

**FREE TAKE ONE**  
**VOTE for Best of the Heights**  
**Ballot on page 16**

Volume 2  
 Number 7  
 July 7, 2009

# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CLEVELAND HEIGHTS AND UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

## New CH-UH superintendent outlines vision

Kaitlin Bushinski

When the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education named Douglas Heuer as the new superintendent, it sparked a protest at the board meeting and drew mixed reactions from the local community.

The board chose Heuer, 59, over the interim superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack, a familiar figure in the district.



Douglas G. Heuer

On June 16 the board approved Heuer and gave him a three-year contract effective Aug. 1, with a starting salary of \$140,000.

In a phone interview with the *Heights Observer*,



One of the many diverse classrooms in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. The newly appointed superintendent comes from a mostly white district, sparking controversy among parents and community groups.

Heuer spoke about his vision for the district and his efforts to reach out to the community.

Hudepohl & Associates, an executive search firm based in Dublin, Ohio, contacted Heuer in April about the position. Heuer said he was already familiar with CH-UH schools through his friendship with Deb Delisle, the former superintendent.

Heuer said he chose to come to CH-UH because of the goals that the district seeks to carry out, such as closing the disparity in achievement

between students with different social and economic backgrounds.

### Experience and vision

Heuer is currently the superintendent of Austintown School District outside of Youngstown, Ohio, a district that is demographically very different from CH-UH.

About 90 percent of Austintown's students identify as white, while at CH-UH 76 percent of students identify as African American.

Austintown is more rural than CH-UH, and has only 5,000 students com-

pared to 6,050 students at CH-UH. Yet around 50 percent of Austintown's students are economically disadvantaged, a similar rate to CH-UH's population.

Heuer said that he has experience educating students from different cultural backgrounds.

"My career started teaching in South Carolina shortly after desegregation. I've had classroom experience working with a diverse population," he said. "You have to find the means to engage [students] in the core curriculum; you have to connect them in a meaningful way."

According to Heuer's vision, CH-UH schools "should be able to obtain an excellent rating on the Ohio Department of Education's report card."

*continued on page 4*

## Citizens group asks CH to 'step it up'

Mark Chupp

In anticipation of the upcoming Cleveland Heights City Council election, a group of concerned citizens came together this spring to promote strong leadership and citizen involvement. There are four seats up for election with three incumbents seeking reelection. The goal of the group, Step It Up Cleveland Heights, is to attract a wide range of candidates—young and old, new and long-term residents, and people from across the rich ethnic and racial diversity of our community.

Over a period of weeks the group, which included Mazie Adams, Russell Berusch, Gina Cheverine, Mark Chupp, Rev. Tricia Dykers Koenig, Sheldon Glave, Susie Kaeser, Jeff Smith, and Diana Woodbridge, wrote a position statement for voters to sign. It calls for candidates with new ideas who will promote positive growth and change in Cleveland Heights. Based on conversations with many citizens, the group identified five pressing issues that city council members must address. Step

*continued on page 5*

## What library funding cuts will mean for the Heights

Jeremy Hebebrand

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights libraries turned off their power for five minutes on June 26 to save money and to show solidarity with other libraries whose services are threatened.

Libraries face a 52 percent cut in state funding – part of Gov. Ted Strickland's last-minute effort to close a \$3.2 billion revenue shortfall in the Ohio budget.

At press time on July 3 – three days after the budget was supposed to become final – legislators were still arguing over details of the spending plan. But

*continued on page 2*

## RTA meeting answers questions, raises more for community

Jeremy Hebebrand

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority hosted a community meeting on June 9 regarding the design of a new Red Line rail station at University Circle. The meeting attracted a crowd of riders and residents. Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward J. Kelley opened the meeting, reminding the audience that the new station is going to be "the gateway to Cleveland Heights." He encouraged those who attended to be accepting of the current design, but also to provide feedback to the planners and architect, so that the station could better serve their needs.

The station has seen a large increase of customers over the years, which RTA General Manager and CEO Joe Calabrese said is the reason RTA wants to renovate it. It is used by nearly 1,800 people a day for bus-to-rail transfers, said Director of Planning Maribeth Feke. She also said that parking and congestion are among its biggest problems.

The design process, in the works for over a year, has cost \$962,750, with

foundation funding totaling \$250,000. Contributing foundations include The Cleveland Foundation, University Hospitals Health Systems, Case Western Reserve University, University Circle Incorporated and Little Italy. The project funds come from capital money that goes directly to RTA.

Feke said that the design process should be finished in early 2010, and construction, which is set to cost \$10 million, will begin in the fall of that year. The designers hope to win a Gold or Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certification for the station.

Design architect Mehrdad Yazdani said that designing a station for Cleveland was a change from his usual L.A. comfort zone. He stressed the concern of making the new station a community landmark that would stand out both to residents and visitors to the city.

The current plans call for the majority, if not all, of the stops to be moved to the north side of Cedar Road in an attempt to make the station more

*continued on page 4*



The current 3-D rendering of what the new RTA station will look like.

## Future Heights

A MEMBER OF THE OBSERVER  
 MEDIA GROUP AND AN OFFICIAL  
 GOOGLE NEWS SOURCE

Nonprofit Organization  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Cleveland, Ohio  
 Permit No. 920

FutureHeights, 2163 Lee Road, Suite 103  
 Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Home delivery now available!

Call 320-1423 or email  
[info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org)

### OBSERVER POLICY ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE

With the November election coming into focus, the *Heights Observer* is announcing its new policy for contributions by candidates for local office.

As a community newspaper staffed by volunteers and committed to equal access for everyone, the *Observer* is unique among publications in providing opportunity for any member of the Cleveland Heights and University Heights communities to raise and discuss issues of local interest.

At election time, however, this commitment creates a singular challenge in managing the finite space that can be made available for community members who are running for public office.

The policy, approved by the FutureHeights board of directors, is designed to address that challenge. It states:

- The August through November issues of the printed publication will not carry any editorial contributions from candidates for office.
- During this period, any coverage of election issues will be produced by regular *Observer* contributors who are not running for office.

*continued on page 10*

# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The Heights Observer is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life. 2163 Lee Rd., #103, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. 216.320.1423 Copyright 2008 FutureHeights, All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

**PUBLISHER**  
Deanna Bremer Fisher

**ADVERTISING**  
Jim Kuth  
216.513.3070 or 216.320.1423  
jekdoc@yahoo.com

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
Carrie Buchanan, David Budin, Greg Donley, Richard Hendrickson, Mark Krieger, Eleanor Mallet, Jim Posch, Lauren Rich Fine, Bob Rosenbaum

**EDITORIAL BOARD**  
Daniel Adiletta, Maryann Barnes, Meryl Borato, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Carrie Buchanan, David Budin, Kaitlin Bushinski, Laura Crawford, Greg Donley, Jane Flaherty, Brenda Gray, Jeremy Hebebrand, Gillian Irwin, Anita Kazarian, Paulette Kovelan, Marilyn McLaughlin, Fran Mentch, Charlene Morse, Jewel Moulthrop, Holly Pangrace, Bob Rosenbaum, Jessica Schreiber, Dermot Somerville, Clare Taft

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Deanna Bremer Fisher, Mary Dunbar, Deborah Edwards, Doug Freer, Sarah Wean

**WEBMASTER**  
Dan Ott

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
Temma Collins and Ruth D'Emilia

**PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION**  
Jane Flaherty

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Kaitlin Bushinski, Maureen Jane Carey, Kathleen Cerveny, Mark Chupp, Adele Cohn, Mary Courtwright, Michael Dougherty, Mary Dunbar, Doug Freer, Carol Gibson, Tonya Gibson, Brenda Gray, Robert Haas, Jeremy Hebebrand, Tracy Hill-Adognravi, Meredith Holmes, Lillian Houser, Anita Kazarian, Christina Klenotic, Elizabeth Leitch, Beth Lucas, Anne S. McFarland, Kevin Mohr, Louisa Oliver, Susan D. Pardee, Sarajini Rao, Natalie Reiss, Diane Roberto, Debbie Rossman, Katie Solender, Loren Sonkin, Blanche Valancy, Barry Zucker

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Heights Observer, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of trustees.

Seed funding for the Heights Observer generously provided by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, the Dominion Foundation, and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation.

# Think regional: A resurgent University Circle is good for the Heights

Mary Dunbar

Cleveland Heights and University Circle have long had a mutually beneficial relationship. The Circle's cultural, academic and healthcare institutions employ many Cleveland Heights residents, and proximity to the Circle's world-class attractions and facilities is seen as a benefit of living here.

Now University Circle Inc. (UCI) is in the midst of a five-year plan to create "the premier urban district." The plan builds on the Circle's anchor institutions to make it "the fastest-growing area in the region," with new housing, shopping, and other improved and new amenities.

Tangible progress is already evident. A state-of-the-art hospital is under construction at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Administration Medical Center, and will bring 2,000 jobs. University Hospitals' Case Medical Center is adding a new cancer center, a new emergency medicine center, and a new neonatal intensive care unit.

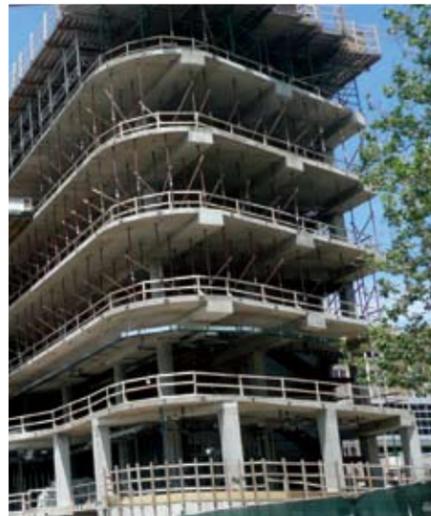
In July 2008, UCI opened its Visitor and Living in the Circle Center to showcase the Circle's resources and boost renting and buying homes there. A consortium of foundations and institutions is offering incentives to attract homebuyers and renters to Greater University Circle, which includes nearby neighborhoods in Cleveland. The renovated Park Lane Villa is already fully occupied.

Is this dynamism and job growth in the Circle an opportunity for Cleveland Heights to gain residents? Can we also gain businesses, such as NeuroWave Systems Inc., which recently relocated its 21 employees to the Rockefeller Pointe building on Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights?

NeuroWave has support from BioEnterprise, a Circle-based business development incubator for healthcare companies. But University Circle lacks space for these businesses as they grow. Other companies like NeuroWave will look for facilities that provide room for growth while staying near University Circle.

Traditionally, to attract new residents, Cleveland Heights has provided personnel offices at Circle institutions with packets that include relevant information and an offer to help people find housing here. The city also helps businesses that want to move within, or relocate to, Cleveland Heights.

These programs have been effective, but it's time to rethink how we do things.



An on-site camera allows the curious to monitor progress of the new Veterans Administration hospital. Visit [www.cleveland.va.gov/index.asp](http://www.cleveland.va.gov/index.asp).

Chris Ronayne, president of UCI, praises the support that the Circle receives from people in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, but suggests a broader way of thinking. "University Circle, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights — we're all really birds of the same feather," Ronayne says. "We're in competition with the cornfields, with out-migration and sprawl. In contrast, we are the answer to the growing quest for sustainability. I'd like to see us jointly pursuing an intown, urban revitalization strategy that promotes our wonderful lifestyles."

Ronayne says that the 1,000 new housing units UCI envisions in the Circle by 2013 will be largely vertical, due to limited undeveloped space in the Circle. This will complement housing choices in Shaker and Cleveland Heights.

Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and the Circle should view one another as allies, not competitors. We should plan together for redevelopment; it would make sense to join in marketing our collective amenities. Coordination and sharing of services such as purchasing can help maintain our service quality at lower cost.

Preliminary dialogue has already begun among leaders of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and Circle institutions, but we need agreement on a shared vision, strategic direction, commitment and sense of urgency to realize the opportunities and to keep this the place to be.

Mary Dunbar, a financial and communications expert who has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1970, is a candidate for Cleveland Heights City Council this fall.

LIBRARY continued from page 1

video slot machines, not libraries, were the top concern.

So if the library cuts become law, Heights residents will likely experience far more dramatic changes than an occasional 5-minute blackout. The cuts would effectively reduce the library's operating funds by about 33 percent, said Library Director Nancy Levin.

Already, she said, spending on the library newsletter will be cut in half — meaning less outreach about programs and services. Employee salaries were rolled back to 2008 levels, hours for part-time workers who teach classes and provide other services were frozen, and programming for children was reduced. The cleaning service has been renegotiated to save as much money as possible, and every other service and utility contract is currently under review.

Other likely changes — already planned at other library systems — include elimination of mailed overdue notices, aggressive collection of fines and reduction in operating hours.

"Changing the hours would affect people the most," Levin said.

Administrators will likely focus on raising money, rather than providing services. Book sales have been a reliable fund-raiser over time, bringing in \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year for the library system, Levin said. More book sales and other fundraising efforts will likely be part of the future.

Ironically, the same economic climate that created this situation is responsible for making libraries more important than ever. Use of the Heights libraries is up 19 percent this year, Levin said.

Bandwidth use of library computers is up nearly 800 percent, Levin said. Free computer classes — from troubleshooting computers to building resumes and using the Internet to search for jobs — are well attended.

"The computer programming that will be affected the most is our one-on-one tutorials," Levin said.

The Heights Library hasn't accepted the reduction passively. The system sent a 75-page petition containing roughly 1,500 signatures to the governor in late June, seeking a stay in the funding cut. But through July 3, Strickland had remained firm on his plan — and had placed it in the hands of legislators, who only gave themselves an extra week to discuss and enact it.

Jeremy Hebebrand is a summer intern for the Heights Observer and a senior magazine journalism major at Kent State University.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Prevent littering; keep the community clean

I think it is a good idea to stop littering because it makes the area not look and smell nice. It also hurts animals.

I think good ways to stop people from littering are to have cleanups, clubs and fairs. I also think more good ways are to make more fines for littering, add more recycling cans and make comparison studies (littered vs. non-littered areas).

Yehuda Lazaar Levin  
Grade 3, Mosdos Ottr Hatorah  
Written for Ms. Marcia Aron's class.

### Follow city trash law

Cleveland Heights is a wonderful city in so many ways. There is nothing more beautiful than driving down the streets on a beautiful spring day and looking at all the blooming flowers and budding trees.

There is nothing less beautiful, however, than driving down the same streets and seeing people's garbage on the treelawn or in the street, in some cases the day after trash collection, or two or three days before trash collection.

There is an ordinance concerning when trash should be put out. I know that if the City were to enforce it, people would be up in arms. Let's police ourselves and keep our trash off the treelawns until the evening before or the day of collection as the ordinance states.

Richard A. Hollis  
3329 Fairmount Blvd.  
Cleveland Heights

## Our Community Adult Care

Help the special seniors in your life maintain the lifestyle of their dreams. Our Community Adult Care provides quality assistance that helps families enjoy more time with one another.

We can help with:

- Personal care/hygiene
- Meal preparation and clean up
- Companionship
- Housekeeping/laundry
- Transportation/Errands

- Medication reminders
- Activities and Trips
- Much More!

Our Community Adult Care  
24300 Chagrin Boulevard suite 314  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
216-820-8860  
OurLovedOnes@yahoo.com

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest. -Mark Twain



**Options for senior living**  
Reliable, experienced, home health assistants.  
All employees thoroughly screened  
Hourly caregivers/companions  
Live-in options available  
Bonded and insured

**(216)381-1010**  
representatives available 24/7

# Thanks to over 400 FutureHeights volunteers who are sowing the seeds of community



**Andrea Morris**

“FutureHeights is a wonderful organization and the *Heights Observer* is great community outreach. The *Heights Observer* lets people know what’s going on around town. And it reminds us of what we need to do to become better citizens and to care about one another as a community.



**Jeff Haynes**

“Delivering the *Heights Observer* gives our kids at Heights Youth Club an opportunity to give back and help others. And it gives them a sense that giving back can be easy and rewarding at the same time.

The partnership with FutureHeights helps us tell our story: the youth who come to our club are doing positive things in the community.”



**Joanne Campbell**

“The *Heights Observer* gives the community immediate access to information. It focuses on what you want to know. And it gives you a voice, a real chance to say something about things that are important.

FutureHeights is an important organization. They give you a chance to know about and participate in your own community.”



**Tracey Cooley**

“I deliver the *Heights Observer* every month.

It gives me a great opportunity to meet the merchants in the area. Local businesses love the *Heights Observer*; they look forward to getting it. They know it’s a great way to get the word out.

I live in South Euclid, but I love Cleveland Heights. FutureHeights is doing good things here and I see such value in what they’re doing.

## Act now: double your impact by July 15

Community volunteers and FutureHeights are planting the seeds of community—and you can help them grow. Every dollar you donate to FutureHeights—by July 15—will be matched by an anonymous benefactor, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$15,000!

Your donation today cultivates healthy, sustainable neighborhoods in the Heights through:

• **The *Heights Observer*** The East Side’s number one nonprofit citizen-written, neighborhood news source serves Cleveland Heights and University Heights and links citizens to resources, to information and to one another. Over 9,000 copies are distributed monthly by

volunteers and [heightsobserver.org](http://heightsobserver.org) provides online access to the local news you need to know.

• **Town meetings and online forums** like the annual Cleveland Heights State of the City address allow citizens to talk about important issues and exchange ideas.

• **Volunteer opportunities** There are more than 400 citizens who give their time and talent as FutureHeights volunteers.

• **The Best of the Heights Awards and Shop Local campaign** Supporting our vibrant, diverse independent business community helps strengthen the local economy.

• **Creative collaborations** WJCU 88.7 FM; the Home Repair Resource Center; the CH-UH Public Library; Heights Youth Club; Heights Parent Center; Coventry Village; Cedar Fairmount, and Lee Road Special Improvement Districts; the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights and Cleveland Bridge Builders, among others, have joined with FutureHeights to strengthen our quality of life.

• **Community tours and National Preservation Month events** remind everyone of the unique and historic qualities of our area.

With only two staff in a small office above the Cedar Lee Theatre, this ef-

ficient, grassroots organization creates a lot of bang for the buck.

FutureHeights relies heavily on individual contributions from people like you to stay afloat.

Please don’t miss out on this chance to make a gift that will go twice as far in maintaining vital community programs.

**Donate** online at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org) or [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). Call 216-320-1423 with your credit card today. Or fill out and send in the form below with your check.

Then, sit back and watch your investment grow—times two.

Thank you!

Yes, I want to sow the seeds of community with FutureHeights! Enclosed is my tax-deductible, membership gift in the amount of:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$15       | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual/Family \$50*         | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Champion \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Activist \$125    | <input type="checkbox"/> Squeaky Wheel \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Publisher \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____      |

\* I/We want to support citizen-driven, community news. With a \$50 or more gift, FutureHeights will send 12 issues of the *Heights Observer* directly to my home or business.  
(  Don't send to me. Send to: \_\_\_\_\_ )

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
As you would like it to appear in recognition of your gift.

I/We wish to remain anonymous.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I/We have enclosed a check made payable to FutureHeights  
 Please charge my MasterCard or Visa (AMEX and Discover not accepted)  
 Please divide my credit card payment into equal amounts charged  Monthly  Quarterly

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder’s Name (Please print as it appears on the card) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_

**Other ways to support FutureHeights and ensure our work into the future:**

**Volunteer.** I/We wish to volunteer with FutureHeights in the following capacity \_\_\_\_\_  
Please contact me/us.

**Matching Gifts.** My employer will match my donation. Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bequests.** I/We have remembered FutureHeights in our will or estate plan.

**Appreciated Stock.** Please contact me/us to arrange for my/our gift in the form of a stock transfer.

**Mail To: FutureHeights, 2163 Lee Road, #103, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118**

Thank you for your gift! FutureHeights is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Visit us at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org). For financial information visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

# University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MAY 18, 2009

Peter R. Bernardo excused.

## Quitclaim deed for 1603 Ashurst Road

Council voted to accept a quitclaim deed from Catherine Harbour for the property at 2603 Ashurst Road. Law Director Ken Fisher reported that \$5,000 had been received from Harbour to satisfy special assessments. He noted that the funds could go to reimburse maintenance done by the city. Fisher noted that there was still a tax delinquency of \$1,400, but expressed confidence that it could be abated. However, he conceded that the city would have to pay the amount if the tax bill were not abated. He maintained that it would be in the city's best interest to accept the deed. Once the city obtained the deed, a thorough evaluation of the property could occur. From preliminary walk-throughs, Building Commissioner David Menn and City Engineer Joe Ciuni concluded the house could be rehabbed, but not the garage.

## Fee increases

Council approved fee increases for Board of Zoning Appeals applications, contractor registrations, re-inspections, point of sale inspections, and roomer inspections. [The amount of fee changes can be found in the May 4 council meeting report.]

## Salt purchase

Service Superintendent Christopher Vild announced he had received a letter from the Ohio Department of Transportation that accepted salt purchase from Cargill at \$43.53 per ton for the 2009-10 winter season.

## Charter Review Commission

Councilman Frank Consolo reported that the draft report of the Charter Review Commission was available and that City Watch had been started.

## Open house at John Carroll University

Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg announced an open house on May 23 at John Carroll University (JCU) for University Heights residents to view the university's recreational facilities. JCU will offer residents memberships to use these facilities during the summer. Goldberg also reported that pool and tennis passes were now on sale.

LWV observer: Maryann Barnes.



JUNE 1, 2009

Vice Mayor Adele Zucker, Kevin Murphy excused.

## Computerized fingerprint system

The purchase for the Police Department of a computerized fingerprint system, required for compliance with state and federal systems, was placed on first reading after some discussion. The request to pass the ordinance on emergency in order to secure the system at a favorable, quoted price of \$14,183 failed to pass with Councilman Frank Consolo voting no. Five votes are required for an emergency vote. Consolo explained that he preferred that council pay for this system by reducing the budget in another area rather than increasing the overall budget in order to make the purchase. Consolo further stated that he would like to cut \$2 million from the budget. The mayor noted that tax receipts had increased by \$11,000 and that the city ran smoothly and with a balanced budget. Councilman Steven Sims pointed out that the fingerprinting system had been included as a capital item in the original budget but was held off as budget priorities were being set.

## Roadwork for University Parkway

Council authorized an application for funding University Parkway reconstruction through the Ohio Department of Transportation State Infrastructure Bank. There was discussion about a discrepancy in the amount of interest originally quoted by the finance director and the amount now shown on the ordinance. The mayor indicated that the bid had come in quite a lot lower, at \$600,000 rather than \$850,000, and interest would be charged at 3 percent over 10 years. Consolo questioned doing basic city service on credit. Sims responded that it was not improper or unusual to borrow for long-term capital projects such as reconstructing University Parkway, but that the city should look to the operating fund for repayment.

At the law director's suggestion, a resolution to contract Mr. Excavator for the University Parkway reconstruction was put on first reading rather than subjected to an emergency vote.

## Roadwork for Taylor Road

Council approved an agreement with Burton

Scot Contractors for resurfacing the University Heights portion of South Taylor Road from Cedar Road to Silsby Road. Part of a shared project with Cleveland Heights, the cost was estimated at \$55,548.

## 2603 Ashurst Rd.

The home at 2603 Ashurst Rd., now owned by the city through a quitclaim deed process, was in such a condition internally that it couldn't be evaluated for soundness until it was cleaned out. The garage, however, was a safety hazard and must be razed. Also, a twenty-plus-year-old car, for which the city does not have the title, was in the garage. Council approved razing the garage. Law Director Ken Fisher suggested that the building commissioner use \$1,500 to \$1,800, which does not have to be approved by council, to clean out the inside of the home so the city engineer could determine its structural soundness.

## Foreclosure statistics for UH

Building Commissioner David Menn stated that 32 to 35 homes were in foreclosure on the court docket; approximately 0.8 percent of the city's homes.

LWV observer: Susan D. Pardee.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Charlene Morse, Marilyn McLaughlin and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an email to [mbarnes9515@gmail.com](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or join through google groups using "lwy-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

HEUER continued from page 1

He would also like to see a higher graduation rate at the high school and an increase in the amount of scholarships CH-UH students receive for higher education.

"Higher test scores should be a by-product of higher learning and education," and not an end in itself, said Heuer.

"Students need to have 21st-century skills, they need to be good communicators, good problem solvers and they need to be life long learners," he said.

Kal Zucker, president of the school board, said he informed Heuer about

the protest at the meeting and "let him know what he was getting into."

Heuer said he plans to introduce himself to the community and that he looks forward to working with "very passionate people" who care deeply about the district and the education it provides.

"I respect that they wanted to support the internal candidate, but the board made their decision," said Heuer. "I'm very hopeful that we will have the opportunity to work together to achieve our goals together."

## A split decision

Vice President of the CH-UH School Board Ronald Register was the only board member to vote "no" on awarding Heuer a contract.

Register said in a phone interview that he believed Fowler-Mack was a better fit for the school district and its students.

"We needed to be in a position with someone who knows the district," said Register. "People are familiar with Christine."

Although he is up for re-election this November, Register said his vote was not intended to gain more supporters in the community.

"That wasn't a primary consideration for me," said Register. "I believe I didn't help or hurt myself" by voting "no" on Heuer," he said.

Register said it was now his responsibility to work with the new superintendent, saying, "We all have to be on board as far as moving forward."

Fellow board member Nancy Pepler said Register's vote did not come as a surprise since board members sometimes differ on what they believe is in the school's best interest.

"I think it's perfectly fine for a school board to have split votes," said Pepler.

## Community reactions

The board's decision was controversial among community members, many of whom supported interim Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack.

The Minority Achievement Parents Alliance, the group that vocally protested Heuer's contract at the board meeting, says it will work with the new superintendent and continue to watch the administration carefully this election year.

According to MAPA's president, Andrea Freedman, the group's largest concern about Heuer was his ability to handle a larger, majority African American school district.

"Is Mr. Heuer culturally competent to deal with a population that is 76 percent minority and economically disadvantaged and the challenges that come with educating that population? Despite his background and perceived

RTA continued from page 1

user-friendly. The entrance will be an underpass with a "green" roof, which will create the illusion that it is an extension of the adjacent park.

Yazdani stressed that the plaza in front of the entrance will be one of the more important aspects of the station's design. The sidewalk, which will be extended to 10 feet on the north side, will allow more room for both bikers and pedestrians. "We want the plaza to be open, with benches, shaded areas and no vertical objects," Yazdani said. "It could be a place for concerts or just for rest, but we want it to give back to the community somehow."

The area beneath the platform will be backlit, making it safer at night. Canopies and benches will be incorporated in bus drop-off areas. There will also be an extension of the passenger waiting area, which will be enclosed and more spacious. Yazdani said that the glass walls will enable those waiting to see easily when their train is coming. He said that the structure would stand up to harsh Cleveland weather. It will include air conditioning for the summer and heating for the winter.

Among the questions from the crowd was one regarding the smell in the current station. "It's no secret that the station smells of urine, and trust me, there is no amount of mango scent that can fix that," Feke said, drawing laughs from the crowd. Yazdani said he believes that the community will take pride in the new station. His experience in the past has led him to believe that the graffiti and vandalism will stop.

The station will be ADA-accessible and the biking routes will be fixed to ensure better safety for both pedestrians and bikers, Yazdani said.

*Jeremy Hebebrand is a summer intern for the Heights Observer and a senior magazine journalism major at Kent State University.*

successes, we did not feel he had that record," said Freedman.

MAPA supported Fowler-Mack, who the group said was already familiar with the district and the community and was taking the district forward.

"We already had someone in place. Contrary to what some members of the board believe, we were moving forward. It's sort of like now we have to start from the beginning [with Heuer]," said Freedman.

Yet some say that now that the board has voted, it is time to work with the new superintendent to improve the schools.

Lita Gonzalez, a mother whose children have attended CH-UH schools and a volunteer for the district said although she was a supporter of Fowler-Mack, she believes getting to know Heuer and working together should be the next step.

"We choose members of the school board to be stewards of the district and to make difficult, sometimes unpopular decisions," said Gonzalez.

"This was a very difficult decision but I believe that the board members made it honestly based on the information they got from the community and interviews with the candidates."

*Kaitlin Bushinski is a recent graduate of Oberlin College and a summer intern for the Heights Observer.*

<p><b>SAVE SAVE SAVE SAVE SAVE</b>  <b>PAY LESS</b>          For all construction needs          Specialized Trades Mostly <b>AMISH</b></p>	
<p><b>CONCRETE</b>          Drive-Garage Slab</p>	<p><b>ROOFING</b>          Tear off -New</p>
<p><b>MASONRY</b>          Tuckpointing          Steps-Chimney</p>	<p><b>SIDING</b>          Wood          Vinyl/Aluminum</p>
<p><b>BASEMENT</b>          Waterproofing          Cracks-Peeling</p>	<p><b>CARPENTRY</b>          Windows-Door          Cabinets-Trim          Deck-Porches</p>
<p><b>Specials: Labor+matl</b>          New Garage f \$9,900          Furnace f \$1,395          Window f \$ 149</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ALL REPAIRS</li> <li>•Complete REHAB</li> <li>•CITY Violations</li> <li>•Tree Removal</li> </ul>
<p><b>(440) 684-9211</b>  <b>HGN CONSTRUCTION, llc</b>  <b>SAVE SAVE SAVE SAVE SAVE</b></p>	

STEP IT UP continued from page 1

It Up has not endorsed any candidate and is inviting all those seeking office to respond to the statement and its content in a public forum to be held in September.

Over 100 citizens have already signed the statement. To learn more about Step It Up Cleveland Heights and the statement, a public meeting will be held on July 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Rd.

### Citizens' Agenda for Step It Up Cleveland Heights:

As proud residents of Cleveland Heights we value our city government and the substantial contribution it makes to the quality of life in our community. The November 2009 city council election is an important opportunity for us, the citizens of Cleveland Heights, to shape our city's future. We are looking for city council candidates who will seek out and embrace new ideas and carry out the changes necessary to ensure that Cleveland Heights is the best suburb in the nation.

### Cleveland Heights needs leaders who will approach issues in ways that will:

- Capitalize on the ideas and expertise of our talented and diverse citizens, businesses and nonprofits to develop creative solutions to demanding issues.
- Work across city boundaries and regionally to confront shared challenges.
- Work in partnership with our public schools and neighborhoods to strengthen our city and guide it into the future.

### Cleveland Heights needs leaders who will take on the tough issues and promote the big ideas that will lead to an exciting future. They must be willing to:

1. Establish a vision for our city as a 21st century suburb that includes financial and environmental sustainability.
2. Advocate for and actively promote the city's support of the CH-UH schools as a major community asset and means to attract families to move to Cleveland Heights.
3. Set social and economic development goals for the next decade and formulate a strategic plan to achieve them.
4. Work collaboratively with all sectors of the community to create effective responses to the housing crisis that will convert vacant and deteriorating property into positive resources for our city.
5. Actively engage all residents and promote policies that continue and strengthen the rich diversity that we value in our community.

In summary, we are seeking city leaders who will genuinely engage our citizens to create new solutions and ignite our confidence in the possibilities that lie ahead for Cleveland Heights. We are looking for candidates to inspire, unite and mobilize our residents to shape an exceptional future.

For those who wish to support this effort and sign the statement, the July 16 meeting is the place to do it. Contact any member of the original authors or e-mail [dwoodbridge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwoodbridge@sbcglobal.net).

*Mark Chupp lives in the Coventry neighborhood and is a parent of two Heights High grads.*

*Editor's note: See a list of signers at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).*

# Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MONDAY MAY 18, 2009  
Mayor Edward J. Kelley excused.

### Oxford crime concerns rebutted

Fran Mentch, of Lynn Park Drive, expressed concern that the Cleveland Heights police were not cooperating with the schools' efforts to start a crime prevention program within the schools. Her focus was particularly on the Oxford area. City Manager Robert Downey, supported by council members, strongly rebutted the suggestion that any gang activity was taking place in the Oxford neighborhood and asserted that Captain Mike Cannon and Chief Martin Lentz are in close and cooperative contact with the schools. Later in the meeting, Council Member Tumeo noted that a new pilot program, which grew out of an Oxford neighborhood meeting, had appointed an Oxford liaison, who goes over reports weekly with the police. What is being discovered is that not many bad things are happening, so fears are being abated with information.

### Nonprofits to use block grant funds

Council authorized the city manager to enter into agreements with three local non-profit corporations—the Heights Community Congress, the Heights Emergency Food Center, and the Heights Youth Club—for the use of Community Development Block Grants that had been received last fall. These funds are to be used to promote integration and fair housing, to pay operating expenses, and to provide assistance with Project Learn (The Educational Enhancement Program), respectively, at the three organizations.

### Council seeks help with vacant houses

Council members expressed concern about the longer response time to non-emergency complaints due to cuts in city personnel. Residents were urged to be patient and also to cut the grass on vacant properties to help the city and their neighborhoods.



### Property declared nuisance

A property at 2611 Idlewood Road was declared a nuisance with \$4,900 authorized for repairs.

### Heights Fund treasurers

Vice Mayor Evans thanked Kermit Lind for his many years of excellent service as the Heights Fund treasurer and welcomed his successor, Bob Rink. The Heights Fund is a city program for people interested in buying homes in certain neighborhoods.

### Community Improvement Awards deadline

Residents were reminded that August 3 is the deadline for submitting a name for a Community Improvement Award. Forms are available at City Hall, the library or on the city's Web site.

LWV observers: Carol Gibson and Blanche Valancy.

MONDAY JUNE 1, 2009

All council members present.

### Stimulus funds for housing and infrastructure

Federal stimulus funds have arrived in Cleveland Heights, prompting the introduction and approval of two pieces of related legislation. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program will add \$2,350,000 to the city's funds to be used mainly for rehabilitating houses. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 channels an additional \$468,000 to the 2008 Action Plan for funding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities. These CDBG monies will be allocated to the Yellowstone water and road project and other projects including street resurfacing in low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

### CDBG funds to grantees

Three agreements were authorized with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients. These include \$7,000 to Cleveland Tenants Organization for assistance with telephone information services, \$10,000 to Open Doors for after-school programming for middle school-aged youth, and \$30,000 for assistance with the Neighborhood Family Support Initiative Program. The latter was termed an extremely worthy organization in a badly-needed area.

### Loan for new restaurant renovation

A loan from the city's Revolving Loan Fund Program will be used to assist in interior and exterior renovation of a building on the northwest corner of Cedar and Taylor Roads to house a restaurant called Melt, projected to open in the fall and to create forty new jobs. The \$250,000 loan will be repaid at three percent interest over fifteen years.

### Opinions on school funding plan

After a personal meeting with Governor Strickland, Council Member Dietrich modified her earlier criticism of the governor's school funding plan. She finds the plan still not perfect but believes that it will allow more growth than the current funding system and may lead to fewer school levies in the future.

### Summer in the parks

Mayor Kelley reminded residents of the city's 135 acres of superb parkland, many with summer programs. Tickets are on sale for Cain Park events. Paths in Cain and Denison parks have been resurfaced.

LWV observers: Blanche Valancy, Katie Solender.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 4.

## CH CERT needs volunteers

Kevin Mohr

The City of Cleveland Heights prepares for everyday emergencies but during a disaster the community needs all the help it can get. Residents may initially be on their own when disaster strikes, but being prepared can make a difference. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is designed to teach residents to help protect themselves, their families and their neighbors in an emergency.

CERT training sessions will be held at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, on eight consecutive Thursday evenings, starting September 17 and ending November 5. All classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. with the

exception of the third and eighth sessions. Those will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Topics to be covered are: disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, the CERT organization, disaster psychology, and terrorism. The last session will include a disaster simulation.

For an application or for more information, call the City of Cleveland Heights Division of Community Relations, 216-291-2323. Applications may also be found at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

*Kevin Mohr is the Cleveland Heights fire chief and is the city's emergency coordinator.*



## Now Open 4 Lunch



**New lunch Hours:**  
Thursday & Friday  
open @ 11:30

Saturday & Sunday  
open @ 12:00

Daily Specials!

Family Friendly Patio!

2191 Lee Road • Cleveland Heights • 216.371.1713



Voted #1 "Best Place to Treat Your Body" in Cleveland Heights

All Levels  
Specialty Classes  
Great Student & Senior Rates

Yogic Studies  
Teacher Training

Our Students Say:  
"No hype, no lycra."  
"Life-transforming!"



Now in our 12th year!

2319 Lee Rd. 216-371-9760  
[www.atmacenter.com](http://www.atmacenter.com) info@atmacenter.com

## Jimmy O'Neill's Tavern

Dining Hours  
5:00 p.m.—12:00 midnight  
7 nights a week\*

2195 Lee Road  
216-321-1116

Parking behind Cedar Lee Theatre

\* kitchen closes at 11 p.m. on Sundays

Come dine with us  
after the show!!

# CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights

MONDAY MAY 18, 2009  
Board member Esther Moss excused.

## Financial reports available

The Acting Business Manager, Frank J. Brichacek, answered questions from board members about the three months of financial reports now available. The new formatting was praised for making the reports easier to understand.

## Cutting expenses

Director Nancy Levin described the necessary cuts in light of reduced Public Library Fund (state government contribution to local libraries) money and lower tax receipts. The 2.5 percent raise granted to employees in January will be rolled back. The library's percent of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement system "pick-up" will be reduced from six percent to four percent. Benefits will be capped at \$1,000 for a single person and \$2,000 for a family. All part-time staff will work 16 hours a week. Fewer materials will be purchased and some of the lesser-used databases dropped. The newsletter, Check Us Out, has been reduced to four pages. Security



personnel will be hired on staff instead of hiring police officers. Additional income can be garnered by adding local business promotions to the Flashcam checkout receipts. Levin said that the staff has been supportive of the cuts and glad not to have layoffs. She expects revenue to drop through 2011 and 2012 and would like to carry over \$1 million for the 2010 budget year.

## Dobama getting ready to open

Construction is being completed on the Dobama Theater. A community open house to show off the new theater will take place on September 12. The library, Heights Parent Center, and Heights Arts will participate. The first production, Ten More Minutes from Cleveland by Cleveland Heights resident Eric Coble, will open with a gala event on September 25. Gutenberg, the Musical will begin early December and Blue Door in late January.

When asked whether there were any plans to involve the drama department at Heights High, Dobama Managing Director Dianne Boduszek promised to look into it.

## Collaboration with JCU

Technical Services Coordinator Mary Murphy told of the collaboration between the library and Grasselli Library at John Carroll University. Grasselli has become, in effect, a branch where best sellers can be offered to students. There is also interest in genealogy and hosting book signings by JCU authors. University Heights branch personnel are marketing this feature and John Carroll students are volunteering in the Homework Center.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 4.

## It's not too late to get in on the summer reading action!



Barbara Walker was the 2008 Adult Summer Reading Grand Prize Winner!

Tonya Gibson

It's not too late to register for the library's Summer Reading Program. There are prizes for all ages! See what Barbara Walker, last year's Adult Summer Reading winner, had to say about her prize:

"Imagine my delight when I walked into the library early last summer and saw the sign regarding a summer reading program for adults. This opportunity ignited both fond memories of childhood reading contests as well as my natural competitive spirit. What fun! And it's about time!

"With reading decreasing among all populations, what a perfect chance to encourage even greater use of our great library's offerings. I put myself under continual pressure to keep on reading, enjoying some good books, as well as hoping I'd win a weekly prize. It didn't matter to me that I had no idea whom or how many competitors I had; there was joy just from the personal challenge I had set myself. I never thought that I would be the grand prize winner.

"As the winner, my prize is one new book a month for a full year. So far I have received six books. Some of my favorites have been P. D. James' latest Adam Dalgleish mystery and *The Story Of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski.

"I have been able to request some of my books and others were chosen by the skilled library staff who took the time to interview me and find out my reading interests.

"I am looking forward to the library continuing this challenge for adult readers, and I encourage even more adults to participate. It would be terrific to see if we can beat out the children in number of books read. And who knows, maybe you'll be the one to get that call: Congratulations! You've won the grand prize in the library Summer Reading Program!"

**Advertise in the Heights Observer**  
**Call 513-3070**  
[www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)

## Library offers activities for teens

Tonya Gibson

Heights Libraries has lots of fun activities for bored teens. Here's what you can do:

### The Summer SPOT

Every Monday - Friday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
All Heights library locations

We have all summer to be creative! The usual SPOT after school hangout is extended to the summer. We're talking crafts, art contests, gaming tournaments, and open mic Fridays! No Registration.

### Summer Babysitting Clinic

Monday, July 13 and 14, 9 a.m.  
Lee Road Library

Are you interested in becoming an excellent babysitter? This two-day program will teach you basic safety tips,

how to make babysitting fun, and earn you a certificate of completion. You must attend both days to be certified. Registration required.

### Teen Back to School Party

Saturday August 22, 2 p.m.  
Lee Road Library

The summer's almost over but don't fret, we're going to celebrate its exit in style! Hang out with Teen Department staff and get your eat on. We'll provide snacks and soda, an art show exhibit from our summer contestants, music and of course gaming stations for the Wii and Playstation 2. No Registration.

*Tonya Gibson is an employee of the Heights Libraries who enjoys writing and photography in her free time.*

## Times are tough: get grant help at the library

Tonya Gibson

Do you know what you need to do in order to seek a grant? Do you know how to approach a foundation when applying for a grant? If not, the Lee Road Library can help!

Heights Libraries is a proud partner of the Foundation Center Cleveland, a nonprofit organization with more than 50 years of experience at connecting grantseekers and grantmakers. The Lee Road library houses the Foundation Center Cooperating Collection, which is full of information from how to get started in your grantseeking process, to directories of grantmakers. You can also access the Foundation Center's Online Database to search for grantmakers and grants based on different criteria.

If you need help navigating the Foundation Center Cooperating Collection or database, contact the collection's supervising librarian, Kirsten Rosebrock-Hayes, at 216-932-3600, ext. 1.

The Foundation Center Cleveland offers many free introductory classes and fee-based full day training opportunities at their office, 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1600. Their staff and library are a wonderful resource. You can find more information about what's offered there, and much more, at [www.foundationcenter.org/cleveland](http://www.foundationcenter.org/cleveland), or contact them at 216-861-1933.

**More stories online.**  
[www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)

## Heights Libraries offer resources for job seekers

Debbie Rossman

The tough economy is really taking its toll. Unemployment and underemployment are on the rise. Job seekers and those looking to upgrade their job skills can find help at local branches of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Branch libraries offer a wide variety of employment resources, including free Wi-Fi connections and computers that may be reserved for online searches, to create resumés and cover letters, and to fill out job applications. The library's knowledgeable staff is ready to assist computer users and to answer reference questions.

A new Job Resource Center on the second floor of the Lee Road Library is stocked with information on resumé writing and interview skills, county and state job information, pamphlets and brochures from local organizations, and more. A dedicated computer in the center has links to Ohio Means Jobs and other employment sites, as well as subscriptions to national and local newspapers, such as *Crain's Cleveland Business* and the weekly *Sun Newspapers*, that feature listings of job openings.

Heights libraries offer classes to help job seekers. Programs include Basic Computer Skills for Job Seekers, Online Job Applications, Searching for a Job Online, and Resumé Writing. The library also offers open computer lab drop-in sessions and individual appointments with computer trainers. Whatever your job-searching needs are, you will find help at the Heights libraries.

*Debbie Rossman is the support services supervisor at the CH-UH Public Library.*



Serving Northeast Ohio & Beyond

[www.clevelandviolins.com](http://www.clevelandviolins.com)

<p><b>CLEVELAND</b> 2917 Mayfield Road Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 (216) 932-9310</p>	<p><b>MEDINA</b> 44 Public Square Medina, OH 44256 (330) 722-9692</p>
--	---



## Replacement Windows

**U.S. 2009-2010 Energy Tax Credit**

- Up to \$1500. on Eligible Products
- Sun Defense Low E
- Triple-Pane Low-E Insulating Glass with Argon
- Low-E Insulating Glass with Argon
- Low-E Insulating Glass

- ☐ Save Energy, Save Money
- ☐ Aluminum Clad Outside and Wood Inside
- ☐ Optional Fiberglass Composite Windows
- ☐ Free In-Home Consultation

**Call**  
**216.916.7308**

[www.GreenerHomeServices.com](http://www.GreenerHomeServices.com)

## Students at Oxford Elementary learn the importance of helping others

Maureen Jane Carey

Sherrie Malek, kindergarden teacher at the Oxford Elementary School, had an idea for helping the community. She asked her students, and their parents, to donate Teddy bears for children at Providence House, a crisis center in Cleveland.

The project, called "A Beary Nice Holiday," was a success and inspired Sean Sullivan, a fifth grade teacher and colleague of Malek, to take her idea a step further.

Sullivan wanted to find ways to involve more people. He organized a school dance to celebrate students' accomplishments. Students were encouraged to bring bears, which were then donated to children at Providence House, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, MetroHealth Medical Center, University Hospitals and the Cleveland Clinic.

The project has grown each year as more people—students, their families, teachers, and school staff—participate.

Students who are unable to donate a bear are still given an opportunity to join the school-wide project. They can earn a bear to donate by performing common good deeds to benefit their school and the wider community. Such deeds include planting flowers around the school, cleaning up around the school, packing food for homeless shelters, and tutoring younger children at school.

The "Beary Nice Holiday" program continues to flourish under Sullivan's enthusiastic leadership. Donations jumped from 120 the first year to 2,000 four years later, which is impressive, considering that Oxford Elementary has an enrollment of only 300 children.

"The kids really learned a valuable lesson about helping others," Sullivan said. On a field trip to Providence House, Sullivan's fifth graders were able to see the impact their hard work made in the lives of other children. They held a fundraiser for Providence House at which they raised \$300 to buy children's aspirin, baby formula and diapers for the nursery.

Sullivan and his students have been recognized several times for their community service. They were featured on local television, received an award from Cleveland City Council, and had a classroom visit from Mayor Ed Kelley, who commended them for their good work.

Sullivan's ultimate goal is to get the entire school district involved. He is reaching out to all the schools in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

"This is a very easy way to come together as a community," he says.

Sullivan is looking for volunteers to help with the bear project. All those interested in helping in any way should contact Sean Sullivan at 216-849-4505.

*Maureen Jane Carey is an aspiring writer who enjoys writing poetry and plays and has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1982.*

# CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights

TUESDAY MAY 19, 2009  
All board members present.

### Facilities report

Steve Shergalis, director of business services, and George Petkac, assistant director of business services, reported on the district's facilities, which include the buildings, furniture, and grounds. Since the buildings were designed for the late 19th and 20th century, the technology concerns of the 21st century must be addressed. A 2007 district-wide architectural survey found the buildings in good condition, but needing repairs and remodeling. Debt obligations once at a high of \$1.7 million were now down to about \$650,000. Projects have been designed to address safety and security issues, upgrade emergency lighting, install emergency generators, keep roofs in good condition, modernize restrooms, replace exterior doors and windows, and remodel key education spaces like libraries. This year's projects would include emergency lighting and power upgrades at Boulevard and Canterbury; below grade waterproofing and interior stair replacement at Oxford; chimney repair at Gearity; and locker room renovation, science wing roof replacement and other projects at the high school. The question arose whether the current permanent improvement levy of 3.8 mills, which generates about \$3,500,000 each year, would be enough for upcoming projects. The district could seek "green" money for these projects, but stimulus money requests have been turned down. Three grants have also been submitted.

### Status of Millikin and Coventry

Millikin was appraised at \$2,400,000 in 2005. It was offered for sale, but no reasonable offers came in. Now options include selling, having a public auction, razing (with verbal quotes of approximately \$300,000), or leasing. After researching these options the board will publicize more about its use of the twelve acres or the building.

Leasing negotiations with the Cleveland Music School Settlement for use of Coventry had 95 percent agreement on the language; hold ups were due to a decrease in funding of the settlement's expansion plan. The goal is to have a signed lease by December 2009.



### Playground improvements

Playground improvements were mentioned and the board would match up to \$30,000 funds obtained from PTA and other group initiatives.

### Field trip to France

The board approved the Cleveland Heights High School's French Department's field trip to France, April 8-17, 2010. Students would raise funds for the trip and would live with families.

### Maintenance bids approved

The board approved a bid for district-wide door replacement and awarded a contract. They also approved and awarded a contract for the board of education, Wiley Middle School, and Canterbury Elementary School pavement project.

### Board and union agreements

The board approved an agreement between the Board of Education and the Cleveland Teachers Union's monitors bargaining unit effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.

LWV observer: Lillian Houser.

TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2009

All board members present.

### Recognition of student artwork

Student artwork was presented. Heights Arts, the library, the teachers union, and the board of education bought art pieces.

### Athletes honored

Athletic Director Kirsten Hughes honored seniors who have committed to play at college. Five students have been named Athlete of the Year by their conferences. The boys' baseball and softball teams have had winning seasons.

### Retiring teachers honored

Twenty-two retiring teachers were honored. Preceding the board meeting a reception was held for them.

### Superintendent search

Hudepohl and Associates gave an update on the superintendent search. A link to the position profile was on the district's Web site. The board will meet

with the recommended candidates this week and next. Five parents spoke regarding the selection of a superintendent. All praised Christine Fowler Mack on the State of the School Address and how well she has continued to move the schools forward.

### High school incident

The interim-superintendent reported on the June 1 incident at the high school involving food throwing, two smoke bombs and street fights outside the school. The police and/or the school will deal with eleven students. Suspensions will carry over to the next school year.

### Textbook approval

The board approved textbooks for high school social studies and Spanish.

### Grant applications

The board approved the submission of the following grant applications:

- Project Citizen in the Classroom, to the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation for \$1,327.95
- English Literacy and Civics Education, to the Office of Career Technical and Adult Education, Ohio Department of Education for \$23,472
- P.R.I.D.E. Casting Grant, to the Honda America Foundation for \$38,098
- 2009 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant Application, to the Ohio Department of Education Office for Safety, Health and Nutrition for \$117,500
- Adult Basic and Literacy Education, to the Ohio Department of Education Office of Career Technical and Adult Education for \$274,859.

### Senior scholarships

Board Member Kal Zucker noted that Heights High seniors had received over \$8.4 million in scholarships.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 4.

## CH-UH students blast off with summer reading

Tracy Hill-Adognravi

Saturday, June 6, the students and families of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District were launched into a summer of reading by the first CH-UH Summer Blast Off!

Hosted by the CH-UH City School District and held at Fairfax Elementary School, the event was co-sponsored by CH-UH Council of PTAs, Heights Parent Center, Reaching Heights, Heights Arts and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library.

Families from all of the district's elementary and middle schools were invited. Over 500 people were entertained by the music of Blue Lunch, rode in the Rocket Car, enjoyed free hotdogs, popcorn and lemonade, listened to poetry, made crafts, and, most importantly, signed up for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library's Summer Reading Program.

Interim Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack was in attendance with her family and said, "Summer Blast Off was a wonderful event! Thank you to the



The rocket car provided a cool blast of fun for Cleveland Heights - University Heights students.

committee for organizing such a high quality and inspiring event to symbolize the importance of reading. This was true partnership and collaboration!"

*Tracy Hill-Adognravi is coordinator of Heights Parent Center's Family-School Connection Program and is a candidate for CH-UH Board of Education this fall.*

Advertise in the Heights Observer  
Call 513-3070  
[www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)

Protected by

# AFP

Advanced Federated Protection, Inc.

25 Years Of Service To Ohio

**HOME ALARM AND CAMERA**  
A New Feature (The Wireless Alarm)  
Medical Alert • Cell Phone Backup  
NEW • CHANGE OVERS • REACTIVATIONS

**\$24.95**  
per month with ACH  
(No Credit Checks)

**CLEVE 216.321.1369**

1991 Lee Road - Suite 205  
Cleveland, Ohio 44118

## Northcoast Geothermal\*, Inc. Design and Construction Services

The energy-efficient way to heat and cool your home or business. We specialize in retrofitting Heights homes!

Call 216-906-1300 or email [J.Shorey@NorthcoastGeothermal.com](mailto:J.Shorey@NorthcoastGeothermal.com) for more information.

**\* Noun 1. geothermal energy Making the planet greener, one house at a time.**

# Ten alumni inducted into Heights High Hall of Fame

Michael Dougherty

Coming on the heels of a record 545 attendees at their Scholarship Pancake Breakfast at Cleveland Heights High School on April 19, the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation had another capacity crowd at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven on May 7. This time it was for the 29th annual Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame induction.

The Hall of Fame was created as a way to honor the accomplishments of Heights alumni while giving current students examples of what they can accomplish in life, hearing from adults who sat in the same seats and walked the same halls as they do. With over 50,000 graduates, students have an impressive and diverse list of alumni from which to select for induction. A student committee selects inductees from nominations made by the general public. Students do not know the names of the nominees, only their accomplishments.

**This year's inductees include:**  
**Natalie Zuckerman Epstein, Class of 1944**

A community activist as well as patron and promoter of the arts, Epstein currently co-chairs the Great Lakes Theater Festival.

**James K. Fox, Class of 1965**

While many may know him as the founder, leader and drummer for the rock group The James Gang, Fox is also an authority on automotive license plates.

**Robert J. Freeman, Class of 1945**

Freeman is the co-founder of Café 458, a food program for the homeless, and of MedShare International, a program dedicated to distributing surplus medical supplies and equipment for use by health care providers in developing countries.

**Karen L. Gotwald, Class of 1965**

No stranger to the Heights schools, Gotwald taught in the CH-UH schools for 30 years and is the founder and coordinator of the Bully Proofing Program for the district as well as the coordinator for the CHIME Mentoring Program.

**Major Shannon C. Jackson, Class of 1988**

A decorated soldier who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and is now assigned to the Pentagon working on the Ballistic

Missile Defense System, Jackson is also active as a volunteer wrestling coach at Fort Belvoir Youth Recreation.

**Dr. Robert Katz, Class of 1955**

Katz is the acting chairman of Otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, at the Cleveland Clinic and is also a professor of surgery. He was named Outstanding Clinician in 2006, and was named Best Doctor in America and among America's Top Doctors.

**Dr. David G. Miller, Class of 1949**

A civil rights activist and former member of the Peace Corps, Miller is an associate professor of medicine, emeritus, at Case Western Reserve University.

**Yiji Shen Starr, Class of 1987**

Coming to America as an exchange student, Starr graduated from Kenyon College and is now vice president and CFO of John Hancock Annuities.

**Kurt L. Wallach, Class of 1945**

Wallach is the president of Kurtell Growth Industries and is the president and chairman of Prime Kurtell Properties as well as a lecturer at Florida Atlantic University.

**Dr. Eric M. Yasinow, Class of 1975**

Yasinow is a physician and medical director of risk management at University Hospitals Medical Practices, and an assistant clinical professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

"This year we had another outstanding group of inductees," Heights High Alumni Foundation President Eric Silverman said. "Not only do the students select the inductees, but they also pick alumni who truly represent the pluralism that is Heights High. It is not until you hear the powerful stories from the inductees at the ceremony that you truly understand why they have been selected."

To read more about this year's inductees, view past inductees, or to nominate someone for the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, visit [www.heightsalumni.org](http://www.heightsalumni.org).

*Michael Dougherty is the former coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

## Maria Chan wins \$1,000 Zonta Club of Cleveland Scholarship

Elizabeth Leitch and Sarojini Rao

Maria Chan, a Cleveland Heights High School graduate, is one of three winners of the 2009 Zonta Club of Cleveland Foundation Scholarship.

Chan graduated with a 4.4 GPA and has been accepted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she plans to study chemistry and Arabic. She would like to eventually earn a doctorate in biochemistry.

Chan is a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar with Distinction. She also received the Cleveland Heights High School Summer Enrichment Scholarship for summer Arabic studies and the Laurel School Lawrence Scholarship.

A regular competitor in math competitions, Chan interned in the Molecular Biotechnology Core at the Cleveland Clinic. She belongs to the National Honors Society and is on the varsity swim team. In her spare time,



COURTESY OF MARIA CHAN

she volunteers at the Cleveland Botanical Garden as a glasshouse interpreter and tour guide.

Zonta Club of Cleveland is an affiliate of Zonta International whose mission is to advance the status of women worldwide. For more information, visit [www.zontacleveland.org](http://www.zontacleveland.org) or [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).

*Elizabeth Leitch and Sarojini Rao are both members of the Zonta Club of Cleveland.*

## Farewell to high school intern

Heights Observer Staff

FutureHeights bids farewell to Dominique Goodwin who volunteered as an office intern during her 2009 spring semester at Cleveland Heights High School.

Dominique graduated in May and will attend Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio this fall.

"It was a fun experience," she said, "I learned to write better, what it takes to put a newspaper together, and how hectic an office can be."



DEANNA BREMER FISHER

We wish Dominique well in her future endeavors.

## Susan Scheps receives Carolyn Grossman Award from Heights Parent Center



COURTESY OF HEIGHTS PARENT CENTER

Susan Scheps (center), Carolyn Grossman Award winner, with Joanne Federman of Family Connections and Margaret Simon of the Shaker Heights Public Library.

Louisa Oliver

Heights Parent Center honored Susan Scheps with the 2009 Carolyn Grossman Award during its annual gala benefit, "A Night Under the Stars," at the Great Lakes Science Center in May.

Scheps, the youth services manager of the Shaker Heights Public Library, won the award for her extraordinary commitment to families and children.

More than 175 participants and friends of the center enjoyed the live music of Vinyl Replay, from the Jam

Session School in Kent, and the center's live auction of donated items conducted by Steve Presser of Big Fun on Coventry. Everyone had BIG FUN!

The center raised over \$13,000 to support its family literacy programs for parents and their young children.

The center thanks its guests, sponsors and silent auction donors for their support. See [www.heightsparentcenter.org](http://www.heightsparentcenter.org) for details.

*Louisa Oliver is the executive director of Heights Parent Center.*

Our thanks to

BREMEC on the Heights Garden Centers

for their support in making our Spring Mulch Sale such a success!



... keeping Cleveland Heights in good repair



**MJM Landscape Design & Construction**

For the finest Quality

- Fences-crafted of cedar
- Patios-brick & flagstone
- Decks-cedar or composite
- Planting-design & install

Hundreds of satisfied Heights customers.

**Michael J. Madorsky 216.321.7729**

Since 1983



A big bowl of udon noodle soup hits the spot.

## Ariyoshi serves up a taste of authentic Japanese eats

Christina Klenotic

In April, I had the good fortune of visiting Japan during *hanami* season when the lovely cherry blossoms bloomed. Since I returned, I've been holding on to those memories ever so tightly, including the wonderful "experience" meals like *shabu-shabu* and *yakitori* sampled in cozy restaurants. (*Shabu-shabu* is like a Japanese version of fondue, but features a large pot of boiling water for cooking thin slices of meats, veggies and *udon* noodles. *Yakitori* consists of barbecued skewered meats and veggies on bamboo sticks.)

I was ecstatic when I heard that Ariyoshi on Lee Road offered *shabu-shabu* and set up a date with my Japan traveling companion and our significant others.

My first visit to Ariyoshi was last summer. I enjoyed my meal, but I delayed returning because I felt the atmosphere was lacking. With the exception of the sushi bar, the interior resembles a dining hall and certainly could benefit from a layout that makes dining feel more intimate.

I must have postponed my second visit too many times because Ariyoshi recently updated its menu to feature fusion fare and, unfortunately, *shabu-shabu* didn't make the cut.

After our server shared the news, we consoled ourselves with Kirin beer and fruity drinks like *Zombie*, which is billed as the world's most lethal cocktail, while we reevaluated our menu options. The service staff was very attentive and must have sensed my initial disappointment because the hostess brought over an extra drink on the house.

Our party enjoyed the selection of

appetizers and small plates. *Yaki gyoza*, pan-fried dumplings, were crispy and tender in all the right places (\$4.50). Determined to get our hands on some thin beef to somewhat reincarnate a *shabu-shabu* experience, we tried the tasty beef *tataki*, which was seared with a tangy sauce (\$6.95).

*Udon* noodle soup was another favorite dish I sampled in Japan. Ariyoshi's large bowl, featuring sweet tofu skin, carrots and broccoli, hit the spot (\$7.95). The miso soup served with combination dinners like teriyaki (\$16.95) also was very flavorful.

Unfortunately, the *kushiyaki* dish that featured beef, chicken, shrimp, scallop and scallion on a skewer, didn't live up to the *yakitori* we sampled in Japan (\$16.95). However, the sushi selection was vast, fresh and reasonably priced.

Ariyoshi offers free parking in the back of the restaurant, which is a definite perk for busy Lee Road. I initially parked in a metered space nearby and a staff person offered to move my car to a free spot when I asked for change to feed the meter.

I may have missed out on *shabu-shabu*, but the staff's hospitality helped to fill the void.

**ARIYOSHI**  
2206 Lee Road  
Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5-10 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
216.321.1020

*Per her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a "good eater" who never met a carb she didn't like. Read about her Japan trip on www.christinaspotcards.blogspot.com.*

**Host your special event in historic Heights Rockefeller Building**  
Magnificent former banking hall with Tudor details

5,000 square feet • Ample Parking • Select your caterer or use ours  
This Cleveland Heights landmark was built in 1930 by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to serve as the commercial heart of his Forest Hill real estate development.

**3099 Mayfield Road (Corner of Mayfield and Lee roads)**  
Call 216-321-2100 [www.rockefellerheights.com](http://www.rockefellerheights.com)

## Shop local: buy Ohio wines

Loren Sonkin

Some very nice wines are made right here—in our own backyard. Ohio winemakers deserve our support as much as our local merchants and farmers. Here are three Rieslings that are great on their own, before a meal, or with lighter summer fare.

**Ferrante (Harpersfield, Ohio) 2007 Golden Bunches Dry Riesling** at \$13 is one of the best wines being produced in the state. Last winter, when I served as a judge for a competition of the best Michigan and Ohio wines, this was one of the top wines! It is so good that you don't need to qualify that statement by saying "for an Ohio wine." It has plenty of fruit and complexity. The wine goes well with chicken, fish or vegetarian dishes. It is not bone dry and its only sweetness comes from the ripeness of the fruit. I bought my bottle at Heinen's in University Heights.

**Kinlead Ridge (Ripley, Ohio) 2008 Reisling** down along the Ohio River, is making some of the finest wines in



Ohio. Many stores, including Whole Foods in University Heights, carry (or will order for you) their lineup of wines. This one runs around \$12 and is very good. It is dry with lovely green apple flavors. This one works well with lighter foods, cheeses, and poultry, especially right off the grill.

For those who prefer a wine that's a bit sweeter, look for the **Debonné (Madison, Ohio) 2008 Riesling Reserve**. Debonné wines have really improved in quality over the last few years. This wine is semi-sweet, making it cool choice for a warm summer evening. It has lovely peach and pineapple notes and pairs nicely with cheeses before a meal. It is also relatively low in alcohol. I bought my bottle for \$11 at Zagara's in Cleveland Heights.



Loren Sonkin lives in Cleveland Heights and writes for IntoWine.com. He welcomes your comments and suggestions at [sonkinesq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sonkinesq@sbcglobal.net).

**THE CEDAR LEE SID**  
is sponsoring free rides on Lolly the Trolley to the Cain Park Arts Festival on Saturday, July 11th!

Explore the Cedar Lee District. You'll find everyday essentials, dining and nightlife, arts and theatre.



Trolley Service hours: 1– 6 p.m.

Look for the trolley near the municipal parking deck. (Behind the Lemon Grass)

Visit us at [www.cedarlee.org](http://www.cedarlee.org)



Cedar LEE Business District

## Are You All Tired Out?

Re-tire

At

## HOLLIS AUTOMOTIVE

2857 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights  
(216) 472-6443

Check Out Our Tire Prices for Summer Driving  
Complete Mechanical Repairs

Present this ad for a

**\$19.95** oil change and lubrication\*

\*Not applicable to vehicles requiring Synthetic Motor Oil  
\*Not applicable with any other discount

Please call for an appointment

Expires August 4, 2009

## Nela Florist Inc.

Phone (216) 451-8333 1-800-837-8333  
Fax (216) 451-8336  
[www.nelaflorist.net](http://www.nelaflorist.net)

2132 Noble Road (Opposite Nela Park)  
East Cleveland, Ohio 44112



Stan Soble



# A Simply Charming talk with Elisabeth Gevelber

Jeremy Hebebrand

Elisabeth Gevelber is no stranger to business. The single mother started her first business in San Francisco selling men's clothing when she was just 22.

Years later she opened another business called La Tea Da in Rocky River selling retail and, of course, tea.

"We got a lot of press, it was nice, but the store was just way too busy," Gevelber said. Her second business lasted less than two years and she decided it was time for a break.

Then, in December 2007, Gevelber shifted her attention towards the Cleveland Heights area and opened her third and current shop, Simply Charming.

"My grandma lived near here and I spent a lot of my childhood around town, so it was fitting," Gevelber said.

The store, which is subtitled Baubles, Bijoux and Bibelots, offers a unique assortment of greeting cards, jewelry, candles, purses and more. This "woman's lifestyle store," as Gevelber put it, is interesting to any woman curious enough to peek inside.



Employee Mora Logan and owner Elisabeth Gevelber behind the counter of Simply Charming.

Simply Charming is a nice change from her previous stores, Gevelber said. Most of the time she is there by herself, and she enjoys being in the small space on Lee Road. She makes her own hours, so she still has time to spend with her 16-year old son.

"You know, my son is at that age where he figured out that mom runs a jewelry store and he can get his girlfriends all kinds of stuff," Gevelber said with a laugh.

She started the store with her own funds and says she has continued to keep

her current business stable despite the rough economy. The store has broken even in revenue and Gevelber is not worried that she will have a hard time keeping the customers coming. "The hard part of running a business is getting people to know you exist," Gevelber said.

She advertises in the *Sun News*, *Heights Observer* and at the Cedar Lee Theatre. She also supports local events around town.

"The people in this area are so nice, I have made so many friends over the years. And because of the store I continue to make new ones," Gevelber said.

She said that some familiar faces have dropped by to shop at her store, including *Plain Dealer* columnist Regina Brett.

**Simply Charming**  
 2265 Lee Road, in Cleveland Heights  
 open Tuesday through Saturday  
 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Jeremy Hebebrand is a summer intern for the Heights Observer and a senior magazine journalism major at Kent State University.*

POLICY continued from page 1

- The October issue will contain information submitted by candidates; this information will be uniformly formatted by the Observer, and will be drawn solely from a standardized questionnaire supplied by the Observer itself.
- During this pre-election period, all candidate contributions of news or opinion will continue to be accepted for publication online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

- Candidates seeking to place information in the August through November printed editions of the Observer may do so through advertising space purchased from the Observer.

*The Heights Observer and its parent organization, FutureHeights, do not endorse candidates or issues.*

**THE BEST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INC.**

- Wheelchair vans and ambulance
- Hospital and Doctor's appointments
- Dialysis Treatments
- Physical Therapy

Serving Cuyahoga and Metropolitan Area

- Medicaid
- Private Pays

**24 HOUR CALL SERVICE**

**(216) 321-1280**

## What's up at Horizon?

Diane Roberto

If you've walked by the Horizon Montessori School recently, you may have asked "What are they doing over there?" or perhaps you've wondered "Why is that crane at the school?" Well, here are the answers.

Horizon Montessori School is undergoing a major renovation of its exterior on both the Mayfield Road and Newbury Drive facades. Among the new features are a 15-foot shingled, pitched roof with an illuminated cupola

and functional bell; a 27-foot shingle-covered entry at Newbury Drive; new siding and brickwork; and new, energy-efficient windows. The renovation began on June 1 and the crane arrived on June 19. Architect, John Roush, and building contractors, Bleick and Kessler, expect to complete the job by summer's end. Meanwhile, Horizon's director invites the public to walk by, smile and wave, and watch the progress!

*Diane Roberto is the director of Horizon Montessori School which was founded in 1973.*

## I BUY NEO

Mac's Backs  
 Books on Coventry  
 1820 Coventry Rd.

[www.macsbacks.com](http://www.macsbacks.com)

216-321-2665

3 Floors of New & Used Books and Magazines

I Buy NEO Rebate of 5% for purchases over \$20

Isle of Beads  
 2483 Lee Blvd.  
 In the Heights Rockefeller Building

[www.isleofbeadscleveland.com](http://www.isleofbeadscleveland.com)

216-371-0173

Remarkably beautiful and unusual beads that tell your creative story

I Buy NEO Rebate of 5% for purchases over \$50

**MAKE THE PLEDGE**

Buy Local Week **July 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**

to buy local

Show your support to our region's locally owned businesses.

Pledge to redirect \$100 of your planned spending.

[ibuyneo.com](http://ibuyneo.com)

Logon to [ibuyneo.com](http://ibuyneo.com) and fill out an online pledge card today!

Promote your I BUY NEO rebate here - call 216-320-1423

## keep it local

Support Northeast Ohio Businesses

Use your I Buy NEO Community Card at these participating businesses:

<p><b>Cleveland Heights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abrash</li> <li>All Makes Vacuum</li> <li>Anatolia Cafe</li> <li>Antalya Red Square</li> <li>Appetite</li> <li>Atma Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Fun, Inc.</li> <li>Bussey's Upholstery, Foam n' Fabric Inc.</li> <li>Catch A Critter</li> <li>Cedar Lee Pub and Grill</li> <li>Central Health</li> <li>Chris Holley-Starling Photography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clothing Brigade</li> <li>Cut Hair Studio</li> <li>Diamond's Men's Store</li> <li>Everything By Face</li> <li>Fashions by Fowler</li> <li>Fast Eddy's Chop Shop</li> <li>Guy's Pizza</li> <li>Hang It Up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Alternatives</li> <li>Heart and Sole</li> <li>Heights Floral Shoppe</li> <li>Huntington Learning Center - University Heights</li> <li>Isle of Beads Inc</li> <li>JFJ Live Talk Radio</li> <li>Mac's Backs Paperbacks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motorcars Honda Inc</li> <li>Motorcars Toyota Inc</li> <li>On Cue Billiards</li> <li>Paul Hamlin Interiors</li> <li>Pizza BOGO</li> <li>Sanctuary by Joyce</li> <li>Seitz-Agin Hardware</li> <li>Simply Charming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Above Boutique</li> <li>The Stone Oven Bakery &amp; Cafe</li> <li>Washington &amp; Lee Service</li> <li>Wood Trader</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--	--	---

New merchants are being added daily! Purchase your I Buy NEO Community Card at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org)

Buy to Support Northeast Ohio

# Pianist psychoanalyzes George Gershwin

Brenda Gray

Without George Gershwin the hyperactive, neglected juvenile delinquent, George Gershwin the musical genius wouldn't exist. So explained psychiatrist and concert pianist Dr. Richard Kogan to a packed house at a benefit for Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center, a Cleveland Heights-based organization that trains psychotherapists and promotes the value of psychoanalysis. The event was held at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Kogan's presentation of "The Mind and Music of George Gershwin" featured a unique blend of lecture and performance.

The son of habitual gamblers, who moved 28 times during his childhood, Gershwin was "educated by roaming the streets" and thought "music was for sissies" before being transfixed by a classmate playing a violin. He then channeled his boundless energy into learning to play the piano and composing music influenced by his urban surroundings.

"He had a remarkable ability to extract music out of what other people would consider noise," Kogan said before performing a lush solo arrange-

ment of *Rhapsody in Blue*, a piece hastily written by Gershwin after hearing the rhythm of a train. At the time, critics labeled the work a "structural mess."

According to Kogan, Gershwin was a commercially successful narcissist who told cab drivers, "Drive carefully — you got Gershwin in the car," yet he yearned for acceptance by the classical music world. He wrote his last great work, *Porgy and Bess*, while undergoing psychoanalysis to treat depression, before a brain tumor killed him at age 38 in 1937. Kogan concluded with an intense medley from the opera, including "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'," and "Summertime."

This was Kogan's fifth appearance at the institute to benefit the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center. His prior subjects included Mozart and Beethoven. Kogan believes that composers are best understood in the context of their personal lives, "and I've come to the conclusion," he said, "that great music is created because of suffering, not in spite of it."

*Brenda Gray is an attorney and freelance writer in Cleveland Heights.*

## HeightsWrites

Meredith Holmes

Sometimes we are happiest when nothing happens.

### Fishing for Stillness

by Kathleen Cerveny

The dry grass scratches the backs of her eight-year-old legs below her shorts. The sun freckles her thighs in leaf shadow.

Nothing moves except the confusion of gnats stumbling through the humid air at the edge of the lake.

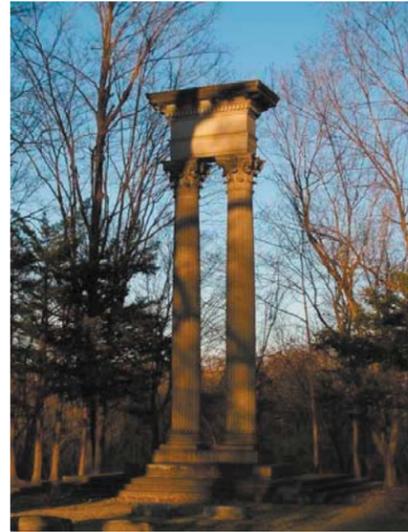
Her father stands a little farther down the shore, whipping his line in shining curves above the water.

Her bamboo pole rests steady in her hand, balanced midway to its tip on a stone between her knees.

She thinks about the worm, drowning as it hangs beneath the bobber, and wills it to be dead. Its wriggling could attract a fish and end the perfect stillness of the day.

Cicadas spin a web of song across the afternoon.

*Kathleen Cerveny has been a potter, a high school arts teacher, and a public radio producer. She is now director of evaluation and institutional learning and senior arts advisor at the Cleveland Foundation.*



Enjoy a beautiful summer day at Lake View Cemetery  
**ĪClevelandĪs Outdoor MuseumĪ**  
 Mayfield and Kenilworth Roads

**Nature Trail Walking Tour**  
 Saturday, July 11, 2009 10:00 a.m.

**Legally Lake View Walking Tour**  
 Saturday, July 18, 2009 10:00 a.m.

**Trolley Tours**  
 July 12, 19 and 26 1:00 p.m.

**Hillcrest Concert Band**  
 July 21, 2009 7:30 p.m. FREE

For more information call  
 216-421-2665 or  
[www.lakeviewcemetery.com](http://www.lakeviewcemetery.com)

*pint with your pup on the patio*

*parnell's pub*



*water provided.  
 the BEER is on you!*

*happy hour til 9pm*

2167 Lee Road (next to Cedar/Lee theatre) • 216.321.3469



# Montgomery Landscaping & Design

-Est. 1991-

- Full-Scale Residential/Commercial Landscaping & Tree-Care Services
- Specialized In Landscape & Hardscape Designs
- Complete Tree & Stump Removal
- Custom Hardscape: Stone Walls, Patios, Walks, & Outdoor Fireplaces
- Pressure Washing To Make Your Walks, Driveways, & Stone Look Like New!
- Reliable Snow Plowing Services Available For The Winter
- FREE ESTIMATES!



Now Save \$20  
 On All Pressure  
 Washing Services!

**-Please Visit Us At: -[www.montgomerylandscaping-design.com](http://www.montgomerylandscaping-design.com)-**  
**-[MontgomeryLAD@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MontgomeryLAD@sbcglobal.net)- -216.375.8371-**



# Keep your lawn healthy and green this summer

Douglas Freer

Will your lawn survive the summer heat? Here are some tips for growing and keeping it healthy.

## Mowing tips

- Mow the grass tall, at least three inches, even three and a half. The taller the better. Longer leaf blades collect more sunlight for increased photosynthesis, which is how the plant creates food for itself. More food means more energy and stronger grass plants and healthier roots. Tall grass shades the soil, keeping it cooler, and minimizes sunlight that weed seeds need to germinate.
- Cut shady lawn areas less frequently, allowing the grass to grow taller so it can capture more sunlight.
- Sharpen your lawn mower blade before summer heat, and again in late summer for best results, or any time you run over sticks or rocks.
- Change the direction of travel with each mowing to help the grass stand up.
- Mulch the grass clippings back into the lawn. Rake out clumps of clippings. Clippings are more than 80 percent water and they will return nutrients and water to the lawn. Clippings do not contribute to the build up of thatch.

## Watering tips

- Measure the amount of water your sprinkler delivers by setting out some cake or pie pans. Measure the water collected in the tins on a level surface after one half hour to determine how



Proper mowing technique is just one component to maintaining a healthy lawn.

much total time is required to deliver one inch of water each week.

- Supplement rainfall as needed to make sure your lawn receives at least one inch of water per week.
- Break up the watering into several sessions, watering for as long as possible without allowing the water to puddle. When puddles form the soil is saturated and can not absorb any more water and water is being wasted. If you have watered less than one inch you will need to water again.

## Other tips

- Clean up leaves, sticks and other plant litter before mowing. Plant litter and debris may contribute to excessive thatch build up and should not be left on the lawn. Mowing over sticks and other debris will dull your mower blades more quickly.
- Do not leave hoses, children's swimming pools or other items on the lawn for an extended period of time. Hot plastic items will heat up and bake the lawn creating dead spots.

• Fertilize the lawn with either traditional or organic products to deliver the equivalent of four pounds of nitrogen per thousand square feet for the season. Break up the fertilizer into four or five applications. Reduce the amount of fertilizer you apply in shady lawn areas by half or two-thirds.

• Avoid aerating and dethatching the lawn when the weather is dry and hot. Wait until cooler temperatures return this fall, or if you must do it now, then

water the lawn thoroughly.

It is easier to keep a lawn green and healthy than it is to make a lawn green and healthy. Follow these tips to avoid having to repair or renovate your lawn this fall.

*Douglas Freer is a Cleveland Heights native and the owner of Lawn Lad, Inc. Lawn Lad provides residential landscape services in the Heights area. Call 216-371-1935 or visit [www.lawnlad.com](http://www.lawnlad.com).*

## Bug of the month: fleas

Barry Zucker

I receive many calls from people telling me they had a simple pest problem, called an exterminator, and the next thing they knew, they and their family and pets were ill from pesticide exposure. Sometimes they develop temporary flu-like symptoms. Others are not so fortunate, experiencing more serious problems.

Pesticides have been linked to asthma, childhood leukemia, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities and neurological disorders. There is no such thing as a safe pesticide, even if used as directed. Indeed, there is a federal law prohibiting pesticide manufacturing companies from making such claims.

For virtually every pest problem there is a safe, nontoxic solution. Usually it involves focusing on sanitation, prevention, vacuuming, baiting and trapping. This month, we focus on the flea.

Fleas are amazing survivors. The Egyptians used to smear a slave with the milk of asses and make him stand in the middle of a room as a human flea trap. In the 17th century, women wore decorative flea traps in their bodices.

Today, chemical flea remedies are more problematic than the fleas themselves. Fogging with pesticides is very harmful to people and pets. And in the long run, is ineffective. For pets, products that contain growth regulators are available, but some pets cannot tolerate them. The best action is to comb your pet with a flea comb. A dab of petroleum jelly will immobilize the fleas. Bathe the pet with a mild shampoo or lemon-scented dishwashing liquid. And vacuum, vacuum and vacuum to get rid of flea larvae. Seal the vacuum bag and dispose of it before fleas can escape.

Cedar-filled bedding for pets makes a good flea repellent. In fact, the ancient Greeks and Romans used cedar on the backs of parchment manuscripts to prevent insects from eating them.

For more information, e-mail [bzucker@BeyondPesticidesOhio.org](mailto:bzucker@BeyondPesticidesOhio.org), visit [www.beyondpesticidesohio.org](http://www.beyondpesticidesohio.org) or call 216-291-3424.

*Barry Zucker is executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio, which promotes the safer and cost-effective pest control practices of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).*

## Taking Your Garden to NEW Heights!



**BREMEC**  
on the Heights  
Garden Centers

**Annuals • Perennials • Trees • Shrubs  
Shade Plants • Pottery • Garden Décor  
& Much More!**

**Saturday  
Morning Savings  
9am-Noon  
25% OFF\***  
All Plant  
Material

**ARE  
YOU FEELING  
LUCKY?  
Gambler Sale  
July 23-26  
Everything  
On Sale!**

— Green Up Your Lawn —  
Milorganite Organic Fertilizer or Scott's Products

13410 Cedar Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
216-932-0039 • [www.bremec.com](http://www.bremec.com)

Summer Hours: Mon - Sat 9-6 • Sun 10-5

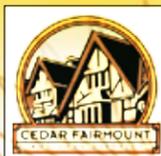
\* Not valid with other offers, sales or quantity discounts.

Extraordinary Plants for Extraordinary Gardens!

8TH ANNUAL **DISCOVER  
CEDAR FAIRMOUNT**

**Summer Festival  
&  
Arts and Crafts Show**

**Sunday, August 9th - Noon - 4pm**



**Clowns, Musicians, Euclid Beach Rocket Car, Bouncer,  
Arts & Crafts, Cool Pet Contest & Pony Rides**

For information call 216.791.3172 or visit [www.cedarfairmount.org](http://www.cedarfairmount.org)

**SPONSORED BY:**  
Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, Cedar Fairmount Merchants,  
Friends of Cedar Fairmount, Chase Bank, Dave's Supermarkets, & Fifth Third Bank

# Fight Alzheimer's: exercise the brain

Natalie Reiss

"What can I do to protect myself from Alzheimer's?" is a tricky question to answer, since there is no "magic bullet" to prevent people from developing this devastating disease that affects approximately 4.5 million people in the U.S.

The standard response, based on current research, is: eat a healthy diet – lots of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low amounts of saturated fat – control your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, exercise your body and brain, and cultivate a close network of friends and acquaintances.

A recent study comparing the longterm effects of social, physical and cognitive activity in mice showed that cognitive activity was the best protector against developing Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the future.

These AD mice don't live very long, so it is easier for researchers to follow them across their entire lifespan. Scientists use MRI scans in order to view subtle brain changes in these mice while they are alive. Scientists also tightly control the environments of these mice, ensuring that only the variable of interest is changed across different groups, which strengthens their ability to draw conclusions.

Researchers took young adult AD mice and assigned them to one of four groups: 1) high social activity 2) high physical activity 3) high cognitive activity and 4) a control group with no special

activity. Only the mice in group 3, who were given a lifelong high level of cognitive activity, were protected against memory impairment. Mice in group 3 performed as well as normal mice that do not go on to develop Alzheimer's disease. In addition, brain levels of beta-amyloid were substantially reduced only in group 3.

This study suggests that cognitive activity may be more important than social or physical activity for protecting against or delaying Alzheimer's disease.

The take-home message? Start "exercising" your brain now to help prevent developing Alzheimer's disease later.

Here are some tips to help you "exercise" your brain:

- Learn new things in your workplace, at home, or where you volunteer
- Limit the amount of time you spend watching noneducational TV and using the computer for passive entertainment
- Read books, newspapers and related educational on-line sites
- Join a book discussion, poetry discussion or art discussion group
- Have intellectually-stimulating conversations
- Play puzzle games (crosswords, Sudoku)
- Go to museums.

*Natalie Reiss is a licensed clinical geropsychologist, freelance medical writer and editor, a mother of two and a Cleveland Heights resident.*

## Free classes offer adventure for seniors

Anita Kazarian

Bored? Missing the thrill of challenge and adventure in your life? They say wisdom comes with age, so why not put it to good use and try something different?

Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University and other institutions offer free classes to seniors.

Project 60 is CSU's program. If you are 60 or over, you can audit most any class, providing it is not filled. The Fall Course Enrollment Day is Friday, August 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phone 216-687-9379 or check the link below for details.

Alumni/Senior Audit is the CWRU program. Again, you may audit any available college class as long as there is space. The rules at CWRU are a bit different. University alumni of any age, and any Greater Cleveland resident age 65 and older may audit undergraduate or graduate courses. Registration deadline is Tuesday, August 18 for fall semester classes. Phone 216-368-4413 or check

the link below for details.

CWRU's College of Arts and Sciences opens the majority of its courses to auditors, as does CSU – though special permission may be required in some cases. Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks, lab and other fees as applicable. You can choose day or evening classes, campus location, the professor, and in almost all cases, you do not need to complete prerequisite requirements.

Heights senior residents have free access to these excellent universities. Who knows, maybe one of your life long dreams may be awaiting you. Rocket science anyone?

**Links:**

- CWRU: [www.case.edu/artsci/audit](http://www.case.edu/artsci/audit)
- CSU: [www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/project60/](http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/project60/)
- Tri-C: [www.tri-c.edu/enrichment/seniors/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.tri-c.edu/enrichment/seniors/Pages/default.aspx)

*Anita Kazarian is a resident of University Heights and is a candidate for UH City Council this fall.*



**PACIFIC East**

Japanese and Malaysian Restaurant

1763 Coventry Road  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118  
[www.pacificeastcoventry.com](http://www.pacificeastcoventry.com)

Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Fri.: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sat.: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sun.: 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Tel: 216-320-2302 Fax: 216-320-2306

## Coventry Street Arts Fair

### Thursday, July 16 • 6pm-9pm

*All events are free and open to the public.*

Music • Entertainment • Sidewalk Sales • Outdoor Dining • Local Artists, Farmers, Vendors...And More!!

Our thanks to these corporate sponsors and to the many people who attended our fundraiser for their support:













Between Mayfield Road & Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights  
For more information on Coventry events, log on to [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org). In case of inclement weather, Coventry has the right to cancel its Street Arts Fairs by 4:00 p.m. the day of the event.





## Has your lawn gone on vacation?

Are disease, insects, and recreational wear conspiring with heat, drought, and infertile soil to ruin your lawn? Our lawn renovation services make distressed lawns healthy and green again. Call today to find out how we can make your yard the envy of the neighborhood.

- Lawn renovation and new lawn installation
- Organic and traditional lawn fertilization programs
- Integrated weed and pest management
- Organic lawn topdressing
- Lawn aeration and thatch removal
- Weekly lawn maintenance

**2009 LAWN LAD ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN**

[lawnlad.com/stimulus](http://lawnlad.com/stimulus)

★ ★ ★

**SPECIAL OFFER: SAVE \$25.00**

Take \$25.00 off lawn care and renovation services. Offer for new or additional services. Not to be combined with other offers. Expires August 15, 2009. Code: HOB0709



**Lawn Lad. Passionately committed to making your yard and garden look their beautiful best.**

www.lawnlad.com | (216) 371-1935



## WOOD TRADER

13429 Cedar Rd.  
Cleveland Heights  
**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES**

216-397-7671  
Mon-Fri 9-6  
Sat 9-5

## JULY SPECIALS

**BRING US YOUR VACATION AND STAY-CATION MEMORIES – WE'LL PRESERVE THEM FOREVER.**

Photos, sand, plane or concert tickets – make a collage to remember

Certified Picture Framer on staff

**WOODTRADERFRAMING.COM**

# Parents train for triathlon to honor daughter

Beth Lucas

Parents will do anything for their children, and Andrew Koonce and Tania Younkin are no exception.

This August, the Cleveland Heights couple will compete in the Cleveland Triathlon in support of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland as a tribute to their daughter, Elsie.

Married for seven years, the couple never dreamed they would complete a race like this together — but it is now common for neighbors to see them training, often with two kids in tow.

Tania, a former National Champion Collegiate swimmer, pushed Elsie across the finish line at last year's triathlon as a part of Team UCP. This year Andrew will join them.

A Cleveland Heights native, Andrew played basketball and some team sports, but definitely did not aspire to be a triathlete! That changed when Elsie was born.

Elsie is two-and-a-half years old and has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The exact cause of her condition is unknown.

Cerebral palsy is not a disease; it is defined as a group of chronic conditions affecting body movement and muscle coordination resulting from damage to one or more specific areas of the brain before, during or shortly after birth.

Elsie's case left her blind with optic nerve damage and limited coordination. When she began working with United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland in early 2008, Elsie was unable to hold her head up, sit, crawl or walk independently.

With the help of traditional physical and occupational therapy, as well as UCP's intensive Steps to Independence® program, the future looks bright for Elsie.

She can now sit up on her own and crawl independently — in fact, you just might see her in the Heights cruising down the sidewalk in her walker, chasing after her five year old sister, Camryn.

Inspired by Elsie and her daily fight to stretch, move and hopefully one day to walk, Andrew and Tania are committed to complete the 23rd Annual Cleveland Triathlon in the North Coast Harbor area of Downtown Cleveland on August 2.

Tania will once again push Elsie in a stroller during the run portion, and after her race is complete, she will head back into the water as part of a relay with her family cheering her on.

Team UCP includes triathletes, recreational enthusiasts and nonathletes united to raise funds and awareness for United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland.

Last year, Team UCP members raised



Elsie on the move with big sister Camryn.

over \$100,000 in pledges for the miles they ran, biked and swam, with close to \$20,000 raised by Tania and Andrew.

Each contribution impacts programming for over 1,000 children and adults with disabilities throughout Northeast Ohio.

To support Elsie and her family's efforts to raise funds or to learn more about Elsie, visit [www.active.com/donate/teamucp09/taniayounkin](http://www.active.com/donate/teamucp09/taniayounkin).

You do not need to be a client family

to be a part of the team. For more information on Team UCP or the Cleveland Triathlon, contact [blucas@ucpcleveland.org](mailto:blucas@ucpcleveland.org), call 216-791-8363, extension 227 or log on to [www.pacificsportsllc.com/cleveland/athlete.html](http://www.pacificsportsllc.com/cleveland/athlete.html).

Participants should register under Team UCP.

*Beth Lucas is the Director of Development at United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland and is a resident of University Heights.*

**Picture This**

No Sunday golf on these links! John D. Rockefeller allowed Patrick Calhoun to use his land for an additional nine holes in his Euclid Club golf course, but only if those nine holes were not played on Sundays. Calhoun opened this first-class recreational facility in order to attract high-end home buyers to his new development in Cleveland Heights. Well-known Meade & Garfield designed the Euclid Golf Club roughly at Cedar and Norfolk, which was completed in 1901. The course was bounded roughly by Derbyshire, S. Overlook, West St. James and Demington. Check out *Euclid Golf Neighborhood* by Deanna Bremer and Hugh Fisher at [www.euclidgolf.com](http://www.euclidgolf.com).

COURTESY OF CH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Cedar Fairmount Festival will celebrate local neighborhood

Kaitlin Bushinski

Don't miss the chance to celebrate the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood during an afternoon of food, fun and festivities!

Cedar Fairmount's Business District will come alive on Sunday, August 9 as artists, musicians and street vendors pack the sidewalks as part of the 8th Annual Cedar Fairmount Festival. The festival will run from noon to 4 p.m.

Started in 2001, the festival celebrates the local community by bringing the neighborhood together. The Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID), along with local merchants and foundations, will sponsor diverse activities for festival-goers of all ages.

This year's highlights for the kids include pony rides, a bouncing castle

and a "cool pet" contest that will give awards to the area's most talented and best-dressed pets.

In addition to plenty of attractions for kids, adults can enjoy more sophisticated entertainment by perusing the arts and crafts show, getting a free massage or taking tours of the historic Alcazar hotel.

"It is our way of giving back to the community," said Kaye Lowe, executive director of Cedar Fairmount SID. "We are grateful for the support of Friends of Cedar Fairmount and the merchants, professionals and neighbors whose donations make the festival possible."

*Kaitlin Bushinski is a recent graduate of Oberlin College and a summer intern with the Heights Observer.*

**Spring hours**  
Tuesday - Saturday: 11 to 5 • Sunday - Monday: Closed

*See you soon!*

**Simply Charming**  
Baubles, Bijoux & Bibelots  
2265 Lee Rd. ~ Cleveland Hts. (next to The Stone Oven)  
(216) 932-2500 ~ [www.simplycharmingboutique.net](http://www.simplycharmingboutique.net)

**"Great gifts for the women in your life!"**

**KENSINGTON PLACE**  
APARTMENTS

Your Home in the Heights.

- Newly renovated 1BR & 2BR units
- Monthly rents from \$745
- Updated fitness center
- Party room with new kitchen for family events
- Covered parking garage
- Close to University Circle, CWRU

Call or visit for details and special offers:  
**(216) 691-1944**  
[www.kensingtonplaceapartments.com](http://www.kensingtonplaceapartments.com)  
30 Severance Circle, Cleveland Heights

Information subject to change without notice.

**Start Your Summer with a BANG!**

**SPECIAL \$10.00 OFF**  
Mention this ad and save \$10 on a service call (within normal working hours). C.O.D. ONLY. Not valid with any other offers or contracts. One coupon per visit. Expires 8/31/09

Owned and operated by Chris and Bill Hann.

**VERNE & ELLSWORTH HANN INC.**

Bonded • Insured • OH LIC #24462

**216-932-9755**

**PLUMBING / HEATING / AIR CONDITIONING** [www.vehann.com](http://www.vehann.com)

## Sometimes we need a smack in the face

Mary Courtwright

You never know when life will smack you in the face with the unexpected. They happen to everyone, those moments of clarity when you realize you were inches from disaster, walking a tightrope between life and death. It could be a car accident, disease, natural disaster, or a random act of negligence by a stranger...

Remembering such times immediately brings back visceral reactions. Time flows in slow motion. You remember feelings of shock, the lump in your throat, the stomach ache that sets in when you realize you almost lost someone you love – or that they almost lost you.

Thinking back, I recall these moments in my own life so easily. The first time my husband had a gun pulled on him while at work. The morning my daughter was on her way to school, not three minutes from our house, and the car she was riding in was side swiped by a van going 50 mph. The call on Christmas Eve telling me my father had a stroke, and the following one that said he'd need brain surgery. And finding out my youngest brother had flipped the car several times while driving back from New York – thankfully, he emerged without a scratch.

Had any of those moments gone differently, I would have lost a piece of my heart.

Of course these moments don't always have a happy ending. Life is about change and no one lives forever. But I think close calls bear some important messages. To be thankful for the time you have with those you love – to spend more time connecting than arguing. To focus not on the imperfections in relationships, but on what you are learning from the mistakes and conflicts. And to always say "I love you" before hanging up the phone, because you never know when it might be the last call.

Every day is a gift, and we should try harder to remember that. But we all forget it from time to time, especially when we find ourselves overwhelmed with day-to-day frustrations – paying bills, working long hours, dealing with overtired children, and the occasional fender-bender. Sometimes we forget it for so long that we need a wakeup call. We need to be reminded of what we have to lose. We need to remember to be thankful for all of the love we have in our lives, no matter how imperfect it may be.

Next time life smacks you in the face – with an inconvenient flat tire, a spouse who pushes your buttons at the wrong moment, a ticket on your way to work, or a close call that brings to you the line between life and death – stop and listen. Remember what you may be forgetting. Then, try turning the other cheek – you just might have some sense smacked into you.

Mary Carroll Courtwright teaches psychology, sociology, and philosophy courses at Bryant & Stratton College in Eastlake. Her novel *Song of the Messenger*, which is set in Cleveland Heights, was published in 2007. Her writing has also been featured on National Public Radio. For more information, visit [www.marycourtwright.com](http://www.marycourtwright.com).

## Free citizen-journalism workshop to be held again on July 15

Heights Observer Staff

"You Too Can Write the News," a free workshop for citizen journalists, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, in Meeting Room A of the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. This is a repeat event of the workshop, which was first held in May.

The workshop, hosted by the *Heights Observer* and FutureHeights, is the first in a series designed to help people who want to foster discussion of community issues by writing in the *Heights Observer* or any other citizen journalism project.

Topics covered in the workshop are vital reporting skills and techniques to make the writing process fast and easy. They are comparable to those taught in college-level journalism courses.

The workshop will be conducted by Bob Rosenbaum, an award-winning reporter, editor and publisher – at local, regional and national newspapers and magazines – for nearly 30 years.

Rosenbaum is a life long resident of Cleveland Heights and a member of the *Heights Observer* editorial board.

"This is for the many people who are already contributing to the *Heights Observer* and for anyone who would like to contribute," Rosenbaum said. "People who attend this seminar will walk away with all the basics for reporting a news story accurately and fairly; and they'll have a set of tools to help them write that story quickly and easily – without any of the anxiety that many people have when faced with a blank computer screen."

Information will include who to interview and what to ask; which facts

to include in the article; how to start the article and how to assure its readability.

"Newswriting doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, there's a lot of formula involved," Rosenbaum said. "Our goal in this workshop is to provide that formula so everyone can feel qualified to make their contribution."

The workshop will include hands-on exercises with guidance from other working journalists who are involved with the *Heights Observer* project. It will conclude with ample open time for questions and one-on-one guidance.

The workshop is free, but reservations are highly recommended. To make reservations, please call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423. You can also sign up on Facebook.com, in the "events" box of the "FutureHeights" group.



Sharya Nelson, a second grader from East Cleveland who attended the Noble Nela Street Festival for the first time, shows off her pumpkin balloon from Flowers the Clown.



East Cleveland's Shaw High School Band gives a lively performance at the Noble Nela Street Festival in June.

**TERESA'S PIZZA**

2165 S. Taylor Rd.  
University Heights  
**(216) 321-3900**

— Mention this ad when ordering —

**15" 16-CUT  
ONE-TOPPING PIZZA**

**\$13.00**

Chicken and X-Cheese Additional  
Offer Expires 8/05/2009

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**Tim Weeks**  
OF  
**WEEKS AUTOMOTIVE**

1503 Warrensville Center Road  
(216) 691-3950

OIL, LUBE &  
FILTER SPECIAL  
only \$23.95

- Up to 5 qts. oil • Oil Filter
- Top off fluids • Chassis Lube
- FREE 12 pt. Safety Inspection

Excludes hybrid cars. With coupon. Exp. 8/31/09

www.dogtopia.net

DOGTOPIA™

Doggy  
Daycare &  
Overnight  
Boarding in  
Cleveland Hts.  
**291-0605**

SEITZ-  
AGIN  
HARDWARE

Service, Quality,  
Community

(216) 321-4630  
2271 LEE ROAD  
SEITZ-AGIN.COM

**Ardmore Tree Service**  
Complete Tree Service  
Year-round

We Sell and Plant  
Trees & Shrubs

(216) 486-5551

- Pruning • Tree and Stump Removal • Feeding
- Firewood • Brush Chipping • Snowplowing

Member National Arborist Association  
Free Estimates Fully Insured

Cozy at Home Pet Sitting

Bonded and Insured  
Owned by a Registered  
Veterinary Technician

Member, Pet Sitters International  
New Client Discounts Available!

(216) 382-5468

www.cozyathomepets.com

Always Buying Paying Cash

MICHAEL'S ANTIQUES

- Gold
- Jewelry
- Glassware
- Paintings
- Pottery
- Military Items
- Sterling Silver
- Bronze Figures
- Clocks
- Swords
- Lamps
- Violins
- Porcelain
- Ivory Carvings
- Oriental Rugs
- Marble Figures

7 Days 8 a.m.– 10 p.m.  
**440-461-4611**  
FREE House Calls for SENIORS  
Buying anything unusual

A **Life Insurance policy** is like a parachute:  
*If you don't have one when you need one, it's too late to get one.*

42% of people die without Life Insurance.

\$100,000 LIFE POLICY FOR \$10.00 MONTH

Washington & Co Insurance Agency Inc.  
2565 Noble Road (216) 691-9227

Ted Stone Professional Painting Co.

WATER DAMAGE SPECIALIST

- Painting, Interior & Exterior
- Deck Refinishing, Power Washing
- Water Damage Repair, Plastering
- Minor Household Repairs
- Wallpaper, Small Drywall Jobs

If it's a task you don't want to tackle or a sight you don't want to see, give us a call!

216-291-2523  
OR  
216-322-9180 (cell)

Grand Opening

Culture of Cutting  
Barber Shop

2070 South Taylor Rd.  
\$10 Seniors and Children  
\$13 Men and Women  
Free shampoo with cut

Mon.- Sat. 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Sunday.

(216) 320-9611

Call for an appointment. Walk-ins welcome.

# Vote 'Your Best' of the Heights!\*



Complete this ballot or go online at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org) to be part of the Cleveland Hts. & University Hts. fun!  
**Deadline for ballot submission is August 24, 2009**

**PLEASE JOIN US**  
**Monday, September 14, 2009**  
**for the Best of the Heights**  
**Awards Ceremony at**  
**Nighttown!**

## FutureHeights

To win a FutureHeights gift package, contact information must be completed in full!

- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST NEW BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST HANGOUT
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST OUTDOOR DINING
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST SALON/BARBER/SPA
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST ART SCENE
- \_\_\_\_\_  
MOST UNUSUAL BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST AUTO SERVICE
- \_\_\_\_\_  
FRIENDLIEST STAFF
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST HOME & GARDEN BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST CASUAL MEAL

- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST COMMUNITY SPIRIT
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST GREEN BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST SPECIALTY SHOP
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST BAKED GOODS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST ETHNIC EATS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST PET BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST HOME BASED BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST DRY CLEANER
- \_\_\_\_\_  
BEST PLACE TO TAKE YOUR KIDS

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE



**\* BALLOT INCLUDES CLEVELAND HEIGHTS & UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MERCHANTS - ONE BALLOT PER PERSON!**  
**Please mail ballot to: FutureHeights, 2163 Lee Road #103, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118**

## We call it Wellness because "working out" doesn't sound like fun.



Let Judson help you meet your 2009 fitness goals! Join our Wellness Center. A monthly membership includes water and land classes, access to strength training equipment, a massage therapist and more. Get helpful tips from our friendly, professionally trained fitness instructors. Call (216) 791-2393 or visit [judsonsmartliving.org](http://judsonsmartliving.org).

Judson at University Circle | Smart Living at Home | South Franklin Circle

