New Mural for Cedar Fairmount

Trustees elected
Deanna Bremer Fisher
Cedar Fairmount, Coventry Village, and Cedar Lee, the three Cleveland Heights commercial areas that have formed special improvement districts (SID), held their annual meetings and elected new trustees. Each special improvement district is a nonprofit organization of property owners who tax themselves to provide maintenance, landscaping, and other amenities for a business district. Cedar Fairmount elected five new trustees at its annual meeting on Oct. 14, Sal Russo Sr. of the Cedar Grandview Company, Brendan Ring of Nighttown, Inc., Kim Lisboa of Cedar Fairmount Realty, Joanna Jakubczyk of Fifth Third Bank of Northeast Ohio, and Lee Caw-ender of the Heights Center Building were each elected to a three-year term. continued on page 5

CH Community Improvement Awards

Mark Majewski
Pride in and consistent care of homes, businesses, and streets are long-held values of Cleveland Heights residents reflected in the annual Community Improvement Awards Program. The program recognizes and celebrates recent, significant improvements which are visible and beneficial to neighborhoods and commercial districts.

A ceremony held at Cleveland Heights City Hall on Oct. 23 honored the winners for 2008. Awards were made in the categories of Residential Improvement, Commercial and Institution Improvement, Tender Loving Care, and Street Improvement.

Winners were announced by pro-gram judge Susie Kaeser and members of city council. Photos of all winners were displayed in the Atrium of Cleveland Heights City Hall where they will remain for one year. continued on page 4

Concern in UH
Sarah Wilder
Concerned about the process used to form a Charter Review Commission (CRC) and potential changes to the city's charter, a group of residents has formed the Concerned Citizens for University Heights.

Some University Heights residents did not learn about the opportunity to submit an application for a seat on the commission until after the Oct. 6 deadline had passed. Others felt that the deadlines set by UH City Council were too tight and that there was not adequate publication of the request for applications. Residents also complained that city council ignored their requests to hold their annual meetings and elected new trustees. continued on page 5

Citizens Honored
Heights Observer Staff
The city of University Heights announced the 2008 recipients of its annual civic awards at a ceremony on Nov. 6. Halle Barnett, president of the Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Com-merce (HHRCC), and Michael Struck, vice president of the HHRCC, were both named 2008 Citizen of the Year.

The city has been presenting the awards since 1959, when Father Henry Birkenhauer was recognized as the first Citizen of the Year. The recipients are selected by the City Beautiful Commis-sion, a group of residents appointed by the mayor.

John Pacella, a 17-year member and former chair of the city's service department, is the University Heights 2008 Employee of the Year.

Donald O'Connor, who served on the City Planning Commission for 15 years, received a posthumous award for Public Servant of the Year.

Ray Lancaster is the city's Unus-ual Hero. Lancaster has served as the as-sistant aquatic director for the Purvis Park pool for the last 20 years.

Rober Walton received the Dedi-cated Volunteer of the Year award for his work with the city's police depart-ment in its Juvenile Diversion Program. The program has successfully prevented teenage referrals back to court.

Kay Hawn received the Special Ap-preciation Award for her coordination of the city's swim team, the Purvis Park Piranhas.

Shannon Davis, creator of beyondmotherhood.com, a website for moms seeking part-time jobs and employers seeking their talents, received the city's Special Home Business Recognition Award.

Brandon Jackson, a sophomore at University School who raised funds to improve living conditions for boys in a Honduran orphanage, will receive the continued on page 2

Heights Observer Staff
October saw the completion of the "Heights Center Building Mural East" by Cleveland Heights painter Jesse Rhinehart. Commissioned by Heights Arts to complement the "Heights Center Build-ing Mural West" installed in 2005 by the same artist on the west-facing facade of the same building, the mural was adapted from a photo in the Cleveland Public Li-brary archives and painted in the artist's Cleveland studio.

The Heights Center Building is designated a Cleveland Heights landmark. Designed by Richardson & Yost, it was built near the intersection of Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard in 1916 when the city was a streetcar suburb.

For more information contact Peggy Sparer at Heights Arts 216-371-3447 or psparr@heightsarts.org or Jesse Rhinehart 216-480-2392.
University Heights City Council
Highlights of September/October 2008 meetings

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008
All council members present.

Charter Review Commission - citizen comment
Eleven residents, including former councilmembers Susan Weisblatt and Frank Consolo, spoke in support of a Charter Review Commission (CRC). Weisblatt said the charter was outdated and needed an update.

Charter Review Commission
Council voted to approve the report from the Charter Review Commission.

City Watch
Fire Chief Ron Achterkorn announced the City Watch program has activated.

Library Director Maureen Weisblatt
Council passed a resolution honoring Maureen Weisblatt, University Heights Library branch manager, on the occasion of her retirement, until the reception being held in her honor.

University Parkway reconstruction
Council passed a resolution seeking financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission State Public Works Program to fund the University Parkway roadway reconstruction. If awarded the funding would enable the city to replace the entire street and drains.

City Watch
Fire Chief Pitchfork announced that the City Watch system has been activated, providing emergency communication to all residents of the city.

Fence permit
A fence permit granted for a John Carroll University (JCU) -owned property at 2791 Kerwick Road to legally, heated and emotional discussion. Maria Alfaro-Lopez, JCU’s general counsel, who commented against the fence. Garfield’s neighbor, lawyer Joe Kirinici, fired an appeal requesting the permit. Kirinici’s neighbor, lawyer Joe Farchione, spoke at length against the permit. He accused the university of renting through a closed system, including their property to the university. Several other neighbors also spoke against the fence and the permit process.

Other agenda items, all of which passed unanimously included:

- Levying special assessments for financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission State Public Works Program to fund the University Parkway roadway reconstruction. If awarded the funding would enable the city to replace the entire street and drains.
- Authorization of the demolition of the house at 2099 Wynn Road.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008
Charter Review Commission
Most of the public comments addressed the Charter Review Commission (CRC). Some supported the initiative, some questioned the quick timeline, while others supported the timeline.

Moral claims
Council awarded the maximum allowed compensation of $300 to two residents presenting moral claims—one for damage to a home due to a sewer main blockage and another for damage to a car from a pothole. A third claim for damage to a water meter from a recent water main break was tabled pending documentation. Councilman Murphy noted that his committee would submit a resolution to end moral claims payments.

Nuisance legislation
Council passed a resolution to include officials and others. Six out of the seven councilmembers were rented to students, faculty, employees and others. Six out of 10 properties were rented to non-JCU individuals.

Councilman Steven Sims acknowledged the difficult conflict between neighborhood concerns and Lopez’s right to “enjoy her privacy and property.”

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- Authorization of the demolition of the house at 2099 Wynn Road.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008
All council members present.

Fence permit
A fence permit granted for a John Carroll University (JCU) -owned property at 2791 Kerwick Road to legally, heated and emotional discussion. Maria Alfaro-Lopez, JCU’s general counsel, who commented against the fence. Garfield’s neighbor, lawyer Joe Kirinici, fired an appeal requesting the permit. Kirinici’s neighbor, lawyer Joe Farchione, spoke at length against the permit. He accused the university of renting through a closed system, including their property to the university. Several other neighbors also spoke against the fence and the permit process.

Other agenda items, all of which passed unanimously included:

- Levying special assessments for financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission State Public Works Program to fund the University Parkway roadway reconstruction. If awarded the funding would enable the city to replace the entire street and drains.
- Authorization of the demolition of the house at 2099 Wynn Road.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008
A motion made by Consolo to immediately publicize the ordinance and invite residents interested in serving to provide resumes and letters of interest.

Assessment, abatement, demolition
Other agenda items, all of which passed unanimously included:

- Levying special assessments for providing city services in the removal of nuisance conditions at various locations throughout the city.
- Abating special assessments for the year 2008 at certain parcels at University Square, and
- Authorizing the demolition of the house at 2099 Wynn Road.

University Heights welcomes Pink Ribbon Tour
Ashley Bauer
The Pink Ribbon Tour made a stop at the UH Fire Department to support breast cancer awareness and research efforts in the local community.

Throughout the 36-city journey across the country, Pink Ribbon Tour founder Dave Graybill, an Arizona firefighter, is bringing thousands of people together to join the fight against breast cancer. He formed the Guardians of the Ribbon, a group of Arizona-based firefighters, police officers and community leaders who travel the country in a pink fire truck, wearing pink turnout gear and firefighting apparel.

“The Pink Ribbon Tour is for the women of this country and for their fight against breast cancer. The pink fire truck and our pink firefighting gear represent hope and love. The tour shows our commitment to this cause and that we care enough to wear pink,” said Graybill. “We are a male-dominated profession supporting a female-dominated disease. It is in our nature to fight for those who have lost the ability to fight for themselves."

The UH Fire Department had 19 firefighters, both on-duty and off-duty, in attendance, wearing pink T-shirts. The department had t-shirts made that they wore and sold to benefit local charities, such as the Gathering Place and the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

“The Pink Ribbons Tour is for the women of this country and for their fight against breast cancer. The pink fire truck and our pink firefighting gear represent hope and love. The tour shows our commitment to this cause and that we care enough to wear pink,” said Graybill. “We are a male-dominated profession supporting a female-dominated disease. It is in our nature to fight for those who have lost the ability to fight for themselves.”

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The goal was not to bring attention to the city but to bring attention to the people and the local cancer-related charities. People could either help our financially or with their time,” said Lieutenant Keith Kriger.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the Fire Department wore their shirts on Oct. 25-27. T-shirts are available for sale at the University Heights station for $5.

Graybill added, “It is a short time here on this planet, and we need to touch as many lives as possible, so that when it is over, we will have touched lives of people that we have never met.”

John Carroll University sophomore Ashley Bauer is an intern with Patton Public Relations in University Heights.
I hosted a book discussion with an what do you expect? It's a romance a nice happy ending. Disgruntled fans, Overall, I have to say I liked it. It was There is no shortage of opinions be with Edward, she must change the Jacob has supernatural the physical. On the other hand, there Edward is a gentleman who is courting Bella. does not think like today's teenage boy- mister. They were con- felt they could do without what little the beautiful improvements, there were signs of other property owners and structures in distress. These these improvements, there nominees for 2009. Neighbors should encouraged to start looking for potential where Bella thinks about Romeo, Moon lowing: 1. Talk about the story line in Twilight with teens I would recommend the fol- 1. Talk about the story line in New Moon where Bella thinks about Romeo, Juliet and Paris. What if Paris was a really great guy like Jacob, who was her best friend? Would Juliet have been better off with Paris? 2. Should a girl really have to with Paris? 2. Should a girl really have to...
Tonya Gibson

For information on what’s going on at the Heights Libraries, check out our website, www.heightslibrary.org, or stop in to any one of our four libraries to pick up a copy of Check Us Out! Here is a recap of all the news going on at the Heights Libraries:

- Children Services Associate Henry Drak is sharing his storytimes by blogging from the Coventry Library. Staff, children and parents are enjoying the chance to feel like they were in the room with the kids! Plans are in the works to have more staff blogs! Read more at http://explorastory.wordpress.com.
- Thanks to the efforts of Ben Gulyas, http://explorastory.wordpress.com, to have more staff blogs! Read more at http://explorastory.wordpress.com.
- Drak is sharing his storytimes by blogging from the Coventry Library. Staff, children and parents are enjoying the chance to feel like they were in the room with the kids! Plans are in the works to have more staff blogs! Read more at http://explorastory.wordpress.com.
- Our “in house” mystery expert and companion to American Literature, Judithe Soppel, was invited by the editor of the Heights Library gives you $1 for 1!

Heights Library gives you $1 for 1!
Judithe Soppel

From Nov 1 through Nov 28, you can wipe away your fines and help people in your community at the Heights Libraries. All four library locations will be participating in a food drive aiming to help those in the community in a time of need.

Here’s how it will work: Customers receive $1 off their fines for each non-perishable food item or paper good donated to the library. This offer applies only to current fines. Fines will not be removed for any lost or damaged items.

The food and other goods will be taken to the Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC), housed in Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road.

HEFC particularly needs the following:
- hot or cold cereal, rice, dried/canned beans, soups, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned potatoes, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruits or juices, tuna, fish, macaroni and cheese, powdered/canned milk, tomato sauce, sugar, paper products, soap and cleaning supplies.
- However, any non-perishable items donated will be greatly appreciated.

The library believes its customers will welcome this great opportunity to return their overdue library materials, clean their fines, and help those who are hurting during this current economic crisis.

Judithe Soppel is an employee of the Heights Libraries who enjoys writing and photography in her free time.

Judy Soppel is a public relations coordinator at the Heights Public Library.

News Express

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Judithe Soppel

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Judithe Soppel is a public relations coordinator at the Heights Public Library.

News Express

They join existing trustees Sal A. Russo of the Heights Medical Building, Pam Cooper of Sundance Tanning & Nails, and Pete Axelrod of Cedar Hill Sunoco.

Cedar Lee elected two new trustees at its annual meeting held Sept. 17. Declan Sinnott, owner of the Cedar Lee Pub and Charles Stewart Parsell (representing the Cedar Lee Theater Building’s Jon Forman), and Eureka Hurd of US Bank (representing building owner Norman Landau). Trustees who were reelected included John Zagara of Zagara’s Marketplace, Joe Cruz of Petland of the Heights (representing property owner Phyllis Jacobson), Stan Wasaczen of Interstate Development, Kevin Cooney of Realty Marketing, Ray Elshoffer of All Makes Vacuum, Beverly Singh of the Arma Center, Tom Gerson, Bill Mitchell of Mitchell’s Candies, and Janny O’Neill of Jimmy O’Neill’s Tavern.

Coventry Village elected new officers at its annual meeting held Oct. 16. Michael Peterman of Coventry Yard was elected president; Lewis Zipkin of Zipkin Properties, vice president; Gary Biller of K&L Realty, Treasurer; and Adam Waldbaum, who owns the building that houses Grums, Secretary. The office each serve for a one-year term.

The Cleveland Heights manager and a member of Cleveland Heights city council sit on each SID board. Every five years, each SID has to begin the renewal process with the city. The Cleveland Heights Library gives you $1 for 1!

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A big role for Delisle as next Ohio school superintendent

When Cleveland Heights - University Heights School Superintendent Debrah Delisle takes on her new role as state Superintendent of Public Instruction, she'll have a big job to do: nothing less than defining Ohio's approach to public education for the next generation.

She was named to the role at the October 14 meeting of the Ohio State Board of Education, and she starts the job in Columbus on Dec. 2.

Having intensely criticized ongoing Superintendent Susan Zelman, Gov. Ted Strickland said he hopes to see change under Delisle's leadership.

"I believe that it is important for the next superintendent of schools in Ohio to be a visionary leader who can work collaboratively with others. It is also very important that ... she be a strong advocate for public education in Ohio," Strickland stated before the appointment was made final. "By a visionary leader, I mean someone who can see and express to others what the future of Ohio's education system should look like, and someone who can inspire confidence in that vision to help create schools that work for every child in Ohio."

Delisle said her immediate priorities in this role are to ensure that every Ohio child has an opportunity to learn and grow; and, second, how to fund a truly reformed system of education in Ohio.

While the position is an honor and a step up for Delisle, insiders at the CH-UH School District, where she has been superintendent since 2003, said her shoes will be hard to fill. "It shows how far she has gone as the Heights superintendent," said CH-UH Board of Education President Mike Cicero. "We are all sad to see her go, but she will be great for the job. It is great for the Heights system to have a strong advocate at such a high level. However, her vision and passion for the district will be a huge loss."

Delisle first informed the CH-UH Board that she had applied for the state job about two weeks before she was named a finalist.

"It was surprising, but at the same time, I was not, because I know how well-respected she is," Cicero said.

The CH-UH Board was scheduled to convene in executive session Oct. 21 to lay out strategies for choosing a new superintendent. "We'd like the new superintendent to have vision, passion and creativity," said Cicero, "just like Delisle. Not that we want him or her to be a Delisle clone."

"It's difficult for me to leave the CH-UH schools, because the students, families and staff are all very close to my heart," said Delisle. "But I am confident that the practices I put in place at the Heights schools will be continued by the new superintendent."

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, where she is an editor and has covered school district issues in depth. She plans to study journalism in college.

Opinion

It’s The Instructional Core

Susie Kaeser

Remember when Bill Clinton tacked up the "Post-it" note that reminded him, “it’s the economy, stupid”? This clear focus helped him win the presidency.

For the Heights schools the focus is “the instructional core.” And the goal is a high level of student achievement across the board.

In September Richard Elmore, the guru of the instructional core, was featured at a school district-sponsored retreat for more than 100 administrators, principals, teacher educators, parent and community leaders, State Department of Education administrators, education advocates, and teacher educators.

Elmore is one of the thinker/practitioner types who is helping to shape the transformation of the CH-UH schools. His message made real sense: if you want lots of children to excel and every classroom to be a place where students are engaged in activities that make real sense: if you want lots of children to excel and every classroom to be a place where students are engaged in activities that make real sense: if you want lots of children to excel and every classroom to be a place where students are engaged in activities that make real sense...

Another important word in the district’s lexicon is “coherence.” The district is to successfully strengthen the instructional core, then that objective must be the centerpiece of every decision. Educators must resist being pulled off track, which can mean some activities must be dropped to make room for the activities that will produce the greatest benefits for students.

The retreat’s key message: If we actually want different results, everyone has to show restraint in the distracting demands we put the district on this course and has built the system on this course and has built the system on this course and has built the system on...

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*Noun 1. geothermal energy energy derived from the heat in the interior of the earth
Bus service to Fuchs Mizrachi

Deborah Hoffman, asked the board to resume bus service, cut a few weeks prior, to Fuchs Mizrachi preschool.

Michael Cicero, board president, responded that the district had discovered in August that the preschool does not have a valid IRN# [Internal Retrieval Number – “unique identifiers of various types of school-related entities within Ohio”]. The Hebrew Academy Sapien Campus was in same situation and both schools have been notified. Upon obtaining an IRN# they would qualify for resumption of bus service. The district would be exposed to liability issues if it resumed bus service without the IRN#.

Father’s Walk 2008

Superintendent Delisle reported that several elementary and middle schools would participate in Father’s Walk 2008, to walk students to school on Sept. 10. The activity was organized to strengthen bonds between fathers and their children’s schools. CH-UH would be among 300 entities participating.

State evaluation results

The district was just shy of an Effective rating on the Ohio School Report Card. Greater detail of the data would be shared at the October work session, but the superintendent made a few points:

- After several years of consecutive growth it is common to see a plateau, as has happened this year.
- There were several new scores to meet.
- The high school met standards for Effective, but was ranked as Continuous Improvement because of the way the students were evaluated by the state.
- No school was lower than Continuous Improvement.
- The district has outlined plans to continue monitoring student achievement according to the Growth Model, with clear expectations for principals, teachers, and parents.

Tax Advance

The board approved making a request for a tax advance from the county so that the district would be advanced the funds as soon as taxes were collected. Without this request, the county would most likely hold onto the funds until after the year closes out and it can verify the collections.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008
All board members present.

Teachers’ contract

Tom Schmidia, President of the CH-UH Teachers Union and high school teacher at Mosaic School, speaking from the audience, noted that the teachers had requested a resumption of mediation on a contract settlement. Superintendent Deborah Delisle responded that the mediator had just set a date for the next Wednesday.

Grant

The board approved the submission of the State Action for Education Leadership Project (SAELP) grant, requesting $50,000 from the Ohio Department of Education and $75,000 from the Wallace Foundation for a total of $125,000.

Laptops at Monticello School

The superintendent commented on laptop distribution to eighth graders at Monticello Middle School. Parents were going through orientations to get complete guidelines.

John Carroll University discussions

Michael Cicero, board president, reported on discussions with John Carroll University about using and improving board-owned fields for the college and community. Talks would continue.

Charitable activities

Mazie Adams is a Noble Elementary School parent, and the board approved the Minority Student Achievement Network, National Student Conference field trip to Madison Wisconsin, Sept. 24-27, the Heights High Symphony Wind/Jazz Field trip to Los Angeles and San Diego, California, February 18-22, 2009, and the Middle School student field trip to Quebec City and Montreal, Canada, April 27-29, 2009.

Grants

The board approved the submission of the State Action for Education Leadership Project (SAELP) grant, requesting $50,000 from the Ohio Department of Education and $75,000 from the Wallace Foundation for a total of $125,000.

The board approved the appropriation of funds for two awarded grants: the Jennings Social Studies/Science Grant of $34,400 and Child Outcomes Grant for preschool, $3,000.

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John Carroll University discussions

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Delisle on short list

President Cicero expressed his support of Superintendent Deborah Delisle in her possible role as State Superintendent, although the district would be sorry to see her leave.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser

See disclaimer on page 2.
Heights High Seniors Win JFSA Scholarships

Toby Brosky

Congratulations to Heights High seniors Elizabeth Root, Hannah Tatar, Maya Lugasy and Isaac Miller! Each student was recently awarded a college scholarship through Jewish Family Service Association’s Joint Educational Loan Committee (JELO) college financial aid program. This year, 48 students were nominated by guidance counseling departments from local area schools.

Root and Tatar are two of four recipients of the 2008 Jack W. and Shirley J. Berger Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to area high school seniors who excel academically, have volunteered for worthy causes and exhibit a genuine passion for making a difference in the world. Root graduated with a 4.5 GPA and now attends Brown University. Tatar graduated with a 4.4 GPA and now attends Vassar. Both students received SAT scores in the 2100 range.

Lugasy and Miller are two of nine recipients of the 2008 Meisel Family Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to promising students who are active, volunteer, and demonstrate a strong work ethic. Lugasy graduated with a 4.3 GPA and now attends Ohio State University. Miller graduated with a 4.4 GPA and now attends Case Western Reserve University.

The JELC program is operated under the auspices of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. Students wishing to learn more about these scholarships and other college financial aid offered through the JFSA should contact Mrs. Blockson at Heights High School 216-302-3065 or Toby Brosky at JFSA (tbrosky@jfs-cleveland.org).

Toby Brosky lives in the University Heights and is the manager of college financial aid & scholarships for the Jewish Family Service Association.

Editor’s note: the grade point average scale GPA is on a weighted 4.0 scale. A photo of Isaac Miller was not available.

Whither the weather?

Stephanie Applegate

“No, Mom. Those are cirrus clouds; they’re not heavy enough to produce rain. Plus, a high-pressure system’s making its way in from the west. And finally, Mom, the warm and cold fronts coming together would make rain virtually impossible.”

Oh,” the mother replies sheepishly. “Well, okay, then.”

Beware Heights residents: amateur meteorologists are loose in the city, thanks to a recent visit to Saint Ann School from COSI on Wheels, a traveling science show that educates students to have fun with science. Every October, the Center for Science and Industry (COSI) visits Saint Ann, and true to its motto, urges students to “Explore Science. Discover Fun!”

On a recent morning, students learned about extreme weather. Well, to be totally honest, they lived extreme weather. With hands-on participation encouraged, students determined that air pressure is mighty enough to crush a steel drum. That a cloud starts off as a dust particle. That air actually weighs something. And above all, the students had fun—dare we say it?—learning.

Third-grader Madison Miluk triumphantly pumped her fist in the air and screamed, “Whoosh!” as she used variations in air pressure to create wind. Another third-grade fan of COSI, Claire Peyrebrune, succinctly sums up why this annual visit is so meaningful to her: “You can actually do stuff, and not just study, and study, and study.”

Matt Welsh, outreach demonstrator for COSI has been getting kids to learn about science in a fun way since 2002.

“This program,” he notes, “gets kids learning for the fun of it, for something other than a test.”

The program certainly is popular. This year alone, COSI on Wheels has 700 reservations for its services in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Wisconsin.

“COSI Day is one of the students’ favorite days of the school year,” observes Saint Ann School parent and COSI Day coordinator Katie Longhead. “And we’re lucky this year that COSI chose to come up with this new program on the weather. And we’re also lucky that we have so many helpful parents who act as volunteers!”

Indeed, hosting COSI on Wheels is a collaborative effort, but the end result is wondrous. “If the kids aren’t taking something away from this experience,” asks Welsh, “then what’s the point?”

To showcase COSI on Wheels at your school, log on to www.cosi.org and click on the “educator’s” tab.

Stephanie Applegate is a life-long resident of Cleveland Heights and the mother of two boys. She also currently serves on the board of Heights Community Congreg.

Matt Urminski taught druming at the Reaching Heights summer Music Camp. This past summer he traveled to Ghana to learn about African culture and take workshops with master drummer. “If I didn’t drum, I’d be frantic or bored,” he said. “It puts life into perspective.”

I didn’t drum, I’d be frantic or bored,” he said. “It puts life into perspective.

Support Community Building

Online Auction

at www.futureheights.cmaker.com

All items sell to the highest bidder on November 9, 2008.
Holley-Starling lives to capture the light

Tracey Cooley

The whole idea behind creating images for your family is to hold on to memories, to preserve relationships. Everyday pictures can do this, and it is that one photograph that captures the essence of the person, relationship or family that becomes precious. Creating precious images is a passion for Chris Holley-Starling. She believes that “every human being is beautiful” and when she can “find what makes them smile and light up, and capture that on film” then she’s in a special place. When we first spoke, the difference about photography. She considers capturing that light is what she enjoys the most about photography. She considers it a passion for Chris Holley-Starling. She believes that “every human being is beautiful” and when she can “find what makes them smile and light up, and capture that on film” then she’s in a special place.

She has a message for those reluctant to get their pictures taken and for those who don’t get pictures taken enough. “We all want pictures of our children and grandchildren and not so many of ourselves. But the way we treasure those pictures of the people we love, they will also treasure the pictures of us.”

She has developed strong relationships with many people in the community. She has been touched when clients bring her gifts from their honeymoons after she has photographed their weddings. She says it just blows her away when people do this. She’s had clients remember her on her birthdays and the holidays. She’s been in clients’ homes, been invited to birthday parties and baptisms. “It’s more than treating everybody the way you want to be treated. It’s about going beyond that and finding a relationship. We all want to be treated well, but we don’t always want to have a relationship with the people we meet. But in my business, I do,” she says.

Chris Holley-Starling is truly a compassionate and caring person. Stop in her Cleveland Heights studio and feel what a true sense of community is all about.

Tracey Cooley is the father of three and a true sense of community is all about.

Annie Chiu’s Sun Luck Garden reopens

Christina Klenotic

When it comes to cravings for Chinese cuisine, I admit Hunan Coventry has been my go-to stop in the Heights. But, this summer I heard lots of buzz about Sun Luck Garden's beloved owner, Annie Chiu, when a Who's Who list of Cleveland chefs hosted a benefit in her honor since she had to close the restaurant for a few months after emergency open-heart surgery.

At the restaurant recently reopened, I made my first visit to sample Chiu's warm disposition and contemporary Chinese cuisine, which features Szechuan, Cantonese and Mandarin dishes.

Calling a strip plaza home, both the restaurant's exterior and interior are unassuming and petite. But, the menu and staff are packed with personality.

Like a butterfly, Chiu floated to greet guests and knew some diners by name. In contrast, our server didn’t have the best social skills. For example, when we asked for appetizer suggestions, he said he hated when people asked for recommendations and trailed off without further explanation. We did just fine on our own.

For our appetizers, we enjoyed Sun Luck Garden's signature dish, mu shu chicken ($11.95), shredded chickens sautéed with vegetables and served in four Mandarin thin pancakes with a sweet Hoisin sauce (Chinese-style fajitas), and vegetarian kung pao ($9.95), soft wide rice noodles tossed with a Szechwan chili sauce. This latter dish was tasty.

Of course, we had to try it, and it did present a whiff of blueberry. For our entrees, we enjoyed mein ($11.95) to my order. However, Chiu’s presentation of Honey Walnut Chicken is very different than Hunan Coventry’s Chicken with Honey Walnuts, and I prefer Hunan’s simplified version. Chiu’s version is more of a stir fry.

The spring roll was the best I’ve had — a perfect flaky crust and very fresh veggies. The wonton soup’s full-bodied broth also was good, but it was a little sweet for my taste, a trend I noticed with other dishes. Unfortunately, the pork lo mein was unmemorable, possibly because I ordered it mild. I regret that Chiu’s famed spicy mussels that are served just a few times a year were not on the menu. But, I did add my e-mail address to the contact list for future notification. I also have heard her homemade sorbet is delicious, so I plan to sample some on my next visit.

For the next few months, Sun Luck Garden is only serving dinner, Tuesday through Sunday. Lunch will be added at a later date.

For her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a “good eater.” She enjoys sampling our area’s eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods.

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The Heights Observer Staff

Three Coventry stores are celebrating annihilaries this month. Mac’s Backs is turning 30, Vidstar Video 25, and Big Fun 18.

Mac’s Backs Founder Jim McSherry opened the book store 30 years ago when he was a graduate student at Kent State University. He then moved it to his hometown of Chagrin Falls and, in 1983, opened the second location in Cleveland Heights. Both stores operated simultaneously for several years and now the Coventry store is his only location.

Suzanne DeGaetano signed on as McSherry’s business partner in 1989. “Coventry’s store is his only location. His vision primarily is to maintain a world-class customer service experience. During a first visit, we want to get to know our customers’ individual needs and goals. We determine individual needs and goals. We start from there and set measurable goals,” she says. “Every person’s body and goals are different, which is why we customize each client’s workout to help them attain their own personal goals.”

“Many people want to get in shape but they talk themselves out of going at all or stop going shortly after they start. AAUF offers an inviting, non-threatening atmosphere that allows you to feel comfortable yet motivated which keeps you coming back.”

Personal training sessions combine in-clast and strength training. Price maximizes each workout to get the best workout in the least amount of time. AAUF also helps clients to formulate healthier diet plans and to improve overall wellness.

AAUF offers yoga, tai-chi, and ZUMBA classes to improve cardiovascular endurance, core strength, flexibility and stress relief. ZUMBA, the latest craze in the fitness industry, offers hypnotic rhythms and tantalizing moves in a dynamic workout designed to be fun and easy to do. AAUF also offers massage therapy and chiropractic services.

All About U Fitness is open seven days a week. Contact AAUF at 216-321-FITT (3488), www.allaboutufitness.org, or allaboutufitness@art.net.

Fomelo Price is a Cleveland Heights resident and co-owner of All About U Fitness.

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All About U Fitness is located in the Rockefeller Pointe Building, 2490 Lee Boulevard, lower level.

Fomelo Price

All About U Fitness (AAUF) is a new personal training facility located in the Rockefeller Pointe building at the corner of Mayfield Road and Lee Boulevard. Owner and certified personal fitness trainer Eric Price is fulfilling his lifelong dream of operating his own training center in the city he loves.

Price grew up in the Heights and graduated from Heights High. After jobs in Dayton and Atlanta, he has returned. He has been in the fitness industry for over 20 years, including participating in bodybuilding competitions. AAUF offers clients a unique fitness experience. During a first visit, Price performs a client assessment to determine individual needs and goals. He says, “Every person’s body and goals are different, which is why we customize each client’s workout to help them attain their own personal goals.”

Price has designed AAUF as an alternative to larger, impersonal health clubs which don’t tailor to each person as an individual with unique needs. Many people want to get in shape but are intimidated by the larger clubs so they talk themselves out of going at all or stop going shortly after they start. AAUF offers an inviting, non-threatening atmosphere that allows you to feel comfortable yet motivated which keeps you coming back.”

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Heights Observer November 4, 2008

Join the Conversation at www.heightsobserver.org
Six years ago there was an empty storefront in the historic Cedar Lee building, and the fledgling Heights Arts asked landlord Jonathan Forman if it could be used for a temporary holiday sale of work by local artists. The positive response to the sale led to the launching of Heights Arts Gallery, which has presented six annual exhibits of regional art ever since. But every year the gallery returns to its roots, and gathers prints, paintings, photography, ceramics, glass, jewelry, fiber, books, ornaments, CDs, and more for the sole purpose of selling quality hand-crafted work by regional artists for the holidays.

This year, familiar artists return with new work, and new artists have been added to the show. Glass by Brent Kee Young, Mark Sudduth, and Todd Anderson joins the work of new artists for the holidays.

Bonnie Dolan returns with urban and wintery domestic pastels of the 1950’s on functional pieces. There is no clearer message to artists that they are vital to our community than purchasing their work. It is easy to find affordable original gifts for just about anyone at the Holiday Store.

Heights Arts Gallery is located at 2575 Lee Rd., a few steps from the Cedar Lee Theater. The store is open Nov. 8 – Dec. 30, Tues. - Sat. noon – 9 p.m., Mon. 6 – 9 p.m., closed Sunday.

Find more information at www.heightsarts.org or call 216.371.3457.

Bonnie Dolan’s pastels are back again this year.

Uruthy Goto and Barbara Humpage’s suburban landscape pastels in a clear

Brenda Grey is a freelance writer, Cleveland Heights resident, and part-time Heights Arts House Concert audience member.

If you would like to attend a concert or become a sponsor, please contact Heights Arts at 216.371.3457 or by email at heightsarts@heightsarts.org.
When the ill winds of the foreclosure crisis rendered Northeast Ohio ground zero in the massive economic game changer, Richard Stewart was on the story. A 1984 Heights High graduate, Stewart recently won an Emmy from the Great Lakes Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for outstanding achievement in the category of Public/Current/Community Affairs. Stewart is executive producer of the documentary Don't Borrow Trouble for production company Broadcast Media Ideas. The 30-minute video examines how the foreclosure crisis impacted Northeast Ohio and how Cuyahoga County government fought to combat the problem. The show, produced for the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, aired on public access TV in the Cleveland area.

Sitting in a banquet room for the awards ceremony with his colleagues and his wife, Virginia, Stewart heard his name announced and slowly began to absorb the exciting news that he had won the Emmy. “I had resigned myself to being content with simply being nominated,” he said. “But when U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich [who was presenting the award] said the first word in the title of our program, a wave of euphoria swept over me. It was what I could only describe as suspended animation for about five minutes.”

Writing and producing the award-winning documentary, Stewart spent a good deal of time poring over data and interviewing those affected by the foreclosure crisis. He interviewed local and national government officials, leaders of nonprofit organizations, attorneys and victims of foreclosure. “This project was a bit different for us in that it was probably the most in-depth piece Broadcast Media Ideas has ever produced,” Stewart said. “It wouldn’t have been possible without the help from creative director Brandon Kroeger and owner Michael Settonni.”

The recognition validates a 15-year career in TV journalism and video production. Stewart fell in love with video while studying broadcast journalism at Kent State University, where he graduated with a degree in journalism with a focus in broadcast. He worked as a reporter at several TV stations in the south, including stops in Wilmington, NC; Fort Myers, FL; and Portsmouth, VA. He eventually returned to the Cleveland area. In 2002, he reunited with Settonni, a former Cleveland TV newsman and old friend who founded Broadcast Media Ideas, a full-service video production and marketing company in 1999.

Stewart shares a Cleveland Heights home on a tree-lined street with his wife Virginia and two cats, not far from where he grew up. He intends to help grow BMI into a major player in the Cleveland video production scene to help local businesses expand in Northeast Ohio.

Top: “Classical Rock Star” Joshua Roman performs the Schumann Cello Concerto in a free concert with CityMusic Cleveland on November 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Mohtudo Okantah, poet-in-residence at Kent State University, narrates “Peter and the Wolf” at CityMusic Cleveland’s free concert on November 8 at 3 p.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

Rain pelts the campfire.

Ashes rise and fall again;
early autumn snow.

Winter harbinger
more accurate than the frost;
nose runs constantly.

Kathleen Cerveny
2008 Haiku Death Match Winner
Congratulations to Kathleen Cerveny, winner of the 2008 Haiku Death Match, part of the Joy of Text Festival presented by Heights Arts.

Beverly Simmons is marketing director and a founder of CityMusic Cleveland. She is half of the cabaret duo Rent-a-Yenta, sings with Quire Cleveland, Apollo’s Fire, and Bethany Synagogue, and is a free-lance graphic designer.
Journey to Bethlehem

Ronald Werman

Disciples Christian Church will present its own Christmas gift to the community. On Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008, continu-
yously from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Disciples Christian Church will present Journey to Bethlehem—a walk-through drama that recreates the sights and sounds of Bethlehem's marketplace at the time of Christ's birth.

Before you enter Bethlehem, there will be an audience with King Herod and then be counted in the census. Once in Beth-
lehem, interact with street merchants as literal as you view some animals. Watch craftsmen at their work and be prodded along by Roman guards. Listen while townspeople, shepherds and other biblical characters set the stage for the discovery of the newborn baby in the stable. As you wait your turn to enter Bethlehem, you could be entertained by the No Strings Attached puppetry. You could also listen to performances by the church's Chancel Choir or soloists and participate in a Christmas carol-

singing along.

Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone across from Severance Town Center), has of-
f ered this free gift to the community since 1986. For more information, visit www.discipleschristian.org or call 216-
532-5344.

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

Music at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fair-
mount Blvd., will hold free November-concerts:

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008 3:30 p.m. Karel Paukert, organ works by: Johann Sebastian Bach, Cesar Franck and Jehan Alain

Contact carolyns@wipper.com for more information.

Rainbow Peace Ministry prays for East Cleveland

Heights Observer Staff

Sister Marietta Rohr, a Sister of Char-
ity of St. Augustine and a Cleveland Heights resident, was inspired to found the Rainbow Peace Ministry, united community leaders, to promote peace and send positive messages.

- Sr. Marietta believes that goodness
has an ever expanding effect in our
universe. This ministry, she feels, is a
way of sending positive messages that
promote the power of peace mutually,
for ourselves as well as for others. “So
as you bless the city of East Cleveland
with heartfelt prayer, you and your city
will also be blessed,” says Sr. Marietta.

- She believes that as the movement
of prayer is taken seriously by more
and more people, it will grow as a powerful
means of blessings for the four Catholic
parishes in East Cleveland and Cleveland
Heights that have been clustered as part
of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese's consolida-
tion plan, along with supporting the
ministries of the East Cleveland
Concerned Pastors and their congrega-
tions. “Their ministries of similar focuses
will be strengthened. Everyone in East
Cleveland will be blessed,” she says.

- Sr. Marietta hopes to someday have
a very special Spirit Day event in which
all Rainbow Peace Ministry members
will be invited to come together to ap-
preciate one another, pray together, and
learn more about the city of East Cleve-
land, Cleveland Heights’ neighbor-
hood.

To become a member or obtain information, contact Sr. Marietta at 216-321-4502.

“Bringin’ it back to the playground”

Open Doors Academy 2008 Kickball/ Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser

Ronald Werman

Unfortunately, the Open Doors stu-
dent team was eliminated in the second round of kickball. However, they held their own and made it to the champi-

onship round of dodge-ball. Although they put up a good fight, they lost out. Team Anatomy in the final round.

The Open Doors Parent/Teacher Team dominated the kickball field, taking home the 2008 championship!

For more information on the Open Doors Academy Program, please visit www.opendoorsacademy.org or contact us at 216-229-1900.

Annemarie Grassi is executive director of Open Door Academy.
Heights High Soccer Wrap up

Girls Rebound, Boys Rebuild
Keith Gisser

The Heights High soccer teams ended their seasons in eerily familiar heart-breaking fashion this year. The ninth-seeded girls lost 2-1 in first round State Tournament play at fifth-seeded Willoughby South in a penalty kick shoot-out after 80 minutes of regular time and 30 minutes of overtime could not determine a winner. The boys, seeded 12th, appeared headed for overtime as well, tied 1-1 with the Rebels in their tourney match, but a controversial penalty kick with 47 seconds left in regulation gave Willoughby South the 2-1 win.

The boys’ team, rebuilding after their District Final appearance in 2007, finished the season 2-13-2. They were led by senior goalkeeper Steve Buchholz, who was named the Lake Erie League Player of the Year. Seniors James Dodo and Mike Kenny were on-field leadership from current sophomores Jared Alcorn and Ciaran Cohen. Without any seniors, but should receive Justin Yarham and Mike Kenny.

Sullivan’s squad. Sullivan was assisted by coaches Robbie Hedgstrom, John Tigges, Justin Golm and Mike Kenny.

In 2008, the young Tigers will be without any seniors, but should receive on-field leadership from current sophomores Jared Alcorn and Ciaran Cohen. Freshman Jonah Meesig will have big gloves to fill while replacing Buchholz in goal, but he has shown flashes of brilliance this year. Freshmen Jake Stern and Gabe Brown will anchor an exciting back four, while the Ward twins, Eli and Bennett, will also see significant time.

The Lady Tigers posted a 6-9-2 record, their best in five years. They gave up just nine goals in their final seven games and just five in their last five matches, scoring 49 on the season, a 50% increase from last year. A well-placed 2-0 loss at Mentor kept the team from sharing the Lake Erie League title for the first time in at least eight years.

In 2009, the Lady Tigers will lose just four seniors, captains Christina Holland, Jennnessa Gaffney and Emma Chupp, and goalkeeper Aubree Lieberman, a converted forward, took over the goalkeeping chores when the team found itself without a net minder at the start of the season. She ended up as runner-up for Lake Erie League Player of the Year and was named to the All-conference team with Holland and junior Leslie Smith, who was the team’s leading scorer with 11 goals, eight assists and 30 points.

Varisty assistant coach Suzi Siwinski and junior varsity head coach Kyle Gisser, both new to the coaching staff, share much credit for the team’s turnaround.

“We will miss our seniors,” says Siwinski, “especially Aubree. But we return 80% of our goals and we are upgrading our schedule for next year. The squad has a chance to do some very special things in 2009.”

Keith Gisser is an award winning sports journalist and former standup comic who also serves as head coach of the Heights High Lady Tiger Soccer team.
Taking back our community: foreclosure assistance

Kimberly Dominique

No one will deny that the foreclosure crisis is affecting the community in its entirety. Still, the reality of a foreclosure is hard to face. If you find you cannot make your mortgage payment on time, becoming proactive may prevent the loss of your home.

Take two steps: contact your lender and contact a HUD-approved counseling agency. The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) is a HUD-certified counseling agency that provides foreclosure intervention and prevention counseling. The center also offers financial literacy classes on budgeting and credit education. All services are free.

When a first-time homeowner, who was raising two children on a disability check, defaulted on three consecutive mortgage payments she contacted HRRC. Her home was in danger of becoming sold at a sheriff’s sale.

HRRC’s foreclosure specialist took several steps. First, the specialist analyzed the client’s documents and discussed all possible options. Next, came suggestions on changing monthly spending. The specialist contacted the lender on the client’s behalf and negotiated an affordable mortgage payment that allowed the client to keep her home.

There is not one standard solution for a household in foreclosure prevention. The options available depend on the household’s circumstances and the type of mortgage.

HRRC is here to help prevent foreclosures and intervene if the process is underway. To make an appointment, call 216-381-6100, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F.

Kimberly Dominique is a foreclosure specialist who joined the HRRC in May 2008.

Prepare your yard for winter

Douglas Freer

Soon, a wintry blanket of snow and ice will cover our yards. Now is the time to run through the checklist of fall yard maintenance items before it’s too late.

• Remove leaves and sticks from garden beds, lawns and other areas.
• Remove annuals and other seasonal plants.
• Cut down perennials after several killing frosts.
• Divide perennials and remove unwanted plants from the garden.
• Mulch around the base of tender perennials and plants that need extra insulation during the winter. Mulch beds with compost, leaf humus or Sweet Peat.
• Dig and store tender perennials, tubers and summer bulbs.
• Cut the lawn until the air temperatures are consistently below 50º F. Don’t leave the lawn tall going into winter.
• Apply the last round of lawn fertilizer when temperatures are below 40º F; this will help root development and prepare the grass for spring growth.
• Plant spring flowering bulbs before the ground freezes.
• Turn off in-ground irrigation systems, drain and blow out the system.
• Drain and winterize water features.
• Empty, clean and store bird baths.
• Empty clay pots; store them in a covered, dry location for winter.
• Stop feeding the fish in the water features.
• Clean out catch basins, drains and window wells. (Better now than when they’re backed up)
• Re-edge garden beds; this will make it easier in the spring to reestablish the edges.
• Water plants one last time before cooling up the hoses, particularly evergreen plants (rhododendron, holly, azaleas, conifers, etc.).
• Spray anti-desiccant on plants, particularly broadleaved evergreens that are exposed to winter winds.
• Inspect outdoor lighting, replace bulbs as needed. Adjust timer as necessary.
• Stack fire wood up off the ground, cover with a tarp to keep dry.
• Prune plants now only for clearance along driveways, walks and buildings or to remove any damaged or diseased plant parts. Hold off on major pruning until late winter and early spring.

Good sanitation is important to maintaining a healthy landscape. By cleaning up leaves and dead plant parts you will minimize the potential for recurring disease. A clean landscape also minimizes places that rodents and other pests can hide.

For a comprehensive season-by-season check list of lawn and garden do’s, visit www.lawnlad.com or call 216-374-1935.

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