joint Commission-certified Comprehensive Stroke Center in 2014. Receiving stroke treatment at a certified stroke center greatly increases your chance of surviving a stroke.

MetroHealth’s complete stroke services—including comprehensive stroke rehabilitation—have met rigid criteria designed by the American Stroke Association and American Heart Association. Patients with the most complex strokes are brought to MetroHealth Medical Center, which offers advanced imaging capabilities and specialized treatments.

“The faster that stroke care is administered, the better the outcome,” said Jon Schrock, M.D., FACEP, an emergency medicine physician. “These certifications let neighborhoods know that if they or someone near to them is having a stroke, calling 911 will take them to the right place for their care quickly.”

MetroHealth is the only health system in the area to have all four of its Emergency Departments stroke certified.

“We have put a lot of time and training in so that we better serve the communities where we are located,” Schrock said. “This is care you cannot get at an urgent care or another free-standing emergency department.”

There’s a lot you can do on your own to help lower your risk for a stroke. Quit or don’t start smoking; stay physically active; maintain a healthy weight and diet; get plenty of sleep; and know your numbers (cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, etc.).

Knowing the tell-tale signs of a stroke—sudden loss of balance, vision loss, face drooping or numbness on one side, weakness or numbness in one arm or leg, slurred speech or inability to speak—is crucial, but it’s not enough. Getting to a stroke certified emergency department can improve the chances of you or a loved one surviving a stroke.

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

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Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights

MARCH 19, 2024 - work session

Board members present were Jodi Svorini (president), Gabe Crenshaw, Dan Heintz, Malta Lewis, and Phil Trimbile. Also present were Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby and Treasurer Scott Gainer.

Math curriculum, final reading

Michael Jenkins, director of curriculum and instruction, and Joyce Bukovac, instructional specialist for mathematics, presented the final reading of the proposed math curriculum, currently being piloted. Jenkins reviewed how the program benefits all students. The kindergarteners through eighth-grade instructional programs Waggle (for targeted support) and Zearn (supplemental support) provide resources that foster a positive atmosphere for learning. The board voted to accept the math curriculum.

Permanent improvement fund and 10-year plan

Director of Business and Operations George Petkac, Operations Manager Tige Dague, and representatives from the OPO Group presented the permanent improvement fund plan. OPO provides architectural and engineering services to the district. The presentation did not cover Heights High or school interior improvements.

The goals are to develop a 10-year plan, prioritizing HVAC equipment replacement or repair. Thus far, projects have been planned for the next four years. The presenters described the facilities overview, including assessment of the elementary school HVAC systems, and detailed the factors considered to prioritize needs.

Crenshaw asked about OPO’s inclusion of minorities for employment and participating firms. Petkac replied that he would review specifics of the board’s minority hiring plan.

LWV Observer: Rosemarie Fairman.

APRIL 2, 2024 - regular meeting

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

Recognitions and awards

Boulevard Elementary and Monticello Middle schools received Momentum awards from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for improvements in their 2022–23 report cards. Six students from Rochdale Middle School placed first in the state-level Ohio championship academic quiz tournament and will move on to the national competition.

T-Mobile contract

Coordinator of Technology Tony Stelkos said the district sought the T-Mobile contract for hot spots when federal Emergency Connectivity Funds ran out. With the contract, the district can provide up to 100 hot spots at 100 gigabytes each, although the rates and procedures for the hot-spot program are yet to be adopted.

E-rate, a federal program that provides funding to support network connectivity for schools and libraries, will fund 85 to 90 percent of the district’s network costs.

Summer programs

Michael Jenkins, director of curriculum and instruction, outlined summer courses and camps to be offered to grades two through 12. Offerings will emphasize math instruction and credit recovery, and introduce the new math curriculum. Transportation will be provided. A fee will be required for some offerings.

In August, the district will offer the physics-focused 10-day Camp Jump Start for kindergartners through first grade.

Early childhood program

Danielle Foran, program specialist for early childhood education, reviewed the early childhood program. Pre-school classes are available at County, Noble, and Oxford. The program has been awarded the highest ratings by the state and has received funding from the county’s Universal Pre-Kindergarten program for the past seven years. Families pay $575 per month for general preschool education and $105 per month for special education preschool classes. There is no charge for students with an Individualized Educational Program. Scholarships are available for families in need. About 85 percent of pre-kindergarten and students go on to [attend] kindergarten in the district.

Registration is already full for 2024–25, with a waiting list of about 45 students. The total capacity is about 170 students. Currently participating pre-school and kindergarten families get priority for registering new students. Budgetary limits preclude expansion to accommodate more students.

The board requested more data on the percentage of pre-school students who stay with the district through first grade, and on third-grade reading performance for former preschool students.

Superintendent comments

For the March principals meeting, participants observed a geometry class at Heights High, and discussed best practices and the district’s vertical alignment for math instruction.

The district will offer students free eye examinations and free eyeglasses to all elementary students who need them.

A fundraiser at a Cavaliers game led to the district receiving a $10,000 donation from the Cavaliers and the Kalve family.

Treasurer’s report

Gane explained the 2023 Ohio Sunshine Laws regarding school board meetings. The board approves regular meeting times annually in January and notifies the public of those times. Notice for special board meetings must include the issues to be discussed, and discussion is limited to the topics identified. Executive sessions, which are not public, are held for certain personnel matters, sole of property, court actions, collective bargaining issues, and other confidential matters.

LWV Observer: Paula Goodwin.

Documents for all board meetings can be accessed at www.chhs.org/BoardofEducation.aspx. Board meeting agendas are livestreamed at www.youtube.com/CHUNSchools and recorded for later viewing.
Meeting highlights

MARCH 18, 2024

Board members present were Vikas Turakhia (president), Annette Iwamoto (vice presi-
dent), Fath Mott (secretary), Dana Fles-
ler, Tyler McGove, and Joho Schwartz-
and Hallie Tumbarens.

Dobama Theatre

Nathan Motta, artistic director of Dobama Theatre (a partner to Heights Libraries), shared in programming [Dobama staff] consult with local experts about each of the plays. Theater participation is approximate-
ly 60 percent of pre-COVID levels. Their community outreach includes more than 200 i-school workshops.

Board actions

The board proclaims April 7–13 as Na-
tional Library Week.

The board acted and reported on sev-
eral personnel positions. A new human re-
source manager will start on April 15. Sam
Lapides has concluded a four-month assign-
ment as interim safety and security services 
manager. Steve Eigisti has been promoted 
from full-time associate to full-time librarians 
at the Coventry Village Branch. The board 
combined two part-time associate positions 
into one full-time associate position, to be 
devoted to outreach service for homebound 
and senior customers, and promoted Rome 
Hopey to the full time position. Due to an 
increased programming, especially in the area 
of culinary literacy, the board converted a part-
time circulation assistant position into a part-
time adult services associate position at 
the Coventry Village Branch. The board 
 hired Faith StoweVander as a new adminis-
trative assistant.

Director’s report

The library hours on April 8 during the total 
solar eclipse are being widely publicized. 
ey are posted on the Heights Libraries 

The library is partnering with AARP to 
provide space to help people complete their 
taxes. There are not enough volunteers to 
handle the need.

Match Madness: A donor has offered to 
match up to $25,000 in PEACE Park dona-
tions from March 17 through April 8. There 
 will be a fundraiser at Clifton Taqueria of 
Coventry on March 27 where 20 percent of the proceeds will go to the park.

Noble Neighborhood Library is on tar-
got to re-open June 2.

Two exhibits by the Northeast Ohio 
Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. orga-
nization were secured for the Lee Road Li-

brary, and were well received.

Eight public libraries in Ohio have levy 
issues on the March 19 ballot.

The theme for National Library Week, 
April 7–13, is “Keady, Set, Library!” Daily 
themes include the right to read and recog-
nition of all library workers.

Public service report

Hundreds of puzzles were exchanged in 
the library’s first puzzle swap. This event brought 
98 puzzles of all ages to the Lee Road Li-

rary. There is a strong desire for frequent opportuni-
ties to sustainably support these hobbies.

New equipment comes to the Memory 
Lab, including several digital converters and 
adaptors: converter for cassette to MP3 via 
SD card, 8mm and super 8 films digitizer 
converter, USB audio capture card, Slide 
N Scan film to video scan box, DVD/CD 
Capture Box Video to Digital converter, and Emerson 
DVD/VCR Combo and Cassette Adapter 
HR-16.

The Coventry Village Library partici-
pated in the Symbolic Monarch Migration 
project for the second year. Symbolic (i.e., 
not real) monarch butterflies are mailed 
to schools near the Monarch Butterfly Bio-
sphere Reserve in Central Mexico. These symbolic butterflies build bridges of commu-
nication among participants in Mexico, the 
United States, and Canada.

Noble Neighborhood Librarian Steve 
Sanders participated in a focus group host-
ed by the Oklahoma University library and 
June Abbas, information science professor.

The purpose was to discuss service to refu-
gee/immigrant populations, formation of partnerships with other organizations, and 
the challenges of delivering service to this 
community.

University Heights Youth Services librarians Hannah Van Jura, Kate Altenton, and 
Angie George began visiting Gesu pre-
school in February, for the first time since 
COVID.

To celebrate Black History Month, youth 
services hosted a Women in History Ohio 
program, wherein the performer who played the role of Jane Edna 
Hunter, a trailblazer who established what 
became the Phillis Wheatley Association of 
Cleveland. Eighteen customers of all ages attended the performance.

LWV Observer: Judith Beeler.

Information about the board, board meet-
ing minutes and audio recordings of board 
meetings can be found at https://heightsl-
ibrar y.org/locations/heightslibraries-
board.
Quilt show opens May 10 at Sophie La Gourmande

Jean Reinhold

Barb Lind’s narrative quilts will be the focus of a solo exhibition at Sophie La Gourmande, May 10 through mid-July. The opening reception is planned for Friday, May 10, 6-9 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale of Lind’s quilts will be donated to refugee relief.

Lind is a longtime Heights resident whose quilts have been featured at The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Ohio Craft Museum, and Firelands Association for the Visual Arts, and are in the corporate collections of Cleveland State University’s College of Law, and McGregor Home.

This quilt, Stretch Pants Must be Controlled, is Lind's response to the national debate over obesity stigmas and prejudice.

More than 40 years ago, Lind, a native of Cleveland’s industrial inner city, married into a Mennonite family from rural Kansas. Creating a quilt together—Lind’s first—provided common ground on which to build a relationship with her new mother-in-law.

It turned out to have been a life-changing experience for Lind, whose quilts incorporate various construction techniques and found objects and images, and reflect her ideas, cultural commentary and fierce wit.

Sophie La Gourmande, a modern patisserie and café that highlights seasonal menus and a passion for French technique—and supports local artists—is located at 2277 Lee Road. Its regular business hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

For more information, contact Lind at barbaralind392@icloud.com.

Jean Reinhold is a local writer and artist.

Nathan Motta

Dobama Theatre announced its upcoming 2024/25 season on April 2. It comprises a lineup of five new plays—all Cleveland, regional, or world professional premieres.

The season will kick off on Oct. 4, 2024, with “POTUS Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive” by Selena Fillinger, directed by Carrie Williams. In the play, the President of the United States unwittingly spins a PR nightmare into a global crisis. The show was a star-studded hit on Broadway; an all-female farce nominated for three Tony awards.

During the holiday season, Dobama audiences will be able to visit a Neverland like no other. “Peter/Wendy,” Jeremy Bloom’s inventive adaptation of J.M. Barrie’s story, is suited for all ages. Following the adventures of Peter Pan, this production will have immersive/interactive elements. It lands on the Dobama stage Dec. 6.

The season continues in January 2025 with “The Hot Wing King” by Katori Hall. Directed by Sheffia Randall-Nickerson, it’s a comedy that cooks up laughs and drama in equal measure. Winner of a 2021 Pulitzer Prize, the play explores Black masculinity through the story of Cordell, his boyfriend Dwayne, and their closest friends and extended family as they prepare for victory in Memphis’ annual hot wing competition.

“The Wolves,” by Sarah DeLappe, will run March 7-30. This 2017 Pulitzer finalist examines society and soccer through the scary, exhilarating brightness of raw adolescence. The play spotlights a girls’ indoor soccer team as they navigate big questions and wage tiny battles.

Dobama’s 65th season will conclude in April with the world premiere of “Rust: a memoir of steel and grit,” by celebrated playwright George Brant. It tells the true story of a woman born and raised in Cleveland who returns home after graduate school.

On Sunday, June 2, at 2 p.m. Celebrate the grand reopening of this neighborhood library with refreshments, music, and activities for everyone.

See you there!
Murder in the Heights

David Budin

“What about the murders?”

Several people have said those, or similar, words to me since reading my column in the April Heights Observer, about interesting factoids of Cleveland Heights history.

And, yes, there have been some murders in Cleveland Heights. Most of them have been mundane, but a few have had a little historical significance.

The first big one was that of William Lowe Rice, in 1910, when Cleveland Heights wasn’t quite a village yet, but mainly a collection of giant mansions, plus a huge golf course, at the top of Cedar Hill. The developing area was still known as Euclid Heights.

The Lowe-Rice mansion was where the Waldorf Towers stands now, on Overlook Road, literally overlooking the city of Cleveland.

Rice was a prominent attorney who had made himself very unpopular through his business dealings with high-profile clients. One of those was John Hartness Brown, who, because of financial problems, was compelled to surrender a major project to Rice, shortly before the murder.

One night, at about 10:30, Rice, whose wife and daughters were out of town, was walking home from the big golf clubhouse (approximately where Euclid Heights Boulevard, Derbyshire and Surrey roads are now), which was about 500 yards from his home.

John Hartness Brown, whose big stone house still stands at the intersection of Edgehill and Overlook roads, was one of the junior developers of the Euclid Heights development. He was the main suspect. But there were several others, and the case was never solved.

One of the most-mentioned Cleveland Heights murders is that of a guy whose name most people who talk about the event don’t even know. They know that a young man was shot at the infamous C-Saw Café, a biker bar on Coventry in the 1970s. Most know that the shooter was the bartender. But the rest of the story is hazy. I’ve heard many versions of the event.

But, according to a Cleveland newspaper at the time, “Murder charges were filed in Cleveland Heights today against a 51-year-old Coventry Road bartender in the gun slaying of Brian Hacker, 22.”

“Police said William Sobo, the bartender, shot Hacker last night in the C-Saw Café, 1825 Coventry Rd., as they argued over a can of a soft drink Hacker had brought into the tavern. The shooting occurred about 7:45 p.m. Three patrons in the tavern told police Hacker hurled the can behind the bar during the argument. Seconds later, Sobo took a gun from behind the bar and fired at Hacker, police said.

“Hacker staggered out of the bar, wounded in the chest, and collapsed on the sidewalk. He was pronounced dead at Huron Road Hospital 10 minutes later. The victim worked for his mother, Barbara, in her Moonshine Inc. boutique around the corner from the C-Saw at 2806 Mayfield Rd. The boutique contains a coffeehouse, art gallery, craft shop and poetry reading salon. Hacker, his mother and an 18-year-old brother were living together at 2472 Overlook Road, Cleveland continued on page 23

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Reaching Heights established the camp in 2004 as a way to support the Heights tradition of musical excellence and to give more children access to enrichment opportunities. Music is a unique and powerful way to teach children to communicate, connect, build confidence and develop life-long skills.

Learning to play an instrument well, and to experience the pleasure that comes from making music with others, takes time, guidance, practice and determination. The camp helps jump-start those skills and solidifies campers’ interest in music.

Visit www.reachingheights.org to register, to view last year’s concert, and to learn more. The fee is $220, with scholarships available upon request.

Susie Kaiser moved to Cleveland Heights in 1979. She is the former director of Reaching Heights and a founder of the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp.

Memberships ($180; $170 for Young Professionals under 40) for Dobama’s 2024/25 season are on sale now, and can be purchased by calling the box office at 216-932-3396 or by visiting dobama.org. Single tickets ($35 to $42) will go on sale Aug. 13.

Nathan Motта is the artistic director at Dobama Theatre.
We MOVED
2040 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118