Four parishes may be one

Merger plan means Saint Louis in Cleveland Heights will most likely close

Carol Staiger

On April 30, teams of volunteers from four area Catholic churches simultaneously presented the first draft of a plan to merge their congregations. Parishioners from Saint Ann and Saint Louis of Cleveland Heights and Christ the King and Saint Philomena of East Cleveland gathered at their respective churches to hear the report. Those at Saint Ann were generally receptive to the recommendation that all four churches combine to form one parish. The parish would have two campuses, one at Saint Ann and the other at Saint Philomena. Saint Louis and Christ the King would close and the number of priests currently serving the four parishes would be reduced from four to two.

The Catholic Church in Cleveland and its nearby suburbs has been losing members to the growing, and sometimes new parishes in farther-flung suburbs and cities as many Cuyahoga County residents have migrated to these outer-ring cities and the counties beyond. Left behind are many proud congregations who struggle with aging infrastructure and stagnant, often declining, financial support. The number of priests serving the diocese continues to decline and their median age continues to rise.

About two years ago, the Most Rev. Richard Lennon, head of the diocese of Cleveland, announced a plan to address the issue. The diocese’s 231 parishes were to self-select into 69 clusters. Once the clusters were approved by the bishop, each was given a mandate that indicated the number of churches, the number of schools, and the number of priests that should serve each cluster, beginning in 2010. Bishop Lennon had implemented a project of

continued on page 4

Roots of American music has roots in Cleveland Heights

Deanna Bremer Fischer

 Soon after graduating from CH-UH High School, Kevin Richards started giving guitar lessons at Dick Lurie’s Cedar-Lee studio. Eventually, Richards opened his own school, the Fairmount Music Education Fund, which was soon renamed Roots of American Music (ROAM). The nonprofit organization, is headquartered in a storefront on Fairmount Boulevard, continued on page 9

These old houses

Deanna Bremer Fischer

As Heights citizens join thousands of people across the country to celebrate National Preservation Month this May they join a growing movement of individuals who are working to protect the unique character of their neighborhoods.

“I’d estimate at least 90% of our housing stock and at least 50% of our commercial buildings are over 70 years old and may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places,” says Kara Hamley-O’Donnell, historic preservation planner for the city of Cleveland Heights.

Nominating a neighborhood or an individual building to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places is one of the ways that citizens work to preserve the city’s character. In 1966 the National Historic Preservation Act created a national list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The program was designed to coordinate efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic properties and is administered by the National Park Service, a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The register contains over 80,000 listings.

Cleveland Heights contains, in whole or in part, seven National Register Historic Districts and will soon add an eighth when the Inglewood District is listed later this year. Nine buildings are individually listed in the National Register. The city of Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission also recognizes historic properties and has recognized 51 such properties since its inception in 1973 (see map page 14).

Benefits of listing a property in the National Register include recognizing the property’s historical, architectural and cultural significance, consideration in planning for federal or federally assisted projects, potential eligibility for federal and state tax credits, and federal assistance for historic preservation when funds are available.

National Register listing does not prevent an owner from doing anything they wish with their property, provided that no federal license, permit, or funding is involved, nor does it require an owner to open a property to the public, restore it, or maintain it in any particular manner. Case in point: although the old Cleveland Heights City Hall was listed in the Register in 1986, it was subsequently demolished.

Although anyone can write a National Register nomination, it is not an easy task. Individual citizens have completed the last three National Register nominations in Cleveland Heights. Diana Wellman recently wrote the nomination for the Inglewood Historic District, an area of historic homes north of Severance Town Center. “I’m hoping that being in a historic district will increase property values or at least hold them steady in the market today,” continued on page 14
More on the movie screening that wasn’t

Dear Observer,

I take note of the recent criticism of the Cleveland Heights University Heights Library Board over the cancellation of a film about the conflict in the Middle East. Years ago, in a conversation in the case called Whitney v. California, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis observed that in the face of troubling speech “the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.” It appears that was the original intent of the Library Board, to show a film containing assertions some would find objectionable and then carry out a panel discussion exploring the truth or falsity of the claims—exposing them to the test of the marketplace.

It’s disappointing that the board didn’t stay the course, but understandable in the circumstances in which the library’s future financial needs are on the ballot. We see that free speech, a core value in a democracy, has been diminished by fears of the willingness of people to tax themselves to sponsor it.

Richard Hendrickson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
John Carroll University

Heights Observer

Heights High kids ace spelling bee and more

Dear Observer,

The good news of the Reaching Heights Spelling Bee is in: Students from Heights High placed second in the competition [a team of CWRU faculty won after three tiebreaker rounds]. Kids, our kids at our high school, from our school district defeated bankers, musicians, librarians, and teachers. This was no kid-on-kid competition. The annual event was a free-for-all tumble amongst spellers of every age, race, gender, and academic background. My goodness, that is good news and we should rejoice. After the magnificent "Fiddler on the Roof," the choral tour of New Orleans, and the wave of acceptance from students getting into every imaginable college and university, something good and wholesome is going on. And, on top of all this, children who go through our public schools are not only getting a great education but are participating in an experiment in grassroots democracy. Because our schools will not turn anyone away our children also experience America at its best.

Congratulations students, teachers, administrators, custodians, coaches, aides, school board members and superintendent. Keep up the good work!

John Lentz
Pastor, forest Hill Church
Presbyterian

Note: Letters to the Heights Observer should be 200 words or less. Send letters to info@futureheights.org.
London, Paris, Cleveland Heights

Matthew Williams

Cleveland Heights has been my home for the last eighteen months. Previously, I was living in Paris, but that in London, France and England respectively, not Texas and Canada. In Paris, I was working as an English teacher. Most of my students were professional, learning English for professional reasons, many of whom were readying themselves for their first work-related meetings with Americans. So, naturally, a large part of the lessons consisted of cultural coaching which proved a lot of fun for an Englishman working with cosmopolitan French professionals. Among the many things to distinguish the French, for better or worse, is their willingness to share their opinions. And for the last few hundred years, they have been particularly opinionated about the USA. George W. Bush’s statement “the French don’t even have a word for “entrepreneur”” certainly raised eyebrows. But I must say that in five years, I didn’t meet one person who didn’t enjoy working with their transatlantic cousins. So, how does Cleveland Heights differ from Paris? Architecture notwithstanding, the first difference is the reception. Visit most cafes in Paris and it’s a fight to get the attention of the staff. On my first visit here, I received the most polite rude awakening I can remember. I wanted to see my soccer team (Liverpool if you’re interested) in the Champions League. My search for a sports bar led me to the Winking Lizard on Coventry. Peering through the window, I saw a Manchester United game being shown. Despite this, I went in to ask about the next day’s match. Within seconds an incredibly enthusiastic waitress had pounced and asked “Hi! How are you? Would you like a table?”

Still in a jetlag funk, I found this a little intimidating. But I pulled myself together and asked if they would be showing the game the next day. In Paris, I would expect a Gallic shrug followed by the vague suggestion that I might come back tomorrow. But she told me that she didn’t know, and then scammed off to find out. A minute or so later, she was back, apologizing for not knowing, handing me a business card and saying I should call back. I think she even told me her name and she definitely told me to have a nice day.

I generally offered three pieces of advice to my students before they started working with Americans: be polite, be direct and turn it up. The first two are obvious, the third takes a little more explaining, so here goes. When I got married in August, my best man flew in to Michigan from Edinburgh. He’d decided to come to the U.S. for three weeks, and for some reason, decided that he did not want to spend all this time in Detroit. So he flew to Vegas and drove through Utah to the Grand Canyon. Along the way, he fell in love with the American diner. He was very surprised by the attention he received from the waiters. Asked how he was enjoying his meal, he gave what would be an acceptable British reply “it’s OK, thanks.” The response generally caused an amount of consternation on the part of the waiter, “oh, really, what’s wrong?”

So I always advised Parisians to “turn it up” when working with Americans. Reference works such as The Chicago Manual of Style, Strunk and White’s The Elements of Style, or the AP Stylebook may prove helpful. General notes on our style: Use only one space between sentences. Initials have periods and spaces (e.g. J.K. Rowling, not JK Rowling or J.K. Rowling). There are no spaces around any kind of dash. Use italics for emphasis, not bold. NEVER use all caps. And, as the editors say, “Punctuation marks nearly always go inside quote marks,” not outside.

Matthew Williams is a professional freelance English language trainer living with his wife in the Heights.
Celebrate World Fair Trade Day in the Heights May 10

Charlotte Bifulco

On almost every continent there are celebrations planned for May 10, 2008 in honor of World Fair Trade Day. The celebrations aim to "increase the awareness of the campaign for justice in trade." Fair trade is an alternative way of doing business that ensures the producers earn a living wage. This makes a tremendous impact on the producer communities. Children's school fees are paid, nutritional needs are met, health care costs are covered; the poor, especially women, are empowered; and the environmental impact of production, sourcing, and transport is mitigated.

We are fortunate to have many talented Cleveland natives who support fair trade: Lisa Dunn opened her own fair trade fashion boutique, Revive, on Lee Road. Heights High graduate Barb DeGolia, who founded Mercado Global, to "lift families in rural Guatemala out of poverty" through marketing their handcrafted jewelry, accessories and ceramics, has been featured on the Tiwani Bandeau Cover and the cover of Newsweek. Cleveland native Andy Krumholz created Escama Studio working directly with artisans in Brazil who produce sleek, modern handbags made of recycled pop tabs. Mad Imports founder Laurel Brandstetter grew up in Shaker Heights, and their eclectic fashion accessories, handmade in Madagascar, have appeared in O Magazine, Lucky and Glimmer and have also been seen on E! News and the Early Show on CBS.

How is Cleveland celebrating World Fair Trade Day, May 10th? Here are two fun events not to be missed! Participate in the "world's largest fair trade coffee break." Enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee and receive a complimentary dark chocolate and espresso chip bar with any $25 purchase. Revive Fair Trade Store located at 2248 Lee Rd. in Cleveland Heights from 10 a.m. -6 p.m. Revive will also co-host the Cleveland World Fair Trade Day event held at the Independence Civic Center from 5 p.m. -8 p.m. The festivities include a fair trade fashion show featuring students from 13 area high schools. Enjoy the fashion show, music, poetry, speakers, and educational displays. The Fair Trade Fair will also include: Ten Thousand Villages, Equal Exchange, HeartStarts Catalog, INTO, IRTF, and Phoenix Coffee.

Charlotte Bifulco works with Revive, and lives in her Heights home, originally purchased by her great grandmother in 1912.

Foreclosures in the Heights

Maryann Barnes

Neighborhood blight, home values, lost tax revenues and city services, copper theft, the housing crisis and resulting rampant foreclosure rates affect everyone. The city of Cleveland has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the country. The crisis has been moving into Cleveland suburbs, affecting Cleveland Heights for a number of years and now moving into University Heights and beyond.

This is a problem that all communities need to address aggressively. How are City Hall and the community confronting this problem? To answer this question the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area is hosting a presentation, Foreclosures in the Heights: City and Community Action, at its annual spring meeting, Thursday evening, June 12. Rick Wagner, manager of housing programs for the city of Cleveland Heights, and Kathryn Lad, executive director of the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), will speak and answer questions. The public is welcome to attend both the preliminary chapter gathering and meeting at 7:30 p.m. as well as the program, which will begin around 8 p.m.

The meeting takes place in Council Chambers at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 47 Severance Circle. Mr. Wagner, dubbed by many as a "walking encyclopedia" on foreclosure and housing issues, has been housing programs manager for the city of Cleveland Heights since 1996, directing the operations of both the city’s housing inspection department and housing preservation office. In this capacity, he oversees the administration of federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for grant and loan programs offered by the city. Working with the First Suburb Consortium, he was instrumental in forging a partnership between the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and the suburbs for maintaining relations with CMHA’s Housing Choice Voucher Program. He has also contributed to the County’s Lead Safe Renovation Program. Mr. Wagner is certified by the International Code Council in the International Property Maintenance Code and the Lead Safe Renovation requirements.

Ms. Lad, a Heights homeowner, moved to Cleveland Heights from Southeast Ohio in 2006 to take her present position at HRRC. She began her career in the Cleveland area, and specifically in Cleveland Heights, as a retail manager and buyer. In 1987, she moved into nonprofit work, which has become a life-long passion for her. She is, of course, committed to the mission of HRRC, which empowers Cleveland Heights residents to keep their homes in good repair and in turn builds a strong community supporting our diversity. Over the years and especially in addressing the current housing crisis, the city and HRRC have collaborated extensively on housing issues in Cleveland Heights.

The evening’s agenda: 7:30 p.m. refreshments and chapter meeting, 8 p.m. program: Foreclosures in the Heights: City and Community Action, Rick Wagner, Manager, Housing Programs, City of Cleveland Heights, Kathryn Lad, Executive Director, Home Repair Resource Center. Presentations will be followed by questions and answers.

Maryann Barnes is Chair of the League of Women Voters-Heights Chapter.
Mulch ado about helping

Now through May 23, a mulch sale is currently underway to benefit Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), a non-profit organization serving Cleveland Heights, in partnership with Heights Garden Center. A portion of the proceeds will benefit HRRC.

For more information or to request an order form for the mulch sale, call Home Repair Resource Center at 886-6600.

These kids are for kicks

The Heights area’s local travel soccer club, the Eastside Kickers, is changing its name to Heights United Soccer, but it’s still the same great partnership. The nonprofit organization supporting youth soccer. Watch for a future article.

If your child is interested, tryouts for the fall 2008 season are May 12 and 1 at Forest Hills Park. To register and find out more, visit www.eastsidekickers.org

Volunteer match

Submit your organization’s volunteer needs at heightsobserver.org or call the Heights office at 330-1435.

Thumbs wanted (green)

Fledgling Severance Neighborhood Organization needs your green thumb. Clean up May 15 at 8 a.m. at corner of South Noble and Mayfield roads. Last fall neighbors in the Severance area began working with the president of the Cleveland Heights Napelsz Advisory Committee, Jim Call, to clean-up and beautify the area’s streetscape. The Severance Neighborhood Organization (SNO) was formed to improve the street aesthetics in the neighborhood that includes the newly formed Inglewood Historic District and is served by Noble and Oxford Elementary schools, and the Noble Neighborhood Library.

Anyone interested in developing this organization and/ or working on the streetscape this summer, please email SNOneighbors@yahoo.com or contact Fran Menteck, 381-5336, or Teresa Ciz-Madla, tcigaz@aol.com. And, please contact us if you would like to be added to our emailing list. — Fran Menteck is a resident of the Severance neighborhood.

Crimes irk Superior Park residents

Esther Feldman

If residents living near Superior Park Drive in Cleveland Heights have felt dormant, recent criminal activity has been sure to produce some unpleasant wake up calls.

On Monday, April 14, around 10:15 p.m., a female tenant of Superior Park was exiting her car in the parking lot with a family member in tow. Nothing appeared out of the ordinary, including the van facing them across the way. Suddenly, two young individuals in hoodies sprang from the van. These young assailants placed guns at the head of the woman and her family member and made them lie down on the pavement. The woman and her family member were robbed of approximately $70 and their cellular telephones. Then on Wednesday, April 16, on Superior Park Drive, a pizza delivery man was sitting in his car counting money when he was approached at gunpoint in the same manner as had occurred two nights before. The delivery man attempted to flee, and was then shot in the leg.

Two robberies and a shooting were more than enough for some residents of Superior Park Drive. A group of tenants took it upon themselves to say: “Enough is enough.” The tenants took flyers to every home, apartment, car and storefront near Superior Park Drive, alerting people to the crime and giving a description of the criminals. They arranged a meeting at Cleveland Heights City Hall to discuss the armed robberies and to share ideas on how to prevent future criminal activity. One tenant went door-to-door, reminding tenants and residents of the meeting and listening to suggestions they might have. Prior to the meeting, the tenant went out every night around 11 p.m. to survey the parking lots, streets and alleys, alerting the police to anything remotely suspicious. This neighborhood watch is one of the ideas being discussed for a safer street. Information of recent criminal activity has been written, not as a scare tactic, but as a note of caution.

On a personal note, I have lived on Superior Park Drive for almost five years and, thank G-d, have never felt a sense of fear for the neighborhood. It is a pity that the wrong actions of some of our residents. If anything, these robbers have encouraged me to renew relationships with my neighbors and to build a stronger connection with my city—Cleveland Heights. Superior Park is a vibrant street with good neighbors, a beautiful park and street block parties in the summertime. Superior Park will continue to operate as a street where people live. The community must continue to maintain constant vigilance against any unpleasant characters or activity that tries to get in the way. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” — Benjamin Franklin.

Esther Feldman lives on Superior Park Drive in Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Parents protest cuts at council meeting

Lita Gonzalez

Extra chairs were set up to accommodate parents attending the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting on Monday, April 2. Most were there to protest the city’s decision to discontinue paying for crossing guards and to cancel the community center’s after-school program, budget cuts in response to the March defeat of a proposed income tax increase.

Carla Kless, a parent of children at Noble Elementary School asked city council members to reconsider cutting the crossing guards, pointing out that “the safety of children walking on public streets is a council issue.”

Yvonne Dowell, an after-care examiner with Cuyahoga County Family Services and mother of children at Noble Elementary School, knows professionally about day care. “To me, safety of a child taken care of by the community center’s after-school program matches or surpasses more costly programs,” she said, stressing that the program offers “quality programs that keep children engaged and help them with their homework in an atmosphere of caring.”

A letter from the parents to council members questioned what kind of message this was sending to families who might be considering moving to Cleveland Heights. Ranelle Huber, a Noble area resident warned, “cuts like these send a message that families with children are not a priority to the city!”

Vice Mayor Evans responded to the concerns and stated that their opinions and comments were valued by council. She said that since March 4 council and staff have reviewed all the city’s programs and services to determine which areas to cut. She pointed out that after the school program costs $140,000 per year to run but only brings in $87,130 in revenue. The after-school program will be open until the end of the school year and the city manager and Superintendent Delide are looking at the possibility of crossing guards to see if there are any reasonable alternatives.

Councilman Wilcox pointed out that by low, Cleveland Heights must have a balanced budget. Even though almost 50% of the budget goes to police, EMS, and fire departments, the city is trying to spread out the impact of cuts as much as possible. Councilman Tumeo commented that council was trying to look at all options for making $2 million in budget cuts during this fiscal year. He said that council looked at raising fees for the after school program but felt that would have made it unaffordable. Council is also looking at what services other cities provide for their residents, and pursuing other “creative solutions.”

Councilwoman Caplan said that council did not tell citizens what cuts they might be facing if the income tax levy were to fail because “they were hopeful the community would see the importance of passing the income tax increase and that it would pass.” Some of the additional cuts the city is making include reducing the Focus magazine to two issues a year, closing the Housing Service, cutting by attention by not filling open positions, cutting the Senior program and raising fees, eliminating Student Services, reducing the hours the community center is open, eliminating pay rises for city employees and eliminating overtime, and cutting five police officers, three firefighters, and one building inspection person.

Many of the parents though felt that cutting programs that impact the safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents, the children, needed to be reconsidered. Tracy Adognravi pointed out as she left the meeting “cutting crossing guards jeopardizes the safety of all our community’s children regardless of where they live or what private, parochial, or public schools they attend.”

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer and an aspiring writer, artist and gardener in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer and an aspiring writer, artist and gardener in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Heights Emergency Food Center wants you

Many volunteers help feed the hungry of Cleveland Heights, University Heights, South Euclid, and Lyndhurst, but more are always needed. The Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC) needs your assistance. Opened in October of 1981 with the aid of the Heights Interfaith Council, HEFC provides more than 175 families with a three-day supply of food once a month. The nonprofit, volunteer-staffed and led agency is supported through gifts from religious institutions, services and social organizations, public, parochial and private schools, federal grants and supermarket settlements, and individuals. The Center uses the resources of the Northeast Ohio Food Bank, a purchasing agent for nonprofit agencies. This enables the purchase of five dollars worth of food for each dollar donated. 100% of donations to HEFC is spent on food. Community Development Block Grants from the City of Cleveland Heights currently cover overhead expenses and Dis- ciples Christian Church (formerly Euclid Avenue Christian Church) on Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights, houses the program.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Heights Emergency Food Center at Disciples Church Cleveland, 3655 Mayfield Road Cleveland Heights, OH 44121. 886-7077

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A nearby taste of cultura Italiano

Hailee Dorflinger

There are times when I have a taste for culture. When this happens, I head for a wonderful ristorante italiano owned by Antonino Calandra, Il Bacio, on the Cleveland Heights border. I estimate that is why the restaurant name translates into “the kiss.” Calandra’s sister, brother-in-law, and nephew just arrived from Palermo, Sicily to help out with the restaurant, which just celebrated its one-year anniversary in February.

The small staff talks amongst themselves in Italian, stopping by the table every so often. I went to dinner on a Monday night, and shared the restaurant with just one other couple. I was surprised to see Calandra, the restaurant owner, make frequent visits to the table, pour the wine, and talk and laugh with the guests. Even the young nephew, who I estimate had just begun high school, was dressed in uniform, serving water and clearing plates. He even switched on the bathroom light for me. “Talk about service!”

My dinner date for the evening had just begun high school, the guests. Even the young nephew, who I estimate had just begun high school, was dressed in uniform, serving water and clearing plates. He even switched on the bathroom light for me. “Talk about service!”

Our visit began with a glass of wine and a couple of appetizers. We chose Montepulciano from the wine list. It was medium-bodied and dry with subtle fruity hints. At $7 a glass though, the quality was not very impressive. The caprese was a nice way to start off the meal. The tomatoes were ripe and slightly sweet and the fresh mozzarella made the perfect pairing. The scallop appetizer was a bit less pleasing, slightly gritty and bland. Our appetizer dishes were collected, leaving us less than satisfied with our visit so far.

This all changed, however, with the entrees. The scaloppini alla shiitake, veal scaloppini covered in a creamy mushroom sauce, was rich and full of flavor. The meat was tender, and the sauce was a perfect blend of flavors and textures. The pollo alla cattaboda was just as delicious. A tender piece of chicken simmered in olive oil, sun dried tomatoes, red wine, and parsley. The addition of capers and olives are an excellent update to the traditional Italian recipe.

Our stomachs were full, but we could not pass up the chance to try the dessert. The waiter stopped by and described a list of tempting choices. We decided to split the tiramisu. Tiramisu was the perfect ending to an enjoyable evening. Calandra himself created the decadent dessert from a traditional family recipe. It’s just as our waiter said, “It’s hard to believe that it’s cheese.” A light dusting of cocoa powder covered the rich, smooth dessert. No words can do it justice.

The ristorante is located just down the hill from the Heights in Little Italy. It is on Murray Hill Road, the last brick road in Cleveland, at the intersection of Edgelll Road just a few steps from the Cleveland Heights border. I recommend visiting Calandra’s place if you have a taste for culture. Go for the tiramisu, if nothing else.

Culinary Heights

Alice Stratton

New Cleveland Heights residents eat their veggies. Lucinda Stevens’ culinary challenge is her husband Carl Goldstein, a vegetarian. Originally from Flint, Michigan, Carl and Lucinda moved from Ann Arbor to Cleveland Heights a year-and-a-half ago. “When I first visited Cleveland Heights, I immediately fell in love with its quaint urban character, friendly people, small businesses, landscaping, and cultural offerings. Ann Arbor was getting too pretentious,” says Stevens.

“I have a counterculture background, so it was easy for me to address Carl’s vegetarian needs and win his heart. I cut my teeth on Adele Davis’ Diet for a Small Planet, Laurel’s Kitchen, Moosewood Cookbook and The New York Times Natural Foods Cookbook. I just bought a copy of the new bestselling vegan cookbook Skinny Bitch in the Kitchen. I would have to say the Moosewood Cook- book is still my favorite,” says Stevens.

 Husband Carl, who owns duplexes in Cleveland Heights, says, “My first wife couldn’t boil water and mashed potatoes came from a box. When I met Lucinda, she made pizza from scratch. I was blown away. But I married her for her salad dressing.”

“I really learned how to make salad when I was a waitress at a Greek restaur- ant in Ann Arbor,” says Stevens.

To get in a cooking zone, Lucinda recommends: 1) Turn on the radio; 2) Get a glass of wine; 3) Cook.

Lucinda’s Salad Vinaigrette

2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 1/2 tsp. white balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup shaved red cabbage, chopped flat leaf parsley, green onions, cucumber and tomato. Pour vinaigrette over salad to taste.

Mix all ingredients in a shaker jar and shake. Combine torn leaf lettuce, grated carrot, shredded red cabbage, chopped flat leaf parsley, green onion, cucumber and tomato. Pour vinaigrette over salad to taste.

Lucinda took a nature hike in Forest Hills Park last week. The naturalist pointed out copious areas of garlic mustard, a highly invasive weed that makes a pretty good pesto sauce. Lucinda was inspired. She picked a bunch and created Garlic Mustard “Pest-O.” “Just look in your backyard—you might find a bunch for dinner,” says Stevens.

Stir Fried Asparagus Pasta with Garlic Mustard “Pest-O”

1 cup garlic mustard leaves and upper stems. Use only the ragged leaves, the round ones are too bitter. (optional- half a mango, half garlic mustard and half fresh basil)
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 clove of garlic
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
1 generous handful pine nuts or walnuts

Combine all ingredients in a food processor or blender and process to a coarse consistency. Do not over blend.

In a wok or large skillet, sauté one bunch of asparagus cut into one-inch pieces with one small chopped onion and one cup of chopped grape or cherry tomatoes in olive oil. Saute until tender and then toss with half a pound of fine cooked spaghetti. Dress with the pesto sauce, garnish with parmesan cheese, and serve. Makes 6 servings. Serve with salad for a fresh spring dinner.

Alice Stratton is a Shelburne Road resident. Culinary Heights is an occasional column on food and cooking.

N’awlins Night on Coventry

Myra Orenstein

On the bayou, they call this a Fais Do Do. Cleveland Independents is calling it N’awlins Night. Whatever you call it, it’s going to be one heck of an evening.

Here’s the breakdown. The B Side Lounge, 7756 Euclid Heights Blvd. (corner of Coventry and Euclid Heights) in Cleveland Heights, will host the first fundraiser for Cleveland Independents on June 1 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. After that, the audience will be ushered upstairs to the Grog Shop for some legendary music.

Who is playing? None other than the legendary Buckwheat Zydeco. Look what the New York Times has to say: “Buckwheat leads one of the best party bands in America; he can pump out zydeco two-beats or shift into rolling 12-bar blues, steaming all the way.”

Cleveland Independents will feature Cajun cuisine from some of its most popular restaurants. The menu will include dishes such as Chicken and Andouille Sausage Gumbo, Buttermilk Fried Okra with Homemade Ripe Beer Rice, Crab Cakes Remoulade, Banana Praline Bread Pudding and Bourbon Pecan Bars.

Tickets are on sale now for $50. Send check or money order made payable to Cleveland Independents to 2533 Euclid Heights Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44121-2709. Tickets also available online at www.clevelandindependents.com. Based on availability, tickets will be sold at the door for $60.

Cleveland Independents is a not-for-profit group of locally owned and operated, independent restaurants located in Northeast Ohio. Log on to www.clevelandindependents.com for more information about the organization or to sign up for a list blast.

Orenstein is the executive director of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District.
Shave and a haircut
and a pedicure and a facial and a massage . . .

Denise San Antonio Zeman

As an “almost lifetime” resident of the Heights area, I have seen businesses come and go, but rarely have I had the opportunity to witness the birth, development, evolution, and reinvention of a family-owned and operated full service facility. This is exactly the case in Quintana’s Barber and Dream Spa which recently expanded into an exquisitely renovated three-story facility on South Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights.

Starting life in the Cedar-Fairmount neighborhood above the Mad Greek in 2000, Dream Spa was the realization of the dream of owner Dawn Mongelluzzi and her dedicated team of professional nail technicians, aestheticians and massage therapists. There, Dawn and her staff created the welcoming environment that earned them several well-deserved FutureHeights awards as well as national acclaim from Salon Today and Nails Magazines. As her business grew, Dawn married well-known Cleveland Heights barber Alex Quintana, who renovated part of a Taylor Road building, hung an attractive barbershop pole, and opened Quintana’s Barber Shop in 2003.

With both businesses looking to expand, Dawn and Alex decided to invest in the future of our community by completely renovating the entire Taylor Road facility from top to bottom, and in February of this year moved all services into Quintana’s Barber and Dream Spa. The result is the stunning transformation of an older Cleveland Heights home into an upscale sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of the outside world.

The first floor features a comfortable waiting room and the barber shop. The decor blends traditional and classic chic, reflected in over-stuffed chairs, gleaming dark woodwork, and rich, masculine slate accents throughout. The second floor is dedicated to manicure and pedicure stations featuring the latest in relaxing foot baths and even a toe nail dryer. Here the floor plan is open and bright, allowing natural light to enhance the relaxed ambiance. A cozy massage/facial parlor occupies a sun room. The third floor is a private massage room that can accommodate one or two people for individual or couples massage. The front porch offers a pair of comfortable chairs for use before or after receiving treatments from the vast menu of pampering options.

On a recent Saturday morning, I sampled four spa services, and each delighted my senses and left me feeling completely rejuvenated. Starting with a hot stone pedicure, I was treated to a warming foot bath in brand new, ultra-hygienic foot baths that utilize a new, sanitary liner for each client. This was followed by a gentle foot massage with hot stones. The usual pedicure routine was next, and the lavender-scented paraffin treatment left my feet baby-soft and sandal-ready. The finishing touch was a new nail color from an exotic Indian collection.

Following my pedicure, I was escorted to the sun room where the massage table was warmed and welcoming. First was a clarifying back treatment that included elements of a facial and a massage on my back. Not knowing what to expect, I was delighted with the entire process. Not only did the procedure leave my skin feeling totally refreshed, but the gentle massage that followed worked out the residue of a busy work week. I relaxed on the warm, comfortable table under a heated down comforter until it was time for my deep cleansing facial. This was a very special experience of cleansing, clarifying and moisturizing, and my skin, which had suffered the effects of a cold, windy winter, was absolutely glowing. My final service of the day was a women’s manicure, and again, the experience was meticulous, professional and satisfying.

The new salon and spa is also the perfect place to host a party for women of all ages. During a recent visit the staff was preparing for an after-hours “Princess Party” during which eight six-year-old girls received dreamette manicures and pedicures, and the birthday princess went home wearing her Dream Spa tiara. I have personally hosted two pre-wedding private spa parties for friends and family. Every detail has been expertly handled to ease the pre-wedding tensions for all. The best part of having a dream party is that the set-up and clean-up are all performed by the staff, leaving the hostess and guests free to enjoy one another and the pampering they receive. I have personally enjoyed services from almost everyone on the spa staff, and I find them to be highly skilled, professional, courteous, and delightful. Many of them have worked together for years and they seem to convey a genuine spirit of camaraderie and teamwork. In fact, I have referred so many people that my usual recommendation includes a description of a visit as being just like spending time with one’s girlfriends.

Quintana’s Barber and Dream Spa offers convenient hours, online booking, special package pricing and gift certificates. Ample free parking is readily available, and the best part is that Alex and Dawn are dedicated to building and growing their business in Cleveland Heights, their neighborhood of choice. Do yourself or someone you care about a favor and make an appointment.

Denise San Antonio Zeman lives Northeast Ohio and all the people who are reinventing it in its own
class.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF QUINTANA’S/DREAM SPA

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Save the humans

Chuck Miller

Every generation in human history has faced seemingly greater and more difficult challenges than any previous. We have all heard of the difficult times during the Great Depression. We know about the ‘Greatest Generation’ that responded to the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. Within months, Detroit’s auto industry was transformed into an armaments industry producing military vehicles and equipment to face the Axis Powers.

Cleveland Heights residents made sacrifices in everyday life with gas rationing. Children collected metal for recycling, iron fences and gates were taken down and contributed to the war effort. No new cars or trucks meant alternatives were necessary. Dean Dairy went back to horse drawn wagons to deliver milk. Cleveland’s public transit system had the highest rate of use in its entire history. More women than ever entered the workforce, blackout drills were a common exercise, war was priority one and it succeeded in defeating the common enemy.

This generation faces a similar, maybe greater, worldwide challenge. It will mean the very survival of human species on the planet. From the beginning of homo sapien existence, roughly 160,000 years ago to about 6,000 years ago humans lived a ‘stone-age’ life, collecting food, hunting and creating the first tools. From about 6,000 years ago until the late 1700s, an agriculture-based society dominated the world. Some societies remain so. But the western world transitioned to an industry-based society that dominated until about the mid 1970s. At that point in time, a knowledge and communication era arrived. Dean Dairy emerged, breaking worldwide across all political boundaries.

Before the Industrial Revolution human societies lived in an ecological balance with the natural world. Pollution existed, but mostly in densely populated cities. It had no significant impact on the environmental balance of food, waste and reproduction necessary to sustain the balance of nature. With the Industrial Revolution, originally powered by water driven and coal-fired machinery, the demand for inexpensive energy grew as well. With the development of the oil industry, the prominence of carbon-based energy took off. Over the last 150 years the most significant side effect has been the saturation of the earth’s atmosphere with carbon dioxide, trapping the heat previously radiated back into space. Since the earth only has one atmosphere, the impact is worldwide. Now that China has emerged from its own industrial revolution, they are already the number one gross producer of carbon dioxide pollution, the United States being number one on a per capita basis.

China and the U.S. are planning to build one in terms of emissions per head. -one gross producer of carbon dioxide has emerged from their own industrial revolution, breaking worldwide across all political boundaries. Since the prominence of carbon-based energy originally powered by water driven and coal-fired machinery, the demand for more energy increased to destroy mature forests, a sponge for methane gas and further pollutes the planet’s atmosphere.

As we look at the larger picture, real change will only take place when political leaders from all over the world confront the multi-national corporate structure that resists shifting energy technology away from gas, coal and oil to renewable energy sources including solar, wind and other new sources such as coastal tides and ocean currents. Renewable energy systems also use natural underground temperatures to moderate heating and cooling systems. More is certainly on the way as a new renewable energy manufacturing base struggles to take hold in Ohio and other Great Lakes states (all rich in fresh water and wind). Somewhere out there, the Bill Gates and Steve Jobs types are awake tonight working in their garage-shops on other innovative solutions, and they will emerge, as they always do.

Just as the World War II “Greatest Generation” met the worldwide challenge, this generation needs to feel a personal responsibility for the survival of future generations. The difference this time is that the response will be less about sacrifice and more about living smarter. The Knowledge and Communication Era will carry the movement worldwide. A consensus among all political affiliations has already begun in support of this common issue for people around the world. Just as happened even in the Stone Age, the human brain will work this out and emerge even stronger… and smarter.

Chuck Miller is principal of Doty and Miller Architects and a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.

Moms for earth

Lynne Breitenstein-Aliberti

In 1870, Julia Ward Howe, a social justice activist, suggested honoring mothers on their own special day as a way to promote a peaceful and sustainable future. Today, moms have the very same dreams. The biggest threat to those dreams is global warming. But if we act now, it’s not too late. And mothers can play a powerful role in reminding us what’s at stake.

Here’s a family friendly way to put a face to the future that’s impacted by global warming. Mommy Meetups are being organized across the country this Mother’s Day weekend. Moms and kids of all ages will gather for group photos and to record short messages calling for climate action. The messages and photos will be featured as an audio collage so that Congress, the press and the public can see and hear from families across the country. Not a mom? Not a problem. Do it in honor of your own mom or to honor Mother Earth! We will meet at Ruffing Montessori School on May 10 at 3 p.m. It is located at 380 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

Please contact Lynne Breitenstein-Aliberti at 720-294-5045 or sign up on the web: members.greenpeace.org/event/host/launch/1084. Help protect the future for our children!

Lynne Breitenstein-Aliberti is a mom who works with children in Cleveland Heights.

Editor’s note: another Mommy Meetup event in the Heights will be at Cumber- land Park, May 10 at 10 a.m.

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Public art reflects the creative spark of the Heights

Peggy Spalth

One of the simple ideas behind Heights Arts is that the way our community looks can express the creativity of our residents. Many who live here are trained in the arts, work in the arts, or simply love the arts—so it is natural that our public spaces would be enhanced with creativity. And many of us love our older homes because of the craftsmanship of the moldings, the unique architecture, the extra attention paid to details for purely aesthetic reasons.

There have been many opportunities over the last several years to apply creative ideas in our public spaces, beginning with the Coventry Arch commissioned by Coventry P.E.A.C.E. in 2001. The Arch, believe it or not, was incorporated into fundraising for a nearby soccer field! Where else but here would soccer and public art join forces in the same part of the brain?

Other public art projects have been requested by business owners. Jon Forman of Cleveland Cinemas asked for a mural for the back of the Cedar Lee building, transforming a cold asphalt parking lot and a massive brick wall into a lively, colorful billboard, and welcoming entrance to the movie and restaurant district. Local artist Robert Muller won a Heights Arts contest to design the mural.

Mike Occhienero, owner of the historic Heights Center building in the Cedar Fairmount business district, commissioned Jesse Rhinehart to paint the trompe-l’oeil mural representing historic storefronts for the side of his building.

Cleveland Heights Mayor nailed another call from Heights Arts to install temporary sculpture on the ring road at Severance Town Center, so you can encounter art by Laila Voss, Brinsley Tyrell, Barry Gunderson, and Carol Hummel while you’re on your way to the post office or city hall. The pieces, which have been on view since 2005, will be deinstalled this summer and will be missed (PS, they are for sale...)

Coventry Village is the first district in the Heights to incorporate public art concepts into streetscape furniture. After major street renovations, funds reserved for generic, pre-fabricated fences and benches were instead directed to artists Brinsley Tyrell and Raymond Bugelski to design and fabricate unique pieces.

Most recently, we have been helping business districts brand themselves with “in-character” environmental graphics. Instead of grand entryway signs, we have suggested repetitive iconic designs replacing the traditional generic green and white street signs. For Coventry, Bugelski designed colorful signs referring to the district’s tie-dyed past. For Cedar-Fairmount, we are currently in the process of obtaining city approval for street signs that evoke the Tudor architecture of the district.

There are many elements that make up the texture and flavor of a public place. Thanks to the efforts of our community to make these public art projects possible, the creative spirit adds a lovely spark to daily life throughout our city.

Peggy Spalth is executive director of Heights Arts.

Who are the Friends of Cain Park?

David Budin

I joined the board of Friends of Cain Park (FOCP) in 1994, three years after the group was founded by Chezzi Bleick. After a couple of years, I made the mistake of missing one meeting. At that meeting, I was elected president of the board. Now, apparently, I am president-for-life. That has served as a reminder of the 10-person board of trustees. W e provide funds for such things as:

- brief histories of each structure.
- annual benefit dinner and concert during the Cain Park season; a raffle during the Arts Festival (in the courtyard near the main box office); an almost-an- nual 50/50 raffle held during the Arts Festival;
- the sale of engraved bricks in the Cain Park Memory Path (in the courtyard); the sale of bottled water near the main box office; an almost-an- nual benefit dinner and concert during the Cain Park season; a raffle during the Cain Park season; a raffle during the Arts Festival.

Why do people join Friends of Cain Park? W e’d like to think it’s because everyone wants to support the park and make sure it keeps going forever. But, we know that the main reason most people join is to get the best seats in the house to Cain Park shows. W e have about 200 members every summer, including the 10-person board of trustees.

We provide free bus transportation to concerts at Cain Park, some of which are presented free to the community, and many family-friendly shows; two or three $1,000 scholarships to graduating Cleveland Heights High School stu- dent farmers each year—in the areas of visual, musical and performing arts—to help students continue their studies in those fields; the Artists’ Award at the annual Cain Park Arts Festival, the Friends of Cain Park “Good Friend of the Arts” Award, presented to people who have made significant contributions to the local arts scene; and the beautiful brass plaques that are on sev- eral of the park’s buildings, containing brief histories of each structure.

We raise funds through the sale of memberships to Friends of Cain Park; the sale of engraved bricks in the Cain Park Memory Path (in the courtyard); the sale of bottled water at our booth during the Arts Festival.

Why do people join Friends of Cain Park? W e’d like to think it’s because everyone wants to support the park and make sure it keeps going forever. But, we know that the main reason most people join is to get the best seats in the house to Cain Park shows. W e have about 200 seats in the first few rows reserved for our members (on a first-come, first-served basis), so members can request those seats when they buy tickets. This year, we are honored to have been selected by the Whole Foods Market at Cedar Center to have a Friends of Cain Park Day there. On May 21, Whole Foods is donating five percent of its profit to FOCP that day to FOCP. If you’re thinking of shopping for food ever again in your life, just east of Taylor Road, downstairs from the music school. Its mission, “ensuring that our diverse communities remain connected to the history and spirit of our country through preservation, performance and education using traditional American music,” does many things. But mainly, ROAM provides two types of programs, both of which use American roots music as a way to personalize and teach American history and geography.

Residency programs are custom-designed for the classroom and provide interactive lessons in which a group of ROAM musician-educators works for as long as a whole school year with elementary school classes. The students learn various forms of roots music—including blues, zydeco, folk and others—while they learn about American history, geography and other related subjects. The students write lyrics about what they’ve learned and set them to various styles of songs. The songs are then recorded with the kids singing and ROAM’s musicians playing.

The assembly programs are single performances designed for larger groups of students. The performance provides a 45-minute history lesson in an entertaining musical context. Both types of programs open up opportunities to students who would otherwise be very unlikely to receive any music education or performance experience in school.

ROAM has recently begun a Masters of Guitar series at Nighttown. The series features guitarists from around the country who perform a wide variety of musical styles. ROAM will host a benefit at Nighttown on May 15 called “Tangled Up in Bob”—a celebration of Bob Dylan’s 67th birthday. The benefit will feature a group of musicians, including Richards, playing an evening of all Dylan songs, with several guest artists, plus a full dinner buffet. For more information, call 321-9553.

David Budin is a freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights.

Dylan songs, with several guest artists, playing an evening of all Dylan songs, with several guest artists, plus a full dinner buffet. For more information, call 321-9553.

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Not just another summer vacation

Heights High junior Miles Walker Japan-bound

Carla Bailey

While most of the students at Heights High will be breathing a sigh of relief for summer vacation in June, Miles Walker, an 11th grader at Heights High School, will be packing his bags for a seven-week stay with a host family in Japan. He will attend school to study Japanese language through the AFS Exchange Student Program. AFS (formerly the American Field Service) is a leader in intercultural learning and offers international exchange programs in more than forty countries around the world through independent, nonprofit AFS organizations, each with a network of volunteers, a professionally staffed office, and headed up by a volunteer board. AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

When speaking with Miles’ mother about how she felt about her son going to Japan, she expressed that this is the chance of a lifetime for Miles. The foreign exchange students in the AFS club, and the Japanese club at the high school piqued Miles’ interest. It has also been helpful that this year Heights High currently has a Japanese exchange student who will and her host family have been supportive and helpful with Miles regarding Japanese culture and other tips to make his foreign exchange experience a positive one. This is perfect timing as Miles’ other mother is the district’s P.A.S.S.A.G.E. vision of preparing our students to become global citizens.

AFS has been an active extracurricular club at Heights High for over fifty years. The AFS club has evolved into a dynamic place for the students of Heights High to intermingle with young people from around the world who are Heights High as exchange students.

Most families have no idea how much they’ll gain by sharing their lives with a young person or teacher from another country until they become an AFS Host Family. Imagine what it would be like having an AFS brother or sister from another part of the world. Participants create friendships that last far beyond the time shared together.

This experience forever changes the lives of not only individual families, but so many other people as well. What begins as an exchange of kindness, customs, and culture within a family extends throughout a high school and community to touch thousands of lives.

In the past fifty years, the Cleveland Heights community has hosted hundreds of students from countries around the world. We are currently seeking families in the Heights and the Cleveland area to host future students. You can be single or married; you can live in an apartment or a single family home. You can be a retired couple or have a small child in the home. You do not have to have a high school child to host a student.

By opening your home and sharing your family with a high school student from another country, you can help to build bridges of intercultural understanding at a time when the world really needs it most.

Most students come to Cleveland Heights for the school year, but they may also come for a six-month semester stay. Enjoying daily family life, meals together, activities like going to the movies and other social events help make a world of difference to a young visitor who is eager to experience what it’s like to live as a member of a family, school, and community in the United States.

Host families provide a bed and meals for the student, and the same guidance, love and support to the student as they would to their own son or daughter.

Host families receive support from local AFS Volunteers. Host families are not required to provide the student with clothing or medical coverage as each student will be responsible for his or her own clothes and AFS provides medical coverage for each student.

Our partner countries screen each applicant to ensure that the students come here interested and ready to learn our culture and language and about your family.

There are also strict rules that all AFS students agree to follow while here in the United States: no driving and no use of illegal drugs. Disciplinary action is taken against students who choose to break these rules, up to and including being sent back to their home country.

However, for most host families, the toughest part is saying good-bye — that is, until they learn that the friendship isn’t over, it just takes a new form.

Another way to assist AFS is to volunteer as a liaison family. Each hosted student and his/her family is assigned a liaison family. These liaisons are not related to the host family and meet about once a month to work as a link between the hosted student and the host family, if any need should arise. The liaison is available for support or as a resource in AFS policy and procedure.

We are currently seeking families that may be interested in hosting a student for the 2008-2009 school year or maybe sometime in the future. If you are interested, or know of any family that may make a great host family or liaison family to a foreign exchange student, please email me at: AFShots@Yahoo.com.

There will be an AFS host family information meeting for anyone that may be interested now or in the future to host a student or to get more information. The AFS hosting meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Levy Room of the CH-UH Main Library on Saturday, May 10. Carla Bailey is Heights High PTSA co-president.

Carla Bailey

Gubernatorial serenade

The Cleveland Heights High School Band performed at the Ohio Federation of Teachers Convention in Cleveland in April, which included keynote speaker Governor Ted Strickland. The Singers received a great reception after their performance before over 1000 delegates at the convention. “Michael Dougherty, coordinator of communications for the CH-UH School District

Monticello students recognized as National Young Leaders

Two Monticello Middle School students are among a select group recognized by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council to honor and inspire the most exceptional middle school students in Ohio and across the nation, distinguished by their academic excellence, leadership potential and maturity.

Sixth grade student Brandon Brown attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, earlier this month. Teacher Marian Kopp recommended Brandon for this honor. Eighth grade student Lauren Thompson joined a select group of distinguished Ohio middle school students at the end of March for the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC) in Columbus. Lauren was nominated by teacher Diana Goroncy-Sheppard.

The aim of NYLSC is to inspire students to recognize their own leadership skills, measure their skills against those of their peers, and return home with new found confidence in their ability to serve as future leaders.” Executive Director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council Michael Lasday said. In addition to the two students selected this year for state and national recognition, Monticello has had two students recognized by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council since 2004.

“We are so pleased to have two students representing Monticello at the state and national levels for academic achievement and leadership characteristics,” Monticello Principal Sheldon Smith said. “Brandon and Laurenpersonify the excellence in our school, and we could not be prouder to see their hard work acknowledged by such an esteemed organization.” – MD

US student volunteer at HRRC

Home Repair Resource Center recently benefited from the efforts of a group of University School students. Approximately forty students, grades nine through twelve, spent several hours mulching, pruning, weeding, and landscaping the land area around HRCC’s office/teaching center on Noble Road. According to Andrew Swank, Senior Prefect for Hawley House (one of ten organizational divisions among the student body at the school), each house takes on a number of volunteer activities each year. The students of Hawley House previously assembled and distributed food baskets at Thanksgiving and worked with Habitat for Humanity.

Both Swank and Nolan Thompson, Junior Prefect for Hawley House, live in Summit County, but several members of the group are Cleveland Heights residents, as is their Housemaster, Gordon Loveland. In addition to enjoying the opportunity to work outdoors in the spring weather, the young men were happy to be giving back to their community.

—Kathryn Lad, Executive Director of Home Repair Resource Center.
Students awarded for letters to authors

Three Roxboro Middle School sixth grade students were recognized as semifinalists in “Letters About Literature.” This is a contest for students where they write to an author explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s way of thinking about the world or themselves. The students were selected from over 1,200 entries from across Ohio. —MD

Heights grad Warner is published illustrator

Ari Warner, a 2007 graduate of Heights High School, is remembered by many as a talented violinist. Now he can add another achievement to his resume: that of published illustrator!

Ari, a 19 year old freshman majoring in illustration at Pratt Institute of Art and Design in New York City, has been commissioned to illustrate a map for a fiction novel entitled Shorn by author Larissa Nicole. The book will be marketed and distributed through book stores, Amazon.com and other marketing avenues. It will be released nationally in July of 2008 by Mercury Retrograde Press, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

The launch will be held in Atlanta on July 19. Ari has been invited to exhibit some of his other works during the launch. Ari has been invited to exhibit some of his other works during the launch on July 19. Ari has been invited to exhibit some of his other works during the launch in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rufﬁng student is Power of the Pen Finalist

Rufﬁng seventh grade Caroline Anderson-Nhok advanced to the State Finals of the 2008 Power of the Pen Interscholastic Competition for Young Writers. In Rufﬁng’s ﬁrst year in the popular program, two teams of six writers represented Rufﬁng and competed with students from area public and independent schools at the district event. From there, two seventh grade students and two eighth grade students were named regional qualiﬁers, competing at Hudson Middle School against 200 other writers. Representing the seventh grade were Caroline Anderson-Nhok and Victoria Martin, and from the eighth grade, Erik Thiem and Joe Eyerman. Caroline placed 18th among the 88 competitors at Regionals and will compete at the State tournament on May 22 and 23 at the College of Wooster.

The annual event recognizes creative writing, publishes student work and assists teachers in promoting good writing in the classroom. In the competition, students are asked to write a creative narrative, using an unknown prompt, in a forty minute period. Teacher Kathie Freer encouraged students to participate in the creative writing event “to emphasize writing talent, just as students use their gifts to compete in music or sports. I am delighted that we have a State qualiﬁer our ﬁrst year in the program. Writing is a skill that improves with practice; this is an important lesson for students.”

—Carol Precour, director of development, Rufﬁng Montessori

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CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MAY 2008 MEETINGS
Meetings are held at City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, unless otherwise noted.

Mon 5 5:45 pm Council Committee of the Whole
Mon 5 7:30 pm City Council Meeting
Tue 6 4:00 pm Architectural Board of Review
Tue 6 5:30 pm Landmarks Commission
Tue 6 7:30 pm Cable Television Commission
Mon 12 6:45 pm Council Committee of the Whole
Mon 12 7:40 pm Recreation Advisory Board
Wed 14 7:00 pm Planning Commission
Fri 16 9:00 am Commission on Aging
Mon 19 6:45 pm Council Committee of the Whole
Mon 19 7:30 pm City Council Meeting
Mon 20 4:00 pm Architectural Board of Review
Wed 20 7:30 pm Citizens Advisory Committee
Wed 21 8:00 am Financial Institutions Advisory Committee
Wed 21 7:30 pm Board of Zoning Appeals
Mon 26 10:30 am Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial/Cumberland Park
Tue 27 4:45 pm Council Committee of the Whole

City Council Meeting Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Conference Room
Memorial Day Parade Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7 p.m. Conference Room
Joint Meeting, Service & Utilities Committee and Finance Committee Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. Council Chambers
City Beautiful Commission Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Conference Room
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 7 p.m. Council Chambers
City Council Meeting Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers
Stormwater Committee Host Talk on Local Watersheds Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 7 p.m. Council Chamber
42nd Annual University Heights Memorial Day Parade Monday May 26, 2008 at 11 am

Laura C. Elder
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

I absolutely love this newspaper. It has everything I read about and more. I cannot think of a day when it wasn’t there. Thank you, your newspaper is needed more than ever. I hope it can stay around forever. I will always support your newspaper.

Pamela Parkes
Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Meet your mystery librarian

Jo Ann Vicarel

I am Jo Ann Vicarel, the branch manager of the Noble Neighborhood Library. As a library employee we wear a number of different hats and certainly do a multitude of tasks. Since 2001 one of my many tasks has been leading the Noble Library’s Mystery Book Discussion Group. The group meets every second Thursday of the month from 7 – 8 p.m. We have read and discussed Mysteries that range from gentle reads like Alexander Smith McCall’s The Nose of a Lady’s Detective Agency to Dennis Lehane’s Mystic River. We have discussed a number of police procedurals from Henning Mankell’s series set in Sweden to Michael Connelly’s books which take place in Los Angeles. Every book we read has lead to a lively sharing of what we liked and did not like.

So who picks the books that we discuss? I do! The reason for this is that the group likes books that have many discussion points. Since I read so many mysteries, I can find titles and authors who put more than just a story into their books. There is nothing worse than a story that leaves the discussion group with nothing to say. After listening to the members talk about mysteries for so long, it became apparent that they like books with good characters, defined settings, and stories that include depth and lots of facts about gardens all over the British Isles that have been found and replanted to their original beauty. As discussion leader, I find biographical information on the author. I also research bits and pieces about the setting or the theme of the story. For example, we read The Lost Gardens by Anthony Eglin. The main character is a retired professor of botany and now restores gardens in England. My research on English lost gardens yielded pictures and lots of facts about gardens all over the British Isles that have been found and replanted to their original beauty. When we meet, we are all equal. We each have different work experiences, life experiences and different ways of looking at things, yet we all are able to talk about books. Reading has brought us together. We spend time sharing what we liked, the way an author portrayed a character or how something could have happened in ways that we may never have thought of ourselves.

The mystery novel is so diverse today that there are endless possibilities for a group to read. Please stop in to the Noble Library and feel free to ask me what is new in mystery fiction, which authors are writing new series, or what the new trends are in the genre. I would love to give you a suggestion or two about what may be a good book for you to read.

Noble Library’s Branch Manager, Jo Ann Vicarel reviews mysteries for literally thousands of librarians across the US. Many of these librarians use her critiques to select titles to add to their collection. If you are a mystery lover, we recommend stopping at the Noble Library to see what a great collection Jo Ann has created.
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Jhonny Peralta
Cleveland Indians Shortstop
What’s so unique about Cleveland Heights architecture and why should we preserve it? Throughout May 2008, the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org) and its thousands of partners across the country will demonstrate the importance of our nation’s heritage as they highlight the preservation movement The theme of this year’s month-long celebration is “This Place Matters” and the City of Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, FutureHeights and the Cleveland Heights Historical Society will present a lecture and two tours to celebrate our community and encourage historic preservation of its architectural beauty. All events are limited to 50 attendees for the high school tour! Reservations are required and are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Please call 216-434-8782 to make your reservation.

In Ohio, the Ohio Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Office administers the National Register program. Locally, Hamley O’Donnell offers city government assistance to citizens to help them complete the complex process. Many other neighborhoods across the city are eligible for listing and some citizens are working actively on nominations. Coventry Village resident Charles Owen has been pursuing listing for his “Mayfield Village” neighborhood, roughly bounded by Coventry to Superior and Mayfield to Euclid Heights. For many years, Leslie Marting has been working on nominating her neighborhood, roughly bounded by Coventry to Ashton and Scarborough to North Park, which was the Van Sweringen brothers’ original Shaker Village. “If there’s one else who has a bit more time than I have at the moment I would be happy to share my info and help in any way,” says Marting.

“I have a special affinity for the Euclid Heights Allotment (bounded by Cedar, Coventry and Mayfield roads) having written my Master’s thesis on it years ago,” says Hamley-O’Donnell. “It was the first large scale development created to lure upper class Clevelanders to the Heights. Although the original plan was halted by bankruptcy, the result was the creation of a much more architecturally diverse neighborhood and the development of the wonderful Coventry and Cedar Fairmount commercial districts.”

Forest Hill Historic District currently encompasses only the Rockefeller homes, although the entire district contains architecturally distinctive houses and was planned according to “Garden City” principles popular in the early 20th century that emphasized naturalistic landscape design within urban communities. Many of the homes in the Forest Hill neighborhood are reaching the 50 year mark, which is a criterion for eligibility. Although Hamley O’Donnell does an admirable job, many residents think the city should be doing more. “If you look at a Hopkins map, almost all of Cleveland Heights could be listed,” says Wellman. “I think the city should be designating time for Kara or the Landmark Commission to work on nominating districts.”

National Register of Historic Places: www.nps.gov/nr
State of Ohio Historic Preservation Office: www.ohiohistory.org
City of Cleveland Heights www.clevelandheights.org

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights, and co-authored the Euclid Golf historic district nomination in 2002.

SELECTED HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Cleveland Heights & University Heights, Ohio

National Register Historic Districts
1. Forest Hill Village
2. Amber Heights
3. Euclid Golf
4. Fairmount Boulevard
5. Forest Hill
6. Forest Hill Park
7. Overlook Road Carriage Houses
8. Ingleside (application pending)

Potential Districts
A. Forest Hill
B. Mayfield Village
C. Euclid Heights
D. Shaker Heights
E. University Heights

For list of Cleveland Heights Landmarks, see: http://www.clevelandheights.com/historyarch_landmarks.asp

Free local preservation events in May

Throughout May 2008, the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org) and its thousands of partners across the country will demonstrate the importance of our nation’s heritage as they highlight the preservation movement. The theme of this year’s month-long celebration is “This Place Matters” and the City of Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, FutureHeights and the Cleveland Heights Historical Society will present a lecture and two tours to celebrate our community and encourage historic preservation of its architectural beauty. All events are limited to 50 attendees (30 for the high school tour) Reservations are required and are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Please call 216-434-8782 to make your reservation.

What’s so unique about Cleveland Heights architecture and why should we preserve it? Throughout May 2008, the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org) and its thousands of partners across the country will demonstrate the importance of our nation’s heritage as they highlight the preservation movement. The theme of this year’s month-long celebration is “This Place Matters” and the City of Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, FutureHeights and the Cleveland Heights Historical Society will present a lecture and two tours to celebrate our community and encourage historic preservation of its architectural beauty. All events are limited to 50 attendees (30 for the high school tour) Reservations are required and are taken on a first come, first serve basis. Please call 216-434-8782 to make your reservation.

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Playground gets spring cleaning

Thanks to a wealth of Coventry community support

Joanne Campbell

It was a perfect day—lots of friends, some returning, some new. College students, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and former Coventry students all helped out on Saturday April 26th at the Spring Coventry P.E.A.C.E. playground cleanup.

By 9 a.m. they were mucking on the continental breakfast donated by Tommy’s, Zoss the Swiss Baker and Phoenix Coffee. The weather was perfect—not too cool or too hot, nor too rainy with just a few sprinkles. The sun came out while the weeding, raking, shrub pruning and playground equipment repair proceeded at an organized pace with Erick Kauffman, P.E.A.C.E. president, directing and orchestrating. Interspersed in the laughter and shouts of kids playing and working could be heard calls for “more bags please” to be filled with the leaves, clippings, and weeds. By lunch time everyone was ready to sit down to a delicious meal donated by Guy’s Pizza, Tommy’s Restaurant, and Zagar’s Marketplace.

The wrap up after lunch included spreading the mulch donated by the CH-UH City Board of Education. A big thank you goes to the above merchants and community members who donated food and to Seitz Agin for donating supplies and helpful advice. Another big thanks goes to the CH-UH Business Department for letting us use the Coventry all purpose room to serve lunch and for providing the building supervisor to open the building at 7 a.m. to set up tables, etc. Many thanks to the John Carroll University students who donated their Saturday, and to all the community individuals who answered the call of “clean up time, rain or shine.” A full cleanup date will be announced.

The P.E.A.C.E. playground was built by the Coventry parents and community volunteers during a cold, rainy week in the spring of 1993, although planning started before 1991. Funds were raised through many garage sales, donations from foundations and individuals, a Community Development Block grant from the city, brick sales and bake sales for starters. Since that time, Coventry P.E.A.C.E. has organized two work days a year to expand and maintain the gardens and keep the playground equipment in good repair. There is a lot more history about the entire playground area that can be told in another issue of the Heights Observer.

P.E.A.C.E. means People Enhance A Child’s Environment. Now that the school is closed the “Child’s Environment” has been expanded to a “Community’s Environment.” In 2009 we planted over 2,000 bulbs for everyone to enjoy.

This summer P.E.A.C.E. and Steve Presser of Big Fun will again sponsor four movie nights. We need volunteers to help out. Contact email: erick.kauff-man@dialglobal.net to participate.

The P.E.A.C.E. garden and playground is a jewel for the community. Come on, join in the fun, to meet new friends and for the satisfaction of participating.

Campbell is a 42 year resident of Cleveland Heights whose children, and grandchildren, have graduated from Heights High School.

Old school: new ideas

Coventry Study Committee closes door on International Academy

Sarah Wean

The Coventry School Study Committee continued to explore use recommendations for the empty building in Coventry Village at its April 22 meeting.

Committee member Eric Coble, a member of the CH-UH Board of Education and a resident of the neighborhood, presented a draft of the school district’s innovative new partnership in an International Baccalaureate School, slated to open in the fall of 2009. It was open to a community arts center with other ideas. Another big thanks to the Renaissance Group to be considered in the next meeting.

Arts to develop a more detailed plan for the neighborhood. The committee is moving forward with its recommendations to the board of education later in the year.

Superintendent Delisle floated the idea of studying issues associated with the creation of a regional arts center; or raising the building to create new parkland for the neighborhood.

To date, the district has no serious proposals from residential developers. Development of the property for residential use remains a possibility. Although not zoned for that use, the property’s future use: residential development, the creation of a regional arts center, or raising the building to create new parkland for the neighborhood.

In the past, the district has had no serious proposals from residential developers. However, development of the property for residential use remains a possibility. Despite zoning issues, the property is zoned for housing.

A live-work option was briefly discussed. Although not zoned for use by the district, the property is zoned for housing.

Sarah Wean is a Coventry Village resident.

Next Coventry School Study Group meeting, on May 13, is open to the public

The Coventry School Study Committee will open its work to public comment on Tuesday, May 13, at 6:30 pm. The committee is working to narrow its recommendations to the board of education about future use of the former elementary school. Citizens are invited to review the committee’s work, as well as the proposal for a multi-use nonprofit center, at www.chuh.org. The meeting will be held in Coventry Elementary School Multipurpose Room, at the corner of Euclid Heights Blvd. and Coventry Road. Info: 771-7071.
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