Homeownership opportunities on East Derbyshire

There are a lot more flowers in bloom on East Derbyshire Road. Owners occupied apartments were able to get free landscaping from the city of Cleveland Heights last fall, as part of the kick-off for the East Derbyshire Condo Project, a special city program using Community Development Block Grant funds.

East Derbyshire Road between Lee and Cottage Grove roads is dominated by large duplex homes ranging in size from 1,700 to 2,900 square feet on each side. The street has a mix of owner-occupants who rent one unit and investors who rent out both units.

As part of this special city program, several of these duplex homes are being converted to condominiums to create new affordable homeownership opportunities. Each home will be rehabilitated with new kitchens, bathrooms, windows, roofs, heating and electrical systems. The kitchens will come furnished with a dishwasher, stove, microwave and other amenities. Some of the homes will have additional enhancements, such as improved floor plans and half baths on the first floor. Each duplex conversion follows historic preservation guidelines to preserve interior and exterior architectural features that add uniqueness to the home.

Bill Knop, rehab specialist for the city, is on site every day to assure that each home is on schedule and within budget. Two condominiums are currently under construction and will be completed by late August.

The first rehabilitated condominium, located at 3150 East Derbyshire, just went on the market for $185,000 and features new windows, roof, kitchens and bathrooms, beautiful hardwood floors, and more. Prospective homeowners can take advantage of tax abatement on the cost of improvements and, if eligible, down payment assistance from the city.

“The Derbyshire project is an example of the city’s attempt to be proactive and to take an imaginative approach to community revitalization,” says Kathryn Lad, executive director of the Home Repair Resource Center.

The East Derbyshire Condo Project is an affordable alternative to other new condos, which are priced at $200,000 or more.-Americans who move to the area can walk from a waiting distance to shops, restaurants, parks and other amenities in the Cedar-Lee and Coventry areas.

Gail Jackson lives on East Derbyshire and works for the Home Repair Resource Center, which is a HUD-certified housing agency that provides a full range of services to homeowners.

Visit the website at www.hrrc-ch.org or call 381-6100 for more information on programs and services.

John Zagara, owner of Zagara’s Marketplace on Lee Road, wants more parking for his customers and better traffic flow in his parking lot.

Zagara held a meeting July 23 at the CH-UH Main Library and presented a plan for easing parking lot congestion at his grocery store. He also received ideas and input from about 25 neighbors in attendance.

Zagara’s plan enlarges the loading dock area, moves the auto entrance from Lee Road to East Overlook Road, razes one or two homes adjacent to the property, and shrinks the parcel pickup area.

Mike Madorosky’s home abuts the northwest corner of the property. Acknowledging the difficult configuration of the parking and truck area, but questioning the need for more parking spaces, he told Zagara “I look out my window at the parking lot and I rarely see the jam up situation you describe.”

Madorosky’s wife Elizabeth Stern expressed concern about razing homes to accommodate more parking in a community that values its neighborhoods.

The proposed East Overlook auto entrance received much discussion. There was confusion about how much traffic would spill out onto the residential street and which direction it might go. East Overlook resident Howard Van Kleef said that residents’ negative attitudes of six years ago (when Zagara’s was planning its current location) had not changed. He said his neighbors had small children and any increased traffic from an East Overlook entrance would affect quality of life on his street.

There is no doubt Zagara’s has been successful at its new location. The store racks up 1,000-1,800 customers on a typical weekday and finds its parking lot filled up to 1,500-1,800 customers on a typical weekday and finds its parking lot filled up to 1,500-1,800 customers on a typical weekday.

Mayor Ed Kelley recognized Zagara and his neighbors to promote a safe environment for everyone. “John has given me that guarantee,” he said.

Sarah Wean is a Cleveland Heights resident.

Heights Observer partners with WJCU-FM

Yemi Akande

The Heights Observer is expanding its community outreach efforts through collaboration with John Carroll University’s WJCU-FM Radio Station (88.7). Starting on August 18, WJCU-FM will launch the first in a series of 90-second weekly podcasts featuring stories from the current issue of the Heights Observer.

The partnership is an effort to reach a broader audience of Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents. The marriage of radio and the internet is growing in importance, and such a partnership recognizes the notion that the future of radio is the internet.

According to Mark Krieger, director of WJCU-FM and adjunct assistant professor of communication and theatre arts, the station had been looking for arts, the station had been looking for a project of community interest. The collaboration with John Carroll University’s WJCU-FM Radio Station (88.7) was brought to the attention of Krieger, who was introduced to the Heights Observer.

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Zagara’s Marketplace floats expansion plans by neighbors

Sarah Wean

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Sarah Wean is a Cleveland Heights resident.
The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District (the “District”) is seeking Letters of Interest from entities interested in the lease and adaptive re-use of the former Coventry Elementary School Property (the “Property”). Entities interested in leasing and redeveloping the Property may obtain a Letter of Interest from the District at that same address not later than 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time on October 15, 2008. Letters of Interest received after that date and time will not be accepted.

The District will select the entity proposing a re-use of the Property the District deems to be in the District’s best interest and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Request for Letters of Interest.

Cleveland Heights resident Ralph Solonitz (artist/writer) was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany.
An American’s reaction to a round of UK pubs

Allan Kuntz

Our recent trip to England, Scotland, and Wales, plus last month's piece by Matthew Williams is perfect timing for this story. My craving for craft beers started while stationed in Germany in the late sixties. In Germany, one drinks one's beer at guest houses. In that era, in addition to the local plumber, the main choices were Lowenbrau or Beck's. Back to the states and it was a 20 year taste drought until Great Lakes Brewery came along in 1988.

It was with great anticipation that we experienced our first pub, Deacon Brodies, in Edinburgh, Scotland. Many thoughts went through our minds, in- cluding questions concerning prejudptions about the local dialect, the protocol, and of course, what beer to choose. Because this tavern was close to Edinburgh Castle, it was full of tourists and the locals took our “cookie” status in stride. Plus it was more like a restaurant. The actual pub area was downstairs. We sat upstairs with servers to take and bring our order.

Our next pub experience truly educated us on the local customs. Americans are used to being seated and waited upon. Not here. You find your own table, go to the bar, order your beer or food and take the beer back to your table. If food is ordered, you receive a number to place on your table in order for the server to find you. The cycle is repeated if you want more beer or food. You pay as you go or run a tab with the barkeep holding your credit card.

Today, I had no recourse but to give my money to CVS. Does anyone really know for anyone sure I can cultivate a relationship with the folks who work there. Experience has taught me that even the most indifferent clerk is human, and I like to talk to strangers, so there is some hope. Although it will take some time to get used to the hyper bright fluorescent and the annoyingly chipper pop music wafting through the overly air conditioned aisles, I can make the adjustment. I already have.

I don't have anything against CVS (except perhaps its aesthetics and room temperature beer), I prefer to support local merchants instead of large corporations. And I'm concerned. There is no other independent pharmacy in Cleveland Heights and all unique communities that have not yet succumbed to the cookie cutter suburb.

Local independent merchants are endangered species, even in the Heights

Christine McBurney

It’s getting harder and harder to think globally and shop locally. Armed with my laptop and debit card, I made a stop at my locally-owned and operated pharmacy this morning only to find that a CVS in a neighboring city had swallowed it up. I say “my” pharmacy because I always had a chat with whoever was working behind the counter, I never had to wait long for a prescription, and I usually ran into someone I knew. All that was no more.

My intent this summer Saturday morning was to work on another story, but sadness about the loss of my local pharmacy overtook me and compelled an investigation.

Some of the best things about living in the Heights are the walkability of the city and supporting its independent merchants. Economic realities and Medicare legislation contributed to the demise of my pharmacy. I’m not a politician and I don’t pretend to understand how the economy works. But I am a concerned citizen who loves Cleveland Heights and tries to spend most of her money on goods and services within its borders.

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I don't have anything against CVS (except perhaps its aesthetics and room temperature beer), I prefer to support local merchants instead of large corporations. And I’m concerned. There is no other independent pharmacy in Cleveland Heights that accepts insurance. Now to take prescription drugs, I have to drive instead of walk or bike.

And a Domino effect happens so easily. Instead of working at my locally owned and operated coffee shop, it was easier to go to the next one to CVS. These are real dollars leaving Cleveland Heights.

As engaged citizens and elected officials, we need to ask ourselves what we can do to help ensure that local, independent merchants stay local and independent. This isn’t about being smug and self-righteously politically correct.

This is about the future of Cleveland Heights and all unique communities that have not yet succumbed to the cookie cutter suburb.
Summer Santa sends smiles

Nivi Engineer

The Cleveland-based Summer Santa project concluded on July 15. The toys were sorted and packaged on July 16, and the truck filled with all the toys the people of Cleveland contributed, along with over 100 Classy Cruisers, tricycles, and wagons donated by Step 2, pulled out of Beachwood Place on Thursday, July 17.

The show of support from Clevelanders was tremendous. One woman donated three boxes full of Matchbox cars in their original packaging that her brother had collected for years. After her brother died, she wasn’t sure what to do with the cars, but when she heard about the toy drive, she decided to share them with the kids in Iowa.

Two children that live near Sue Maher pooled together their allowance money that they had been saving to buy a Game Boy, and own two to buy toys for the kids instead.

Companies also came together to help the cause. Dotti Franks, vice president of marketing communications for the Stepp Company, arranged to load the truck for a locally owned business, Heights. “Research shows that for every unique character,” says Deanna Bremer Fisher, “qualities are what give the Heights its ‘One-of-a-kind independent business’ advocacy efforts.”

COSE’s New I Buy Northeast Ohio (NEO) program will complement FutureHeights’ I Buy Heights program since 2003.

FutureHeights has formed a new partnership with the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) to encourage consumers and local business owners to support locally owned businesses and keep dollars within our community. FutureHeights has promoted local business through its Heights Shops program since 2003. COSE’s new I Buy Northeast Ohio (NEO) program will complement FutureHeights’ existing gift certificate and advocacy efforts.

One of a kind independent businesses are what give the Heights its unique character,” says Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. “Research shows that for every $100 spent at a locally owned business and keep dollars in the Heights, citizens who return a completed ballot to the FutureHeights office by September 2 will be eligible to win a $100 FutureHeights gift certificate.”

“With the ‘Best of Cleveland Heights’ vote, we help foster collaboration and growth among businesses located in the Heights, of which are locally owned and operated. New this year is an opportunity to vote for your favorite University Heights business.”

Heights Arts pulls away from Coventry

Sarah Wean

On July 22, Cleveland Heights arts organization Heights Arts stepped away from its idea of using the former Coventry Elementary School building. Letters of interest are due by October 15 and can be found online at www.chuh.org/boe/coventry_committee.

Sarah Wean is a Coventry Village resident.
Cleveland Heights City Council: Highlights of June 2008 meetings

Monday, June 2, 2008 meeting (Mark Tumeo excused)

Special improvement district plans
Council approved petitions for adopting five-year renewals of public services plans for the Cedar-Fairmount and Cedar-Lee Special Improvement Districts. The budget for Cedar-Fairmount will be $50,000 and for Cedar-Lee, $125,000 per year; both with three percent increases each subsequent year.

Community Development Block Grants
Council approved the distribution of Community Development Block Grant funds to:
- Cleveland Tenants Organization for telephone information services, $7,000
- Heights Community Congress for telephone information services, $8,500
- Noble-Nela Merchants Association for operating expenses, not for acquisition of food, $4,930
- Heights Emergency Food Center for fair housing, $27,820
- Heights YOUTH Club, Inc. for Project Open Doors, Inc., for after-school programming for middle school-aged youth, $14,094
- Heights Parent Center for support to families and youth, $40,000
- Heights Youth Club, Inc. for Project FAME (Fun After-school Methods of Enhancement), $6,000, and Pinpoint Program, $50,000
- Heights Arts Collaborative, Inc. for Heights Arts at the Library program, $20,000
- Heights Parent Center for support to families and youth, $40,000
- Heights Youth Club, Inc. for Project Learn and The Educational Enhancement Program, $30,000.

Community Development Block Grant funds to:
- Center for Families and Children for FAME (Fun After-school Methods of Enhancement), $6,000, and Pinpoint Programs, $27,000
- Heights Arts Collaborative, Inc. for Heights Arts at the Library program, $20,000
- Heights Parent Center for support to families and youth, $40,000
- Heights Youth Club, Inc. for Project Learn and The Educational Enhancement Program, $30,000.

Council approved an agreement with
- University Heights for the transfer, storage, and loading of rock salt at the Cleveland Heights salt storage facility at 1448 Warrensville Center Road.

Cain Park improvements
Council approved a change order, $5,301.97 for handrails, to the contract with Apex Construction and Management for Cain Park improvements. The final cost of entrance improvements will be $382,445.72 to come from Issue 27 money, not the General Fund.

You design your lifestyle.
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June 2 Meeting
(Frank Consolo excused)

Privacy concerns for public statements
A University Heights resident, introduc-
ing herself as ‘June Doe’, cited privacy
concerns with including citizens’ names
and addresses in council minutes pub-
lished on the internet. She had protect-
er her privacy with an unlisted phone
number and a P.O. Box. After testifying
at University Heights City Council
meetings where audience members are
asked to begin their statements with
their name and address, she received a
package from someone who found her
address through the internet minutes.
Councilmembers were visibly sym-
pathetic, but Councilwoman Frankie
Goldberg pointed out that “We’re a
public entity…a public forum.”

Water main replacements
Council authorized solicitation of bids for
water main replacements on Silsby,
Bushnell, and Charney roads. The Cleve-
dale Water Department will reimburse
University Heights for the estimated
$45,000. The property is adjacent to the
former Ohr Chodesh property where
the city had planned to build a salt stor-
age facility. The house had been in a fire.

Reverse 911
Council approved a software licensing
agreement with CityWatch. The soft-
ware would provide reverse 911 to enable
the city to communicate with residents
in an emergency.

University Square garage
Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg ex-
pressed disappointment that Inland, the
company responsible for the University
Square parking garage, had declined to
attend tonight’s meeting to report on
progress of garage repairs. Law Direc-
tor Ken Fisher commented that Inland
was waiting for an increase in the bond
market before reissuing bonds for renova-
tions, which are scheduled to begin in
2009. Finance Director Arman Ochoa
and City Engineer Joseph Ciuni pointed
out that garage beam repairs, which are
separate from overall garage renova-
tion, should be done by the beginning
of July.

LWV Observer: Susan D. Pardee

June 16 Meeting
(Kevin Patrick Murphy excused)

Bellefaire to demolish building
Council approved a demolition permit for
Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau to raze
Building “I” on its campus. The
two-story building, built in 1928 and used
originally as a dormitory for the orphan-
age facility. The house had been in a fire.
The T ree Fund has been
preparing to address the threat of the em-
erald ash borer. The Tree Fund has been
operating at a deficit for several years.

Diving boards and insurance
Mike Bentley of Brookson Stafford
Company presented a bid for a Public
Officials, Law Enforcement Liability,
Umbrella Excess, and Package Policy
from Traveler’s Insurance. No other
company was willing to provide cover-
age because the swimming pool has div-
ing boards. All except Vice-Mayor Adele
Zucker voted to table the ordinance,
pending more information on costs if
the diving boards were removed. Last
year’s policy will be continued on a pro-
rated monthly basis.

Councilmember Frankie Goldberg
strongly urged consideration of adding
cyber coverage (for liabilities related to
the city’s website), an optional addition
for $703 per year.

Assessment increases
Council approved assessment increases for:
• Street lights, from 60 to 70 cents per front foot.
• Tree maintenance, from 40 to 80 cents per front foot. (Shaker Heights assesses
one dollar per front foot.) The city is
preparing to address the threat of the em-
erald ash borer. The Tree Fund has been
operating at a deficit for several years.
• Sewer maintenance (supplementary), from $/ft to $/ft per year. The city will
use these funds to videotape and clean
20% of the sewer lines each year. Fees
were last raised in 1989.

Water line replacement
Council awarded a contract to Noce
Enterprises, Inc. to replace the water
line under University Parkway. The cost
of $45,000 will be reimbursed by the
City of Cleveland Water Department.
The project will take four months to com-
plete and will require digging only
a five-foot wide trench, not the entire
street. The city will notify residents.

Wynn Road house to be demolished
Council authorized purchase of a fore-
closed property at 2097 Wynn Road for
$45,000. The property is adjacent to the
former Ohr Chodesh property where
the city had planned to build a salt stor-
age facility. The house had been in a fire.
Demolition will cost $7,000.

Sewer repairs
Council voted to authorize solicita-
tion of bids for various sewer repairs.
Several locations at Traylor, Eaton, and
University Boulevard have chronic sewer
problems.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deering

Disclaimer: These summaries of the LWV
Cuyahoga Area-Heights Chapter report of
public meetings contain member observations
and selected highlights edited by Maryann
Barnes; they are not official statements by the
League of Women Voters. This disclaimer must
accompany any redistribution of this report.

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Open Doors 2008-2009 Session Begins
September 8, 2008

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extraordinary value. It provides my thoroughly middle-
school aged child with comfortable hang out time, a
curriculum full of very cool information, entertaining
field trips, habituation to homework, and the opportunity
to test boundaries in a consistently constructive environ-
ment.”

For more information, to request an application, or to
be added to our mailing list, please contact:

Kathy Randall, Executive Assistant
(216) 229-1900 or krandall@opendoorsacademy.org
Retiring library director reception set for August 17

Judithe Soppel

“Slow down, you move too fast. Gotta make the moment last...” those lyrics certainly never pertained to Steve Wood during his tenure as director of the CH-UH Public Library. But, starting August 31, 2008, when his retirement becomes official, they will.

The public is invited to an appreciation reception honoring him on his retirement. The event will take place on Sunday, August 17, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. A brief program is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

For the last 20 years as director, and for 11 years before that, he never slowed down in driving the library into the 21st Century. Through his vision and leadership, he implemented the library’s successful online hook up to the Cleveland Public Library’s automated system.

He was the driving force behind the renovation and expansion of the Lee Road building. Because of his leadership, Hennen’s American Public Library Rating index placed Heights Library first in the nation for libraries of its size.

He was always concerned with spending the public’s money wisely to benefit its customers.

Those who wish to contribute to the Friends of the CH-UH Public Library’s Rachel Nelsen Permanent Art Fund in Wood’s honor.

For more information, call Judithe Soppel, at 932-3600, ext. #277.

Join Steve Wood for a retirement reception on August 17.

Judithe Soppel is public relations coordinator for the CH-UH Public Library.

Featured Heights Libraries Programs

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road 321-3400
NIA Coffeehouse Open Mic
Tuesdays, August 5 & 19, 6 p.m.
Black Dead Advocates
Saturday, August 9, 1-1 p.m.
Stop Fridays, August 15 - 19, 10 a.m.
Deaf Gatherings
Monday, August 25, 6 p.m.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road 932-3600
Explorerary
Thursdays, August 7 - 28, 10 a.m.
Mother/Daughter Book Discussion
Thursday, August 21, 7 p.m.
Breaking Dawn Teen Book Discussion
Friday, August 15, 3 p.m.
Rock the Block
Tuesday, August 12, 6 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road 291-5665
Baby and Toddler Story & Play
Fridays, August 1-29, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Knitting Circle
Thursdays, August 7 & 21, 7 p.m.
Mytery Evening
Thursday, August 14, 7 p.m.
Summer Story Stop
Fridays, August 1-29, 11:15 a.m.

University Heights Library
13866 Cedar Road 321-4700
Senior Spot
Wednesday, August 6-27, 12:30 p.m.
Monday at the Movies
Monday, August 4-25, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Story Stop
Wednesdays, August 6-27, 10:30 a.m.

For more information visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 932-3600.

Biography leads to discovery of Cleveland PGA Hall of Famer

Judithe Soppel

Last spring, Joan Freeze, a fiction and biography reader, walked by a book display featuring spring and sports materials on the second floor of the Lee Road Library. Among the books was the autobiography Just Let Me Play, The Story of Charlie Sifford, the First Black PGA Golfer.

Though not an avid golfer, Freeze said what first caught her attention was the cover photo of a black man with a big, friendly smile and a cigar clenched between his teeth. Freeze later discovered Sifford was an ever-present part of Sifford’s persona.

“I grew up in Washington, D.C. and was involved in the civil rights movement at the time, so the cover caught my attention,” Freeze stated.

She snagged the book, found a comfortable chair, and began to read. “I became glued to it,” she said, and explained that when she finally went home she continued to read, finishing the book in only one day. The book was about Sifford’s life in the golf world, which he entered as a caddy in North Carolina.

“I found it funny, and poignant,” Freeze said. “Even as he discussed the racism he experienced in the game, his sense of humor showed through.”

Totally intrigued after finishing the book, Freeze became determined to try to locate Sifford. She knew he had a Cleveland connection and eventually did locate him. Following several phone conversations, they met and became friends.

Sifford still plays golf, although he recently gave up the cigars for health reasons.

During their conversations, they discussed Sifford’s induction into the PGA Hall of Fame Museum in St. Augustine, Fla. Sifford, now 85 years old, told Freeze he spends the “nice weather” in Cleveland and tries to escape to Florida in the harsh winter. He offered to give her a personally guided tour any time she would like.

In February, Freeze traveled to Florida, where Sifford made good on his offer. While they were touring the PGA Hall of Fame together, other visitors approached Sifford to talk about his career. Freeze backed away to let him enjoy the conversations. At one point, someone pointed to Freeze and asked who she was. “In typical Charlie humor, he said ‘Oh, she’s my swing coach’,” Freeze said.

Sifford has paved the way for other African-American golfers to follow in his footsteps. As Arthur Ashe stated in the foreword of Sifford’s autobiography, “Because of Roscoe and Eliza Sifford’s son, Eldrick ‘Tiger’ Woods should never have to suffer these indignities.” Incidentally Freeze pointed out Sifford is godfather to Tiger Woods.

Judithe Soppel is public relations coordinator for the CH-UH Public Library.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the University Heights City Council will hold a Special Meeting on TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Donahue Auditorium, Dolan Science Center, John Carroll University, 2000 N. Park Blvd., University Heights, Ohio to consider the following agenda items:

A. Appeal to Council by Waterway Gas & Wash Company of the Board of Zoning Appeals’ decision of June 17, 2008 regarding its request for a Special Permit for the use of a full service car wash, gasoline and convenience store facility at the property located at 2326 Warrensville Center Road.

B. Consideration of the City of University Heights 1-Year 7/25/08-

LWV observer, Anne S. McFarland

See disclaimer on page 6.
What are they doing now?

Lita Gonzalez

It has been a pleasure to update you on what Heights graduates are up to. Please keep these updates coming I would love to hear from more families about what their grads are doing now. Email me at itselfvalley.com.

Here’s just a sampling of what some of our graduates have been up to:

Class of 1998
KENNA QUEBEC was a journalism major at the University of Wisconsin. After graduation, she worked for a variety of advertising agencies in Cleveland and Baltimore. Since 2000, she has been with T. Rowe Price, an investment management firm, as a part of their in-house marketing department. This May, Kenna was promoted to director of marketing for the Europe, Middle East and Africa operations and will be based out of their London office beginning in July.

Class of 2004
DAVID CARLSON graduated from Oberlin College with a double major in mathematics (Honors) and East Asian studies, and minors in economics and history. David’s East Asian studies focus worked on Chinese language. He spent two summers studying Chinese in Beijing and is preparing to start law school at Cornell University this fall. GRAHAM BERT graduated magna cum laude this June from Harvard University with a major in social studies. Graham was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In September he will join the consulting firm Oliver Wyman’s Dubai office. KATHERINE M. VINCENT graduated with honors from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communication design and a minor in art history. Katherine’s senior thesis focused on ethnography and multiculturalsim pertaining to graphic design in China and the United States. She is lead designer at a small firm and also freelances. JOSHUA WILDEY graduated from Purdue University this year with a degree in electrical engineering. He is working for MC Dean Corporation, an engineering construction company, in Reston, Virginia.

Class of 2005
ANDY NASH will be a senior at Wittenberg University majoring in math and theater. He is an Eagle Scout and a brother of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. This summer, Andy stayed in Springfield to take several classes through neighboring Clark State College and to continue work in local theaters. He hopes to attend graduate school where he would like to continue to study math.

Class of 2007
RACHEL PETRIT will be a sophomore at Tulane University. She is enrolled in a summer program that involves working as a middle school math teaching assistant through an internship with New Orleans Outreach. She is also taking an interdisciplinary course at Tulane on “the geography, culture and history of New Orleans and issues affecting urban community development.” ALLISON SOLARU will be a sophomore at Ohio State University and is majoring in chemistry and minoring in music (cello). This summer she is going on a mission trip to Honduras.

Lisa Gonzalez, a longtime community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Heights High graduates are college ready and life prepared

Michael Dougherty

It was a memorable evening for the Heights High Class of 2008 at their graduation. Commencement exercises were held at the State Theatre of Playhouse Square Center. Commencement exercises were held at the State Theatre of Playhouse Square Center.

It was a memorable evening for the Heights High Class of 2008 at their graduation. Commencement exercises were held at the State Theatre of Playhouse Square Center. Class of 2008 Cleveland Heights High School seniors were offered scholarships totaling over $9 million. They have accepted scholarships to attend 4 year universities in the amount of $4.1 million. In addition, seniors received over $14,000 in scholarships from local community organizations in Northeast Ohio.

The graduating seniors of Cleveland Heights High School were accepted to the following colleges and universities listed below:

Michael Dougherty is the Coordinator of Communications for the CH-UH City School District
Heights grads rescue pieces of Cleveland’s history

Lita Gonzalez

Every building has a story to tell—the story of those who designed and labored to build it, the families or businesses that used the space, and the neighborhood and environment surrounding it. Sadly, as neighborhoods change, these stories are often lost, especially when an older building is torn down. Two Heights High graduates, however, are capturing this history and keeping much of the valuable wood materials from ending up in landfills.

As the housing services manager for the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation, Chris Kious (class of ‘91) monitored boarded up buildings slated for demolition. He felt there had to be a way of saving the old, often first growth wood, from many of these century old houses. Chris started researching the deconstruction movement that was catching on around the country. Building deconstruction, or reverse construction, if done correctly, can salvage thousands of dollars of usable wood and materials from each building.

Kious and his friend Ezra Taxel (class of ‘96) started exploring the idea of developing a business for “rescuing and upcycling” wood from buildings facing demolition. “We wanted to take the wood from these broken buildings with tales to tell and give it new life,” he says. Kious and Taxel, together with two other friends, Aaron Gogolin and PJ. Doran, formed A Piece Of Cleveland (APOC), which conserves old wood and repurposes it into high-quality furniture and interior furnishings. “When deconstructing, we focus on all the wood, wood doors, wood floors, even framing lumber, which in older buildings can have very tight veining you can no longer find.”

Each partner brings a unique set of skills to the business: Kious has a background in biomass acquisition. Taxel and Gogolin are designers and furniture/cabinet makers, and Doran is an artist who uses recycled materials.

At the end of 2007 the four designed and made a dozen cutting boards out of wood harvested from a Cleveland building. Each board displayed a “registration certificate,” which told the history of the materials that went into it. The boards quickly sold and word spread.

Taxel and Kious agree that they were in the right place at the right time. “The sustainability movement is catching on and the Cleveland community is beginning to embrace it,” says Kious. APOC is filling custom orders for private residents, businesses and local restaurants. “People are intrigued by the idea of saving pieces of Cleveland’s history,” adds Taxel.

The partners are careful not to over commit themselves and are financing the company’s controlled growth. Word of mouth and a presence at Planet Green in Rocky River drives much of the business expansion. Architects who have seen their products are spreading the word.

They recently received a call from a man who planned to tear down a house. He asked APOC to deconstruct it and reinvigorate the wood into tables for a new restaurant he was opening. The Welshfield Inn in Burton set aside the wood salvaged during a remodeling project. APOC is using the wood for custom orders. As APOC grows, they are looking toward the eastern suburbs. Kious pointed out that cities in the area are showing an increased interest in going green. “We haven’t been approached by Cleveland Heights yet, but that may happen as they begin evaluating some of their older housing stock.”

“When we started the company, we weren’t even pursuing greenness. The character of older houses that were built to last is what peaked my curiosity, along with the beautiful stories and products we could create.” Taxel pointed out that living in the Heights is unique, but “when you’re young, you automatically think that rest of world must be better. Sometimes it takes leaving and living somewhere else to really appreciate what we have here.”

Kious adds, “I think we’ve found the perfect way of honoring the memory and history of these buildings. In the process, we have become accidental environmentalists.”

For more information go to www.apieceofcleveland.com.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Beat the rush! Register now for school

Michael Dougherty

Register now in the Cleveland Heights – University Heights City School District for the 2008-2009 school year. The first day of school is August 26, 2008. Four more children are eligible for kindergarten in 2008 if they are age 5 by September 30, 2008. Registration takes place at the Board of Education, 2155 Miramar Blvd. The Department of Students Services is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to serve your registration needs. In addition, appointments will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. between August 11 and August 26. Please call 317-7430 to schedule an appointment. For more information on registration requirements, click on the Student Registration link at www.chuhs.org or call 317-7430.

Michael Dougherty is the Coordinator of Communications for the Cleveland Heights – University Heights City School District.

Citizen journalism is spelled Y-O-U

Every article you read in the Heights Observer is written by a volunteer. Join local grassroots support of a strong and vibrant Heights by writing your neighborhood and group's news, issues, and events for the Heights Observer.

LWV Observer, Adele Cohn

See disclaimer on page 6.

LWV Observer, Adele Cohn

Register now for school
By the time he graduated from Heights High School in 2005, Mark Muthersbaugh had logged 1,000 volunteer hours at the Natural History Museum, so it didn’t sur-
prise family or friends when he decided to study biology at Oberlin College.

Last semester, when the opportuni-
ty to study abroad in Tanzania presented itself, Mark jumped at the chance. “Tan-
zania protects 20% of its land in large
National Parks,” explained Mark, “so I
left there studying wildlife management, wild-
life ecology, environmental policy and sam-
ple counting techniques; information that
was later used when Mark went out into the
National Park to determine how
various animal populations were doing.
Mark’s accommodations ranged from
high-end safari lodging camps to simpler
guest campsites. “Staying in a two person
tent for three months forced me to be
ultra organized,” laughed Mark. After
a longer expedition, Mark went into the
Serengeti for five days. He
met members of the Masai Tribe who
live a predominantly pastoral lifestyle.
He also spent three weeks following four
baboon troops: two troops ranged
freely and hunted for their food in the
wild while the other two troops were
foragers that gathered their food by
rooting through human trash. “I
was amazed at how smart and clever
the baboons were,” said Mark. “At the
end of the study I found that the foraging
troops had a smaller range, had more
free time, and were more social.
The pictures Mark shot in Tanzania
were beautiful enough to be featured
in National Geographic magazine. One
picture showed lions sleeping beside
the van Mark was riding in. “It is so
hot that lions will look for whatever shade
they can find,” explained Mark. “This
shade just happened to be right next
to our transportation!” Another picture
showed the massive elephant that had
charged Mark when he got too close
while snapping pictures.

This summer, Mark will work with
Lauren Salzman, head of the biology
department at Oberlin, doing research
on crayfish populations in Northern
Ohio. The research, which has been go-
ing on for several years, is studying the
effect of pollution on crayfish, as well
as the interaction between invasive and
native crayfish species in two rivers.
Mark explained the importance of
the research to Northeast Ohio.
“Crayfish is a keystone species that is
important to the whole ecological
system and can demonstrate the health of
a river system. Pollution affects crayfish
and is passed on to their predators such
as big mouth bass and heron.”

After college Mark would like to
work on resolving wildlife problems
and is considering going into the Peace
Corps. He hopes to go back to Tanzania
someday.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community
volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with
her husband Mark. Both their daughters are
Heights High graduates.

By contrast to Tanzania, the
Wiley Middle School stage lit up to reveal 84 through
fourth graders in the CH-UH City
School District. Dressed in burgundy
shirts and jeans, the children were ready
to perform after a week at the Heights Summer Music Camp.

The camp, sponsored by Reach-
ing Heights, was held at Wiley Middle
School from June 16-20. Any CH-UH
student who has taken at least a year of
private music lessons may attend the
four-week camp, staffed by professional musicians,
CH-UH alumni, and Heights High
students. “This year’s group of students
is much more musically advanced than
any other group,” said camp coordina-
tor Betty Neylon, who teaches general
music at Roxboro Elementary School.

The Finale Concert was held June 21
and featured the four chamber groups,
the choir, and the full orchestra. The
choir sang “Why We Sing” by Gilpin,
which featured Kymeron Carter, Hunter
Falconer, Amber Jackson, Alice Janigro
and Kayla Olds, and “Rhythm of Life”
by Fields and Coleman. The orchestra
performed “The Great Gate of Kiev” and
“Houpak” by Mussorgsky; “Ancient Aires
and Dances” by Respighi, and selections
from “The Corpse Bride” by Elftman.

“The children have so much fun in this
program,” said Camp Administrator
Susie Kaeser. “They get more music in
a week here than they get in an entire
school year, but that’s what cultivates
their love of music. This program creates
the future Heights musicians.”

To make sure all students could attend,
Reaching Heights provided scholarships to 30 students this year.

The students enjoyed the camp.
Ayla London, who will be a freshman
playing French horn in the Heights
High Symphonic Winds this fall, said
her three years of camp have “been
fun and helped me in my musical career.”

Sima Quartell will be a senior at Cleveland
Heights High School in August. She has been
a member of the Black and Gold student
corps since her freshman year where
she is managing editor and has covered school
district issues in depth. She plans to study
journalism in college.

Lita Gonzalez, a local Heights
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**Tips for finding a baby sitter**

**Ellen Barrett**

Whether you have a dentist appointment in the middle of the day, a meeting at your kid’s school in the evening or are trying to plan “date night” with your spouse, the task of finding a sitter can be a challenge. Where to begin, what to ask and what to expect are just a few of the dilemmas you might face. Here are a few tips to guide you through this journey.

The best place to begin the search for a sitter is in your own neighborhood: at the playground, at the library, at your church.

Learn about kids who live near you who may be of baby-sitting age and seek recommendations from other parents. Word of mouth is the most useful and comfort-able way to find a sitter who will be a good fit for your family and will be interested in doing the job.

If you want an older sitter, college age or adult, find out if local colleges have lists of potential babysitters. John Car-roll University, Notre Dame College and Ursuline College all have services available to connect to students. Nanny agencies also provide part- and full-time care options (Heights Parent Center does not endorse any particular agency or institution).

Be sure to ask questions that will make you feel secure with your choice. Ask for references to give you a feeling for the sitter’s promptness, level of maturity and attitude towards kids. Do they have experience with baby-sitting? Have they taken a first aid class? If not, are they willing? Baby-sitting classes are available at the CH-UH libraries. Heights Parent Center provides the library with a speaker during these sessions to help kids be successful baby-sitters. Don’t forget to ask why they want to baby-sit. Although most kids want to baby-sit to earn money it shouldn’t be the only reason. You want them to “like kids” or “like to hold babies” or something that indicates they’ll enjoy their work!

Once you have found a potential sitter, invest the time getting to know him or her. Some of the best baby-sitting experiences come from beginning with a “mother’s helper.” This involves choos-ing a younger sitter who would be there only when you are home. Mother’s helpers are usually between 8 and 11 years old and can provide an extra pair of hands and eyes on your child for you while you pay bills, prepare dinner or even take a rest. The benefits of starting with a helper often result in your being able to “groom” a sitter for future long term jobs. They will benefit from getting to know your house rules, hearing the way you interact with your child, bonding with your child and developing a vested interest in your family. One downside is that you won’t be able to rely on them right away for the appointments that will take you out of the house. But before you know it, you’ll be able to run a quick errand or two as your helper grows into the job.

Be sure to give your sitter all they will need to be successful:

- Arm them with information about your child’s routines and habits.
- Inform them about any allergies, food preferences or restrictions.
- Provide contact information for yourself or spouse, close neighbors and pediatrician.
- Be sure they know to call 911 in an emergency.
- Leave them with clear rules about television watching, bed time and other situations that might occur.

Have realistic expectations. Remember, sitters are not parents. Their job is to keep your kids safe and happy. They should not be expected to discipline your child as you might. They should not be asked to prepare difficult meals or clean up anything that isn’t related to their tasks. Sometimes, baby-sitters can provide special fun by doing things with your kids that you might not want to. Set them up with play dough, finger paint or messy projects. Let them eat ice cream together or order pizza for dinner. Make it special and exciting so both the sitter and your kids will have a positive experience and want to do it again!

Baby sitters can provide much needed respite from the daily grind of parenting, as well as enable parents to meet their responsibilities outside the home. Taking the time to choose a sitter carefully will go a long way towards a comfortable and successful relationship.

Remember to treat your sitter fairly and in most cases they will reciprocate. Like any other relationship, the more you put into it the more you’ll gain!

For more information on parenting, call Heights Parent Center at 321-0079 or visit www.heightsparentcenter.org.

**Marc Buenaventura** is a senior management/marketing major at Case Western Reserve University and has been interning for Babysteps Limited through the Summer on the Cayuga Program, which unites students from Colgate, Cornell, CWRU, Yale, Princeton, Smith and Harvard, to live together and intern with Cleveland organizations. The goal is to present brain drain and bring talent to the Cleveland area.

For more information, visit www.ParentTalkGame.com, email ParentTalkGame@gmail.com, or call 315-662-6022.

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**For more information, visit www.HeightObserver.org**
Motorcars aims to keep shoppers’ dollars local

Jeff Bendix

Programs aimed at persuading shoppers to spend their dollars with local independent businesses are springing up all over the country. Locally, Future-Heights has been selling gift certificates redeemable at participating Cleveland Heights businesses for several years. Now Motorcars Cleveland, one of the Heights area’s largest employers, is joining the trend with a shop local program of its own.

Begun in February, Motorcars’ program has three elements:

- **Valuable Merchant Program:** Shoppers at participating businesses can pick up fliers redeemable for a $50 gift certificate to that business if the shopper test drives a car at Motorcars Toyota, Honda, or First Choice. Car purchasers with a flier will receive a $250 gift certificate.

- **Rewards Program:** Motorcars customers receive one point for every dollar spent on service, parts, or detailing. Points can be accumulated for up to four years and used toward the purchase of a new or pre-owned vehicle, up to $5,000. In addition, customers can use their rewards cards to get discounts and gifts from participating local businesses. A premium level with additional services and allowing for higher point accumulation is also available for an additional charge.

- **New Home Owners Program:** Motorcars sends postcards to new homeowners in the area, inviting them to shop at participating local businesses. A premium level offers postcards to get discounts and gifts from participating local businesses.

Although the program is still fairly new, it is beginning to catch on. Robert Kopis, owner of Pizza BoGo, said he has run out of the first batch of discount fliers he received, numbering about 450, and “four or five” customers have redeemed them. “I think we’ll get more as more people learn about the program,” he said.

Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun, said his customers have yet to use the program, but he supports it. “It helps get word out about my store on the street, and I like that Motorcars is encouraging people to spend their dollars in the community.”

Susanna Niernann O’Neill, community relations director for Cleveland Heights, said Motorcars’ program is typical of its support for the Heights. “They support youth teams and underwrite events at Cain Park. They’re very good neighbors.”

More information, including a list of participating businesses, is available at www.rewards.motorcarscleveland.com.

Jeff Bendix is a writer and public relations professional living in Cleveland Heights.

Lee Road makes the CUT

Lita Gonzalez

Ten years ago when Laura Griffith and her husband decided to move from Chicago to Ohio, they explored numerous cities in Northeast Ohio looking for just the right community. They settled on Cleveland Heights. Four years ago, when Laura decided to open her own hair salon, she knew that the Cedar Lee Business District was the right location.

Today, CUT Hair Studio, 2254 Lee Road, is a thriving business that exemplifies Laura’s commitment to Cleveland Heights.

Walking into CUT is like running into a group of old friends. The friendliness of the staff is contagious. “The Cleveland Heights community and the Lee Road business owners are so supportive that I never thought about going any place else but Lee Road,” says Laura as we sit in two cushioned chairs by the front windows.

The brightly painted walls are adorned with artwork by local artists, giving the shop the look of an artistic boutique. It’s the diversity of the street that appeals to Laura – the variety of restaurants, businesses and customers. “I can see and talk to so many different types of people of all age groups,” Laura explains. “The cultural diversity – restaurants, businesses and customers – is something I want to include businesses we know our customers use,” Cooley said.

Although the program is still fairly new, it is beginning to catch on. Rob-

Jeff Bendix is a writer and public relations professional living in Cleveland Heights.

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Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Lisa Gonzalez

There is a sincere glow about the CUT staff, Karen Anderson, Nicki Pritts and Renee Bennett. I got the feeling that these are people who honestly enjoy coming to work. Hair stylists Laura and Karen describe themselves as working artists. Nicki, the salon coordinator, is an artist and her handmade bags are displayed around the salon. Renee, a Heights High senior in the cosmetology program, has been interning at CUT.

Laura feels that the uniqueness of Cleveland Heights is what attracts people. “It’s a small-town feel that brings people together with a sense of community,” Laura explains. “Cleveland Heights drew us in because of the culture, entertainment and diversity of people in schools.”

Despite knowing no one when they first moved here, it didn’t take Laura and her husband long to meet people and fit in. “There is so much for families to do,” explains Laura, “and I see this community becoming more family oriented.” Both her children are on the East Side Kickers soccer team and her husband Todd is one of the coaches.

Laura looks around her salon and then out the windows at the people passing by on this summer afternoon. “This really is a great place to live and work.”

Readers can reach CUT Studio at 932-1220.

Lisa Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Vote for your favorite local business! See ballot on page 20.
SUMMER FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
ROCKET CAR RIDES - Russo Park, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. (Sponsored by Friends of Cedar Fairmount)

PONY RIDES at First Bank, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Sponsored by Chase Bank)

JOCK THE CLOWN - Fairmount & Cedar, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

FIFTH THIRD BANK PET PARADE, 2:00 p.m. (Registration at Fifth Third at 1:00 p.m.)

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS FIRE TRUCK & FIREMEN, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MERCHANT’S SPECIALS, Noon - 4:00 p.m.

AUTHOR’S BOOK SIGNINGS - Appletree Books, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

FREE CHAIR MASSAGES, Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Heights Massage Therapy - On-Track Massage

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (Heart Health Foundation)

FACE PAINTING & CHILDREN’S GAMES - India Community Center, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (Sponsored by Cleveland Heights Church)

LINNEA’S CLEVER AND FUN GAME FOR KIDS - Chase Bank, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (Sponsored by Church of the Redeemer, United Methodist)

PET FANTASY LAND - Fifth Third Bank, Noon - 4:00 p.m.

ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE, Noon - 4:00 p.m.

ADVENTURE BOUNCE HOUSE, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (Garden Heights Community Center)

EUCLID HEIGHTS FIREMEN'S RIVERFISH FISHER, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., at the Alcazar on Derbyshire Road

HISTORICAL TOUR OF THE ALCAZAR, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MUSIC

SCOTT ALAN, Island Decter, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Steinbouck)

GET BACK DUO, Joey Pavlovich & Gary Lee, Noon - 3:00 p.m. (Russo Park)

THE CLEVELAND JAZZ PROJECT, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (Howard Hanna Estate, Cameron Realty)

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CELESTIS, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Mad Greek Patio)

ART SHOW

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FOOD & DRINK

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For more information call 216.791.3172 or www.cedarfairmount.org

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mega bubbles - face painting - games - puppets - crafts

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Sunday meetings: 11-Noon, India Community Center, 12412 Cedar Rd.
Roth Pharmacy closes - an end of an era!
Kathryn Lowe

Bob Roth, owner and son of the founder of Roth Cedar Fairmount Pharmacy, has closed his drug store after 19 years at the Fairmount location, and 46 years in the pharmacy business. Bob’s father opened his first pharmacy at 1619 Euclid Avenue in 1941. Following in his father’s footsteps, Bob graduated with a degree in pharmacology and joined the family-owned business on Euclid Avenue. Since then Roth Pharmacy has had six locations. They moved the drug store to 248 Fairmount Boulevard in 1989. It became Cedar Fairmount Pharmacy.

Bob said he made a difficult decision in today’s ever-changing business climate. Pharmacy benefit managers control the price of drugs and cap profits for small, individually run pharmacies. Thus it became increasingly difficult to run a pharmacy by reimbursement, since profits on prescription drugs amount to about 7%. Most drug stores’ profits are made in over the counter drugs and other items. Bob said, “It is very difficult to compete with the national movement of larger pharmacy chains such as Walgreen’s and CVS and big box stores.”

Bob closed the Roth Pharmacy in the Cleveland Clinic building on Cedar Road in Beachwood when his lease was not renewed last December. With profits disappearing over the past three years, in January Bob reduced his space at Cedar Fairmount to cut costs, enabling him to break even. In the spring, CVS became very aggressive in approaching him to purchase his business. After much deliberation, he made a bittersweet decision to sell.

Bob leaves a legacy of customer service, delivering prescriptions to those who couldn’t come in, caring for his loyal customers, and not charging extra. He found he was no longer comfortable with today’s brutal business climate. He will continue to operate Parkway Pharmacy, which deals with special situations and is not open to the public. All of his staff have been offered jobs either with CVS or Parkway Pharmacy.

One loyal customer said, “Bob, you have been a gift and we appreciate how well you have served us and the Greater Cleveland Heights Community. You and your staff will be missed.” The Cedar Fairmount business community agrees.

Kathryn Lowe is executrix director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Nighttown Celebrates the Dog Days of August!
Is your Dog a Top Dog?

Bring a photo of your top dog to Nighttown during the month of August and receive a 10% discount.

Nighttown will donate $1 to the South Euclid Dog Park, www.SouthEuclidFIDO.org, for every photo received.

And, May the Best Dog Win!
On Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Nighttown will invite ten lucky dogs to meet on the patio. A celebrity judge will pick three top dogs.

Top Dog: A four night’s stay at the historic Pomander Walk Apartments, 84th Street and Broadway in Manhattan’s Upper Westside, for the dog’s owner.

First Runner Up: A $150 gift certificate to Nighttown.

Second Runner Up: A night at the fabulous Shoreby Club in Bratenahl.

Not applicable with early Bird Specials or any other discount. Max discount per photo is for two persons. One entry per dog. No three legged dogs. Discount is for food only.

Life sure is ruff at Dogtopia in Cleveland Heights
Kathy Bell

You want to provide nothing but the best for your kids, right? You want them to play to their heart’s content, chasing their friends from one room to the next, playing fetch (I mean catch) outside and having a blast, even when I’m boarding them. Knowing that they’re safe and having a blast is key.

Dogtopia is right next door, too. A full-service veterinary clinic is on-site daily and a one-to-one staffing ratio is maintained. Parents get verbal report cards when they pick up their dog, so you know how their dog fared that day, and a formal report card should their dog need updated vaccinations.

Dogtopia has a certified canine behavior trainer on-site daily and a one-to-one staffing ratio is maintained. Parents get verbal report cards when they pick up their dog, so you know how their dog fared that day, and a formal report card should their dog need updated vaccinations.

Dogtopia family, be or she undergoes a rigorous evaluation that includes in-depth aggression testing. Dogs must then come back for a half-day session to see how they react to the environment. Dogtopia has a certified canine behavioral trainer on-site daily and a one-to-one staffing ratio is maintained. Parents get verbal report cards when they pick up their dog, so you know how their dog fared that day, and a formal report card should their dog need updated vaccinations.

Owner Connie Karlowicz, a dog lover herself with three black labs, Wally, Dex and Tommy, believes that and her dogs are a part of the family. Knowing that other people feel the same way about their pets, and wanting to provide a safe haven for dogs to romp and play along with peace of mind for parents, she opened Dogtopia in 2004.

Dogtopia also provides overnight boarding in a non-kennel environment that includes dim lights and soothing lullaby music, behavioral training classes and a DIY doggy wash area.

In partnership with the South Euclid Humane Society, Dogtopia also hosts an adoption service. Eleven dogs have been placed in loving homes since July 2007. “It’s extremely important to have a place where I can drop off my dogs and leave them with peace of mind—knowing that they’re safe and having a blast, even when I’m boarding them overnight,” says Martens.

Kathy Bell and her dog, Scamp, are residents of Cleveland Heights.

Playtime at Dogtopia in Cleveland Heights.

Date Event Info Location
August 7 Blue Lunch 932-7800 UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School
August 7 Coventry Street Arts Fair 556-0927 Historic Coventry Village
August 7 Music, Movies, and Just Plain Fun 356-9503 Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Playground and Arch
August 12 Children’s Theatrical Festival heighobserver.org Cedar Fairmount District
August 12 Rock-The-Block Festival 561-3350 Cedar Lee District
August 14 Yiddishe Kup Klaimer Band 932-7800 UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School
August 21 Frank Moravcik Polka Band 932-7800 UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School
August 21 Mattie, Movies, and Ice Cream Fun 932-7800 UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School

Cleveland Heights and University Heights Summer Fun Guide 2008

Call for more information or visit our community calendar at www.heighobserver.org

HEIGHTS OBSERVER AUGUST 5, 2008
Tour of Heights patio dining spots

The Mad Greek, 2466 Fairmount Boulevard, restaurant was opened in 1977 by Loki and Nickie Chopra. After 32 years, the restaurant continues to offer a menu of contemporary American, Greek, and Indian fare. All ingredients are fresh and all recipes made from scratch. Over the years the restaurant has been recognized for outstanding food and service including most recently the Cleveland Magazine Silver Spoon Award and Northern Ohio Live’s award for Best Greek Food.

After Loki’s death in March of 2002, his son Chris Chopra took over and became partners with former manager, Bill La Rue. In the past 5 years extensive renovations have been made to the inside of the Mad Greek. These include fresh paint, renovated bar area, new fixtures, a remodeled bathroom, and a new outdoor patio.

In summer 2007, a beautiful 15 x 60 foot patio was created behind the restaurant. The multi-level patio consists of brick pavers, a pond-less waterfall, raised flower beds, a limestone privacy wall, exotic grasses, trees, and colorful flowers. The patio creates a relaxing European atmosphere. It is a beautiful surprise complete with twinkling lights in the trees, umbrella covered tables, and a relaxing atmosphere for sharing a drink or meal with friends. A new sound system provides music for the wee hours.

Owners Chris Chopra and Bill La Rue have recently announced the Mad Greek Patio Party, every Friday and Saturday evening from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. The new patio menu offers appetizers and specialty sandwiches at $8.50, gyro platter $15.50 and Riesling by the glass $6.50.

The Mad Greek, 2466 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights institution. In summer, the walls and ceiling are retracted for open-air dining, while in the off-season, the glass-enclosed patio protects diners from the elements. A waterfall splashes over a brick wall that separates diners from busy Cedar Road, and a pergola offers protection from summer heat. Live music is offered seven nights a week. Try: halloumi kabobs (skewered Cyprian sheep and goat’s milk cheese, grilled veggies and chive oil over a pilaf) $13.95 and Riesling by the glass $6.50.

MAD GREEK Tucked just below the parking lot for privacy, this summer’s new patio investment has been very well received and offers an immensely different dining experience from the indoor cafe. A cascading waterfall, pergola and umbrella tables welcome guests. Sample a variety of Greek and Indian dishes. Try: spanakopita $8.50, gyro platter $12.50 and White Sands mojito $7.95.

Per her grandmother, Christina Kleinotic is a “good eater” who never met a carb she didn’t like. She enjoys sampling eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods, which is why she loves Cleveland Heights.

Mad Greek’s new patio offers an immensely different dining experience from the indoor cafe.

Sarah Witenstein/Heights Observer
A poster child speaks out
Patti Substelny

My name is Patti. I moved to Cleveland Heights in 1997, and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis a few months later. In the Heights it seems like most everyone knows someone with MS, and many of these friends and family of MS sufferers have banded together to raise money to fight the disease and fund programs in our area. The Patti's Paladins bike team is a small group of committed people who want to change the world. After training all summer on the streets of Cleveland Heights and elsewhere, they ride in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's bike ride in August.

Last year this group raised over $31,000 to fund research and programs to benefit MS patients in the Ohio Buckeye chapter.

If you are ready to ride your bike 30, 75, or 125 miles in August, or would like to donate to this great cause, please visit www.pattispaladins.com or contact Patti Substelny at 331-524.

Lee Road library needs of homework center volunteers
Tonya Gibson

Help us help our students. Volunteer for our Homework Center and you will make a significant impact on a student's life. Step up and become a Homework Center volunteer!

Duties: To serve as an educational role model by assisting elementary school students with homework and study skills at the library.

Qualifications:
• Strong background in elementary school subjects such as math, science, social studies, and English.
• Desire to help diverse student populations succeed academically.
• Willingness to work at least one, two-hour shift per week (center hours are 3:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday) for a nine-week period.
• Children under the age of 18 will require parental permission and a letter of recommendation from a teacher.
• Background checks will be performed on anyone age 18 and up.

Training will be provided by Heights Library personnel. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Biscuso, children's services librarian at 932-3600 ext. 2293 or at sbiscuso@heightslibrary.org.

Real citizens vote
Sarah Wain

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. — George Jean Nathan (1882-1958)

Have you moved recently? Changed your name or address? Turned 18? Recently become a citizen? Been apathetic but want to change your ways?

Register to vote today. Remember, voters must be registered in Cuyahoga County in order to vote in any election. Register at any of these CH and UH locations:
• University Heights City Hall
1010 Warrensville Center Road
• University Heights/Cleveland Heights Board of Education
2155 Miramar Boulevard
• University Heights Branch Library
13866 Cedar Road
• Cleveland Heights City Hall
40 Severance Circle
• Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road
• Cleveland Heights High School
12862 Cedar Road
• Coventry Library
1925 Coventry Road
• Air Force Recruiting Station
2122 Lee Road
• Beaumont School
3301 North Park Boulevard

In order to vote in Cuyahoga County, you must meet the following requirements:
• You must be a United States Citizen.
• You must be at least 18 years old on the day of the General Election.
• You must be a resident of Cuyahoga County for at least 30 days.
• You must register to vote at least 30 days before an election to be eligible to vote.

For more info, call the Heights Observer at 321-5024.

Community News
Heights Observer seeks neighborhood reporters
Deanna Bremer Fisher

Are you always the first one to know about something happening in your neighborhood? Do you want to change your ways? Turned 18? Recently become a citizen? Been apathetic but want to change your ways?

Are you always the first one to know about something happening in your neighborhood? Do you want to change your ways? Turned 18? Recently become a citizen? Been apathetic but want to change your ways?

Learn the basics of conducting an interview, gathering facts, newswriting and submitting a story to the Heights Observer at the CH-UH Public Library, 2345 Lee Road, on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Qualifications: curiosity, integrity and a desire to write. No experience necessary. Send an email to editor@heightsobserver.org or call 320-1423.

Heights Observer seeks citizen journalists to write stories and report on news in your Heights neighborhood.

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Meet the Neighbors: Free community meal to be offered at Disciples Christian Church
Toni Laurenson

Disciples Christian Church (formerly Euclid Avenue Christian Church) will offer a free community meal on Thursday, August 28, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The church is located at 3665 Mayfield Road, at the corner of Mayfield and Yellowstone roads, in Cleveland Heights.

Disciples Christian is also home to the Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC), which helps to feed hundreds of local families each month with an all volunteer staff.

Hazel Haffner, volunteer director of HEFC, said “one hundred percent of donations to HEFC go towards food. The average number of individuals served last year was 100 per month and most of those served were senior citizens. This year that number has jumped to nearly 1,000 individuals fed per month.”

HEFC has extended hours on Thursday evenings, so the church hopes that many who are coming for their three-day food supply will stay and enjoy a good meal.

This “Meet the Neighbors” meal is free and open to all. If you’d like to help or support the meal, please call the church office at 382-5344 or www.discipleschristian.org.

Toni Laurenson is the office administrator at Disciples Christian Church where she and her husband, Bill, are both members.

Walking tour and lecture connect ancient watershed and local history

A winter view of one of the bluestone brooks.
Mazie Adams

Enjoy a two-part exploration of the history and horticulture of our local watersheds, “the bluestone brooks,” on Thursday, August 21 starting at 6 p.m.

Meet at 6 p.m. at the Superior Schoolhouse to join Pebbles Bush, a horticulturist with the Cleveland Metroparks, who will lead a walking tour along the Dugway Brook inside Cumberland Park. A specialist in native plants, she’ll give a guided tour of brook’s plantscape and natural habitat. Dress for hiking.

At 7 p.m. Dr. Roy Larick will give a lecture inside the Superior Schoolhouse. Dr. Larick is an archaeologist and author of two books about our region’s history: Euclid Creek and Euclid Township, 1796-1810: Protest in the Western Reserve. His interest and research in the region have led Dr. Larick to be active in the historic preservation and nature conservation efforts of the Euclid Creek area. Dr. Larick enjoys a reputation as a wonderful speaker.

He will discuss the “bluestone brooks,” Doan, Dugway, Nine Mile and Euclid, which are streams in the eastern part of Cuyahoga County. They cut their deep channels over a period of 14,000 years. Starting 150 years ago, local residents filled and paved their courses and dug massive sewer systems underneath. These changes led to the development of cities like Cleveland Heights. Remnants of the great brooks exist and are important and in flux today.

This presentation is full of interesting maps and historical photographs of the area’s brooks. The events explore the natural world around us and its impact on the development of Cleveland Heights.

Reservations are required for these free events, and space is limited. Contact the Cleveland Heights Planning Department, 295-4878 to register for one or both activities. Park in Cumberland parking lot and meet at Superior Schoolhouse. There is limited parking available for handicapped or elderly available at the Schoolhouse.

Sponsored by Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission (www.cleveland-heights.com/historych_landmarks.asp), Cleveland Heights Historical Society (www.history.org), and Friends of Dugway Brook.

Mazie Adams is a Cleveland Heights Historical Society trustee.
A Conversation with Cleveland Heights writer Les Roberts

Jessica Schreiber

After a sixty-year hiatus, Cleveland Heights’ legendary private investigator Milan Jacovich is back. In King of the Holy Hill, Les Roberts’ 4th novel of the series, Milan attends his 40th high school reunion where a former classmate is found murdered. Everyone, it seems, had a motive to kill Dr. Phil Kohn, but the prime suspect is St. Clair High School’s most successful graduate, playwright Tommy Wiggins. In the process of investigating the murder, Milan uncovers secrets about his former schoolmates that he would prefer to have left buried.

I sat down over coffee with Les Roberts to discuss the book’s release. Though he has aged along with his fictional investigator, Roberts looks youthful with a full head of silver hair and is smartly attired in a Hawaiian shirt. Unlike Milan, who can be a bit rough around the edges, Roberts is soft spoken and thoughtful.

Something cool is a running motif one wishes would have never had to give up singing to the surface. Where were the black students from Milan’s high school? Why weren’t they at the reunion?”

“Phil Kohn, the murder victim, is based on a real person. A lot of people who are very successful start believing that whatever they want is their due. If you hurt people or behave in ways that make people fear you, it doesn’t matter. ‘Cruelty experienced when you are seventeen years old cuts you deeply. When you are older, you can brush it off. But when it happens to an insecure adolescent, you never get over it.”

Roberts sees similarities between how Milan has developed since the beginning of the series and changes in Cleveland since he moved here. “Back in 1990, I chose the Cedar Fairmount location for Milan Jacovich because it was an exciting place to be. He could look out of his window and see (the former) Russo’s Market and Mad Greek Restaurant. Nighttown was a great hang out for Milan, who is divorced. In King of the Holy Hill, Milan is now pushing sixty years old. His dreams and hopes and fantasies did not come true. He missed his opportunity to reshape the world, and now he has to come to grips with it.”

“I came to Cleveland in 1990. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and a new stadium had just opened. Cleveland was in bloom. That was 18 years ago. Today Cleveland is very, very depressed and deeply in trouble. When I first came here, I met a lot of movers and shakers. These people said, ‘We’re going to invest in this city.’ Those people are now either gone, passed away, or in their 80s. Where are the people in their 50s and 60s to take their place? They don’t matter.”

Robert explained what he likes best about living in Cleveland Heights. “I love the people! Half the people on my street are writers, teachers or musicians. Cleveland Heights is home to me in a way that Beachwood, lovely as it is, never would be. I walk to the Cedar Lee, have great Turkish food at Anatolia Cafe, Chinese food at Sun Luck, Jewish deli at Jack’s, and of course, I love Nighttown.”

“Not 6’3”, I didn’t play football in high school. I was raised in Chicago. My father was a rancher, but he was a true rancher person. A lot of people who are very successful start believing that whatever they want is their due. If you hurt people or behave in ways that make people fear you, it doesn’t matter.”

Something cool is a running motif on the CD. The cover art is a black and white shot of a teenage Fordyce with windswept hair, standing somewhat awkwardly on a sand dune. “We moved from New York City my senior year of high school. I had no driver’s license and was seven miles from anything, after a lifetime of using public transportation.”

When she got a hold of June Christy’s 1953 album, Something Cool, that summer, Fordyce credited it with saving her life. Even the font type on the CD borrows from Christy’s with the word “cool” inserted with a carrot. And, of course, the CD features the classic jazz standard “Something Cool.”

Fordyce is currently working on editing her second CD and gearing up for a tour. She performs at Nighttown on August 21 at 7:00 p.m., joined by Cleveland musicians Ed Reddy, Jr. on piano, Marry Block on acoustic bass, and Roy King on drums.

“Whatever the term [cool] means . . . you know it when you hear it. And Elli Fordyce is cool . . . as implied in the title, once cool, always cool, vintage cool he is a good and capable man.”

Is Milan your alter ego? “Well, I’m not 6’3’, I didn’t play football in high school, and I’ve never had a Struck in my name. But ethically, Milan is very much me. He reflects my moral sensibilities.”

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Is Milan your alter ego? “Well, I’m not 6’3’, I didn’t play football in high school, and I’ve never had a Struck in my name. But ethically, Milan is very much me. He reflects my moral sensibilities.”
The large colonial style church on Mayfield Road across from Severance Center has a new name. No longer is it called Euclid Avenue Christian Church. An overwhelming majority of the congregation voted to change the name to Disciples Christian Church. The church is part of the denomination Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The church also has a new pastor, the Reverend Kristine Eggert, who was called to the church almost a year and a half ago.

I sat down to talk with Pastor Kris (her preferred appellation) about the name change and the direction of the church's ministry. What I got was a lesson in personal philosophy, a feeling of excitement for the community of Cleveland Heights, and an impression of a vibrant, energetic, intelligent woman who engages a person in direct eye-contact. I don't belong to a church so I was interested to find out about the church's mission. Pastor Kris began by explaining that her call is to communicate. She said that preaching is all about communicating the Gospel message and taking that message into your week. The work of the church is to be active in bringing Jesus’ message into the community, by looking for ways to serve, to be relevant, to be creative in ministry, and to worship together to give honor and glory to God. For additional emphasis she cited the hymn, “We Call Ourselves Disciples.”

The last verse is: “So now the vision brightens, the light of Christ burns still in hearts of all disciples to be the church God wills. From quiet meditation, and a new name, same people, renewed vision.”

Pastor Kris stresses that “we are the same church with a renewed vision.” They still house the Heights Emergency Food Center, and they will still open their doors for the one-day adventure of the Journey to Bethlehem. Fifteen members of the church traveled to Slidel, LA in September of 2007, to assist in restoring homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. However, new plans are on the horizon. On Sunday September 14, the church will have worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by an outdoor party with food and fun, open to the wider community. Soon they plan to institute a monthly free meal, open to anyone, to build a sense of kinship. And, they are building a new playground to be completed this fall on the corner of Yellowstone and Mayfield roads that will be accessible to the neighborhood. Access to the church is off Yellowstone Road. Pastor Kris stresses that “we are the church’s ministry. What I got was a less...
Community gardening brings back good food prices, celebrates diversity

Christina McBurney

Stories abound these days about urban gardening and transforming that big green square that is your lawn. With food prices on the rise, community gardening is ready for a comeback.

Cleveland Heights has three gardens of our city. the Canterbury Garden, the Oxford Garden, and the Hampshire Road Garden. That number could increase according to Lois Rose, master gardener and leader of the Hampshire Road Garden.

“A huge number of people want to garden,” she says. Rose, who earned the title, master gardener, through the Ohio State University Extension program, is working with that organization to find more spaces in Cleveland Heights that can host community gardens.

For the Hampshire crew, the program has supplied seeds, given advice, donated plants and trained Rose. Members are also involved in numerous projects such as volunteering to teach the art and science of gardening.

Nestled between two imposing double houses, white butterflies flit about the Hampshire Road Community Garden, which hosts everything from the ugliest of squash to the loveliest of roses. The garden celebrates 30 years of existence this year.

On this warm June afternoon, humans, too, are buzzing around. Jim Kazan tends the back fence as Jan Curry dashes into the garden during lunch to care for her tomato plants. She’s had a plot for “many, many years,” she says, crouching down in full business attire to pluck weeds. Upon asking why she started her plot she answers, “Cleveland Heights has big beautiful trees. I have no sun in my yard.”

The gardeners are a mix that attests to the diversity of the city. Don Snyder, a professional photographer who has had a plot since he and his wife moved to Cleveland Heights 18 years ago, estimates that one third are Russian senior citizens. All signs are printed in both languages and a translator attends the community work days.

As an assistant to Rose, Snyder cares for the garden’s technical and financial needs. According to him there is a waiting list of 22 people. “There is not a lot of turnover in this garden,” he says.

The city of Cleveland Heights does not charge the gardeners rent but requires a small fee of $20 per year which covers water consumption. “The city has bent over backwards for the garden,” Snyder says. And the only commitment, outside of tending to your plot (you will be notified if your weeds are out of control), is three community workdays in spring, midsummer and fall. The members are planning a beer throwing contest this year.

Although not technically organic, the garden is “biodynamic.” There are rules about which products gardeners can and cannot use.

With soaring food prices, Snyder thinks the waiting list will grow. “I haven’t bought store lettuce since May,” he says. “I appreciate it now.”

For information on joining the waiting list at the Hampshire Road Garden contact the city of Cleveland Heights Community Relations Department.

Or, if you can’t wait, contact the Ohio State University Extension Program at http://extension.ou.edu to see how you can help create more community garden space in your neighborhood.

Christine McBurney, like so many of us, used to live on Hampshire Road. She’s the theatre arts department chair at Shaker Heights High School, a performer, writer, and proud Heights High soccer mom.

Change your travel vacation to a successful Heights “staycation”

Randy Martin

With the rise in gas prices, folks are changing their traditional summer plans from a travel vacation to a “staycation” at home. Here are a few tips to make your staycation the best it can be.

Mark your staycation days on the calendar. Your staycation should have a name like a vacation. Since it’s time you and your family are choosing to spend together, you’d better have a name for your day. The city of Cleveland Heights does not charge the gardeners rent but requires a small fee of $20 per year which covers water consumption.

Plan day trips. Staying at home doesn’t mean you can’t go out of the house. Maybe take a day trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, or the West Side Market, or an Indian’s game. Or go to your local beach or pool.

Review your outdoor living conditions. Often, patios and decks are not considered to be part of your home’s decorating plan, but they’re really extensions of the indoor living space so furniture should be comfortable and stylish. Your space will feel better if furniture and the grill are arranged to fit the space and the traffic patterns your family follows.

Clean your spaces, indoor and out. But do it BEFORE your official staycation dates. You don’t work on vacation, so don’t work on staycation. When that first day of staycation arrives, spend it steering your stylish patio furniture, reading a book and sipping on your favorite beverage, instead of sweeping the porch.

Plan special meals. Have family members pick their favorite foods. Let them make dinner, set the table, and clean up. Get your grill up to speed and hold a volleyball or horseshoe tournament.

Bring back the good old days. Don’t forget cameras, pictures, backyard camping, s’mores, and campfires (using a fire pit or a chiminea).

Staycation should be fun. And fun should start at home.

Randy Martin is the marketing director for Reflections Interior Design in the beautiful Cedar Fairmount district.

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