The sound of music at Coventry School

Mark Majewski

A glimmer of sunshine has broken through the overcast saga of the empty Coventry Elementary School. On Dec. 16, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education directed school board staff to enter into lease negotiations with the Cleveland Music School Settlement.

The board’s decision followed a very positive recommendation presented by Jayne Geneva on behalf of the Lay Finance Committee. Geneva stated that the committee had voted unanimously in support of the settlement’s application. “This organization has the application to fully respond,” said Geneva. “This was the only unanimous in support of the settlement’s application. “This was the only unanimous in support of the settlement’s application.”

Geneva’s statement was made by Jayne Geneva on behalf of the Lay Finance Committee. Geneva stated that the committee had voted unanimously in support of the settlement’s application. “This organization has the application to fully respond,” said Geneva. “This was the only unanimous in support of the settlement’s application.”

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Ten things Cleveland Heights can do to be a greener suburb on the blue lake

Marc Lefkowitz

My day job has me reporting on the many innovative ideas that are finally coalescing into a Cleveland sustainability agenda. It leaves me with little time to write about what’s happening in my own backyard. Cleveland Heights has plenty of good people working on these issues. They need support and active engagement from you and me.

Here’s my wish list for a Cleveland Heights green agenda:

1. Adopt policies that will improve energy efficiency, save the city money and reduce its ecological footprint. For example, mandate that all city buildings and schools have solar panels. The Cleveland Heights City Council has already passed a resolution calling for the city to have 100% renewable energy by 2020. Let’s make that a reality.

2. Support local and organic food. Cleveland Heights already has a thriving farmers’ market, and many residents grow their own vegetables. Let’s encourage more people to do the same.

3. Reduce waste. Cleveland Heights already has a recycling program, but we can do more. Let’s start a composting program to reduce food waste.

4. Encourage bike commuting. Cleveland Heights has a bike-sharing program, but we need more bike lanes and bike-friendly infrastructure.

5. Support green buildings. Cleveland Heights has a green building program, but we need more incentives for developers to build green.

6. Protect our water. Cleveland Heights already has a blue lake, but we need to protect it from pollution. Let’s support local efforts to cleanup the lake and its watershed.

7. Protect our forests. Cleveland Heights already has a tree planting program, but we need to do more to protect our trees.

8. Protect our air. Cleveland Heights already has an air quality program, but we need to do more to reduce air pollution.

9. Support green transportation. Cleveland Heights already has a bike-sharing program, but we need more bike lanes and bike-friendly infrastructure.

10. Support green energy. Cleveland Heights already has a solar energy program, but we need more incentives for developers to build solar.

Cleveland Heights can recycle your techno-trash

Marc Majewski

Technology changes so rapidly, it makes many computers, cell phones and other gadgets obsolete quickly. What does an ecologically responsible person do with an outdated cell phone? The City of Cleveland Heights can help.

Residents can bring items to special "techno-trash" cans located in the Cleveland Heights City Hall atrium, 47 Severance Circle, and at the Community Center at Monticello Boulevard and Mayfield Road.

Old CDs, DVDs, diskettes, audio and video tapes, cell phones, laptops, PDAs, digital cameras, rechargeable batteries and inkjet and laser cartridges can be recycled in the city’s techno-trash program.

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In 2008 millions of us woke up to our new business: bail bondsman.

But we forgot to hold collateral against the bond of $75 billion to the financial tycoons. We also forgot to ask the automotive giants in Detroit for collateral for the first bond of $17 billion.

Our elected representatives have more giants in line waiting for us to “bail out.” And yes, some of our money will become the campaign donations of tomorrow.

Enough! We want hard collateral for our effort or we do not want to be bail bondsmen.

Enough! These criminals of bad business are LEED-certified (a standard set by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design created by the U.S. Green Building Council) and all operations are Energy Star rated (a standard created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency).

2. Continue strict housing inspections and maintain high standards for preserving our historic buildings. Cleveland Heights has not listed its commercial districts in the National Register of Historic Places. And, the city will continue to miss the boat on historic preservation funds unless it applies, as Shaker did when Cleveland went ahead, to be a Certified Local Government, a federal-state-local partnership that enables eligible communities to conduct preservation activities in cooperation with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

3. Continue to improve walkability. Cleveland Heights’ competitive advantage on the suburban level is its interesting mix of the urban and the suburban. To maintain that niche, we need planning that improves walkability as we’re seeing in the Cedar Fairview corridor.

4. Improve bicycling facilities. Place bike racks strategically throughout all commercial districts, schools, community centers and libraries – and in city-owned parking garages. Add “sharrow” pavement markers on Cedar, Mayfield, Lee, and Coventry roads and Euclid Heights Boulevard; these would remind motorists to share the road with cyclists. Hold events like the Ride for Miles, which celebrated the life of Miles Courborn last September and drew together 600 people of all ages and skill levels to peddle on the street. Offer bike education courses for adults and kids and create a plan to improve the bicycle connections to University Circle.

5. Don’t allow the city to be overrun by chain stores. Support locally owned businesses, which are more sustainable because they locate in existing footprints and use better use of existing infrastructure.

6. Educate the next generation on how to live green. Introduce a sustainability curriculum starting at the elementary school level with hands-on learning. Donate the site of the former Cleveland Heights Garden Center to the area to adopt chef Alice Waters’ idea of the edible schoolyard.

7. Become a standard-bearer for green infrastructure. That means encouraging gravel driveways, rain gardens, downspout disconnection for rain barrels, tree planting and preservation, replacing tree lawns with green streets, edible yards and more community gardens.

8. Continue to build new housing options. Plan for a post-recession economy with the completion of a mixed-use development at Lee and Meadowbrook roads.

9. Realize this is not an issue controversial, but think twice before endorsing the Opportunity Corridor, the new highway connecting Cleveland’s west side and University Circle. Cleveland Heights’ proximity is its proximity to University Circle. This highway will only facilitate more sprawl away from the Heights.

10. Form a community green team to help the city increase its recycling rate, improve energy efficiency, and implement a plan that fulfills its Climate Change Action plans. Mayor Kelley signed in 2007.

Mark Lebowitz is the Web editor for the GreenCityBlueLake Institute (gcitybl) at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He supports his wife’s endeavor’s in her Harpshire Road community garden plot, Coventry Road as a member of the SID advisory group, and cannot imagine living anywhere else than Cleveland Heights, the best city in the world.
I am a Guitar Hero!

Kris Hickey

My name is Kris Hickey and I am addicted to Guitar Hero. Whew! Now that that’s out there, I feel much better. My addiction began when I started playing the game at my brother-in-law’s house. We were in the midst of planning our first Guitar Hero Tournament at the Lee Road Library when I realized I’d better do some more research. Young Adult Librarian Sam Lapides and I started playing the game together before the kids arrived and there was no looking back!

I had never worked with teens before this job and was trying to figure out what a 35-year-old mother of two could have in common with today’s youth. Surprisingly, it is music! Guitar Hero is mostly based on the music I grew up listening to. Artists like Metallica, Heart, Guns and Roses, Nirvana and the Red Hot Chili Peppers take center stage in this game. I have news for these teens! These bands were cool when I was in high school. I remember being a freshman in high school when “Appetite for Destruction” and “And Justice For All” came out. I was a senior when Kurt Cobain changed the music scene forever with “Nevermind.” Kids today still think these hands are cool, they consider them classic rock, but still.

Because of this game I have been able to get to know some spectacular teens that live in our community. As the rest are disassembled and the materials recycled. Inkjet and laser cartridges are evaluated for resale. Toner is removed from those that are unusable and the plastic is recycled.

In 2007, the city of Cleveland Heights collected 35,999.04 tons of waste material. 51.8% was sent to a landfill and the remaining 48.19% was recycled (see related article).

Recycling not only saves material from going to a landfill, it also can be a source of revenue for the city. In 2007, the city earned $606,879 (r) from the recycling of mixed paper, batteries, used oil and solvents, plastic, cans, glass, scrap metal and techno-trash. While it costs the city to process mixed yard waste, some computer materials and tires (a total of 50,993 in 2007) and recycled materials prices are going down, the net result remains positive.

If you have a question about a particular item or need more information about recycling, call the city’s service department at 216-691-7300.

Check out video games at the Lee Road Library!

Sam Lapides

Do you have an X-BOX 360, PlayStation, or Wii at home? If you do, then you know that buying games can be expensive. So check out one of 20 of the latest games for these three consoles at the Lee Road Library.

The games are not reserveable, but are available on a first come first serve basis and can be checked out for one week. Games are limited to one game per card. The selection will refresh every three months, so be sure to check in often.

As we start, for the first time ever, circulating video games, many of you may be asking, “Why is the library circulating video games?” Gaming has become an increasingly popular form of entertainment and a valuable cognitive tool.

We want to do better at serving the gaming enthusiasts in our community, and you may be surprised to learn who these folks are. According to an Entertainment Software Association survey conducted on July 17, 2008, 65% of American households play computer and video games and 38% of American homes have a video game console. The average game player is 35 years old and one out of four gamers is over age 50. Women age 18 or older represent a significantly greater portion of the gaming population (33 percent) than boys age 17 or younger (16 percent). And, 43% of Americans expect to purchase one or more games this year.

These numbers are very persuasive. That is why we have added gaming into part of our collection. Here’s a sampling of the current rotation: “NASCAR 09,” “Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter 2,” “Mafia & Sonic at the Olympic Games,” “Star Wars: The Complete Saga,” “Virtual Fighter 5” and “Resistance: Fall of Man.”

Happy gaming to you!

Sam Lapides is the young adult librarian at the Lee Road Library.

Featured Heights Libraries Programs

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road 321.3400
Star Light, Star Bright Storytime: January 12, 7 p.m.
SciFi Book Club: January 8, 6 p.m.
NIA Coffeehouse: January 20, 6 p.m.
Deaf Gatherings: January 26, 6:30 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road 932.3600
Twilight Tales: January 15, 7:15 p.m.
Let’s Read Storytime: January 21, 7 p.m.
ExploraStory: Thursdays, January 29 - March 5, 10 a.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road 291.5665
Mystery Evening: January 8, 7 p.m.
Youth Production Inc: January 6 & 27, 6 p.m.
Noble Knitting Circle: January 15 & 29, 7 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road 321.4700
Gossip Readers Book Discussion: January 13, 6 p.m.
Gung Hay Fat Choi: January 25, 2:30 p.m.
A Brown Cow Storytime: Tuesdays, January 27 - March 3, 1 p.m.
Senior Spot: Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

More information: www.heightslibrary.org or call 216.932.3600.
LEAF POLICY continued from page 1

Several residents called the city in late November asking if the city planned to continue picking up leaves that were raked to tree lawns and were told, “No. Leaves must be bagged after Nov. 10.” Yet, last month, city trucks began picking up piles of leaves on tree lawns and a new message on the city’s refuse and recycling line (216-691-7300) stated that “due to inclement weather, leaf collection has been extended.”

City residents were angry and confused. One resident said that he spent all day raking leaves because of the new policy. He was surprised to see the trucks removing his neighbors’ leaves in December.

According to Alis Mannarino, the manager of the city’s division of refuse and recycling, although leaf collection was to take place from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30 and his department borrowed employees from other city departments in order to make it happen, inclement weather made leaf collection impossible.

On Dec. 8, CH City Council approved extending leaf pickup into December. The proposal may have made up for the w ried customers asked for extra service.

Doug Freer, owner of Lawn Lad, said his company filled 156 Kraft bags for one cus- tomer, which took his firm an additional 10 man hours and added $547 to the cus- tomer’s bill. “That’s a cost she should not have had to pay, but what’s happening with the city’s policy,” he said.

While Freer may have made up for his lost revenue, the reduced leaf policy did not work as well as expected this year and there wasn’t adequate time to communicate the new pickup schedule. “In order for the leaf crews to go out and do all of this work twice in a month,” said Councilwoman Nancy Dietrich, “they would have to start the second (and supposedly final) trip around Nov. 15. People logically thought they had the entire month to put their leaves out, but mid-month was just too late. So of course the crews ended up doing a third sweep of the city, which put off other planned work and also had to be delayed due to snow. We have to re-think it for next fall.”

If you have suggestions on how to improve leaf pickup for next year, contact the City of Cleveland Heights at 216-691-7300 or pwd@clvhts.com.

Deanna Bromer Fisher, a 15-year resident of Cleveland Heights, is the executive director of Freshwaters, a nonprofit dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life in the Heights.

Cleveland Heights City Council
Highlights of November/December meetings

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Poets Laureate anthologized
Peggy Spahr, director of Heights Arts, presented to each council member a recently published anthology of the work of the three poets laureate of Cleveland Heights. Meredith Holmes and Lorne Weiss, two of the poets, read from the anthology.

Water rates announced
As of Jan. 1, the water rates for the fourth year of a five-year agreement with Cleveland will be $55.43 per 1,000 cubic feet, $40.47 for customers with homestead exemptions.

Recycling advantageous
Although prices for recycled materials have fallen, recycling is still advanta- geous because the city does not have to pay landfill costs for recycled waste.

New Song Church at former Severance Athletic Club
The request by New Song Church for a place of worship at the property that was formerly the Severance Athletic Club was approved after provisions regarding traf- fic, parking, landscaping, windows, and neighborhood concerns were dealt with. The numerous church members in atten- dance with their minister responded with Cleveland Heights City Council

City councilors expressed concern about their 3rd and 30th purchases under this program; eight houses have been demolished and 13 sold.

Winter precautions
Drivers were urged to be aware of their speed and of bikers, especially on side streets, which will not be salted, only plowed, after snowfall. Raked leaves must be bagged after December 1. Hunger cen- ters are in need of additional support.

MLK Day program rescheduled
The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day com- memoration will be rescheduled so that it will not conflict with Inauguration Day.

City financial status
As the staff reviews income and expense statements, the city appears to be in the black. Projections indicate that some needs, such as foreclosure relief, street repairs and development, cannot be met with funds in 2009. Federal neighborhoo...
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008
All Council members present.

Animal control with South Euclid
Council passed a resolution to authorize an Animal Control Services Agreement with South Euclid.

Road salt shortage
Service Superintendent Chris Vild gave an update on the road salt shortage. Although he continues to contact vendors and salt is available, he hasn’t yet received a quote for an acceptable price for a reasonable quantity. Cleveland Heights will sell University Heights salt if their supplier, Cargill, will permit it. University Heights is currently considering using a salt-cinder mix. The storage unit in Cleveland Heights is not set up for such a mix. Using this mix also entails an increased cost for cleaning sewers.

University Parkway project
Engineer Joe Ciuni reported that 39 of 29 homes on Silsby Road have been disconnected from the temporary water supply. The University Parkway project was the end of the week. Ciuni also stated that there was no plan to interview residents or John Carroll University community members.

Website vendors:
Councilmember Frank Console stated that three website vendors had made presentations. A decision will be postponed until 2009 due to budget constraints.

Charter Review Commission:
Speaking from the audience, resident Kate Uhler requested a well-publicized town hall meeting, including councilmembers, to discuss the pros and cons of changing the city government and state the approximate cost of such a change. She requested a citywide mailing in January to inform the community of the meeting.

Concerns about NEO/SO:
Former University Heights councilmember Susan Infeld expressed concerns about hiring NEO/SO (the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office) to evaluate the city’s efficiency and cost-saving process. Her issues included the identification and evaluation of city functions, an efficiency review, a study of fees and service charges, and shared services. Infeld was also concerned that there was no plan to interview residents or John Carroll University community members.

Results of “Voices and Choices”:
Former University Heights Councilman Steve Bennett reported that the agenda for Advance Northeast Ohio focuses on four areas: business growth, talent development, racial and economic inclusion, and government collaboration and efficiency.

Ochoa to be part-time director
Council reappointed Arman R. Ochoa as director of finance on a part-time basis for 2009. Ochoa will be employed by the city of Cleveland Heights as one of today’s leading interpreters of classical and romantic music. He will perform works by Bach and Chopin. Mr. Ochoa will present a Master class with CIM students, free and open to the public, on January 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting summaries have been edited and prepared by Charlene Morse, Marilyn McLaughlin and Maryann Barns.

Citizen journalism is spelled Y-O-U.
Every article you read in the Heights Observer is written by a volunteer. Join local grassroots support of a strong and vibrant Heights by writing your neighborhood and group’s news, issues, and events for the Heights Observer.

The Heights Observer is looking for people, ages 1 - 100, to get involved. We need volunteer writers, photographers, designers, editors and illustrators. It does not matter if you are a professional in whatever, we will be glad to teach you.

Join the conversation at www.heightsobserver.org

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEWS

University Heights City Council
Highlights of November/December meetings

Road salt
Service Supervisor Chris Vild reported that University Heights had been placed on a list for road salt that ODOT had stockpiled. Vice Mayor Adele Zucker reported that a policy of “sensible salting” was discussed at the Service and Utilities Committee meeting. Sensible salting means plowing and salting busy intersections and main roads while just plowing side streets. Residents will be informed of this via the City Watch reverse telephone system.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

CM welcomes pianist Richard Goode, recognized worldwide as one of today’s leading interpreters of classical and romantic music. He will perform works by Bach and Chopin. Mr. Goode will present a Master class with CIM students, free and open to the public, on January 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets $40
Call 216.791.5000 or purchase online at cim.edu.

H MASTERS SERIES

Richard Goode
January 23 at 8:00 p.m.

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Open House at Saint Ann

Stephanie Applegate

Is your child ready for Kindergarten? Are you considering a move to a new school? If so, Saint Ann School cordially invites you to attend one of its January open houses. More than just a striking Cleveland Heights landmark, Saint Ann School is an institution that has effectively and impressively educated the youth of our city for over 90 years.

A diverse community of motivated learners, Saint Ann students are inspired to and regularly meet the challenges of a curriculum that stresses academic, social, and spiritual development. Thousands of commuters pass the imposing granite structure located at the corner of Coventry and Cedar roads everyday and may wonder what this “best kept secret in the Heights” has to offer.

It offers state-of-the-art science labs and a technology center. It provides wireless laptops for students and SMART Board technology in every classroom. It offers an enrichment program and National Honor Society. Saint Ann School defines itself to lead a healthy, green life.

Carol Provan

Ruffing Montessori.

Ruffing Montessori School defines itself as a green school through a comprehensive program that prepares students with an education for life. Located at 3380 Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights, Ruffing has, over the past few years, undergone a significant physical renewal following LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) guidelines for design, construction and operation of a high-performance green building. Two highlights are the geothermal heating and cooling system and the solar panels connected to an inverter that changes the collected direct current into alternating current for usable electricity—about enough to power the geothermal system.

Guiding principles in the school are Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. This is implemented by many school policies and practices which include green cleaning products for healthier air, green procurement to reduce environmental impact, a no waste lunch program, energy efficiency, extensive use of natural light, water harvesting for garden maintenance and an extensive recycling program.

What impact does this have on students? In addition to the school’s basic curriculum, there is a supplemental green curriculum so that students fully understand, on age appropriate levels, the principles and design for sustainable living that surround them. The young students begin with vocabulary and simple ideas, and the sophistication increases to include a student-designed living roof and student monitored solar power calculations. The student-implemented no waste lunch policy eliminates 14,000 pounds of garbage every school year and the student Recycling Club oversees separation and disposal of classroom and office trash.

Ruffing Montessori School is fully committed to being a green school and to producing citizens who understand and promote a healthy green lifestyle.

Carol Provan is director of development for Ruffing Montessori.

WASHINGTON & LEE AUTO SERVICE

We service domestic and import vehicles and light duty trucks.

Come in and guess items in our stained glass window and enter your name in our drawing for a FREE Oil Change!

2080 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights (216) 371-2850


SUMMER RUFFING IT

June 22 - July 31

where art & nature meet science & sports soar film & dance celebrate & creativity blooms

A Summer To Grow On Ages 3-6
Creative Arts and Sciences Grades 1-4
Up & Ahead Grades 7-8

Ruffing Montessori School
3380 Fairmount Blvd.
Cleveland Heights 216 932 7888

www.ruffingmontessori.net

Susan Lacey Antonelli

Unlike double knit polyester, Godspell survived the seventies. First performed in 1971, this joyous musical allegory represents goodness and love, values that never go out of style. Lasting ideals along with Godspell’s singular hippie happiness and genre-jumping Stephen Schwartz score are why it remains a timeless toe-tapper still today.

Based on the Gospel According to Saint Matthew, Godspell aims to change the world one theater-lover at a time, a goal that, in our often uncertain social, political and economic climate, is one of the reasons Heights Youth Theater chose to perform this powerful show. The ebullient cast romps through “Day By Day,” “Save the People,” and “All Good Gifts” while presenting modern day retellings of the parables through pantomime, vaudevillian acrobatics, comedy, song and dance. Innocently fun while at the same time profoundly appropriate, the show’s colorful depictions of compassion, forgiveness and generosity illuminate Jesus’ eternal teachings by altering the means through which they are normally delivered, making them accessible and real.

Musicals are famous for creating copious good cheer. But Godspell takes that sense of mirth a step further, bolstering both actors and audiences with feelings of friendship, hope and benevolence. HYT’s guest director, Sean Szaler, recognized the power and value in these collective emotions and created a momentum-building outlet called “Godspell Gives Back,” a community service program for his actors.

Szaler issued a call to action, inviting his charismatic ensemble to go off Broadway. HYT style. Groups of actors will take selected song and dance numbers on the road, spreading merriment, infectious enthusiasm, and high-hopes all across Cleveland. They have already entertained audiences at the Cleveland Clinic and Whole Foods, and are preparing to bring down the house at the Hospice of the Western Reserve and the Children’s Museum, proving once and for all that actions sing louder than words.

Heights Youth Theater presents Godspell on Friday, Jan. 16, 23 and 30 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2:00 p.m. at Wiley Middle School, 2181 Miramar Blvd. Susan is a freelance writer, the editor of the Web site Ladies Who Launch, and a Heights Youth Theater board member.

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

The Heights Middle schools are preparing for the regional Science Olympiad competitions. Shown here from left to right are: Kayla Poirier, Bryen Kent, Bobby B. Jones, Tommy Phair, Grace Philips and Nathan Friel, who are part of Ruxboro Middle School’s “Height Stuff”ommteam. Other event teams (among others) include building robots for a mobility competition and harnessing renewal energy sources, such as wind power. Competition against other local schools begins in January.

Susan Lacey Antonelli

Heights Youth Theatre performs Godspell

That’s what makes Rox science fair such a unique event. It’s not only a place where kids can showcase their interests and talent, but also a place where they can learn from each other and have fun. It’s a celebration of discovery and innovation, and a great opportunity for students to explore and express themselves in a way that’s meaningful to them.

This year’s fair is on March 11th, and is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The fair is divided into various categories, including science, technology, math, art, and more. Each student is required to submit a project in one of these categories, and the judges will be looking for creativity, originality, and scientific accuracy.

One of the highlights of the fair is the grand prize competition. The grand prize is a trip to a science museum of the winner’s choice, along with a cash prize. The judges will select the project that best meets the criteria for the grand prize, which includes originality, scientific accuracy, and creativity.

In addition to the grand prize competition, there are also opportunities for students to participate in workshops and demonstrations, where they can learn new skills and gain insight into different fields of study. These activities are led by professionals in their fields, who are dedicated to sharing their knowledge and passion with the next generation of scientists.

The fair is not just for students, but also for their families and teachers. It’s a great opportunity for families to come together and support their children as they participate in the fair. Teachers can also participate in the fair, either as judges or by volunteering to help out with the event.

This year’s fair is looking to be the best yet, with even more opportunities for students to showcase their talent and learn from each other. So mark your calendars and don’t miss out on the fun and educational experience that is Rox science fair.

That’s why it’s important to encourage students to participate in events like these, where they can learn from each other and have fun. It’s a great way to promote discovery, innovation, and a love of science that will last a lifetime.
What are they doing now?

Lito Gonzalez

RAJIV JOSEPH ’92 is an American play- righter. In April 2008, he was awarded the Vineyard Theatre’s Paula Vogel Award which is given to emerging playwrights, and his play Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo was chosen by the NEA as one of two Outstanding new American plays (which receive grants of $90,000 each). The Center Theater Group in Los Angeles will produce Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo as part of its 2009 season. It is a darkly comedic drama, which takes the audience to the streets of Baghdad where the lives of two American soldiers, an Iraqi translator, and a tiger intersect, changing each other’s lives forever.

Rajiv received his B.A. in creative writing from Miami University, served in the Peace Corps for three years, and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts in 2004. His other plays include Huck &Holden, All This Intimacy and Animals Out of Place.

DAVID BINNING ’97 is playing with three groups in Portland, Oregon. SubAtomic is a live electronic Improv Quartet that fuses jazz, breakbeat, drum & bass, and edgy downtempo grooves. The group started in March 2007. According to the group’s website, www.subatomicpdx.com, “Dave Binning plays trumpet into effects pedals creating on-the-fly loops that weave a smooth ambient texture and will carry you through space and time.” David also plays trumpet for Book of Saints, a group whose improvisations combine the hypnotic textures of early minimalism, the experimentalism of Krautrock, and the cyclical rhythms of Hindustani music with gradually evolving melodies that draw on modal jazz. Visit www.vlsmusic.com/ bookofsans.

Violinist DIANA COHEN ’97 is a gradu- ate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she was the recipient of the 2000 Jerome Gross Prize in violin and a winner of the Darius Milhaud competition. Her principal teachers were Donald Weyerstein, William Preucil, and Paul Kantor. At the age of 23 she was appointed concertmaster of the Charles- ton Symphony Orchestra, a position she held for three seasons. Diana performs regularly with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the International Sejong Soloists and is a frequent substitute with the New York Philharmonic. She was concertmaster of the Cleveland Insti- tute of Music Orchestra. She is a mem- ber of the Knights, a fellowship of young musicians of diverse and accomplished backgrounds who come together for the shared joy of musical exploration. They have performed as soloists with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Israel Philharmonic, to name a few, and appeared at the world’s most prestigious music festivals, including Marlboro, Tanglewood, Ver- bier, Stillwater, Lucerne, Salzburg and Mozartburg. Visit www.knightsmusic.net to learn more about the Knights and Diana.

ALEXANDER COHEN ’03 is currently a member of CityMusic Cleveland and the West Virginia Symphony, where he holds the position of principal timpa- nist. Alex is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, and studied with Paul Yanchik, principal timpanist of the Cleveland Orchestra. During the 2008-2009 season, Alexander acted as the principal timpanist of the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Opera. He has also served as timpanist of the Marlboro Festival Orchestra, Mostly Mozart Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, New York String Orchestra and Aspen Festival Orchestra, as well as the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen. He performs regularly with the San Diego Symphony and the Charlotte Symphony and has performed in the Rocky River Chamber Series and at Steinway Hall in New York as a chamber musician. Learn more at www.citymusicCLE.org.

Keep that information about our Heights graduates coming! Email me at lralivalancyacc.com.

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

CH-UH Board of Education: Highlights of November/December meetings

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008
All board members present

Reception for Delisle
A farewell reception was held for Deborah Delisle to honor her before she leaves to become state superintendent.

The Heights High School Singers did a take off of “America” from their recent “West Side Story” production. The Singer’s Barbershop group, a state award winner, also sang. University Heights Vice-Mayor Adele Zucker, Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelly, union presi- dent Tom Schmidt, Oxford Elementary School Principal Stacey Stuhldecker, representing the district’s principals, board president Michael Cicero, and board member Kal Zucker, also gave tributes. Treasurer Scott Gainer pre- sented Delisle with a plaque from State Representative Barbara Boyd. Lastly, Reaching Heights and the Alumni As- sociation are co-sponsoring a Deborah Delisle annual scholarship.

Comments from Delisle
The superintendent thanked all those who helped her in her administration. During her tenure, the district estab- lished a partnership with John Carroll, the creation of small schools at the high school and the beginning of a partner- ship/exchange with schools in China.

Approved field trips
Three athletic trips were approved: two for the varsity basketball for faster team and one for the swim team. Also approved was a trip for Heights High’s choir and a trip for Wiley Middle School’s eighth graders.

Agreement with the bargaining unit
The agreement between the CH-UH Board of Education and the bargaining unit effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 was approved.

21st century
A committee studying how to prepare the school district for the 21st century gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted Ohio Report Card Indica- tors, strategies for high quality teaching, professional learning committees, mis- sion statements and goals.

Interim superintendent
Associate Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack was appointed interim superintendent effective immediately. Board member Nancy Peppler stated that, contrary to prior statements regarding the interim appointment, Fowler-Mack would be eligible to apply for the permanent superintendent position.

Carter is new library board member
After interviewing four candidates, the board appointed Cardala Carter to the CH-UH Library Board position vacated by Gerald Blake. Board members praised all four candidates and asked Library Director Nancy Levin, who was in the audience, to keep all of them involved.

Superintendent search
Vice President Kal Zucker and board member Nancy Peppler reported on their meeting with representatives from two superintendent search firms, OSBA (Ohio School Board Association) and Marciak and Associates. The process and expense were discussed, and the es- timated cost was $7,5000 plus or minus $2,000. The search could be completed in about three months; therefore, if the search began in March, an appoint- ment could be made by the end of the school year. So far, no search firm had presented a formal proposal. These two firms plus two others, Finding Leaders and Rapo & Associates, would be invited to the January 20 meeting to present their proposals.

LWV observer: Maryann Barns. See disclaimer on page 5.
The sky was ominous, but none of the near TC’s second-graders—Michelle Sigel’s and Mr. Lovett’s two classes from Boulevard Elementary were deterred. The children were thrilled to be walking to Forest Hill Park, about half a mile away. counselors took both to the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. I was the volunteer parent that afternoon. Even with no experience in the neighborhood. Despite endless visits to the Rec Center, planting trees—sincere words—had—had—ever explored the natural wildlife so—so—beautifully preserved right here. Thanks to Barb Holz, a naturalist with the MetroParks, we all got to experience and learn about nature first hand.

“Learning about the mushrooms was the best,” said my seven-year-old son Emet and his friends Kaela and Brittnie. “If you push it with your finger,” said Charlotte, “a puff of smoke comes out.” Julia also loved the “squishy mushrooms... the green smoke was really cool.” Actually the smoke is called spores,” corrected Lili. But Sam got the final word: “my favorite part was when [Barb] showed us the mushrooms and told us that spores are really seeds.”

All this happened because two teachers and a naturalist took time to bring kids into nature in order to let them take in the wonder around them. Barb had strolled a large log and beckoned the children to all take a look at the small outgrowth of mushroom puffs. She encouraged the children to touch gently, which they did with great care. Among other things, we learned that the mushroom spores are basically the great recyclers of the forest, and about how each plant and animal and organism in nature is a purpose.

Adrienne Williams
The Heights Youth Club holds Youth of the Year competition
The Youth of the Year program is a Boys and Girls Club of America nationally sponsored event. The competition recognizes extraordinary members who have made worthwhile contributions to their family, school, or community, have shown a dedication to academic excellence; and have risen above personal challenges or obstacles. The program benefits members by helping them to achieve personal growth, developing their leadership skills, strengthening their moral values and building positive self-concepts along with developing healthy attitudes toward home, community, school and their club.

From our local Heights Youth Club, we have five exemplary candidates in Deontae Strickland, Benetta Stewart, Brenika Gross, Saphira Derico, and Clayton Harris. The qualifications for the candidates are: to be at least 14 to 18 years of age, have a record of active and continuing service in the club for at least two years, and have completed a VOY application that entails writing essays that describe the candidate’s personal qualities, experiences and achievements. The actual local competition on January 8 requires that the candidates present their essay to a panel of judges who will then evaluate their qualifications along with their speeches to determine a winner. The HYC winner will then go on to compete in the overall Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland Youth of the Year competition on January 22 to determine the city’s champion. The winner of the local BGCC Youth of the Year will win a total of $7,500 in scholarship funds to the college of their choice and will have the opportunity to compete on the state level in hopes of going on to the regional and then national level. Each level carries additional scholarship awards and publicity.

Direct questions or comments to Club Director Roscoe Morgan at 216-531-CLUB.
Adrienne Williams is a graduate of Bryant and Stratton College and joined the HYC as a youth coordinator in 2008.

Second-graders explore nature in the neighborhood
Gabriella Celeste
The sky was ominous, but none of the near TC’s second-graders—Michelle Sigel’s and Mr. Lovett’s two classes from Boulevard Elementary were deterred. The children were thrilled to be walking to Forest Hill Park, about half a mile away. counselors took both to the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. I was the volunteer parent that afternoon. Despite endless visits to the Rec Center, planting trees—sincere words—had—had—ever explored the natural wildlife so—so—beautifully preserved right here. Thanks to Barb Holz, a naturalist with the MetroParks, we all got to experience and learn about nature first hand.

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Funds needed to buy therapy dog for CH girl
Simone Quartell
Eight-year-old Riley O’Neil loves animals and already has three cats of her own. But she needs another pet—a dog to help her deal with her Asperger’s syndrome.

Riley’s mother, Michelle, says Riley is the “sweetest, most pure heart you’ll ever meet.” Riley loves her six-year-old brother, Seth, and is “very kind and honest,” her mother says. Her anxiety, however, has made social settings difficult for her. Riley will stand outside a group she wants to join, but will be too nervous to ask.

That’s just one of the many effects Asperger’s, a high-functioning form of Autism, has on Riley’s life. Approximately one in 150 children has Autism; one in 84 boys, Michelle says. When Riley was 18 months old, she was having too many meltdowns then most kids her age and her parents knew “something was up.” After seeing many doctors, it was determined that Riley had Asperger’s. She attended a program called DAN (Defeat Autism Now) at age 4, which put her on Methyl B12, and stopped her meltdowns in two weeks. However, she still needs help, despite years of occupational and physical therapy.

Asperger’s is characterized by acute forms of all the senses, getting kids overwhelmed much easier. Riley has a lot of anxiety and a lot of fear, which makes her emotions much more difficult to manage and behavior at school a challenge. After doing research, Michelle discovered that seven-year-old dog, 4 Paws for Ability, an organization in Xenia, Ohio, might be able to help her daughter. 4 Paws for Ability provides dogs for people with all sorts of disabilities.

The O’Nells have been raising funds for a dog, which will be highly trained and provide a lot of assistance to Riley. The dog will walk with Riley and help monitor her behavior, aiding her if it notices she is upset and helping her calm down.

It will also help her in her social life, her mother says, as people will see that she has the dog and talk to her about it.

Michelle says that Riley is just starting to realize her different, and it’s just starting to bother her. At school, sometimes the noise disturbs her so much that she needs to go to a quiet space to prevent having a meltdown. She has also missed out on family outings due to sensory overload.

Those who know Riley are supportive of getting the dog. Her teachers and principal at Canterbury Elementary will allow her to bring the dog to school. Riley needs the Heights community to help her get the dog. 4 Paws for Ability does not allow families to pay the $12,000 required to buy the dog. A benefit concert will be held in New York in December, but more funds are needed. Michelle says the family will appreciate donations of any amount.

Visit lifecorilevy@gmail.com for information on how to donate.

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.
New priorities are taking root under Heights athletic director

Keith Gisser

When Kristin Hughes took on the job of athletic director at Cleveland Heights High School in the fall of 2007, she faced the task of reorganizing a department that had been operating in a vacuum since the resignation of Tom Hill the previous school year. Today, her approach is making a difference.

Before coming to Heights, Hughes coached the Case Western Reserve University women’s basketball team from 1997-2004; served as CWRU’s interim athletic director that last year, and coached Colgate University’s Division I women’s basketball team for three years.

“It was an adjustment coming from a college environment,” she says. “I was accustomed to having coaches available to me 24/7. Here, many of the coaches are not even in the building. Plus, with so many of our teams playing and practicing at remote facilities, we don’t have the kind of school spirit I would like to see. We do not have the kind of facilities I was used to, either.”

Hughes would like to renovate Crawford Stadium to include an all-weather turf field, new scoreboard and updated bleachers. A remodeling of the locker room area under the south gym is in progress, and she also would like to expand the weight room.

“Realistically, this is going to have to come from private funding, and it will take a monumental effort, but a school the size of Heights needs to be able to bring its programs back on campus.”

Although she has played on and coached many winning programs, winning is not the only measure of success, she says.

“Of course winning is important… that’s why we keep score. But as long as "Of course winning is important… that’s why we keep score. But as long as it’s fun. It can be fun and be good and you gain a lot from it.”

Hughes emphasizes that her time at Heights is a better community connection.

[Quote from Hughes about the value of community connection.]

“All sports, whether for fitness or for self-defense, can find an excellent training program for adults as well as children at Cleveland Aikikai. Originally founded in 1976 by members of the Oberlin College Aikido Club, the dojo, or school, occupied several locations in and around the Heights area before moving to its present location, 1956 Mayfield Road, in 1993.

Sensei Jim Klar is head of the dojo. He holds a fourth degree black belt and has studied extensively in the United States and Japan. His program offers classes in a number of martial arts styles; however, it’s main focus is instruction in the art of Aikido. Aikido differs from other martial arts styles in that its basic principle is to blend with, rather than to oppose, an attack. Its techniques, full of subtle yet powerful circular movements, are distinctive for their elegance and flow. The aim of its philosophy is to resolve conflict constructively, rather than escalating it. Aikido teaches a detailed awareness of oneself and of one’s surroundings. It encourages the ability to respond in a calm, controlled manner to all sorts of circumstances, expected or otherwise. Students learn the ability to defend themselves, while causing the least possible harm to anyone else.

The children’s Aikido program, for kids ages 5 to 15, is headed by Sensei Tom Krumroy. He holds a third degree black belt and is head instructor of the Case Western Reserve University Women’s Basketball Team. The children’s program focuses on kids using their heads when in a conflict. They are taught to respond to threats using only the minimal force needed to protect themselves. Children are all placed in one class, allowing students of all ages and skill levels to learn from and to teach one another. Through their study, students gain self-discipline, self-confidence, and sincere respect for others.

Cleveland Aikikai is a not-for-profit organization. Dues for membership are quite reasonable and include many opportunities to train throughout the week. Family memberships are also available. Visitors are welcome to stop in and observe during any class or to call 216-882-6060 for more information.

Michelle Jacobs-Mucha has been a Heights resident for 20 years. She is a clinical research coordinator for Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.
Gwynby Antique & Gifts, a Cleveland Heights treasure!

Kaye Lowe

While many small businesses struggle, close or reinvent themselves, Gwynby Antiques and Gifts remains true to its original mission: to offer the public authentic, 19th and 20th century French, American, and English antique furniture, and unique gifts.

"There is always a demand for quality products and customer service," says owner Eleanor Wilkins, "We offer both; and an assurance our antiques are authentic, and gifts of the finest quality. Antiques do not lose their value and are more desirable than ever as an investment!"

Wilkins came to this country from England in the 1960’s with a love and vast knowledge of antique furniture, jewelry and porcelains. Her parents were collectors of superior English antiques. They taught her the characteristics and qualifications to look for, as well as what made items unique and valuable. Her love for more knowledge further led her to take university courses and study at Sorthery of England. In 1970 she, her husband Del, and friend James Sauers decided to open Gwynby Antiques and Gifts. The partners chose Cedar Fairmount because of its proximity to the prosperous families in the Heights and its unique combination of shops. The store now has two locations, 2482 Fairmount and 2450 Fairmount, on the second level of the Heights Medical Building.

The antiques shop features 18th and 19th Century French, American, and English furniture and fine porcelains, such as Spode, Derby, and Worcester. The current inventory includes Staffordshire Toby Dogs, a rare pair of Staffordshire cats; English, American, and French dining room sets, buffet, and armories; and a selection of elegant English, French, and Russian silver tableware, tea servers, and trays.

The shop’s national and international reputation draws collectors and sellers. “It is more difficult to find genuine antique furniture and silver today,” says Wilkins. “The most sought after articles are tables and chairs,” she says. “Customers may not want a house filled with antiques furniture, but purchase an antique, to add interest to a room.”

Gwynby is coveted as a source by local and national decorators, and the store ships to customers from all over the world. Wilkins and partner James Sauers are invited to prominent antique shows, such as the Chicago International Show on the Pier, Three Arts Club in Chicago, the Cincinnati Antique Show, the Western Reserve Antique Show, and the Grove Point Antique Show. While Gwynby has always carried gifts, the expansion to the mezzanine of the Heights Center Building enabled an expansion into unique greeting cards, Patience Brewster figurines, Cedar Fairmount note cards, crystal vases, handbags, children’s items and estate jewelry.

Wilkins prides herself in sourcing a customer’s unique request. Her expertise as an appraiser is widely sought, and she reserves Wednesdays for traveling to appraise treasured items. As Gwynby approaches its 40th anniversary it is still the place to find unusual, moderately priced treasures. See for yourself!

Gwynby Antiques
2482 and 2450 Fairmount Boulevard
Phone: 216-229-2526

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Or by appointment
Wednesdays Closed for Appraisals.

Kaye Lone is executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

"Being green" is a journey
Scott Castor

What exactly does it mean to be "green" anyway?

Being green is making conscious decisions that benefit your environment, your health, and your local economy.

Environmental consciousness is aware of what we put into the air, water, and earth. One way to make green health-conscious decisions is to look at how your food is grown—is it organic or is it grown with pesticides and chemical fertilizers?

Economic consciousness is about asking the question “am I keeping my money in my own community for longer term benefit?”

In order to link all three of these green considerations together, consider the phrase, “Think Globally, Act Locally.” This is the concept that everything we do individually can have an impact globally. This consciousness begins with the question “how is what I am doing affecting myself, my community, or my world?”

"Being Green" is not a switch that you flip, but a journey you take one step at a time, beginning with with asking these questions. Gandhi said “you must be the change you want to see in the world.” It’s easy to be green! Start with your own interests. For a healthy home, buy less food but better quality. Look for the "made in" label to make sure you are buying products made in this country. Buy your electricity through a cooperative that produces "green power." All of the little things add up on the journey to "be green." Don’t be overwhelmed. Take the first step.

Scott Castor is an "Eco-preneur" living in Cleveland Heights. He is the Greener Home Handyman and the owner of a new franchise called Greener Home Services, LLC. Scott just planted five fruit trees in his yard, has a vegetable garden, and beats his home and hot water with wood and solar. He can be reached at scottcastor@greenerhomehandyman.com.
Does the mortgage and economic crisis have you in a dilemma over how to deal with the house you are living in with an expanding family? Are you looking for an environmentally friendly action plan for your remodeling project? Are your energy bills higher than your mortgage?

A new publication from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) may be just what you’ve been waiting for. REGREEN is a home remodeling guide prepared by the USGBC and ASID (American Society of Interior Designers). The guide is available in printed and online at www.regreenprogram.org.

The online publication links to numerous resources. The guidelines are organized by projects, such as “Kitchen-ens” and “Finished Basement.” There’s even a “Gut Rehab” category for those taking on a really big renovation.

Each category includes three major discussion points, First, the “Integrated Predesign Issues” section suggests primary decisions that need to be made at the start of the project, including how this project may impact other parts of the house or site.

Next is a “Strategies” checklist of choices and considerations the project may require. For example, electrical,

### One size smaller going green in winter

**Anita Kazarian**

Reduce your carbon footprint for one day only. I took the challenge and 24 hours later, ouch! The squeeze into the smaller size was painful. You could turn as nay as Cinderella’s sisters.

Single-digit temperatures with sub-zero wind chills – a real test. The incentive? Reduce my carbon footprint, reduce my utilities bills, save money and feel great. I thawed out this morning and realized a bunch of facts. Going green in winter is not for sissies.

Saturday night, I set the thermostat at 78. Snuggling under a heavy down comforter was cozy. A hot morning shower steamed up the bathroom and the clothesline helped me get an upper-arm workout, added humidity without using the humidifier, and saved energy by not using the dryer.

That was Sunday morning. By lunchtime, I caved in. I turned the thermostat to 66. It was either that or pay the doctor. Great rationalization, right? Closing off a small room was my next creative solution. Live in a smaller space. By mid-afternoon, I was ready to throw in the towel and turned it up to 68. One more idea struck, go visit friends or go to the movies. I did.

I managed to reduce my carbon shoe size only a little over the 24 hours. But every bit helps. Right?

**Anita Kazarian is a resident of University Heights and enjoys being an active citizen.**
Like many of you, I live in a drafty old Cleveland Heights house. But, I dream of shiny, true divided-lite, Argon filled, insulated windows, eight-inch thick, super insulated walls bursting with R-30 recycled cotton and sealed right with a spray-applied air/water barrier.

I have come to accept that I will probably never live in the super-efficient house of my dreams. I do, however, spend less time trying to make my charming old energy hog a little more efficient and environmentally friendly without destroying its historic character.

Below are eight things you can do right now to reduce energy waste. Most of them require a trip to your local-owned hardware store and some elbow grease (for a handy-man). All of them will save you money well beyond your initial investment and will prevent some carbon from entering the atmosphere.

Install a programmable thermostat. If you have an old, dial-type thermostat or even a digital one that is not programmable, you’re simply wasting money. You can easily save 15-30% on your heating bill by installing a $60-$80 programmable thermostat. Each degree below 68°F during colder weather saves 3-5% more heating energy. A programmable thermostat will make changes automatically, letting the temperature fall at night or while you’re at work, and raising it when you require. If you do nothing else, do this right now!

Three changes to your hot water system: Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120°F. This costs nothing, but will save you money. And you probably won’t notice the difference. Insulate your water heater. Americans spend $15 billion a year to heat water. Some simple measures could save about two-thirds of that cost. You can cut the amount of fuel you use to heat water (and save $150 a year) by insulating your water heater with a simple jacket (about $20).

Better yet, replace your old tank with an efficient, on-demand, tankless water heater. Models vary from direct to indirect vented, electric or gas fired. They can be mounted on a wall or sit on a floor and are much smaller than tank heaters. They ignite on demand; no constant heating or pilot light is needed. And, they can be connected to one sink or the whole house.

Two changes to your drafty old windows: Caulk windows and gaps with seal-and-strip caulk. The gap between a window and its frame can be large. Seal it for winter; peel it off in the spring. Apply a window film. Apply foam-taped strips to the window. Stretch the window film across, keeping it relatively flat and even. Use a hair dryer to shrink the plastic. It goes completely flat and you won’t even know it’s there.

Change your incandescent light bulbs: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 60% less energy than a standard incandescent and last up to 10 times longer. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent with a 32-watt CFL can save $30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. Replacing just six incandescent bulbs will trim your electric bill by as much as $5 per year.

Use power strips: Many appliances and electronics use power even when turned off (LEDs are lit, power adapters are warm). By using power strips, and turning them off when not in use, you can save money on your electric bill.

Here are several websites for additional tips:

- Environmental Building News
  http://www.buildinggreen.com/
- Rocky Mountain Institute’s Cool Citizen Guide
  http://www.rmi.org/images/other/Climate/CO2-12_CoolCitizenBrief.pdf
- The Green Building Initiative
  http://www.buildinggreen.com/
- Michael Wellman, an architect and Future Homes board member, lives in Cleveland Heights.

Michael Wellman

And the Big (Bad) Footprint Award goes to...

Anita Kazarian

What is a carbon footprint? Let’s put aside the complex scientific definition. Let’s go with the simple one, because that is the one we can do something about today. My carbon footprint is the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) I generate because of my energy use over a period of one year.

My direct carbon footprint comes from energy I use in my house, my car, the airplane flights I take, etc. It also includes indirect emissions of CO2 from the goods and services I consume. OK, here is the deal: we agree going green (less CO2 creation) is what we want. Send us an e-mail, 25 words or less on what gets the Big (Bad) Footprint Award. Rules are simple, the Big (Bad) Footprint Award will go to the biggest needless waste of energy leading to increased CO2s in the Heights area.

Judging will be arbitrary and, in the event of ties, the winner will be drawn from a hat. The top ten entries will be published in the next issue of the Heights Observer. The winner will receive a 50 foot energy-friendly clotheshanger. We want to hear from you. E-mail your nominee to info@heightsobserver.org. Deadline for submission is January 19, 2009.

Anita Kazarian is a resident of University Heights and enjoys being an active citizen.

Sarah Taylor promotes “Windustrious Cleveland.”
Heights Writes:
Poem for January 2009

Meredith Holmes

HeightsArts and the Heights Observer are reviving the tradition of publishing poetry in the newspaper. In the early twentieth century, poetry was a very popular feature in both small-town and big-city newspapers. Newspaper poets were read and reread, enclosed in letters, and saved in family bibles and photo albums. People turn to poetry in good times and bad, so we hope, no matter what the new year brings, that you are comforted, elated, inspired, and provoked by the poems you read here.

The poet for January gives us some compare. with the natural world does not come aspect of green living. A profound union

Noble Road Presbyterian Church is working on a mission for rural Africa, the result of a call felt by Isaac Monah, one of the church’s elders.

Monah left Liberia as a refugee from civil war in 1990. In the summer of 2007 he went home to Grand Gedeh County in eastern Liberia for the first time in 17 years. On that visit, he says, he was moved to action by the local children who had no opportunity to get an education and thereby craft a more promising future for themselves.

Monah is familiar with the children’s plight. There was no local school for him either, when he was growing up in Grand Gedeh. He left home three times to attend schools in different areas of Liberia, but at age 18 he had only reached the sixth grade. That was partly because at age 12, he had voluntarily dropped out of his school in Montrovia, the capital of Liberia, and returned to

Grand Gedeh because he believed his absence put too much economic strain on his uncle’s family. His uncle later died in the war. Monah finally managed to graduate from high school in Ghana.

When the civil war forced Monah to leave Liberia for good, he found jobs in Ivory Coast, studying deer and later, tracking monkeys. It was while working on research projects like this that he met Scott McGraw, an Ohio State anthropology professor who helped Monah to come to the United States in 2002.

Monah now lives in South Euclid with his wife, Mazo, and three sons, Tom, Scott and Matthew.

When Monah visited his home village in Liberia in 2007, he was distressed to find that the children of Grand Gedeh still face the same situation he faced in the 1980s. He says he believes that education is the key to opportunity for those children and greater prosperity for the region.

He is determined to make that happen, and has gathered a group of people who share his dream and his determination. Momentum for the project is building. The group has decided to build a school. It will be called the Dougbe River Presbyterian School, Monah said, because the river belongs to all of the people in that region — not just to one town — and the group wants residents to understand that the school does, too.

The school and its affiliated church will be built on 150 acres of land donated to the project by local leaders. Noble Road Presbyterian Church will handle finances for the school and oversee the school’s General Board, which has been formed. It is chaired by Monah and includes church colleagues, other Liberians living in America, and McGraw from Ohio State University.

There will also be a Local Board in Liberia, with representatives from each of the 12 towns in the area, that will handle day-to-day operations.

The church has been raising money and plans now call for construction to begin in 2009. It is expected to cost about $500,000 — perhaps less — to drive the project through its first year.

That includes construction costs and staff salaries.

The project is making friends, but it needs more. The church is looking for help, especially with fund-raising and web site management. Learn more at noblechurch.wordpress.com, or by contacting Monah at monahisaac2008@yahoo.com.

John Luttermoser is clerk of session at Noble Road Presbyterian Church and secretary of the General Board for the Dougbe River Presbyterian School project.

Fantasy Illustrations on Lee Road

While it can be said that most artists live in a fantasyland, for Matt Cavotta this is a statement that can be taken literally. Matt has been working as a fantasy illustrator for 15 years. Books, magazines, role-playing games, video games, card games and collectibles that appeal to dragon-loving dreamers, would-be wizards, and escapist of all ages — this is where you will find Matt’s artwork.

Matt has loved these books and games since he was a 9-year-old would-be wizard himself, reading about the Hobbit and playing Dungeons and Dragons. At the Columbus College of Art & Design he studied art history, color theory, and higher design principles so he could draw better zombies and monsters. After college, it only seemed natural to try and contribute to the artwork of the games and books he loves. With a lot of practice and perseverance, Matt cracked into the “biz” and now his work and play are nearly one and the same.

Matt’s work is all over the globe, but he lives in University Heights, Ohio with his wife Kylie and their two fairy princesses, Grace and Greta. Visit www.cavotta.com for more information.
Concert to honor Klaus George Roy

Eric Kisch

A concert in honor of Klaus George Roy’s 85th birthday will take place at St. Paul’s Church, 2734 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland, on Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. The concert has been organized by Karel Paukert, organist at St. Paul’s Church, and Eric Kisch, host of “Musical Passions” broadcast on WCLV-FM, who will act as master of ceremonies.

The concert will feature compositions by Klaus George Roy, who in addition to being a prolific and widely performed composer, was the former editor and program note annotator of the Cleveland Orchestra for 30 years. Roy has conducted hundreds of radio interviews with noted performers and has lectured widely on musical topics. A published author and poet, Roy also has an estimable reputation as a witty raconteur. He has graciously agreed to introduce each composition.

The compositions will be performed by leading Cleveland artists who are friends of Roy’s and who are donating their services. The concert will encompass instrumental and vocal selections. The first half will take place in Tucker Hall and the second half in the main church. A reception will follow the concert and all are invited to attend. Admission is free.

Musicians who will be participating include sopranos Noriko Fuji and Natasha Ospina; Sean Gabriel, flute; Margi Griebling-Heigh and Danna Sun; oboe; Carolyn and Stephen Warner, violin; Marsha Ferrito, viola; Diane Marher, cello; and Karel Paukert, organ. In addition, the vocal ensemble of St. Paul’s Church, led by Steven Plank, will perform.

Klaus George Roy will celebrate 85 years with friends at St. Paul’s Church.

Home help for seniors project

Judith VanKleef

A local group is exploring the possibility of setting up a system that would help senior citizens stay in their homes as long as possible. It is the kind of thing that has been done successfully in a number of communities. First of all, they need to know what services senior citizens in their community might need. To this end they have prepared a questionnaire that is available at the Senior Activity Center, area libraries, and in this article at www.heightsobserver.org. You do not have to sign it, but please take the time to fill it out in order to give them the information they need.

Judith VanKleef is a 45-year resident of Cleveland Heights and an active community volunteer who currently serves on the Cleveland Heights Commission on Aging.

Eric Kisch, producer and host of the classical weekly program Musical Passions, broadcast over WCLV-FM for the last five years, has been an avid music lover and recording collector for over 50 years.

Heights seniors hum and strum

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Gesus’s Service Day draws 950 volunteers

Ashley Bauer

The holidays are known as a time of giving. For many people this means a time of exchanging gifts and visiting families. At Gesu Catholic Church in University Heights, the holidays are a time of service.

The parish held its third annual Service Day on Saturday, December 6. Gesu assigned approximately 950 parishioners to volunteer at 52 locations around the Greater Cleveland area, including nursing homes, shelters, churches, social service agencies, and neighborhood centers.

Service Day Coordinator Meg Wilson says, “Part of the Jesuit mission is to be ‘men and women for others’ and at Gesu, we try to live that by reaching out to others in the community and helping where we can.”

Parishioners were responsible for cleaning, painting, decorating for Christmas, hosting children’s parties, visiting with senior citizens, and playing bingo with residents. The parishioners also served four community meals: breakfast at the Catholic Worker Storefront, brunch at Famicos, breakfast at Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist Church, and lunch at the men’s shelter at 177 Lakeside.

Throughout the day Reverend Lorn Snow, S.J., Pastor of Gesu Church, Reverend Paul Panaretos, S.J., and Wilson visited multiple locations to check on the progress and thank volunteers. Later in the day, parishioners returned to Gesu Church for Mass, which was followed by a spaghetti dinner at the Gesu Family Center sponsored by Zagar’s in Cleveland Heights.

Service Day was initiated three years ago by Fr. Snow. He chose the beginning of December to celebrate Saint Francis Xavier’s feast day (December 3) with a project showing the parish’s commitment to the community. Participation has grown steadily, with about 500 volunteer parishioners the first year and 770 the second.

“We have had tremendous feedback. People hear about the positive experiences from others, and as a result they volunteer,” says Wilson. “The volunteers enjoy working with other parishioners they may not have met before Service Day. It’s great to see families and volunteers of different ages working together and becoming more familiar with the work of social service organizations in the community.”

John Carroll University sophomore Ashley Bauer is an intern with Patton Public Relations in University Heights.

Volunteers who served at Rosemary Center on Dec. 6 included: Gesu staff members Paulina Orel and Joanna Schneider joined by University Heights parishioners Rick Hamilton, Pierce Hamilton, Jeremy Mannella and Jackie Mannella.

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Top: A record number of pancake eaters raised $5,700 with the help of generous tippers. Bottom: Flower the Clown entertains at the 9th Annual Tommy’s New Year’s Day Pancake Breakfast to support HeightsArts.

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Community News
Looking for a few good women

**EAT NEO**

Greg Dunlay

Every September, Manstua, Ohio, has a potato festival. The town of about 1,000 residents used to be the capital of a thriving potato growing, but now only a few active farms remain. And a short drive away in Cleveland, people walk into grocery stores and buy bags of potatoes that come from 2,000 miles away.

Many urban dwellers would rather eat food produced closer to home, especially if it helps the regional economy and preserves our beautiful countryside. The farmer needs a market and Heights residents are hungry for good local food. How do they find each other? Well, where do you find anything these days? The Internet! Numerous area groups are aggressively taking advantage of its potential to put local consumers in touch with local farmers.

For example, Abbe Turner and her husband moved to an old farmstead on Hankey Road, outside of Garrettsville, five years ago because “we wanted our children to understand that our food comes from the land, not from the grocery store.” But a working farm with 40 goats produces more than a small family can consume, so Lucky Penny Farm now has a website (www.luckypennyfarm.com), produces goat’s milk soap, and will be certified to sell artisan cheeses this spring. “Our website helps people find us,” says Turner, “but it also helps people see that connection with the land.”

That connection is a key point behind the local food movement. By living off land that’s close to home, we not only save resources, reduce pollution and eat better; we also help sustain a mutually beneficial relation-ship that preserves working farmland and enhances the quality of life in the city. Below are a few resources that can help Heights residents connect with regional farms.

**Green” wines?**

Loren Sonkin

It is getting easier to find affordable green wines, and these are nice: 2007 Green Bridge Zinfandel. This red wine from Paso Robles (halfway between L.A. and San Francisco) is one of the growing numbers of organic wines available.

Zinfandel is an all-American grape. While DNA studies suggest it has roots in Croatia, the grape was brought over in the 1800s by Italian immigrants and planted heavily in California. Its name is now synonymous with the golden state. Zinfandels come in a wide variety of styles from extreme fruit bombs to those that have more balance.

Green Bridge is in the second category. While it has plenty of fruit the overall experience is more restrained. It is an inoffensive wine that would be great at parties as it would entertain a majority of red wine drinkers. From its cherry fruit flavors, it provides a nice, easy drink that can be sipped alone or with food. It’s not a wine that is going to impress anyone, but then again at $9 a bottle (at Whole Foods) it isn’t going to hurt your wallet too badly.

2007 Pircas Negras Torrontes

This organic wine is grown at 3,500 foot elevations in Argentina. The grape is Torrontes, which will become more popular in the next few years. Buy one now and impress your friends when they start seeing them everywhere.

The wine is slightly sweet in nature. Perhaps it is just the fruit (it may have been vinified dry). The wine sips easily by itself or can be served with lighter foods. There are lovely peach and floral notes, but also a bit of acidity which allows it to stand up to some food. Your white wine-loving friends will want to know where you bought it. This was $10 at Whole Foods.

Loren Sonkin is an attorney in private practice and dreams of traveling the world visiting wineries. He lives and works in Cleveland Heights and is a regular contributor to www.IntoWine.com.

**HOME AND GARDEN**

Rebecca Stager

It’s usually little boys who follow their dads around, learning home repair skills. That’s probably one of the reasons women can feel so intimidated when trying to fix things around the house. Home Repair Resource Center has the answer. Women heads of house in Cleveland Heights are encouraged to call now about the next offering of HRRC’s repair education series, “Home How-To.” During this intensive, six-month program, women homeowners will work together to master basic carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills. Absolutely no previous experience is required.

Program participants will benefit from personalized instruction and will have ample opportunity for “hands-on” practice with tools and repair techniques. By the end of the program, women will have gained the confidence and experience to complete a variety of home repairs themselves, saving money that can be put toward materials or “bigger” contracted projects.

There are two additional benefits: each participant will receive an in-home consultation with HRRC’s repair instructor to identify needed repairs, and each will have one repair accomplished by the class at her house.

Most of the classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7 to about 9:30 p.m., but a few workshops are from involving more extensive repairs, as well as “rain dates” for exterior projects — will be held on Saturdays. The series will run from late April through October. Because the goal is small-group learning, enrollment will be limited to 18 women who meet the following criteria:

- Woman owner/occupant of a house in Cleveland Heights
- Sole head of house
- Income within program guidelines (call for information)
- Willing and able to make six-month commitment (one 2 1/2 hour class per week; each participant to attend at least 16 of the 25 classes)
- A $55 program supply fee is charged, and each participant pays for materials installed during the class at her house.

Interested, call Becky at 216-381-9565.

Becky Stager has been the repair education programs coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center since 1990.
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