Residents prefer avenue to boulevard for Cedar-Fairmount

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Consultants presented three options for a potential redesign of the Cedar-Fairmount business district at a public meeting on Sept. 18 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Option A would leave the current footprint of Cedar Road and the sidewalks. Option B would expand the sidewalks on both the north and south sides, creating the feel of a grand avenue. Option C would place a median down the center of Cedar Road, providing a safe stopping place for pedestrians crossing the busy street. Residents broke into three groups to evaluate each option. When the entire group reconvened, Option B appeared to be the clear winner.

The city of Cleveland Heights has retained City Architecture Inc., an architectural firm known for its streetscape plans in urban environments, and Michael Baker Jr. Inc., an engineering and consulting firm, to assess existing conditions and evaluate opportunities to enhance the Cedar-Fairmount commercial district.

Funding for the study is provided by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) through its Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative, which helps existing communities in Northeast Ohio obtain federal funding and technical assistance for planning transportation projects that strengthen community livability.

Both options B and C would put Cedar Road on a diet. Option B would reduce the number of lanes from six to five, with two drive lanes in either direction and a fifth lane, on the north, for unrestricted on street parking. Option C would also reduce the number of lanes to five, two in each direction. One of the north bound lanes would allow on street parking only during nonpeak times; the middle lane would be a planted median and turn lane. Under Option C, when cars are parked at the curb lane, only one lane would be available for through traffic.

As one of the main arteries connecting east side commuters to University Circle and downtown Cleveland, the area needs to handle a lot of cars. Some residents expressed concern that eliminating lanes would stall traffic flow and create a headache for commuters.

One of the north bound lanes would have on street parking both east and west in Option B and only west in Option C, when cars are parked at the curb lane, only one lane would be available for through traffic.

Coordinating the four traffic lights currently exist in the district would improve traffic flow. This could likely be accomplished without changing the configuration of the lanes. More trees and other street amenities could be added to enhance the pedestrian experience. Utilities could also be coordinated to make the streets more attractive.

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CH-UH scores show district’s strengths, weaknesses

Simone Quartell

After three years of steady increases in test scores, the CH-UH school system saw some decline on the 2007-2008 Ohio Department of Education Report Card.

On the 2006-2007 report card, seven elementary schools and Cleveland Heights High School were rated Effective. In 2007-2008 only Canterbury Elementary, Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle were rated Effective, with all other schools rated Continuous Improvement. The district as a whole missed the Effective rating by 3.2 points, failing to move up from the Continuous Improvement designation.

Board of Education President Mike Cicero didn’t pretend to be happy with the decline. “I don’t like it,” he said, “and we need to reverse this trend immediately. It just adds fuel to the fire of district naysayers.”

During the 2006-2007 school year, when the test scores were broken down by small schools, Renaissance School met the Excellent designation. That did not happen this year because the school did not meet the attendance indicator. Renaissance Principal James Reed informed the students of this at their first day of school assembly and stressed the importance of not having unexcused absences.

Ratings don’t rate home value of $500,000 in the 2000 census while in Solon that figure was $215,800. In CH the tax rate is 2.88% of the residential market value. In Solon the tax rate is only 1.88% of market value. No wonder people complain. But here’s a more pragmatic look at those numbers: 2.88% of $500,500 is $14,095, while 1.88% of $215,800 is $4,029. In other words, your typical Cleveland Heights homeowner actually pays less property tax every year than the typical Solon homeowner, even though the tax rate in CH is higher. Why? Probably because it costs somewhere between $5,000 and $4,000 per household to run the schools and other things funded by property taxes, and if the homes cost more, the tax rate can be less to get to that dollar figure. Conversely, where home prices are lower, rates have to be higher to get to the same dollar figure.

So should the Heights area be made to look bad simply because housing is a better value here? I don’t think so. The figure used in our index should be the median annual property tax per household. Add that to the median annual mortgage payment (much lower in CH than in Solon) to get the median annual cost of home ownership.

The other issues that matter with property values are the range of affordability and reliability of appreciation. Give points for a wide range of values from least expensive to most, and then continue on page 3

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Greg Donley

Every summer, Cleveland Magazine publishes its Rating the Suburbs issue and injection another dose of steroids into the suburban improvement. No surprise: the ratings are meant to affirm what matters to the people who advertise in Cleveland Magazine.

But these numbers are of little use to people who want to live in a close-in place like Cleveland Heights, University Heights, or Lakewood. We need a rating that measures the things that matter to people who value culture, walkable neighborhoods, aesthetic quality, true community diversity, easy access to urban amenities, a strong presence of local independent businesses, and, of course, good schools, good property values, and reasonable taxes. Call it the WMI: the What Matters Index.

Let’s start with property taxes and an interesting comparison. Much is made of the “killer taxes” in inner ring suburbs like Strongsville and North Olmsted, and removing obstacles to pedestrian movement. However, Option A would not address the safety issues pedestrians face while trying to cross the street. Not would it enhance the sense of place of the Cedar-Fairmount neighborhood, residents concluded.

continued on page 3

O P I N I O N

continued on page 3
Moving to Cleveland in early 1967, after release from the Navy, a real estate agent put my wife and me up in a motel our near Chagrin and Richmond and showed us houses from Solon to Mayfield Heights to Westlake. Unhappy with the houses and with the distance from University Hospitals where I was starting a psychiatric residency, I looked more closely at a map around University Circle. I found Cleveland Heights to be a good jog or bicycle ride away. My wife scanned the newspapers and found a house which we pressed the realtor to show.

It was a perfect house for us, and we bought it. It was beautiful. We considered University Circle to be a suburb of Cleveland Heights - no other community is as close. We could even lunch, dine and have visiting relatives stay in motels in East Cleveland.

Then the real estate industry did its thing on East Cleveland and began to do it more and more to Cleveland Heights, and we realized that is what was tried to do to us when we first came. Another fact became undeniable: When the real estate industry finishes running through a community, it is like an atom bomb hit it. Well, citizens of Cleveland Heights circled the wagons, rolled up their sleeves, started a housing service, sued the realtor savages, and promoted positive integration and oneness, and became the leading edge of different peoples communities “making it.” Today, go to St. Ann’s 11:30 Mass. Everybody is there. It is like being in full touch with all humanity and at one with the universe as you get your bucket of love for the week. And the greatest collection of science, art, research, education and culture in the world, known as University Circle is just down Cedar Hill.

For University Circle to bypass Cleveland Heights is geographically unsound, economically wasteful, sociologically discriminatory, “community” fraud, and must be further characterized as determined by a hidden agenda. It makes no sense.

Samuel A. Negro, M.D.
Guilford Road, Cleveland Heights

Headline irks reader

I’m writing to express my displeasure at the choice of a word in the headline about the Open Doors Academy trip to Harlan, KY. First, let me say that Kentucky is my home state, having grown up in Lexington. I am very proud of my state and my heritage. This is one of those times that a word may be used by the people themselves, but it should be avoided by “outsiders.” I am speaking of the word “poor.” I read the headline and reacted negatively toward the article. Would the headline have read “the poor in the Heights Area”? I think not. There are those living in the Heights area who fall under urban poverty and have a different culture. Why didn’t it just say “the people” of Harlan, KY?

I also read about some of the issues that the students were learning. I was wondering about the similarities between here and Harlan that they observed. I also was looking to see if they had learned anything about the region (the coal mining, the forest) and its history (Cumberland Gap and being at the first doorway to the West), its culture (folk crafts, music, literature), the Pine Mountain Settlement School -just to name a few possibilities. Did they learn about any notable people who came from the area? Because of my love of University of KY basketball, I know of Wab Wah Jones, who was one of UK’s outstanding players and went on to the NBA, and Cawood Ledford, who was an outstanding basketball and football announcer. Rebecca Caudill was an outstanding author of children’s books. And, Nick Lachey, singer and TV personality, was born in Harlan, KY.

For over 40 years, I have been a community activist in Cleveland Heights and have learned that we need to be sensitive to others’ feelings.
Making a case for McCain

Michael G. Connors

With the financial crisis and the decline of Cleveland’s economy, we need a president with a record of accomplishing real reform, who understands our problems and knows what it takes to get things done. John McCain is that man.

Foreclosures/Financial crisis.

With 800 homes in foreclosure, it is critical to Cleveland Heights that we get this right. Obama has it wrong. He has blamed the crisis on Republicans and deregulation. First, the 1999 deregulation he criticizes occurred under President Clinton and was supported by Senator Biden. Further, it is hard to understand how eliminating a regulation protecting commercial banks can be blamed for the failures of investment banks. Second, he ignores McCain’s and Republicans’ attempts to regulate Fannie and Freddie. Though these two are exempt from state and local taxes, SEC disclosure regulations, and regulations on debt levels, the Democrats blocked attempts to regulate them. Even President Clinton criticized congressional Democrats for “resisting any efforts by Republicans in the Congress or by me when I was president to put some standards and tighten up a little on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.”

The fundamental problem here is our government’s well-intentioned, but ill-advised attempt to increase home-owners. No one has ever said free markets are perfect. Run by humans making bets based on forecasts of the future, they are prone to mistakes. The beauty of markets is that, like the dot-com bubble, they are self-correcting, which likely would have been the case here. $500 billion of losses has a way of changing behavior. Unfortunately, the federal government in the form of Fannie and Freddie threw gas on the fire. These two giants purchase, guarantee, and re-sell half of the mortgages in the country, more than $2 trillion worth.

Since 1992, in the face of political pressure to encourage homeownership, especially among low- and moderate-income buyers, they steadily relaxed downpayment and credit requirements. By 2004, they were buying 44% of the toxic sub-prime loans. Worse, they set the standards the rest of the industry follows. By relaxing lending standards, they enabled no-doc, no-flow-down payment loans that grew into this crisis. The real solution requires getting the government out of the mortgage business. Let markets determine who can afford a home loan and on sound economic, not political pressure. McCain understands this and tried to regulate Fannie and Freddie. Obama? Despite his brief tenure, he somehow managed to garner more political contributions from Fannie than all but one other senator, and he asked a scandal-plagued former Fannie CEO to lead his team vetting potential VPs. Does that sound like “change we can believe in”?

Reform. Both McCain and Governor Palin have records of standing up to entrenched special interests even within their own party. Obama and Biden simply don’t. McCain has been a maverick at odds with his party on issues from campaign finance to immigration to the Bush tax cuts. Confronted with corruption in Alaska, Palin unseated an incumbent Republican governor and brought ethics charges against the head of her state party.

Experience/Partisanship. Obama would have the thinnest presidential resume in the last century. On the job 25 months when he decided he was ready to be president, he simply has no record of accomplishment or of working across the aisle. Meanwhile, McCain has a long record of service—22 years in the Navy, 26 in Congress. We know him, and we can measure him by a long record of bipartisanship, leadership and accomplishment, including the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill.

Secret ballots. The right to a secret ballot is as fundamental and sacred as our right to free speech and freedom of religion. Obama wants to deny that right to workers in union elections. He wants their votes to be public and, undoubtedly, subject to union arm-twisting. This is also terrible economics. Unions have killed Cleveland. No one wants to do business with them. While non-union auto jobs grow in this country, United Auto Workers jobs, so vital to our local economy, die on the vine. Old-fashioned work rules and job banks that pay unemployment if you slip out of line. It’s a terrible deal. Embracing outdated union practices is not “change we can believe in.”

For these reasons and more I will vote for John McCain, for change we can believe in.

Michael G. Connors is the Republican Ward Leader in Cleveland Heights where he was born and raised.

Make sure your vote is counted this election

Jessica Schroeder

Your opinion doesn’t count unless you vote.

There are three ways to vote:

1. Vote early (in-person) at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections from Sept. 30 through Nov. 3. Under Ohio law, you vote once.
2. Vote on Election Day (in person) Nov. 4 Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

For more information on voting, contact Cuyahoga County Board of Elections 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115 216-443-3200 M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Extended hours may be available closer to the election.

Check www.vote.cuyahogacounty.us or call for up-to-date information.

*If you request an absentee ballot, you must be registered by Saturday, Oct. 7, 2008. Join the conversation at www.heightsobserver.org

See what your neighbors are saying at www.heightsobserver.org/deck/

AVENUE/BOULEVARD continued from page 1

Although McCain opposes pedestrian safety, it would make the north and south sides seem even farther apart than they do today,” says resident Hugh Fisher. “I live on a boulevard. It’s beautiful, but I don’t know my across the street neighbors. I can’t even see them.”

Both options B and C expand the sidewalks on the north and south sides of Cedar Road, which are currently 6’6” wide. But Option B provides the largest increase in sidewalk space to the north side, which needs it the most. Under Option C, the northern sidewalk increases to 10’6” and the southern sidewalk increases to 10’6”. Option C increases the sidewalks to 12’ on each side. Rider side sidewalks would provide more opportunity for social interaction, outdoor dining and public activities, such as the Discover Cedar Fairmont Festival which takes place each August.

Both options B and C provide for a median at the top of Cedar Hill which would act as a gateway to the district. And, with more planting of more trees, the city of Cleveland Heights is still seeking feedback on the three options. A video of the Sept. 18 meeting will air on Channel 20 from Oct. 6 through 19 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The video will also be viewable at www.heightsobserver.org and post your comments on the Observer’s online forum. The next public meeting will take place in early October.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights, a Cedar-Fairmont resident and a member of the Cedar-Fairmont Traffic Study Committee.

OPINION
Michael G. Connors

Card: tenth and eleventh grade social studies and eleventh grade math. The class of 2008 had a 96% graduation rate and was offered over $5 million in scholarships.

Simone Quertler is a senior at Cleveland Heights High School. She has been a member of The Black and Gold student newspaper since her freshman year, where she is an editor and has covered school district issues in depth. She plans to study journalism in college.

CHS9 continued from page 1

absences this school year so Renaissance can regain its Excellent rating.

“Scoring well on multiple choice tests isn’t the only indicator of student achievement,” Cicero said. “Many students scored high on sound economic, not political pressure. McCain understands this and tried to regulate

Fannie and Freddie. Obama? Despite his brief tenure, he somehow managed to garner more political contributions from Fannie than all but one other senator, and he asked a scandal-plagued former Fannie CEO to lead his team vetting potential VPs. Does that sound like “change we can believe in”?

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Check www.vote.cuyahogacounty.us or call for up-to-date information.

*If you request an absentee ballot, you cannot change your mind and vote in person on Election Day. Vote by mail ballots must be received by Saturday, Nov. 1.

Jessica Schroeder is a community volunteer.
In support of Senator Obama

Eric Schreiber

Every presidential election seems “the most important ever.” This happens because the stakes keep getting higher. In this election, I support Senator Barack Obama because I believe he will lead our country toward sustainability in a world where everything is going wrong at the same time.

Our most pressing needs are national security, economic security, energy independence, and environmental sustainability. These are really different facets of the same problem.

We currently borrow $2 billion per day (largely from China) to buy 70% of our oil from countries that support terrorism in order to burn it in ways that threaten our survival.

Both candidates recognize the need for energy independence but: • only Obama has set a goal to achieve it in 10 years; • only Obama has a campaign essentially devoid of oil lobbyists; and • only Obama has been specific about investing in renewable electric energy plug-in, Hybrid and electric cars.

Energy independence will create new jobs for Ohio. About 40 tons of steel is required to manufacture one medium-size wind turbine. A 3-megawatt turbine produces as much energy in one year as 12,000 barrels of imported oil, without the sulfur and CO2. It would take about 130,000 wind turbines to produce the energy of 20% of our imported oil. We need to get right here in Ohio!

Senator Obama co-sponsored the Lagar-Obama bill to secure loose nuclear weapons. This is one of many examples of Obama working across the aisle for our safety and security.

Obama sponsored the “Stop Fraud Act” in February 2006 and again in April 2007 to stem the tide of predatory lending practices. Obama has been alert to the need for sensible economic regulation for years. His opponent has spent 26 years extolling deregulation and fighting against oversight of the corporate world.

Voters have a clear choice in this year’s election: • Change direction under the leadership of Barack Obama, or • More of the same failed policies under John McCain.

The stakes could not be higher.

Eric Schreiber, MD is a staff Radiologist in the Breast Imaging Section at the Cleveland Clinic. He has intense interest in energy policy, how it relates to global warming, and gives lectures in the community on those subjects.

Proud to vote in first presidential election

Gaebrielle Poole

As a senior at Cleveland Heights High School, it is a very important year for me. Fall of senior year is the time when my life begins to change as I prepare for colleges and scholarships, taking the SATs and ACTs, and making sure your grades are up to par, not to mention involvement in school activities. This is the time when I begin making all of the important decisions that will affect my life. However, there is one more thing that will make my senior year all that more important: being able to vote for the first time in the 2008 Presidential Election.

Being able to vote means so much to me. Knowing that my vote can make a difference makes me feel important. In previous years, the elections never really mattered to me. I would know who was running, and I would have brief discussions about them at school, and sometimes at home; but, that was pretty much it. My mindset shifted once the first of the year rolled around and reality set in: I would be eighteen years old in November and be able to vote.

Earlier in the year, I would often watch television with my mother and she would switch to CNN. I would be upset because I found it so boring. But, as time progressed, my excitement for the election began to grow. It grew so much that I would find myself going up to my bedroom and turning to CNN, to catch up on any election updates.

My excitement for the election didn’t stay in the privacy of my bed-room: it soon spread to school and work. I actually helped encourage my “of-age” friends to register. I remember being at work one day and making small talk with a fellow employee. The topic of the election soon came up, I asked him if he was old enough to vote. When he answered “yes” but told me he did not intend to register, I asked why. He replied, “There’s no point in registering because he’s going to win anyway.” I was shocked at his statement and explained to him that we now have the power for our voices to be heard, and that we can not let that privilege be taken away. That Saturday, he went online and registered.

There have been many occasions in my life when it has felt like no one was listening to me, that what I had to say was not important, or that my voice was silent. This election allows me to use my voice in the most powerful way possible, and I know it will be heard. Thank God my birthday is six days before the election!

Gaebrielle Poole is enrolled in Honors and AP classes at Heights High in addition to being president of the school’s Gospel Choir, secretary of Student Council and a member of both the Heights Singers and Heights Accapella Choir. Involved in a number of other school activities, she also is involved in her church and works at Zagana’s. Recently crowned Heights High’s 2008 Homecoming Queen, she plans to attend Howard University next fall.

Note: This column is continued on page 4.

RATINGS continued from page 1

School quality: a long-established statistic of dubious value has been the state’s annual school district ratings, which have failed to perform the most basic input/output analysis. Unsurprisingly, outer-suburban schools with affluent and homogenous student populations look best. In the past couple of years the state has finally included a “value-added” measure that tracks student performance over time, the state’s first and only scientifically valid measure of the impact of a school on its students. Our index must use that value-added rating (which reveals Heights schools as top performers).

The rest of the index would tally up answers to questions like: Of the retail businesses, how many are locally owned? What is the variety and quality of dining? How long is the car commute downtown and can it be accomplished without a car in similar time? Can you walk to rail transit and step off at the airport? How racially and economically diverse is the community? How do people rate the physical quality of the environment? How long does it take to walk to key commercial amenities? To parks and recreational facilities? Are there sidewalks everywhere? Can you get on your bicycle and be in a major cultural center in 20 minutes? Or turn the other direction and be in beautiful countryside in 20 minutes? How many world-class museums, orchestras, and educational institutions are within six miles? How many active local arts organizations are there?

You get the drift. People choose where to live based on what they value, but they can’t make an informed choice if the information available doesn’t embody what matters to them. Does the index described above blatantly stack the deck in favor of a place like Cleveland Heights? You bet it does. Because if these are the things you really care about, there are very few places anywhere that do it all better.

Greg Donley is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.

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* Noun 1. geothermal energy energy derived from the heat in the interior of the earth

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Cleveland Heights City Council
Highlights of August 2008 meetings

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2008
Mayor Edward J. Kelley, Nancy J. Dietrich, Dennis R. Wilcox excused.

Boarded up houses
A resident, referring to the Shaker Heights policy of tearing down problem houses, asked why Cleveland Heights chooses to remove some when there is a gulf on the market. Several councilmembers responded throughout the course of the meeting. Generally, the city tries to avoid boarding up houses, but in some cases the owner or agent cannot be found and the city must board up the house to keep out vandals. Councilman Tumeo commented that the United States Constitution protects property even if the owner is irresponsible, complicating the question of demolition. Councilman Montlack noted that the county has set aside funds for home demolition for families of members of the First Suburbs Consortium.

Road repairs
In response to a resident’s question regarding road repair, councilmembers noted that some main roads are resurrected in collaboration with the county engineer. Also, the city spends at least $1 million per year on roads, but $20 million would be required to make a major dent in the problem.

Council attendance
Several councilmembers explained council limitations due to absences. Four councilmembers constitute a quorum, but passing emergency legislation requires five, so anything passed by four members at this meeting must wait ninety days to take effect. Councilmember Ken Montlack noted that this was the first time in his years on council he has seen this many councilmembers absent. The average council attendance has been 92.9%.

CH community achievements
Councilwoman Caplan announced that last month the city recycled 18.31 tons of “blue bag” containers and 39 tons of paper. She also noted that many of the best restaurants noted in a recent edition of Northern Ohio Live are in Cleveland Heights.

LWV observers: Blanche Falany and Kay Hideman

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2008
All council members present.

Vice city manager appointment
The city manager announced the appointment of Susanna Niermann O’Neil as vice city manager. Ms. O’Neil will continue to serve as director of community services.

Fire damage repair at city garage
Council approved expenditures for lighting repairs, other essential electrical repairs, and interior painting needed at the city’s service garage as a result of the fire there on June 9, 2008.

Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant
Council authorized the city manager to contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for a grant under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program to purchase an electric lift for a bucket truck for the forestry department. The program, which targets using technology to help reduce transportation-related pollutants, designates $8 million of ODOT’s federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds to reduce diesel emissions. The electric lift will enable the truck’s engine to be shut off when the bucket is in use. The grant will cover 80% of the purchase price, up to $69,500.

Recycling income for the city
Councilwoman Caplan noted that in July alone the city earned $14,675.51 from mixed-paper recycling.

HUD One-Dollar Home Program
As part of HUD’s One-Dollar Home Program, council authorized the sale of two city-owned properties (at 3795 Berkeley Road and 3537 East Overlook Road) to Community Housing Solutions, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, for rehabilitation and resale to an owner-occupant. The One-Dollar Home Program allows cities to purchase, for one dollar, vacant HUD-owned houses that have been on the market for more than six months.

Outdoor seating for Aeoshi Cafe
Council authorized the Aeoshi Café, 201 Lee Road, to use a portion of the public area in the Cedar-Lee mini park for outdoor seating.

Property demolitions
Council declared properties at 947 Vineyards Road, 924 Greyton Road, 924 Woodview Road, and 1067 Nelaview Road to be nuisances and authorized demolition. The city had determined that renovation of the properties, also part of the HUD One-Dollar Home Program, would be too costly.

Assessment Equalization Board
Council appointed an Assessment Equalization Board for public services plans for the Cedar Fairmont and Cedar Lee Special Improvement Districts. The board of three members, Carol Edwards, Katherine Helymen, and Jim Call, would be holding a hearing August 28 to hear objections to the method of calculation for assessments.

Violation Repair Program for seniors
Council authorized the reprogramming and reallocation of Community Development Block Grant funds, shifting $30,000 from the Short-term Deferred Loan Program to the Violation Repair Program for seniors.

Tax issue
Mayor Kelley stated that there would be no Cleveland Heights tax issue on the ballot in November.

LWV Observers: Katherine Solender and Carol Gibson

See disclaimer to the left.

CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
OCTOBER 2008 MEETINGS

Meetings are held at City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, unless otherwise noted.

| Mon 27 | 5:45 pm | Council Committee of the Whole | Executive Conference Room |
| 6:00 pm | City Council Meeting | Executive Conference Room |
| Tue 28 | 7:30 pm | Architectural Board of Review | Council Chambers |
| Tue 7 | 4:00 pm | Landmark Commission | Supervisor Schools House 1 |
| Tue 28 | 7:00 pm | Planning Commission | Executive Conference Room |
| Tue 7 | 7:30 pm | Cable Television Commission | Executive Conference Room |
| Wed 29 | 4:55 pm | Council Committee of the Whole | Executive Conference Room |
| Wed 28 | 1:45 pm | Community Rail & Rec. Finance | Executive Conference Room |
| Thur 15 | 4:00 pm | Recreation Advisory Board | Executive Conference Room |
| Thur 28 | 5:30 pm | Financial Institutions Advisory Committee | Executive Conference Room |
| Thur 15 | 7:30 pm | Board of Zoning Appeals | Council Chambers |
| Fri 29 | 9:00 am | Commission on Aging | Executive Conference Room |
| Fri 28 | 5:45 pm | Council Committee of the Whole | Executive Conference Room |
| Sat 29 | 7:30 pm | Commission on Aging | Supervisor Schools House 1 |
| Sat 28 | 7:00 pm | City Council | Executive Conference Room |
| Sun 29 | 1:00 pm | Architectural Board of Review | Council Chambers |
| Sun 28 | 4:00 pm | Citizens Advisory Committee | Council Chambers |
| Sun 29 | 7:00 pm | Community Shredding Day | Executive Conference Room |
| Sun 28 | 9am-12 pm | Community Shredding Day | City Hall Parking Lot |
| Sun 29 | 7:45 pm | Council Committee of the Whole | Executive Conference Room |

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CITY NEWS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

University Heights
City Council
Highlights of August 6, 2008 meeting

All council members present.

Moral claims
Four residents filed claims for damages resulting from a water main break on Sibby Road. The main broke with such pressure that basements of nearby homes were flooded. The Cleveland Water Department repaired the water main, but not residential damage. The city of University Heights typically does not pay moral claims for damage due to broken water pipes or mains, nor does the Cleveland Water Department. Visibly upset residents described thousands of dollars required to replace washers, dryers, and carpeting, and to have the basements cleaned. Councilmembers voted unanimously to provide the maximum allowed $300 remuneration to each of the residents petitioning.

Recognition of retiring director
Council passed a resolution honoring Stephen D. Wood, upon his retirement as director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, for his years of service.

Personnel contracts
Council authorized personnel contracts with the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 971; the National Production Workers, Local 707; and the Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association (dispatchers). Council also established rates of compensation and benefits for appointed officials, the law director, the city prosecutor and assistant law director, and all general employees of the city.

Waterline replacement
Council awarded a bid to Nocce Enterprises, Inc. for $1,248,312 for the Sibby, Bushnell, and Charney roads waterline replacement. Cleveland Water will repay the actual expense of the improvements.

Parvis Park
Council authorized a contract and expenditure for Parvis Park field lighting to G & B Electric for $14,095 for lights on the east side of the sidewalk by the tennis courts.

LWV observer: Susan D. Pardee

This report contains member observation and selected highlights of a meeting of the University Heights City Council and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of this report.

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See disclaimer to the left.
Interview with Joe Micheller, director of educational services, CH-UH City School District

On October 1, 8th grade students at Monticello Middle School became the first students in the district to receive an Apple laptop computer as part of an initiative that will provide a laptop to every student in grades 6-12 by 2012. CH-UH Director of Educational Services Dr. Joseph Micheller is the district’s point person in this One-to-One (meaning one student, one computer) Initiative. He spoke recently with Reaching Heights Executive Director Patrick Mullen. Here’s an excerpt:

Reaching Heights: What is the One-to-One Initiative?

Joe Micheller: The Teaching and Learning with Technology initiative is designed to prepare students for their future, a world of digital technology, global information, and instant communication. The initiative is designed to more fully engage students by providing resources that are meaningful and useful to them, specifically Apple MacBook laptop computers. The goal is to give students access to technology that is essential for that future and laptops, within a wireless learning environment, help students to learn in deep and meaningful ways that prepare them for productive participation in a global economy.

We’re currently in year two of the implementation process. In year one, we focused on planning and professional development for our teachers as well as student and parent training. Monticello teachers received their laptops in November 2007; Roxboro and Wesley teachers received their laptops last spring. We’ve had a significant amount of professional development since these rollouts. On Oct. 1, eighth graders at Monticello received laptops equipped with educational software, links to items in their curricula, and access to the district’s internal intranet.

RH: How does this initiative improve instruction and prepare our students for the world they’ll graduate into?

JM: To become gainfully employed in today’s world and realize success in a global economy requires our students to learn skills that were not as critical a generation ago. Technology is a key element in how to work in teams and interact with multiple cultures, and how to use problem-solving analytic skills. We’re not claiming that these skills will automatically be taught because we have new technology. The technology helps us do a much better job fostering these skills than we could in a cloistered classroom with a traditional textbook.

RH: How can parents help the initiative?

JM: Our parents will play a key role in the success of our technology initiative. On a practical level, simple responsibilities such as making sure the batteries are charged at night are important. More broadly, we hope our parents and guardians see this as a chance to learn with their kids.

RH: Will students be able to take the laptops home?

JM: Students will have access to the laptop both at school and at home for the entire school year, provided that their parent or guardian attends one of the presentations the district is holding on Internet safety, proper care of the laptop, and the use of the carrying bag. We’re providing students whose parents or guardians do not attend one of these sessions the opportunity to use the laptop at school, but may not take it home. Some parents may also decide that they do not want their child to bring a laptop home. Students in this circumstance will be able to use a laptop during school hours, but must return it at the end of each day.

Follow the leader

Mac Hertz, a student at St. Ann school.

Stephanie Applegate

What did you do this summer? Hit the beach? Or did you spend a week discussing current events with Washington D.C.’s top policy makers? If you’re Mac Hertz, an eleven year-old from St. Ann School, you did.

Mac was one of a select group of fifth and sixth graders from across the nation invited to take part in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC) for a week this past June. The JrNYLC is a program that simulates real-world problems for tomorrow’s young leaders to creatively solve. In one week, Mac:

• learned to use his “voice” to stand up for a cause that he believes in
• debated and negotiated First Amendment issues
• worked with people from across the nation
• saw the world of digital technology, global information, and instant communication
• revealed a calm leadership for his team

Mac’s modesty aside, it’s most likely his “team-first” philosophy that honed his leadership skills. Whether it’s basketball, football, baseball, or track, he can get it done. And my dad is always there for my sister, my brother, Ryan, and me.” His teachers at Saint Ann get to know him well. “He helped them, no matter what they were dealing with. He treated them all the same. He helped them, no matter what it took,” Mac proudly but quietly asserts.

For CH-UH, wireless learning takes a leap at Monticello

Patrick Mullen

Beaumont and JCU collaboration takes flight

Janice Brooks

Spacesuit. Check. Flight path. Check. Airplane. Check. Pre-flight conference with historical aviators. Check. That’s what Cleveland Municipal School students experienced this May during their visit to the International Women’s Air & Space Museum thanks to the efforts of new exhibits designed by students from Beaumont School and John Carroll University. The International Women’s Air & Space Museum (www.iwasm.org) is located at Cleveland’s Burke Lakefront Airport. Beaumont alumna, Toni Previte Mullee, ’79, is the executive director.

John Carroll and Beaumont received a $3,300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop the W.I.S.E. Project (Working in Informal Science Education). The students are beginning the second year of the grant. Thirty Beaumont students and 15 John Carroll students are working cooperatively with their teachers and monitors from the National Science Foundation to create educational tools for the International Women’s Air & Space Museum. Last year the students met with consultants who mentored them about the science of aviation and flight, and the role of museums in informal science education. The students completed three exhibits that were on display in the museum in May; a permanent display, “living biographies”, and interactive activities for 300 kindergarten through 3rd grade children about Women on the Frontiers of Flight.

The W.I.S.E. Project’s goal is to encourage young people to pursue STEM-based Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) careers through early, positive exposure to informal science education. Through the program interest in STEM-based careers is generated for different age groups, university, high school and primary school students. “It’s exciting to watch the girls’ concepts and ideas become reality,” remarks Gretchen Saint, Beaumont School’s science department chair and W.I.S.E. project facilitator. Margaret Supp Connell, principal of Beaumont School says preparing students for life after high school is an integral part of the educational process. “W.I.S.E. encourages innovative thought and discussion to reach a goal. Developing the art of collaboration is a real world skill that is essential in the 21st century marketplace.”

Our parents will play a key role in the success of our technology initiative. On a practical level, simple responsibilities such as making sure the batteries are charged at night are important. More broadly, we hope our parents and guardians see this as a chance to learn with their kids.

Beaumont and JCU students were able to encourage their young crew of Cleveland Municipal School students to reach for the stars, and be whatever they want to be, even pilots! For details, go to www.wiseproject.info. And, visit the International Women’s Air and Space Museum and take off!
Progress slow on teacher contract talks

Simone Quartell

Teachers in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District began the 2008-2009 school year without a new contract. And though contract negotiations began in March, and a federal mediator has since been brought in, an agreement between the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union and the CH-UH Board of Education seems remote any time soon.

The union and the board met with the mediator for less than three hours on Aug. 15, and then again on Sept. 10. But a flurry of big issues remain unsettled — including teacher pay.

The board had proposed a 2.5% salary increase for each of the next three years; the teachers sought 3% for each of the first two years and 2.5% in the third year. According to Teacher’s Union President Tom Schmida, 98% of the teachers rejected the board’s first proposal, but no changes were offered after the Sept. 10 meeting.

Health insurance remains another major issue. The board is asking the union to double the contribution that teachers make toward health coverage — from $20 a month for individuals and $50 for families, to $40 and $100 a month respectively.

Schmida said the teachers are willing to pay 10% more, $30-$575, but that the board is asking too much. Further, he says, the teachers made other concessions on health-care at the Sept. 10 meeting; specifically, the union agreed to the board’s request that it eliminate an HMO option and Kaiser Permanente option — both of which are more costly. The continued rural health-care plan managed through Medical Mutual of Ohio. Further, the union dropped improved vision-care proposals, he said.

Beyond that, however, Schmida said the meeting brought “no significant progress” on pay, healthcare and other issues involving substitutes, professional development and intervention specialists. No further meetings had been scheduled.

Schmida stated the school district “has the resources to offer a fair contract” and “should be reasonable.”

Board of Education President Mike Cicero argued that the union is asking for things the district “doesn’t have the money to offer.” According to Cicero, if the union accepts the board’s proposal the district would “be more in line with other districts in Northeast Ohio.”

All of the other unions that represent district employees have agreed to what the board has offered them, Cicero noted. However, any salary increase that the CH Teacher’s Union wins will also be applied to the other unions.

A week after the September negotiating session, Cicero made a statement at the regular school board meeting on Sept. 17, saying the board’s representatives “are doing their best and remain interested in continuing negotiations.”

Schmida countered that the union is “still interested in settling and very frustratred with the board’s reluctance.”

Further meetings will be called at the mediator’s discretion.

Simone Quartell is a senior at Cleveland Heights High School. She has been a member of The Black and Gold student newspaper since her freshman year, when she is managing editor and has covered school district issues in depth. She plans to study journalism in college.

The Funny Times

“Absolutely essential”
— Washington Post

TheFunnyTimes.com
Another New Historic District for CH

Mark Souther

Cleveland Heights’ wealth of historic houses provides one of the most compelling reasons so many residents choose to call it home. Many of these homes date to the early part of the last century and represent an unusually complete architectural expression of that era. A combination of devoted citizens, stringent city inspections, enduring craftsmanship, and a long, sluggish economy have made Cleveland Heights’ built environment remarkably resilient by national standards. Yet the architectural legacy we have inherited is not sacrosanct. The recent wave of foreclosures and the ongoing public debate over the planned demolition of two World War I-era houses to enable a reworking of the traffic flow in and out of Zagaria’s Marketplace illustrate that our city’s architectural fabric is a fragile resource that underpins our quality of life.

In recent years, several Heights citizens have worked to raise local awareness about the importance of historic architecture. As a result, Ambler Heights, Euclid Golf, Farnmount Boulevard, John D. Rockefeller’s Forest Hill, and the Herrick Mews carriage house district have been added to the National Register of Historic Places (with a sixth district, Inglewood, under review), lending national recognition to Cleveland Heights’ place in American architectural and suburban history. Over the last few months my wife Stacey and I have begun to work to nominate another National Register district—Grant W. Deming’s Forest Hill Allotment. The district would include the 1916 Arts and Crafts front-porch colonial we purchased on Lincoln Boulevard almost three years ago. Our effort sprang from an interest in history and architecture as well as a desire to raise public awareness of the value of conserving one of the things that makes Cleveland Heights stable, sustainable, and desirable. As we walked the streets of Forest Hill photographing houses, we also learned that it’s a vast way to meet our neighbors and make new friends. And, we found that many others share our commitment to a thriving Cleveland Heights.

Deming’s Forest Hill, not to be confused with Rockefeller’s later Forest Hill historic district to the north, is an early planned garden suburb development that includes much of the area bounded by Coventry, Cedar, and Lee roads and Euclid Heights Boulevard. Forest Hill was conceived in 1909 by Grant W. Deming’s Forest Hill Allotment. The result is an architectural exuberance that combines a section of mostly large, high-style, architect-designed homes on curvilinear streets in the western part of the allotment and a section of mostly builder-designed homes of more varying sizes on straight streets to the east. More than 30 two-family homes, situated along Cottage Grove Avenue, Parkway Drive, and Superior Road, add to the neighborhood’s diverse character. Forest Hill today represents a highly intact collection of homes in pure Tudor Revival, Arts and Crafts, Colonial Revival, and Italian Renaissance styles, as well as eclectic designs that combine two or more architectural influences. The result is an architectural exuberance that is matched by few other places in the Heights.

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes historically or architecturally significant areas or those that represent important trends in urban planning. Designation as a historic district has no drawbacks but several advantages. It does not preclude one’s choice to remodel or expand a house, nor does it prohibit one’s choice of paint colors or use of building materials. On the other hand, it offers several advantages: local and national recognition of the district’s historic character, a basis for community pride and sense of place, heightened awareness of the importance of the district to the city’s future, eligibility for federal programs that finance restoration efforts, and even the possibility of improved property values.

Thus far we have researched Forest Hill Allotment’s early history, inventoried its structures, and worked closely with Kara Hamley O’Donnell, historic preservation planner for the city of Cleveland Heights. After a preliminary review, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office agrees that Deming’s Forest Hill may merit recognition as a historic district. The next step is to raise the neighborhood’s awareness of this opportunity and identify individuals who may wish to become involved. The public is invited to an informational meeting at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. We would also welcome any information and old photographs or plans that might enrich our effort.

Mark Souther is an associate professor of history at Cleveland State University. He lives on Lincoln Boulevard in the Forest Hill Allotment.

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CIM’S SUZUKI CELEBRATION
Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy a Family Concert in honor of Sam and Sarah Sato, founders of the Cleveland Institute of Music’s Sato Center for Suzuki Studies.

A major force in the Suzuki movement, CIM has over 145 students participating, starting as early as age three. Bring the family to this special event featuring CIM’s talented young performers and faculty. Special guest soloists will be former CIM President David Centre and Cleveland Orchestra Concertmaster, William Preucil.

Tickets: $9 adults, $6 for children 12 and under, $30 for a family of four or more (immediate family members only) or $50 for Patrons.
Call 216.791.5000 or purchase on-line at cim.edu.

Cut Hair Studio
216.932.1220
2254 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
Women fashion a win for Obama

Jessica Schreiber

In the heat of the presidential campaign, Obama jewelry has emerged as the height of fashion. Bottle cap dangling Obama earrings and rhinestone-studded Obama brooches are the creation of two local artists – Phyllis Brody and Bonnie Dolin. They are members of WomenConnect for Obama, a network of over 500 women in Northeast Ohio.

According to long-time Cleveland Heights resident Phyllis Brody, WomenConnect for Obama arises out of a tradition of Heights social activism beginning in the 1960’s when a group of citizens successfully stopped the Clark Freeway from cutting a swath through the Heights, thus saving the Shaker Lakes. In the ensuing years, fair housing, peace and green movements found great support in the Heights. The same energy and fight for social justice has brought many of the old timers together with newer, young residents in the campaign to elect Barack Obama president of the United States.

On Sept. 17, WomenConnect for Obama sponsored a program in Cleveland Heights calling “YES WE CAN Convince the Undecided.” The purpose was to empower people to respond to myths, to get the facts and become effective persuaders on behalf of Barack Obama. Email notices went out, but no one knew how many would come.

Preparations were underway when the power suddenly shut off. The group was told to evacuate the public building where they had chosen to meet just as more and more women were arriving. Cars clogged the parking lot. Someone finally made an emergency call to a neighboring church. A cheer went up as a new location was announced.

A procession of cars rolled into the lot of Grace Lutheran Church on Cedar Road. The group overflowed the assigned space in Fellowship Hall, so the custodian unlocked the storage room and people grabbed chairs. The crowd, which had the feel of a Katrina relocation scene, moved into the Community Hall by 7:30 p.m. more than 150 people (including men and babies) were seated. The program began with a dramatization of a conversation between two women—one supporting Obama, the other opposed. The Obama supporter modeled a non-confrontational approach by asking “Which issues are important to you?” and “How did you come to your position?” along with thoughtful, fact-based responses.

In the next part of the program, attendees worked in groups and came up with comments and selected responses. The room reverberated with energy, goodwill and a shared determination to find ways to win Ohio for Barack Obama.

A second YES WE CAN meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 13001 Cedar Rd., Cleveland Heights. For more information contact WomenConnectforObama@gmail.com.

Jessica Schreiber is a community volunteer.

Home Repair Resource Center holds fall classes

Rebecca Steger

In this current economic climate, it is more important than ever to spend your home repair dollars wisely. One way to save money can be to do the work yourself. Home Repair Resource Center offers free classes that give you an opportunity to practice using the tools and techniques you’ll need for the job.

Our fall classes will all be held at HRRC’s Teaching Center, 2530 Noble Road (two blocks north of Monticello, at the corner of Oxford). Reservations are requested; call 216-381-9560 to save your spot for these workshops:

- **Plaster Repair:** How to repair common plaster problems, from small cracks to large areas damaged by water. Monday, Oct. 13, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.
- **Interior Painting:** How to select paint, prepare the wall, and end up with a better paint job. Monday, Oct. 20, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.
- **Ceramic Tile:** How to lay out and space tiles, cut pieces for edges or around fixtures, and maintain and repair a tiled surface. Monday, Oct. 27, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.
- **Exhaust Fans:** How to cut the opening, route the exhaust vent, and wire the circuit for a bathroom exhaust fan. We’ll also talk about kitchen installations. Monday, Nov. 3, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.
- **Ceiling Fans:** How to mount a ceiling fan and wire it into an existing circuit. We’ll also talk about running wires for a wall switch and/or new circuit, if needed. Monday, Nov. 10, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.
- **Recessed Lighting:** How to install a recessed light fixture and wire it into an existing circuit. Monday, Nov. 17, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.

**Track Lighting:** How to add track lighting to your home and wire it into your electrical system. Monday, Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.

**Prventing Plumbing Disasters:** How to replace sink traps, snake clogged sink and bathtub drains, replace valves and remount a toilet, without having to call a plumber. Monday, Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m., HRRC.

HRRC also offers a series of financial fitness classes each month to help you manage your money in a smarter way. You’ll learn about the power of a personal budget, how to improve your credit and what to expect when purchasing a home. The best part about these classes is that they don’t cost a dime! Reservations are requested, and space is limited. Call 216-381-6100 to reserve your spot! All October classes are held at the South Euclid-Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1534 Green Road, South Euclid. (next to the post office).

**Power of a Personal Budget** Thursday, Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m. SE-H United Methodist Church
**Improving Your Credit** Thursday, Oct. 9, 7-9 p.m. SE-H United Methodist Church
**Refinancing & Reverse Mortgages** Thursday, Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m. SE-H United Methodist Church
**Financing Your Home Purchase** Thursday, Oct. 9, 7-9 p.m. SE-H United Methodist Church
**Power of a Personal Budget** Thursday, Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m. HRRC
**Mortgage & Refinance** Thursday, Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m. HRRC

Becky Steger has been the repair education programs coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center since 1989.

A Return to Overlook Road: Cleveland Heights’ Real Millionaires’ Row

Overlook Road as it appeared in the early 20th century.

Mazie Adams

On Thursday evening Oct. 16, join the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Landmark Commission of Cleveland Heights for a “Return to Overlook Road: Cleveland Heights’ Real Millionaires’ Row.”

Travel back almost 100 years for a virtual walk down a Cleveland Heights street that was widely known for its architectural splendor, humungous, hubris-infused habitats, a well known (and still thriving) college, a U.S. Senator’s residence, and our city’s most sensational murder (home of the victim and, many believe, his assailant), and walk to walk wealth. Chris Roy, president of the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, will be your host, narrator and virtual tour guide.

The event begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Historical Center, the Superior Schoolhouse (corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard & Superior Rd.). Reservations are required. Call 216-291-4878. Admission is free but seating is limited. Call 216-381-6100 to reserve your spot! All October classes are held at the South Euclid-Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1534 Green Road, South Euclid (next to the post office).

**Mortgage & Refinance** Thursday, Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m. HRRC
**Power of a Personal Budget** Thursday, Nov. 6, 6-8 p.m. HRRC

Becky Steger has been the repair education programs coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center since 1989.

Advertise in the Heights Observer 216-320-1423
Clare Laffey has fulfilled her long time goal of owning her own business. Since graduating from cosmetology school at Brush High School and then barber school, Clare has envisioned owning her own establishment.

Clare opened CL Barber Salon at 12905 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights in August. It is located between Night-town and Zoss Bakery. With her family’s help, she remodeled and updated the space of the former Brigitte’s Hair Salon with clean lines, birch cabinetry, and white walls contrasting with a shot of Montego Blue paint. Add to this black and white tile floors, four streamlined black leather barber chairs and black sinks. The atmosphere is one of calm and tranquility.

As you enter CL Barber Salon you are instantly aware of the contemporary, up to date setting, barber style shop. The salon’s decor differentiates it from most beauty salons by the placement of the sinks for washing hair, in front of each barber chair instead of in a separate area.

Clare is a licensed cosmetologist and barber. She has 15 years of experience. Clare Laffey’s philosophy is to work with and beautify the entire family. Customer service is paramount to her and her staff. They offer men’s, women’s and children’s haircuts. A man’s haircut includes a wash, rinse, scissor cuts, razor cuts, and blow drying. Chair massages are given by a licensed massage therapist.

Hours are Monday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For

David Wasserstrom

Good bars are like old jeans – well-worn but supremely comfortable. They’re not sited in lifestyle centers or defined by the 100-plus martini variations they don’t actually make. Their dart boards and pool tables, chicken wings, and Pabst Blue Ribbon don’t aspire to lure the well-heeled. Lovable idiosyncratic Cleveland Heights has always nurtured distinctive, if not outright quirky, bars and restaurants. And, as urban sprawl procreates if not outright quirky, bars and restaurants. And, as urban sprawl procreates - metastasizes, these inner-ring gems assume an even richer, more personal character, and new life. The ambiance reflects this philosophy. Pete’s main room features a full-length bar and band area, while a similarly sized adjacent room houses pool tables, dart boards, and additional booths. Photos of local musicians adorn the wood-paneled walls, none more prominent than a World War II-era photograph of Pete’s late father, Alfred. The bar sports vintage memorabilia and assorted kitschy bar-type stuff.

Grub-wise, you’ve got your requisite wings, burgers, and chicken sandwiches, along with fries, onion rings, Jalapeno poppers and, for the rabbit-minded among us, artfully prepared salads. Quality permeates every detail, from fish-fry Fridays to occasional specials. Certain locals expose a near-religious devotion to the half-pound Black Angus burger. Even simple fare, like a buttery grilled cheese sandwich, is prepared with a technical precision that, for this author, evokes comparisons to gastronomy’s famed Antoine Careme, this author, evokes comparisons to
gastronomy’s famed Antoine Careme, this author, evokes comparisons to
gastronomy’s famed Antoine Careme, this author, evokes comparisons to

david wasserstrom
Local spa raises over $12,000 for breast cancer research

Joyce Fennell

After months of preparation, training and fundraising efforts, a team from Sanctuary by Joyce embarked on what would be an incredible journey. The issue of breast cancer was taken to the streets of Cleveland one step at a time. Customers and employees joined the local business owner Joyce Fennell, walked 60 miles in 7 days for one cause, The CURE of breast cancer, and, they did not walk alone.

These women were part of a group of 1,200, mostly women, who began this 60 mile adventure into the neighborhoods of Shaker Hts, Cleveland Hts., Mayfield Hts, Richmond Hts, Lyndhurst, Beachwood and Euclid, ending three days later at the Cleveland Convention Center for closing ceremonies.

As a community we walked, surrounded by likeminded people, doing something extraordinary, all for this cause. We walked together, camped together, and shared meals together. Along the way we would find love, sweat, and tears. We shared our personal stories and laughed, cried and supported one another on our personal and collective journeys. What we found along the way was inspiring to each of us in so many ways, as we inspired those who looked on, offering a message of commitment and hope. Maybe you saw it too – the large groups of folks, dressed mostly in pink, walking the sidewalks, or the crossing guards and volunteers, keeping us safe and providing rides for those in need. Maybe you were one of the folks who showed up in the most random places along the route, inspiring us to keep going. We so enjoyed the dancing lady (a 28 year survivor), the grandfather whose wife and granddaughter were walking, the guy with the WOO HOO sign, the wife and granddaughter were walking, and those folks who brought kids out. What great parenting: thank you.

The Susan G Komen Foundation is to be praised for such a top notch, well planned event, carried off beautifully by staff and volunteers. Breast cancer has affected so many of our sisters, mothers, daughters, friends and yes, now dads and sons. For our children’s children, want breast cancer to be a distant memory, not the epidemic it seems to be now. This will take money. We reached out to this community for support, and you were amazing.

My fellow merchants on Lee Road opened their doors and pocketbooks to help. A very big thank you to the Cedar Lee Pub and Grill for hosting our fundraiser, and to Salon DM, Dewey’s Pizza, Central Health, the Atma Center and Stone Oven, who provided gift certificates for the day.

Joyce Fennell is the owner of Sanctuary by Joyce and is inspired by the courage and determination of the women who could not walk themselves.

For a list of businesses participating in the I Buy NEO program, to purchase a card, or to locate each merchant’s special rebate offer, log on to www.ibuyneo.com.

Lauren Sable is the manager of public relations for the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE).
Heights Community Congress hosts events

- Dawn Rucker

Heights Community Congress is moving into the fall season with lots of exciting events. We hope to see you at the following activities.

Diversity Forum
HCC kicks off its 2008-2009 Perceptions vs. Reality Dialogue Series with a program entitled “Race, Class and Gender and the 2008 Presidential Campaign.” The forum takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. The forum examines how our underlying beliefs, judgments and biases have been brought to the surface during this long and momentous campaign. This is not a debate about the respective candidates; it’s a look at societal values. Panels include Rabbi Susan Stone of Temple Beth Shalom, Kameron W. Chones, Professor Larry Schwab of John Carroll University, and Ebony Grantonz.

Two more forums will take place on Monday, Dec. 3, and Feb. 4, 2009, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center.

Annual International Festival
Food, facts and fun are the operative words to remember on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008. That’s when HCC hosts its ninth annual International Festival from 12-4 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. This year’s theme, “Celebrating a Green World,” is an expansion of sorts for HCC. Historically, the festival has been one of the ways in which HCC furthers its mission of promoting diversity and building community. This year, the festival will expand those goals by looking at green living and sustainability. Visitors to the festival can expect to be entertained by performances such as The Workmen’s Circle Klezmer Orchestra and Murphy’s Irish Step Dancers. They can fill their appetites with treats from Phoenix Coffee, Aoeshi Cafe, Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream and Donato’s Pizza. They can learn about international diversity and sustainability issues. There will be Segway rides, popcorn, lemonade, door prizes, raffles and more.

This year’s participants include City-Wheels, the Global Passport Project, L’Arche Inc. of Cleveland, Children’s International Summer Villages, Cleveland Solar and Wind, and more.

For more information, visit at www.heightscongress.org or contact Dawn Rucker at 216-321-6331.

Free Thanksgiving “Community Making Meal”

- Jennifer Frigolette

Join us for an Open House on Oct. 23, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please come see what sets Homewood Residence apart from the competition. You will have the opportunity to meet the staff, visit with our residents, ask questions, and tour our beautiful community.

Complimentary refreshments will be served at 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Karlene or Angela at 216-321-6311.

Rockefeller Gardens’ Homewood Residence hosts open house

- Karlene Grikas

Grace Church, 13001 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, will host a free sit-down Thanksgiving meal at 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008. 175 meals will be served. Reservations are required and due by Thursday, Nov. 13th. Please call 216.321.2790.

DavidEarnst, pastor of Grace, said “The people of Grace are piloting a way to build community with our many neighbors in the Heights. One night a month we have hosted a meal that has been enjoyed by many people. People hungry for food and community come to eat, converse and share in the clean up. It’s been fun! Because so many neighbors may be short on funds in November or are yearning for community, this Thanksgiving we will host a wonderful meal and see how it goes.”

Volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean-up are also welcomed. To join with others in making this community meal happen, you are invited to call Grace at 216.321.2790.

Jennifer Holland is the office manager at Grace Lutheran Church.

Meet the Neighbors at Disciples Christian Church

Ronald Herman

Disciples Christian Church Pastor Kristine Eggert deemed the first Meet the Neighbors free community dinner a huge success. Over 110 meals were served and there was much interaction among all who attended. Held in August, the event brought together church members and neighbors from the community to share a meal. Lasagna, salad, rolls, as well as a dessert and beverage, made up the first meal. The church’s next Meet the Neighbors free community dinner is planned for Thursday, Oct. 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, contact Disciples Christian Church, 3665 Mayfield Road, 216-382-5544.

Ron Werman is a Cleveland Heights resident and member, elder, choir member and communications chairperson of Disciples Christian Church.

Jennifer Frigolette is the volunteer coordinator at Cleveland Reads.

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Heights residents volunteer to improve literacy in Greater Cleveland

Jennifer Frigolette

You may be aware that only 65 percent of seventh graders in the Cleveland Heights/University Heights City School District scored at or above the proficient level in reading on the Ohio Achievement Test during the 2006-2007 school year. However, did you know that 49 percent of adults in Cuyahoga County read below a functional level? This means that an estimated 486,847 individuals are at Level 1 or Level 2 literacy, which is below the Level 3 minimum necessary to function in today’s society and are likely to be excluded from all but minimum wage work.

Low literacy skills affect people of all ages in our community from children who are not prepared for kindergarten to adults reluctant to vote because they cannot read the ballot. Fortunately, there is something you can do to help improve literacy in the Heights.

Cleveland Reads provides free tutor training and refers volunteers to dozens of sites in Greater Cleveland. In schools and community centers, at tutoring programs and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, Heights residents are working hard to improve literacy in Greater Cleveland. Cleveland Reads volunteer Brian Andraskas tutored at CH-UH Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) and said of his experience, “It’s very apparent that the instructors truly care about what they are doing and about making a difference in the students’ lives. I enjoyed the time spent working with the GED students and learned a great deal about other cultures with the ESOL class while conversing with the students every week. As with most volunteers, I feel that I probably took away as much from the experience as I passed on to others.”

Cleveland Heights resident Mike McGraw shared recently, “I have been tutoring an adult for nearly three years, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, period. It has been extremely rewarding to see the enjoyment and stimulation he gets from being able to read a history or science article from his textbooks, or simply by reading the sports page of the newspaper. His courage puts the challenges of my daily life into perspective. I encourage anyone with any free time to consider literacy tutoring as a way to give back to their community.”

The mission of Cleveland Reads is to build a community of literacy as the central resource and advocate for learners, tutors, and literacy providers. Volunteers attend a three-hour orientation which equips them with tools and strategies necessary to tutor youth or adults, after which they are referred to one or more programs in the area. With the beginning of the school year, many literacy programs in the area will be seeking new volunteers, and we need your help!

Please contact Cleveland Reads at 216.321.2790 for more information about becoming a volunteer literacy tutor, or visit www.ClevelandReads.org.

Jennifer Frigolette is the volunteer coordinator at Cleveland Reads.

Heights Community Congress hosts events

- Dawn Rucker

Heights Community Congress is moving into the fall season with lots of exciting events. We hope to see you at the following activities.

Diversity Forum
HCC kicks off its 2008-2009 Perceptions vs. Reality Dialogue Series with a program entitled “Race, Class and Gender and the 2008 Presidential Campaign.” The forum takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. The forum examines how our underlying beliefs, judgments and biases have been brought to the surface during this long and momentous campaign. This is not a debate about the respective candidates; it’s a look at societal values. Panels include Rabbi Susan Stone of Temple Beth Shalom, Kameron W. Chones, Professor Larry Schwab of John Carroll University, and Ebony Grantonz.

Two more forums will take place on Monday, Dec. 3, and Feb. 4, 2009, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center.

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Join us for an afternoon of multicultural entertainment at the ninth annual International Festival.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Cleveland Heights couple stages Jungle Jam
Benefit for bone marrow disease research

Mary Patton

Annalyse Kitzberger loves zebras. She loves them so much that the eight-year-old dreams of someday having one of her own.

Her parents, Jeff and Sherri Kitzberger of Cleveland Heights, have their own dream that a cure for bone marrow disease will soon be found so that An-
nalyse and others afflicted with the rare illness can be healthy.

To help make their dream come true, the Kitzbergers have devised a spe-
cial musical and entertainment benefit. “Jungle Jam” is to be held Friday, Oct. 17 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the House of Blues in downtown Cleveland. It will raise funds to help find a cure for bone marrow disease.

Proceeds from Jungle Jam will help fund the research of Dr. Jaroslav Maciejewski of the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Maciejewski is one of the world’s foremost specialists in bone marrow disease and the principal investigator of the Bone Marrow Failure Disease Cor-
sortium. Bone marrow failure diseases include Aplastic Anemia, Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria (PNH) and Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS). These are non-contagious but rare and potentially fatal illnesses in which blood production in the marrow is disrupted. Complications can arise, including the inability of blood to clot and susceptibility to infections. Right now, only the cure is a bone marrow transplant. (Annalyse does not have a perfect donor match.)

Dr. Maciejewski has proposed research to investigate the viral causes of Aplastic Anemia, a type of bone marrow disease in which stem cells in the bone marrow are destroyed and fail to reproduce. Using viral chip technology, researchers will seek to identify the virus responsible for Aplastic Anemia and ultimately develop diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive measures.

Aplastic Anemia is an “orphan bone marrow disease,” so named because it is rare. (Approximately four new cases of Aplastic Anemia per one million people in the United States arise each year.) Funding is scarce and research is limited. That does not make its threat any less serious. Annalyse was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia and PNH just as she was about to enter kindergarten three years ago. She stayed home during her first year of school and underwent chemotherapy as her body struggled to resist infections.

Today, Annalyse seems to be a typi-
cal third grader. She runs through her backyard at the end of a school day, her long blond hair dancing in the wind. She is a Brownie at Gesu School in Uni-
versity Heights, takes horseback riding lessons and, in addition to zebras, hopes to one day own a pug, a Dalmatian or a German shepherd. For now, Annalyse’s Aplastic Anemia is in remission, but her PNH remains a threat. Her body must work harder than most to produce enough red blood cells. She has blood drawn on a regular basis to check for low counts. Each time, her parents anxiously wait for positive numbers.

The Kitzbergers hope that Jungle Jam will increase awareness of bone marrow disease and raise much-needed funds for research and a cure. In addi-
tion to performances by local bands, Jungle Jam will feature a silent auction and special guest appearances. Tickets start at $125 and are available in advance and at the door. Sponsorships for the event are still available.

For more information, contact Pauline Ramin at 216-772-9006 or visit www.makeithappen4bmd.org.

Mary Patton is a public relations consultant and a longtime resident of the Heights. She currently lives in University Heights with her husband and daughter.

CAMA IRT

Polish delegation visits Cleveland Heights

Mark Majewski

“You are glowing with pride,” said Leszek Gorgol. “It is nice to hear you tell us about Cleveland Heights.”

Mr. Gorgol spoke, through a U.S. State Department interpreter, as one of ten visitors from Poland who recently visited Cleveland Heights. The Poles are leaders in local and regional govern-
ments and nonprofit organizations.

A meeting of the delegation and several local leaders was arranged by Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive direc-
tor of FutureHeights, after a contact from the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. The Council is assisting the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program to provide opportunities for the Polish delegation to meet with local government officials and community activists throughout the U.S. The visitors hope to learn about civic engagement, nonprofit orga-
izations, fundraising, and economic development.

Bremer Fisher welcomed the dele-
gation in the Levey Room of the Main Library. She explained the unique mis-

sion and programs of FutureHeights, including publication of this newspaper, the Heights Observer. She also discussed the organization’s programs promoting local government, business, historic preservation, civic engagement, and other features of local quality of life.

Four Cleveland Heights representa-
tives, including Bremer Fisher, were on hand to talk to Heights-style civic engagement. Susanna Niemann O’Neil, Cleveland Heights’ vice city manager, presented perspectives from local gov-
ernment and from her long personal involvement with the community. Lita González, director of PATH (Parent Ambassadors to Heights Project), spoke about involvement with the schools and shared her family’s experiences living in the Heights. Mark Majewski, board president of FutureHeights and a con-
sulting community planner, also spoke about personal and public involvement in the community.

During a lengthy question and answer session, the visitors sought information on the relationships between government and nonprofits, the challenges facing local businesses, and “ways to get young people involved.” One visitor asked about issues of access to public spaces and to the arts for persons with disabilities. Yet another asked for solutions to the age-old problem of young people leaving the village for the big city— and not returning.

A question about parental involve-
ment and influence in the public schools elicited extensive response from the hosts.

One of the interpreters, an immi-
grant from Czechoslovakia, suggested that “the infrastructure which supports volunteerism and civic involvement” is not yet as strong in Poland and some other parts of Europe as in the United States. It was apparent that building “infrastructure,” and civic engage-
ment and community growth, are the goals for which the visitors sought ideas, encouragement, and inspiration.

This brief encounter of visiting leaders and a handful of local leaders may contribute to successful pursuit of those goals in Poland. The local par-
ticipants came away from the discussion with increased appreciation for the opportunities already available in our community.

Mark Majewski is a 20-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a community planning consultant.

FutureHeights Executive Director Deanna Bremer Fisher explains how her organization works with city government, local businesses and volunteers to develop community and promote civic engagement.

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Mark Majewski is a 20-year resident of Cleveland Heights was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia three years ago and is now in remission.

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CH-UH Public Library Board

Highlights of August 18 meeting
All board members present

Automatic doors for walkway
The board approved expenditures to install automatic openers on the doors of the Heights Arts area and the walkway.

“Olympic record” of new hires
Thirteen positions were filled in July, including the appointment of Alice Eden as adult services support services supervisor, prompting the remark that the job title might need to be shortened.

New library director
Library Board President Gerald Blake announced that Nancy Levin had accepted the director’s position, effective Oct. 1, 2008. The acting director until then would be Deputy Director Cath erine Hakala-Ausperk. Ms. Levin was formerly young adult coordinator of this library and left last year to take the deputy director’s job at the Rocky River Public Library.

Director Wood’s achievements
The board read into the record the resolution on Director Wood’s retirement that was first read at the farewell party the previous day. Each board member read a portion of the resolution, recognizing Director Wood’s achievements, which included levy campaigns, building projects, participation as the first member of CLEVNET, innovative projects such as the rousing reference desk, and promotion of customer service.

Grants and gifts to the library
The library has received a $1,000 gift for grants and gifts to the library promotion of customer service.

Such as the roving reference desk, and one of CLEVNET, innovative projects which included levy campaigns, building projects, participation as the first member of CLEVNET, innovative projects such as the rousing reference desk, and promotion of customer service.

Art acquisition
The library has acquired a second David E. Davis sculp ture.

Canines to aid reading awareness
The library has adopted board member Ortner’s suggestion of awareness (reading) dogs. The “tail wagg ers” will appear in November, and Director Wood will come out of retirement to observe them.

Videoconferencing
The library has acquired videoconferenc ing equipment as part of the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System Project, which includes five or six libraries.

Technical upgrade
The library has replaced the three T-1 internet lines with fiber. The library will ask OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Informa tion Network) for more.

Director farewell
Director Wood ended his report saying after over 200 board meetings, it had been an honor and a privilege to have been a staff member of the library for 11 years and then director for 20.

Web services
Amy Harmon, web library manager, noted that the new website was launched July 1. There have been 25 chat reference transactions and the staff have been partic ipating in the library’s blog. The library’s MySpace page hasn’t been updated since January. Staff response has been to rejuvenate the page rather than killing it. Branch managers will be trained on site management. Currently Harmon shares her time between web services and adult services, but it appears that web services could take all of her time.

Clarification of purchases
At the July 21 meeting, the board approved the purchase of PC hardware and software including 57 Dell computers. The purchase of Macintosh computers was discussed but not authorized.

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The Heights Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1918 by Robert Begantino, then director of music at Cleveland Heights High School, has just celebrated its 25th anniversary and is pleased to announce its fifth concert season—2008-2009. Many works are new to HCO and perhaps to their audience also. Anthony Addison, principal conductor, will lead four of these concerts; the fifth will be led by guest conductor, Christopher Rees, associate conductor of the Akron Symphony Orchestra. A high-light of this season is a chamber music program. Each of the other programs features a concert.

Comprised of 45 professional and amateur musicians who live primarily in the Heights area, the HCO gives free concerts in local churches and continues to engage at Heights High through the generosity of the CH-UH Board of Education.

The concert season will begin on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church on Warrensville Center Road. This opening concert will feature the HCO concertmaster of 25 years, Gino Raffaelli, playing the Mozart violin concerto #1 in G minor. Mr. Raffaelli is a Cleveland Heights resident and former Cleveland Orchestra violinist. The program also includes Beethoven's Fidelio overture, Beincke's Variations on "Ein Feste Burg," and the "Ironic" Symphony by Reznick. Emil Reznick was a late romantic composer of Austria. The "Ironic" Symphony was composed and performed specifically for chamber orchestra and owes something to both Richard Strauss and Mahler being witty, romantic, nostalgic, and tuneful. With the exception of the Mozart, the music selections are all first-time pre-sentations for the HCO.

The second concert, on Sunday, Nov. 23 is in a special format unique to this season. The concert will feature chamber music played by individual sections of the orchestra; strings, winds, and brass. The specific works will be an- nounced later. This interesting concert will be offered at Judson Manor on East 107th Street, Cleveland at 4 p.m.

The third concert will be at the Church of the Saviour on Lee Road on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. featuring HCO's first hornist, Martin Layman, playing the Mozart Horn Concerto #2 in E Flat. The rest of the program will be an overture by Arriaga entitled "Los Esclavos Felice," Haydn's Symphony #101 in E flat major (the "Drumroll") and the Barrocks "Romanian Dances.") This concert is one in a series of concerts at the church entitled "Arts in the Cathedral.

The fourth concert will be Sunday, March 29 at the First Baptist Church on Fairmount Boulevard, featuring pianist Daniel Barber, a member of the Cleveland State University piano faculty, playing Brahms Piano Concerto #1 in B Flat major. HCO will also perform "Der Freischütz" overture by Weber and Chabrier's "Suite Pastorale" on the same program.

The concert will conclude with guest conductor, Christopher Lee, at May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Ann's Church on Coventry Road, featuring soprano Lindsay Kesselman, singing Barber's Knoxville Summer of 1917. Copland's "An Outdoor Overture" and Beethoven's Symphony #8 in F major will round out the program.

The concerts are free, though HCO encourages donations. Further information about HCO, the conductors and soloists, can be found at http://heightschamberorchestra.org.

Martha Wheeler serves on the board of Heights Chamber Orchestra.

Local "Buckeyes" bang drums for Michigan

Bert Stratton

Doug Jacobs of Orange and Jack Strat-ton of Cleveland Heights play drums in the University of Michigan's Grove ensemble, a collegiate take-off on the University of Michigan's Groove ensemble, a collegiate take-off on the Michigan Marching Band and the college's hockey pep band. Bert Stratton, a music student and University School '06 graduate, plays drum for the women's basketball pep band and has won composition awards from the music school. "I'm a Clogged Sinus" and "Facebook Boogie."

The Grove ensemble performs at Beachwood Middle School auditorium, 2862 Richmond Rd., 2 p.m. Sun., Oct. 10. Admission is free. For more information, call 216-924-4862. The perfor-mance is sponsored by the University of Michigan Club of Cleveland.

Bert Stratton is a Cleveland Heights resident and leader of the klezmer band Yiddishe Cap. And, yes, Jack is his son.

Heights Chamber Orchestra season

Martha Wheeler

At Heights Youth Theatre we've got a cable, though not TV. That's why you won't see The Wire, just Peter Pan connected to it. Because while we've also got The Sopranos singing, American Gladiators with no heavy scenery, and a very quirky Lipstick Jungle in our make-up room, our shows aren't taped for the tube. They're staged up-close and in-person, each one that can't-quell-that-smile kind of entertainment all ages love. Sure beats a day at The Office.

In a feat TV can't hope to top, HYT's shows are performed by real live kids whose boisterous voices create sound better than Bose. In our first production this season, guest director Nathaniel Motta brings the Russian town of Anatevka to life in Fiddler on the Roof! A musical tale of tradition versus progress, faith against practicality, Fidd- ler is set in 1905 and follows Teyev, a poor Jewish milkman, and his family as they struggle to survive in tense, pre-revolutionary times. You'll enjoy terrific acting, magnificent sets, and superbly sung Broadway classics such as Match-maker, If I Were a Rich Man, and Wonders of Wonders, all unsullied by cell phones.

One of the most famous songs from Fiddler on the Roof in Tradition, a subject dear to our HYT heart. The goal of HYT's has remained unchanged since the footlights rose on our first production five years ago: to strike up the band with an uplifting and happy, Youth theater much more fun than TV

Suza Antonelli

Join us for upcoming performances:

Friday, Oct. 24 & Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26 & Nov. 9, 2:00 p.m.

Wiley Middle School Auditorium, 2181 Miramar Road, University Heights Tickets $8 for seniors and kids under six, $9 for General Admission.

For more information: www.heightsyouththeatre.org

Suza Antonelli grew up in Cleveland and Maker Heights. She is a freelance writer, a Heights Youth Theatre board member, and the associate editor at Lady Who Launches.
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Coventry Village SID

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Revive
Big Fun
Abrash Gallerie

Best Home & Garden Business
Heights Garden Center
Seitz-Agin Hardware

Best Beer or Wine Selection
Zagara’s Marketplace
La Cave du Vin
The Grapevine

Best Casual Meal
Tommy’s
Brennan’s Colony
Dewey’s Pizza

Best Fine Dining
Nighttown
Marotta’s
Anatolia Café

Best Place to Buy a Gift
Revive
Simply Charming

Best Place to Go With Kids: Restaurants
Dewey’s Pizza
Tommy’s

Best Place to Go With Kids: Destinations
CH-UH Public Library
Heights Parent Center
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Playground

Merchant with the Most Community Spirit
Tom Fello, Tommy’s
Steve Presser, Big Fun
John Zagara, Zagara’s Marketplace

Best Green Business
Revive
Heights Garden Center
Phoenix Coffee

Favorite University Heights Business
Whole Foods
Biely’s Bagels
Geraci’s Restaurant

Favorite Cleveland Heights Business
Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa
Seitz-Agin Hardware
Revive