Local independent businesses organizing to form alliance

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The economy has many Heights merchants feeling an urgent need to try something new. “If we don’t do something fast,” said Trevor Gile, owner of Motorcars Honda, “we’re going to keep losing businesses. With fewer businesses, the city will collect fewer taxes and will have to cut services. Property values will decrease and everyone in the community will suffer.”

Heights independent business owners are banding together to bring more people into their shops. They were inspired by independent business expert Jeff Milchen, who came to town in March to discuss how the diversity of independently-owned businesses contribute to a community’s economy. Milchen is a cofounder of the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA), a group formed in 2001 to help communities conduct “Buy Local” campaigns and create programs to support local entrepreneurs. He spoke March 24 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center and then held a workshop, attended by about 50 local business owners, the next day at the Lee Road Library.

FutureHeights sponsored the event with support from the Coventry Village and Cedar Lee special improvement districts, BoomModern, the City of Cleveland Heights and the library. Milchen described how independent business alliances across the country help local merchants and community supporters to educate the public about the benefits of doing business locally; organize collaborative purchasing to keep costs down; conduct mutually beneficial marketing campaigns; and create a visible public presence for independent business owners.

Several owners met again on April 15 to discuss ways to promote local businesses. They are looking at advertising, organizing to form alliances with other independently owned businesses, and applying for local, state and federal grants. They’ve also established a Facebook page to link Heights business owners and are talking about organizing to support small businesses in the Heights. They have also discussed creating a Heights Resource Guide and a Heights Small Business Alliance.

Memorial Day Parade to remember those who serve

Anita Kazarian

“University Heights is going to have the biggest and best Memorial Day parade ever this year,” promises Mayor Susan Infeld. The parade committee met on April 13 and announced this year’s theme—Remembering Those Who Serve. “It honors those in the military; and also our safety forces and volunteers who serve the community,” said Chairperson Eileen Smotzer.

For the third consecutive year, a musical extravaganza will take place after the parade, at John Carroll University. The UH Symphonic Band will play traditional patriotic music, and Men of Independence and OC Cash Orcheatra will perform music from the 1950s. Follow the parade to JCU and enjoy food and beverages, pony rides, clowns, dancing and a special Memorial Day program.

New this year is the Corona Tournam- ent. Smotzer urges all UH comhite “war- rions” to consider putting up a team for an elimination tournam- ent, beginning with 16 teams. Smotzer also invites adventurous friends and neighbors to put together a “Lawn Chair Stomp Band” for the festivities. Everyone is welcome to attend the next committee meeting on May 11, at 7:30 p.m., at UH City Hall.

Anita Kazarian is a community volunteer.

Gail Bellamy to serve second term as CH poet laureate

Meredith Holmes

The recent vote to extend Gail Bellamy’s term as poet laureate of Cleveland Heights to a second year was unanimous. Every member of Heights Writes, the Heights Arts committee that appoints the city’s poet laureate, wanted Bellamy to occupy the post for another year. “Bellamy is a fine poet and person. It will be great to have her for another year,” said Mary Weems, previous poet laureate.

Gail Bellamy

CHHS grad honored for work on Hubble telescope

Evan Komito

Dr. Rodger Evans Dossey will be among those inducted into the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame on May 6. Dossey, an astronomer known by his colleagues as “the heart and soul of the Hubble,” was a 1965 graduate of CHHS.

His interest in mathematics and physics took him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned his doctorate as part of a lifelong career in guiding the Hubble mission to explore far distant galaxies from the Space Telescope Science Institute near Baltimore.

“In simpler terms,” Lauer continued, “he figured out how to get the trains to run on time, during a period when it wasn’t quite clear if the train was even on the track.”

For his services, Dossey received the Distinguished Public Service Medal from NASA in 1991. In 2004, for “his outstanding, selfless dedication to making the Hubble Space Telescope one of the most scientifically productive telescopes of all time,” he received the Van Biesbroeck Prize from the American Astronomical Society.

Dossey died in October 2009 after a long battle with cancer. Even while ill, his dedication to Hubble found him in the control room during the final repair mission — which is depicted in the IMAX film, “Hubble,” showing at the Great Lakes Science Center through the end of May.

Hubble image of Swan Nebula, 5,500 light years away.
Opening up the Observer

Bob Rosenbaum

The good news is the bad news. The Observer now receives many more contributions each month than the print edition can hold.

Until now, that situation has been handled by trying to prioritize the importance of each submission, which inevitably leads to the conclusion that they’re all important. And editors are instructed to cut down piles from dozens of stories to fit the available space.

Such cutting has been a necessary evil as contributions have continued to multiply, but it isn’t an acceptable long-term approach. It’s tough on the writers, who feel their hard work is being disregarded; it’s tough on the editors, because cutting stories by half or two-thirds is difficult and unpleasant. It’s also tough on the readers and the story subjects, because the essence of the information can get lost.

So, the Observer is now adopting a Web-first publishing strategy. Here’s what that means:
• We still want to publish all of your articles so keep sending them!
• Instead of waiting for a monthly copy deadline, we are encouraging people to submit their articles at any time during the month.
• We are assigning stories to editors on a rolling basis—as the work comes in.

• All articles will be published online first, generally within a few days of submission.
• Every article that runs online will automatically be considered for publication in the next printed edition of the Heights Observer.

This does not mean that long articles will run in their entirety. Whether online or in print, the Observer enforces rules about story length (generally 300-500 words, but detailed on www.heightsobserver.org under the “CJIA Policies” menu). These policies are based on a desire to deliver variety and to consider the reader’s time, and the fact—the to loosely paraphrase Mark Twain—that it is easier to write a long winding story than one that is concise and compelling.

By making this change, we hope to maintain the satisfaction of our volunteer writers and editors, and to increase use of the website as a timely source of community news.

Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the newspaper’s Editorial Advisory Committee and a member of the FutureHeights board, writes this monthly column to provide transparency about the Observer. Send your comments and questions to bob@therosenbaum.net.

You can write for the Observer by registering at the Observer Member Center: http://heightsobserver.org/members.

It’s a movie lover’s paradise

Jewel Mouthrop

What’s so great about Cleveland? The Cleveland International Film Festival, that’s what! It’s a movie buff’s “pig heaven.” This annual event presents more than 500 films from about 80 countries—feature films, documentaries, shorts, subjects, and more—during its 10-day run.

From the festival’s early days, 34 years ago at our own neighborhood Cedar Lee Theatre, the event has grown to more than 71,000 passionate attendees this year, breaking all previous records.

I could feel the excitement in the air and it was contagious. Everyone there loves movies, and I felt I was among friends. It’s common to strike up conversations with total strangers while waiting for the movie to begin. “What else have you seen? (It’s not a pickup line … or maybe it is.)” It’s an amazing experience, and only lasts 90 minutes on the Rapid from Shaker Square.

The festival’s outstanding and tireless staff, and scores of dedicated volunteers, work hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly—and it does. Although many films sell out quickly, we learned that 95 percent of people holding standby tickets get in to see their movie.

My favorites this year were Corpse, Mid-August Lunch, Handmade Harry, and the documentaries No Crosscer: The Trial of Alan Krumw and Fire in the Heartland. My husband added Journey from Zamuk and Hipsters to that list.

But if you can’t wait until next March, there’s a terrific year-round “festival” at the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque. That’s where you can see films you may have missed, films you want to see again, and films you just can’t see anywhere else. Free parking is always available in the lot adjacent to the theater. Aren’t we lucky to live in Greater Cleveland?

Jewel Mouthrop moved to the Heights three years ago and is still excited about lake effect snowflakes.

Revising Millikin should be a CH-UH district priority

Jason Stein

At its Jan. 5 meeting, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education voted 3-2 against selling the Millikin Elementary School property at public auction. That’s the decision, no debate.

In March 2007, the school board placed the Millikin property up for public auction. It received proposals from four parties. The highest cash offer was Mosdos Olhr Hatzot, a Jewish school. Mosdos planned to relocate from its current building on Warrensville Center Road. However, the board rejected all bids because its members felt they couldn’t receive “fair market value” by postponing the sale.

Fair market value is defined as what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller—not what a seller wishes to be paid. It has been three years since the public auction. No willing buyers have appeared in that time. However, in the three years since the board rejected the offers for Millikin, the school building has become a rapid structural decline. It has been vandalized and the once-beautiful playground is desolate. The longer the district holds on to this property, the less likely it will become a community asset.

Moreover, the board has shown a willingness to accept offers outside fair market value, as seen in the case of the former Coventry Elementary School.

Coventry will be the new home of the Music Settlement in the near future. During the community meetings on the school, it was clear that there were no parties interested in purchasing the school at fair market value. Therefore, the board adapted criteria to the needs of the community with the underlying principle that the district would not have to subsidize the facility. The board wanted an institution that would “fit” into the Coventry area and improve the neighborhood. The approach taken to repurposing Coventry should be applied equally to Millikin.

Until Millikin closed in 2006, it was a community asset. Many of the surrounding residents’ children attended the school, used the playground or attended the Heights Parent Center, which was located inside Millikin.

Millikin should return to full use as a school. The CHO-UH Board of Education should either place the property up for public auction or begin negotiations on a long-term lease with an educational institution, similar to the agreement previously considered for the Music Settlement to use Coventry. Whatever the board chooses, it needs to make a priority of returning Millikin to its role as a community asset.

Jason Stein serves on the board of trustees for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and is a member of the Cleveland Heights Citizens’ Advisory Committee. Contact him at steinjason@gmail.com
Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MARCH 15, 2010

A large crowd attended.

Mourning Police Officer Patton
Mayor Edward Kelley expressed his condolences to the family, friends, and fellow police officers of Precinct 1, who lost Patrolman Thomas Scott Patton in the line of duty on Saturday, March 13.

Monticello Boulevard project
City Manager Robert Downey reported the contract award for the Monticello Boulevard pavement rehabilitation project to the Kokosing Construction Company for a bid of $1,233,402.

Redwood house purchase
The city purchased a house at 3227 Redwood Road for $22,000 plus closing costs, under an ordinance authorizing the purchase of abandoned or foreclosed houses for the purpose of rehabilitation or demolition.

Solar RTA shelters
Council authorized the city manager to accept a grant from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) for bus stop improvements including landscaping and solar shelters at Mayfield and Coventry roads and Mayfield and Warrensville Center roads. Mayor Kelley is a vice-president of the Greater Cleveland RTA and instrumental in obtaining the grant, obtained.

Nickle Road gas station declared nuisance
Due to drug activity, underage drinking and fighting, the gas station and convenience store at 2610 Noble Road was declared a nuisance, a blighting influence and a hazard to the health and safety of the community.

Street assessments
To cover increased costs of streetlight, council voted to increase the street assessment to a rate of $1.02 per front foot. Council passed a second assessment of $0.78 per front foot to cover part of the costs of street and tree lawn maintenance.

Fair housing audits
Council approved a contract with the Heights Community Development Corporation to conduct fair housing audits.

New city cars
Council authorized the purchase of six Ford Focus cars, not to exceed $80,000, for use by city employees.

Website changes
Council members Bonnie Caplan and Mark Tomas have been working with volunteers on the city’s website; changes should appear soon.

County agreement on foreclosed properties
Council authorized the city manager to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation on policies and procedures for the maintenance and resale of foreclosed properties. Council Member Cheryl Stephens, who works for the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation and helped with this issue, abstained from the vote.

LWV observer Lisa Peters
APRIL 5, 2010

All council members present.

City salaries set
Council Member Cheryl Stephens presented for second reading and passage legislation addressing the salary schedules, position classifications and other compensation for officers and employees of the city starting in April 2010, including police, fire, joint fire department, and employees of the public works department and the municipal court. In addition to setting positions and salary schedules, this legislation addresses vacation and sick leave policies, workdays and other benefits.

Cleveland Heights Democratic Club to host secretary of state candidate May 12

Anastasia Fantinos

The Cleveland Heights Democratic Club has joined with other northeast Democratic clubs and county-wide Democratic organizations to bring a candidate for secretary of state, Maryellen O’Shaughnessy, to Cleveland Heights for a public forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. The event is free and open to everyone.

The forum should be of special interest to those wishing to know more about the state’s electoral process. The secretary of state is the top elections official, who oversees the 88 county boards of elections. Ohio’s current secretary of state, Jennifer Brunner, opted not to run for a second term and instead to seek the U.S. Senate seat George Voinovich is vacating. While State Representative Jon Husted faced off against former Ashtabula county auditor Sandra O’Brien in the Republican primary, O’Shaughnessy was the sole candidate in the Democratic primary.

However, O’Shaughnessy joined the Democratic ticket in February, replacing a candidate who stepped aside. She hasn’t had much time to introduce herself to voters outside of her native Columbus, where she is currently clerk of courts. Although she comes from a prominent political family in Columbus, she’s unknown throughout the rest of the state. This forum will give voters in this area an opportunity to get to know the candidate and ask about her ideas for running elections in Ohio.

Bellamy says, “I have always been intrigued by both poetry and photography. Poets and photographers observe the world in a way that makes it possible to see something larger. The Photography project brings together the visual and the verbal, and demonstrates that common denominator in their art.”

In 2010–2011, Bellamy plans to use her CPAC grant to create new, community-based poetry videos featuring works by other poets. “Cleveland Heights is the perfect place to try a new art form like this,” she says. “This city offers a wide range of subjects, as well as an enthusiastic, cooperative community, that embraces the arts.”

Merci Holmes is a writer, editor and 40-year resident of Cleveland Heights. She served as Cleveland Heights’ first poet laureate.

Bellamy, “No hype, no lycra.”

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*Movie shows at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Come dine with us after the show!!
City Beautiful Commission plans for UH

Anita Kazarian

University Heights residents with an eye for beauty find the perfect opportunity to volunteer in City Beautiful Commission projects. The commission held its first meeting on April 20 at City Hall. Commission Chair Steven D. Bennett had a full agenda for the resident volunteers. A new activity for the commission will be to work with the Service Department to advise and plant flowers in strategic public locations in University Heights.

Bennett said there will be a host of new categories for nominating homes for the awards, including a special “Best Kept Secret Award” for backyard gardens.

Interested in finding out more? New members are welcome to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in City Hall. E-mail Steve Bennett at sdblue@deglobal.net for information.

Send your comments and suggestions for future topics to Anita Kazarian at Anita-Kazarian@gmail.com

City Beautiful volunteers will participate in the Arbor Day ceremony, ride in a special car in the Memorial Day parade, hold ice cream socials for several UH summer band concerts and organize the nominations and selection of homes for the Beautiful Home awards.

Evan Komito, CHHS ’65, currently resides in Cleveland Heights after a 35-year hiatus on the east coast.

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CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights

MARCH 15, 2010

2010 appropriations budget approved (Revenue from the Public Library Fund [PLF] is projected to decrease approximately $200,000 from the 2009 total [which in turn was reduced from the 2008 PLF]. Staff salaries remain steady at the 2008 level. The library materials budget will decrease 10 percent from 2009; however, children’s programs and technology training will receive attention to make up for staff cuts in 2009. The board approved a 1.5 percent salary adjustment to partially replace the reduction of the 2.5 percent adjustment approved in 2009.

Noble Library renovation

The board accepted Studio Techné’s proposal to create the next phase of the Noble Library renovation. Fees will not exceed $55,000. The Noble staff has been preparing for the renovation project by discarding materials not used recently. Some patrons feared that the library was moving and were reassured that this is not the case.

Deborah Rossman to head Port Clinton Library

Rossman has been the support services supervisor, and that vacancy will be filled.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Noble Knitting Circle, Thursday, May 6 & 20, 6:45 p.m.
Stay and Play, Fridays, May 7, 9 a.m.
Reading Rumpus, Fridays, March 7-28, 10:30 a.m.
Mystery Evening: Sue Henry’s Murder on the Yukon Quest, Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Heights Libraries urge residents to read together

Tonya Davis

The Heights Libraries and the CH-UH schools have joined together to encourage all residents of the district to read two books: You Remind Me of Me, by Cleveland Heights author Dan Chaon, and The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey by Louise Borden.

Everyone is invited to two free events related to the community’s reading of the books. The first event, on Thursday, May 6, will be a scrap-booking workshop. The second event, on Tuesday, May 11, will be a visit from author Dan Chaon. Both events will begin at 7 p.m., at the Lee Road Library.

Heights Libraries

What’s going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
NIA Coffeehouse, Tuesdays, May 4 & 16, 6 p.m.
Exploratory, Thursdays, May 6–27, 10:30 a.m.
Deaf Gathering, Monday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.
Ukulele Jam, Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Chatoo Connection, Tuesdays, May 4 & 18, 4 p.m.
Oddlyfest #21: The Surreal Thing, Friday, May 21, 6:45 p.m.
Reading Comics: Epicfail by David B., Monday, May 17, 7 p.m.
Preschool PlayArt, Tuesday, May 18, 10:30 a.m.

University Heights Library
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Story Stop, Wednesdays, May 5–26, 10:30 a.m.
The Senior Spot, Wednesdays, May 5–26, 12:30 p.m.

Heights Observer May 4, 2010 5 www.heightsobserver.org
CH-UH Board of Education
Meeting highlights
MARCH 16, 2010
Special meeting on equity and access
All school board members present

Lacrosse competition
The board approved the Liberty Heights High School boys’ lacrosse competition and campus visits to College Park, MD on April 14, 2010.

Administrators
The board approved the reemployment of administrators.

Equity and access
The Educational Services Department developed an operational definition of equity, which does not mean the same for each student. Equity through accessibility was discussed, with the goal of closing the achievement gap. Examples of things being done to improve accessibility were discussed including:
• Increases in 4th and 5th grade gifted program to include 49 percent African American students in 2010 (in 2006, it was 39 percent).
• Enrichment for all K-12 students.
• ACT review classes for all high school students.
• Revision of the foreign language program, in which all eighth graders would take either French or Spanish.
• Coteaching to serve students with disabilities.

A 93 percent graduation rate in the high school.

Additional discussion about equity dealt with other concerns such as:
• Should class ranking be done if it conflicts with the policy?
• More students take AP courses, but fewer students take AP exams.
• Average students could be encouraged by teachers to take more honors courses.
• About 80 or more ninth graders are retained for not earning five credits. Should these older ninth graders be permitted to take the Ohio Graduation Test, even though they have ninth grade status, because this would give them more chances to pass the test?
• More research should be done on credit recovery—use of online courses and other tools to help students who have failed a course regain credits.

The increase in time would come from the following:
• Eliminating morning recess.
• Eliminating early dismissal on Tuesdays, making the school day at 3:15 instead of 3:05 p.m.
• Additional recommendations:
  • Full-time physical education teacher at each elementary building.
  • Two 35-minute physical education sessions for all students.
• Media increases to 4.5 minutes every other week for K-5 students.

Coteaching to serve students with disabilities.

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CH-UH district and CFO earn awards for financial reporting
Anges Shakar
For the ninth year, Scott Gainer, treasurer and chief financial officer for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, received an award for Financial Reporting Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. In addition, the CH-UH City School School was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from both GFOA and the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO). These awards are based on the high quality of the district’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for 2009. GFOA recognizes individuals, or departments, who prepare the CAFR for their organizations. The award for Financial Reporting Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment for the district.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest recognition for school district financial operations awarded by GFOA and ASBO, and is conferred only on districts that have met or exceeded the standards of these programs.

“We are pleased to have earned these awards, which demonstrate our continued commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting,” Gainer said. “We take our fiduciary responsibility for taxpayer dollars very seriously, and view this additional financial reporting as a way to keep our community informed.”

Anges Shakar is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Oxford Elementary community wins child protection award
Anges Shakar
As Ohio’s first licensed crisis nursery, Providence House in Cleveland offers emergency shelter to children (newborn through five years old) who are actively living in crisis.

Each year, Providence House awards a blue ribbon to organizations that have demonstrated a significant commitment to the agency’s mission. This year, Oxford Elementary School is one of the winners of this prestigious award.

“We've had a wonderful partnership with Providence House since 1997,” Oxford Principal Stacy Stuhldreher said. “It began with staff donations, evolved into a first-grade toy collection project that eventually expanded to the entire school. For the past eight years, we have collected thousands of stuffed bears.”

Collecting donations and toys for Providence House isn’t simply a fun activity; it is also an educational one. Students learn that this is really about the common good, and their efforts are rewarded by attendance at the annual Bear Dance. The student council and the fifth graders deliver the bears to Providence House before winter break. This year the Honors Choir went along and sang.

The blue ribbon awards were presented during Providence House’s annual Shades of Blue luncheon on April 29 at Tower City. Also at Tower City that day, and throughout the month of April, Providence House was offering a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) proposal for Cedar Center.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.
Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 3.
Heights student selected for summer institute

Joy Henderson

Heights High REAL School 11th grader Carlin Jackson was selected to attend the 34th Ohio Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted one-week summer institute at Ohio State University, June 20-26. Fifty-four students from 46 school districts will participate.

The mission of the workshop is to bring together top students from Ohio to challenge them intellectually and broaden their vision of the future. The week-long camp opens with remarks by Ohio Attorney General, and Essex alumnus, Richard Cordray. The activities include career exploration and workshops that explore arts and religion, the judicial system, science, business, engineering, leadership and service.

Jackson is looking forward to the experience. “I think it will help me focus my interests and expand my networks,” he said. Two of the areas he is most interested in are green energy and computer applications in health care.

He is currently enrolled in the computer networking class and four Advanced Placement or Honors classes: calculus, physics, psychology and English. He recently started two school clubs—the Physics Club and the Computer Security Club. He also is completing an independent study in videography. “One of the best things about Heights High is the number of advanced classes. The selection is amazing,” Jackson said. He is looking forward to taking AP statistics and AP economics next year.

Jackson hopes to attend Case Western Reserve University when he graduates.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.

Science team shines at state competition

Jacalyn Elfvin

Roxboro Middle School’s science team just keeps getting better. After qualifying as the fifth ranked team at the regional tournament in Akron on March 6, Roxboro’s intrepid team traveled to Columbus on Saturday, April 17, and competed with the 40 teams in the Science Olympiad State Tournament at Ohio State University.

Even though this was only the team’s second year in the state competition, its ranking improved from last year’s 27th place overall to a phenomenal 16th place this year.

The members of the Roxboro team are Garth Bennett, Miriam Bennett, Isaac Brown, Victoria Cikanek, Casandra Espenschied, Nathan Friel, Lillie Hall, Max Jansen, James Johnson, Charlotte Jones, Phoebe Lammert, Tommy Pharis, Grace Phillips, Ellen Posch, and Mason Spencer. David Pecoraro and Emma Whiting served as alternates.

Roxboro’s top ten awards went to:

• 7th place Pentathlon—Isaac Brown, Lillie Hall, Tommy Pharis, and Mason Spencer
• 7th place Disease Detectives—Garth Bennett and Grace Phillips
• 10th place Science Crime Busters—Victoria Cikanek and Ellen Posch
• 10th place Compute This—Casandra Espenschied and Grace Phillips

Jacalyn Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Parenting Q&A

Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Heights Parent Center for the last 12 years, field questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. The same issues affect many parents. If you have questions you would like Ellen to respond to in this column, please e-mail her at ebarrett@heightsparentcenter.org.

Q. My kindergartener is going through a major “test mom and push the limits” stage. When things get out of hand and he gets into trouble, he won’t answer me, won’t move, won’t try to make things better. He won’t apologize, won’t even tell me why he’s angry or what is going on.

We’ve had a few weeks of small incidents. Then today, which had been going fairly well, he just refused to get out of the car we arrived at the store. My husband tried to get him to just look at us and then finally we simply became more cooperative.

I’m so angry at him! I don’t know how to keep my emotions out of it— it’s not personal. Go back to basic strategies: use gentle firmness, clear and consistent rules, short timelines and good daily routines. Make sure he is getting enough sleep, and give him space. Let him stew if he needs to. In fact, under all that brooding, he’s probably embarrassed and feels bad, but doesn’t know how to admit it or what to do about it. Look for opportunities for noncompetitive activities, such as gardening or baking, that the whole family can enjoy. These activities will fill his need for encouragement and praise during this transition and can also show that it is OK to make mistakes. (Some plants die and sometimes we burn the brownies.) Once he learns how to express his own opinion and be open to the ideas of others, you can expect to see him become more cooperative.

A. Hang in there. What your son is doing is normal. Frustrating, but normal. He’s at a really big crossroads developmentally. He is just learning to see the perspective of others but hasn’t quite figured out how to concede to those different points of view. He doesn’t accept criticism or blame very well and uses stubbornness to deflect and avoid dealing with the situation.

First of all, back up a bit with your expectations. Make sure this isn’t about how it makes you feel. Try really hard to keep your emotions out of it—it’s not personal. Go back to basic strategies: use gentle firmness, clear and consistent rules, short timelines and good daily routines. Make sure he is getting enough sleep, and give him space. Let him stew if he needs to. In fact, under all that brooding, he’s probably embarrassed and feels bad, but doesn’t know how to admit it or what to do about it. Look for opportunities for noncompetitive activities, such as gardening or baking, that the whole family can enjoy. These activities will fill his need for encouragement and praise during this transition and can also show that it is OK to make mistakes. (Some plants die and sometimes we burn the brownies.) Once he learns how to express his own opinion and be open to the ideas of others, you can expect to see him become more cooperative.

2nd Annual CH-UH Summer Reading Blastoff

It is hosted by the district and co-sponsored by the CH-UH Council of PTAs, Heights Parent Center, Reaching Heights and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Families from all of the district’s elementary and middle schools are invited. Families will be entertained by live music, ride in the Rocket Car, enjoy a free lunch from noon to 2 p.m., listen to poetry, make crafts, create tie-dye shirts, and participate in field games, such as tug-of-war and three-legged races. All families will be encouraged to sign up for the library’s summer reading program and Heights Parent Center will raffle off two children’s bikes.

Tracy Hill is the coordinator of Family-School Connection for the Heights Parent Center.

STRETCH Program opens to all students this summer

The program is designed to provide enrichment and support for students during the summer. The course offerings include a mix of engaging topics to enrich and challenge all students entering grades 6-12. “Amusement Park Physics,” “Video: Digital Communication and Production for the 21st Century,” “"So You Think You Can Sing?" are just a few of the courses available this summer through a special enrichment program. CH-UH students entering grades 6-12 in 2010 will have the chance to stretch their minds with the Summer STRETCH program (Stretching Through Rigorous Enrichment, Thinking, Challenges, and Hands-on Investigation) held at Heights High from June 16-30.

The program is designed to provide enrichment and support for students during the summer. The course offerings include a mix of engaging topics to enrich and challenge all students entering grades 6-12,” said Rebecca Quinn, director of gifted/enrichment and middle level education. “This year, we will open this program to all private and parochial students living in the district.”

Students will be able to expand critical thinking skills, apply math lessons to everyday life, develop a voice through the written word, and prepare for rigorous coursework and post-secondary opportunities.

Registration information is available at www.chuh.org/district_family_info.html or call 216-320-2019 to have information mailed to you. The enrollment deadline is May 21.

Jaclyn Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the CH-UH City School District.

Motorcars

Spring is in the air and it’s time to get back outside, wash off the car and take a drive. And who better to share that with than your best (four legged or two legged) friend? Motorcars is all about driving but this Spring we are challenging your inter-paparazzi or William Wegman if you prefer; we want to see your precious pet with the world, for a chance to win a prize, or just to help a local animal shelter. Whatever the reason, enjoy the spring weather with your pets by taking them on the road with you.

Entering is easy. Just take a picture of your pet in your car, and remember that creativity counts! Next visit facebook.com/motorcars and click on the contest tab. Fill out the entry form and submit your picture. Then, encourage your friends and family to vote for your entry, helping you to win one of 10 awesome prizes.

The contest ends May 31st and the top 10 pictures will win great prizes, including the grand-prize valued at more than $1,000 from Motorcars in Cleveland Heights.

Plus, for every contest entry Motorcars will donate $5 to the Cleveland Animal Protective League. Enter to share your precious pet with the world, for a chance to win a prize, or just to help a local animal shelter. Whatever the reason, enjoy the spring weather with your pets by taking them on the road with you.

Complete terms and conditions of the Motorcars Take Your Pet On The Road Contest are available at facebook.com/motorcars. Total donation to APL not to exceed $500.

Heights Observer May 4, 2010 8 www.heightsobserver.org

MOTORCARS

Take Your Pet On The Road Contest

April 1st- May 31st Facebook.com/Motorcars Over $2,500 In Prizes

The contest ends May 31st and the top 10 pictures will win great prizes, including the grand-prize valued at more than $1,000 from Motorcars in Cleveland Heights.

Heights Kids
A league of their own

Gay Eyerman

After countless hours driving kids to soccer or cheering from the sidelines, soccer moms in the Heights now have the opportunity to play soccer—thanks to Sean Sullivan.

Sullivan is a teacher at Oxford Elementary, founder of Heights United Soccer Academy and head coach for men’s varsity soccer at Heights High. He started the mom’s league to teach foot skills and soccer rules, and to play informal games.

“It’s turned into something so special. They’ve really worked hard,” said Sullivan. About 18 moms are now on the team and they compete against other local teams.

Casey Maicki, who has three kids on the Eastside Kickers soccer club, joined the women’s team this year. Although she has played soccer since kindergarten, others on the team have experience ranging from none at all to playing on a college team.

“The mom’s league is a blast. I love the sport and it’s good exercise for a busy mom,” said Maicki. “I’ve learned so much from Sean. He even uses a Smartboard in his classroom to teach us. We do foot skills and scrambles, and we get to go out afterwards!”

The mom’s league was established to honor Sullivan’s mom, Joan. She was a huge soccer fan and a wireless community volunteer. After being diagnosed with liver disease in 1996, Joan Sullivan died in 2008. “She always wished someone had coached her,” said her son. “When I coach this team, I see glimpses of my own mom out there. I’m so very proud of this.”

For more information, or to join the mom’s team, contact Sullivan at S_Sullivan@chuh.org.

Gay Eyerman is a professional freelance writer living in University Heights. Three of her five children play on Eastside Kickers teams.

HYC basketball on the move

Dawn Parker

The Heights Youth Club boys’ basketball team is on fire and in first place, out of six teams, in the City of Cleveland Recreation League. Led by club director and coach, Roscoe Morgan, the team consists of high school seniors in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and members of HYC. The team spends several afternoons a week practicing and perfecting their skills. Games are played on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. The young men have put this team high on their priority list and are determined to bring home a victory.

All of the club members are behind the team. The younger kids look up to the team with awe. They regularly peek out of the club windows, hoping to catch a glimpse of the club van returning from a game. Finally, the anticipation ends as a shout is heard, “They’re back!” The team can barely make it in the door before the question is asked, “Did you win?” When the response is “yes,” deafening cheers fill the gym.

Let’s all wish this amazing team well as it completes the last half of the season. Go HYC!

Dawn Parker is a member of the board of directors at the Heights Youth Club parent and Cleveland Heights resident for 15 years.
Poem for May
Gail Bellamy

Mr. Grandview

The boys on Grandview Avenue
called him Mr. Grandview and
sought advice about things like
joining the Civil Air Patrol or avoiding
jail. Girls asked him how to break an
game, or whether they were too old
at sixteen
to start practicing to become a ballerina.
His answers always started
the same way, with him mopping his forehead
with a handkerchief or
setting another Lucky Strike afire with his Zippo,
and then saying, Oh hell. Let me think.
Kids knew when they heard that
they were going to get the straight story,
ot no quick answers to get them out of
his dining room.
Weekdays, he wrote there at the table, which he shared
with a typewriter, an ashtray,
a cup of coffee and a cat.
The front door was always open, and as
long as they used the door knocker first
and it wasn’t his deadline time,
they were welcome
to burst in with their questions for Mr. Grandview.
It wasn’t just the kids of Grandview Avenue
who had questions, either—
people as far away as Arizona
or New Mexico wanted answers from him
when he was on vacation. They
asked him questions like, Do the
Cheyenne wear spurs? and along the Florida beaches
they wanted to know, Do hammerhead sharks
attack people?
On the desert or on the beach, answers were always accompanied
by the snick of a Zippo, the faintly metallic scent of unlit tobacco,
On the desert or on the beach, answers were always accompanied
by the snick of a Zippo, the faintly metallic scent of unlit tobacco,
and features an accomplished ensemble
cast: Maryann Nagel, Greg Violand, An-
drew Cruse (all three courtesy of Actors’
Equity Association), Brian Zollesays, Laura
Starnik and Laurel Brooke Johnson.

“Humble Boy” opens May 7
and runs through May 30. There is a preview
on May 6. Sunday, May 9, is a pay-as-
you-can performance.

Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road,
Cleveland Heights. Tickets: $8-$22. For
more information, call 216-932-3396, or
go to www.dobama.org.
Julie Friedman is the financial manager of
Dobama Theatre.

Choice Best New Play Award, this English
import is both heartfelt and hilari-
ous. Sunday Times reviewer John Peter
described “Humble Boy” as: “The real
thing. This is a marvellous play: harsh
and forgiving; sad, very sad; funny, very,
very funny; learned and intricate but
light on its feet; a poem about people,
bees, and the galaxy.”
The production is directed by Dobama
Theatre’s artistic director Joel Hammer
and features an accomplished ensemble
cast: Maryann Nagel, Greg Violand, An-
drew Cruse (all three courtesy of Actors’
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Richly layered comedy ‘Humble Boy’ opens
at Dobama Theatre on May 7
Julie Friedman

Broken vows, failed hopes, quantum
mechanics and the joys of beekeeping
are brilliantly interwoven in “Humble Boy,” a smart and touching comedy
by playwright Charlotte Jones, and the final
play of Dobama Theatre’s 55th season.

“Humble Boy,” with its allusions to
“Hamlet,” is the tale of Felix Humble,
a timid and bumbling research fellow in
theoretical astrophysics at Cambridge,
who returns to the family home in the
English countryside after the sudden
death of his father. James, whose pas-
sions were gardening and beekeeping.
He soon makes the dreadful discovery
that Flora, his vain and domineering
mother, has hastily removed all traces
of his father’s existence from the home,
including his beloved bees, and is about
to marry a man as unlike his father as
possible. Adding to his woes is Rosie,
his ex-girlfriend, whom he left without
so much as a goodbye.

Winner of the Susan Smith Black
Burn Award, the Critics’ Circle Best
New Play Award and the People’s

Peggy Spacht

SketchCrawl is a worldwide event that
originated in San Francisco when Enrico
Casarosa was inspired by the idea of a
pub crawl bachelor party and embarked
on a day of “recording nonstop every
thing I could around me with my pencil
and watercolors. A drawn journal filled
with details ranging from all the coffee
I drank to the different buses I took —a
drawing marathon. . . . Giving your
self this kind of mandate for a full day
changes the way you look around you.
It makes you stop and see things just a
tad longer, just a bit deeper . . .

Utrecht Art Supplies of Coventry

Village is sponsoring a SketchCrawl on
Lee Road, in the Cedar Lee area, on inter-
national SketchCrawl Day, May 15, from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning and ending
at Heights Arts Gallery, 2173 Lee Road.

All ages and levels of experience are
welcome. Bring your own art supplies.
A limited amount provided by Utrecht
will be available for purchase at the gal-
ery on the day of the event, or shop in
advance at Utrecht Art Supplies, 2768
Mayfield Road.

For more information, visit www.
sketchcrawl.com or call Maureen at

Peggy Spacht is executive director of Heights Arts.

Advertise in the Heights Observer
Call 216-513-3070
www.heightsobserver.org

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SAVE $25.00
Take $25.00 off lawn care and
renovation services
when you sign up for a season
lawn care program.
Not to be combined with other
offers. Expires June 15, 2010
Code: HOBLC0510
Six Senior Scholars Recognized

Congratulations to six Cleveland Heights High School seniors (Louis Polis, Alexandra Miller, Nataja Roberts, Jaye Sampson, Erin Morris and Matt Zucker) who were recognized for their research, academic excellence and citizen engagement. The students were honored at the Cleveland Heights High School senior awards ceremony. The students, in the order of their names, are:

- Louis Polis
- Alexandra Miller
- Nataja Roberts
- Jaye Sampson
- Erin Morris
- Matt Zucker

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a privately funded not-for-profit organization that conducts the National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship programs and annually competitions that recognize and provide college scholarships to academically talented U.S. high school students. Since its founding in 1955, NMSC has recognized 3 million students and provided over $335,000 scholarships worth more than $1.3 billion.

By Joy Henderson

With Spring in the air, thoughts turned to future Falls for 79 Height High sophomores and juniors as they toured four Ohio homes of higher learning. The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, The Ohio State University, and the College of Wooster. Students from all five Small Schools (legacy, mosaic, pride, real, and Renaissance) participated in the trip in early March, with four major goals in mind.

The trip provided students with information that will complement what they receive from the guidance department; motivated them to consider good grades to keep their college options open; reminded them that college is a real possibility; and broadened their experience and horizons.

Admissions officers at each school talked about requirements. The high schoolers also talked to current students, visited classrooms, dining halls, fitness centers, and the OSU Horsehoe.

Three students – Chase Bell, Joe Day and Sydney Gatta – appreciated the opportunity and said that talking to current college students was very helpful. Chase Bell liked hearing the college staff clearly describe college schedules and expectations. He was impressed with the number of classes offered at OSU, and he liked seeing the athletic facilities. He plans to play football in college and study sports medicine. Joe Day liked Toledo and was impressed with the scholarships offered there. He especially remembers one student who told him that focusing on high school now will help him later. He plans to study sociology. Sydney Gatta enjoyed visiting Bowling Green. She appreciated hearing more details about the college tour piques interest.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?

My third grade teacher, Mrs. Axner, reminded me of Boulevard. It was like a dream, since journalism is undergoing such transition; but being interviewed told me more about the community they serve; and the families and com-

What is your major? What advice would you give current Heights High students?

- What did you enjoy most at Heights High?
- What advice would you give current Heights High students?
- What kind of college are you attending?
Bringing What Works to Scale

By Florence Di’Emilio

When Boulevard Elementary principal Lawrence Swoope talks about teaching, he cites best practices inside and outside Boulevard and says, “We are working on taking proven methodologies and moving them to scale.”

One success at Boulevard is seen in the results of the third grade team’s math strategy. Last year the team piloted a system of assessing students and using the information to address students needs the same day.

After the third grade teachers taught their morning math lesson, they gave a formative assessment – a short quiz that tells the teacher if the student learned what the teacher taught. Later that morning, the three teachers reviewed the assessment information and decided which students should be grouped together for the afternoon lesson and what they should work on.

Each third grade teacher leads a group of students who need to work on similar skills. The groups change because students learn different skills at different rates. “That seems like a long time ago! I remember in kindergarten,” Jordan is a junior at the Heights High School.

“Cock-a-Doodle Dandy.” I was the rooster who had to say that question by focusing on teaching, learning and extra-curricular experiences. Their team gives a benchmark exam that reveals what skills students need to master. At weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, principal and teachers review the skills students need, set goals and plan teaching strategies.

Based on constant review of her students’ reading skills, third grade teacher Christine Lambert creates four reading groups — two below grade level, one at grade level and one above grade level. “It is to design each student’s day to include growth — even those who can pass the long ago! I remember in kindergarten,” Jordan is a junior at the Heights High School.

“I took lots of AP classes at Heights, and the transition to college — the work load requires it. What’s your major?”

I was the rooster who had to say that question by focusing on teaching, learning and extra-curricular experiences. During this year, the third grade team of Tameka Bradley, Rytka Carr and Toni Dilullo are using a model for reading instruction.

Each teacher gives formative assessments on Fridays. Intervention groups are formed and re-formatted, and lessons are adapted that meet students’ strengths and weaknesses. “Our goal is to take a successful instruction model and bring it to scale, in the grade level and the building,” said Mr. Swoope.

Third grader Zenzele Pelligree says the short “a” sound and pantomimes eating an apple. “The sound and pantomiming picking up an apple and eating it. When they say the short “u” sound they put the knuckles of both hands together, move one hand up against the other and say ‘up umbrella.”

Lambert said, “This technique, called dialogue, adds detail to students’ understanding of how to use language and speech.”

Lambert was working with her below grade level group, one on grade level and one above grade level. “That’s great, thanks to all participants!”

SCHOOL NEWS FROM REACHING HEIGHTS - FOCUS ON TEACHING

A Strategy For Success

By Florence Di’Emilio

How do teachers ensure that at least 75% of third grade students pass the Ohio Achievement Test in the spring? Rosedale Elementary School Principal Tara Groves and third grade teachers answer that question by focusing on teaching, learning and extra-curricular experiences. Their team gives a benchmark exam that reveals what skills students need to master. At weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, principal and teachers review the skills students need, set goals and plan teaching strategies.

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Learning by Moving and Manipulating
By Florence D’Emilio
“Different children learn differently,” explains Stacy Kroger, Canterbury Elementary third grade teacher. In her classroom, students work in small groups, in pairs, or independently at specially prepared stations. “I know that hands-on activities and movement demonstrations allow some students to grasp concepts faster, so I incorporate them into lessons whenever possible.”

She begins a math lesson by asking students what they remember from previous lessons about lines, line segments, and rays. Kroger introduces the concept of angles and moves her body to show the class how angles change: a quarter turn, a half turn, and a full clockwise turn. The students stand and follow her prompts to make various angles. The movements require control and concentration.

Now, the students are ready to form angles with a pair of straws connected at the vertex by a twist-tie. The teacher demonstrates how to make a quarter turn clockwise with her straws, and reminds them that it is called a right angle. She slowly walks through the classroom observing their work. As the students gain confidence, she asks them to make more challenging angles obtuse and acute.

A typical week includes whole class activities, team teaching and parallel teaching with a special education teacher. “Everyone seems to benefit from being more involved,” explained Kroger. “A variety of learning groups and a mixture of activities keep everyone engaged which mean more success.”

The Problem-Solving Process
By Florence D’Emilio
Because teachers like Joe Mendes and Natalie Wester value what a child is thinking, they help their students value the process of learning itself. Teachers masterfully create a structured learning environment that encourages deep thinking, participation, and mutual respect.

One morning in second grade, students prepare for a quiet period reading personal essays, and listen as he gives a concise overview of the task at hand. “We are going to watch a video of a speed skater competing, we’ll talk about it, you’ll read an article about Olympic sports and you will write about a sport that you would like to compete in.” When the video ends, everyone is reminded of the ground rules for discussions—SLANT: Sit, Listen at the speaker, Activate your brain, Nod, Track the talker. During the lively discussion, Mendes keeps them on-topic, includes almost everyone in the room, and ensures students responded respectfully to the opinions of others.

Third grade teacher Wester gathers a small group of second and third grade students to tell a story about two girls, one white and one black, who slowly got to know one another while sitting on a fence that divides their town. Wester gives these students an opportunity to think and talk about the big ideas in the book. She waits calmly through long pauses for students to prepare their responses and then she listens closely as they speak.

When everyone regroups for a whole class lesson, Wester reads Maya Angelou’s poem, “Still I Rise.” She asks engaging questions and gives students ample time to organize their thoughts and respond. She builds on what they say, at times drawing out more details and at other times articulating more clearly a student’s idea. The lesson culminates with an opportunity for students to make their own poems.

These teachers give students time to think, listen to their ideas, and encourage mutual respect from classmates. They establish an atmosphere of high expectation and trust in which students’ thoughts and learning is highly valued.

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS’ HIGH GRADUATES
Damara Davis
Noble ’00
Damara is a junior at Youngstown State University.
What’s your major? Psychology.
How about your dream job after graduation? I want to be a therapist or counselor, or work with a non-profit on behalf of animal welfare.
Do you have a favorite memory from Noble Elementary? I loved second grade and second grade teacher. I enjoyed show ‘n tell, because we could bring in pets, and art and music.
What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college? I took AP classes and got used to working hard. In some ways college is easier, because the work load is more spread out. The diversity at Heights taught me how to talk to people from different cultures with different viewpoints. Talking to other Youngstown students about their experiences, I’ve discovered how much Heights offered. People are surprised when I describe things like the AFS international student exchange program, all the sports, and the music program. That range of activities taught me how to balance school, and I want to do that. What did you enjoy most at Heights? I loved the music program. I was in Singers and Choir. I especially loved singing in the English Classes. We had good discussions and expressed ourselves in different media, including video and writing. And I was a swimmer. That was hard work. We were always so hungry!
What advice would you give current Heights High students? Don’t be lazy! College seems far away, but it’s not. Think about your grades, and start looking at schools early. Be your own person. Don’t try to be someone you’re not, just to make other people like you. Heights is big—make that bigness work for you.

Bryan Loretz
Oxford ’00
Bryan is a junior at Hiram College.
What’s your major? Business management, with minors in political science and economics.
What’s your dream job after graduation? I want to go to law school and start a private practice. I’d also enjoy working in international marketing.
Do you have a favorite memory from Oxford? Many teachers really helped me. Playing soccer with Mr. Sullivan, my third grade teacher, got me interested in sports. My fourth and fifth grade teachers helped get me ready for middle school. Mr. Wells showed us many cool ways of approaching math.
What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college? Teachers cared about where I was headed and what I did next. I especially liked it after small schools started in my tenth grade year. Before that I sometimes felt like a number. What did you enjoy most at Heights? Being on the football team taught me leadership, discipline, and how to be a team player. We learned that we were only as strong as our weakest player. I learned how to get along with all kinds of people and attitudes. At Hiram, I played football at first, but now I’m concentrating on my majors and other activities.
I’m treasurer of the Speech and Debate Club, chairman of African American Students United, and a member of Kennedy Center Program Board, working on student activity budgets. I’m also in Gospel Choir.
What advice would you give current Heights High students? Stop playing! Get your work done! Heights was fun—I miss it, though the workload was ridiculously heavy. But college is great. Look for a school that’s going to be a fit for you. I didn’t think I’d wind up going somewhere as small as Hiram, but it works for me.

Math Carnival a Rich Learning Experience
By Florence D’Emilio
At Oxford’s Fifth Grade Math Carnival, students had fun while carefully recording data and solving problems with a refreshing and inspiring enthusiasm. The Carnival, an annual event in Sean Sullivan’s classroom, culminated a unit on mean, median, mode, and range. “Kids devised their own games came up with ideas, worked on them at home and occasionally talked to me to make sure they were going in the right direction,” explained Sullivan. “By the time they’ve created the game, taught it to their classmates, and figured out averages four different ways for each game player, the math really sticks with them.”

On carnival day, the students set up their games, taught others how to play them, took notes on a data collection sheet as students played the game, then calculated various kinds of averages. They placed numbers in numerical order, too, to more easily figure out the median — the middle value in a range, which they found out the difference between minimum and maximum values. They added all scores and divided by the number of scores to get the mean. Finally, they note which score appeared most often to

find the mode. The carnival included games of skill and chance, all requiring data collection and problem solving. Selena created an entire board game, complete with handmade paper dice. She instructed players to select a card and solve a problem as they moved around the board. Players answered questions like “Did You Make the Goal?” tossed a paper football at a goalpost, winning points for accuracy. Fifth graders’ contagious enthusiasm for math spread when fourth graders attended the carnival. According to Sullivan, “It’s all about getting and keeping kids excited about math.”

For farfoux fourth graders Brittany Napoleon, Jonay Terry and Arman Sullivan (l to r) calculate the cost of multiple items in a money counting session.

Oxford fifth grade student Selena Vidal, Jazmyne Smith and Deryl Riley (l to r) play a game Selena created for Sean Sullivan’s Math Carnival
Math Lessons With a Side of Fun
By Joy Henderson

Seventh graders in Damien Creel’s math class at Wiley Middle School get plenty of math conversation, solid life coaching and just a little silliness in each 90-minute class.

“One of my goals is to help kids get over their fear of having the wrong answer,” said Creel. “Try to create an environment where they feel safe to talk about the problem-solving process.” He may also ask a student who describes an equation clearly to stand on a chair and repeat it.

This day is lesson on volume and surface area – definitions, the difference between the two, and equations needed to calculate each.

Class begins with students working quietly on their laptops honing their definitions. Then they compare definitions.

“Vocabulary is important,” says Creel.

“We call these flat surfaces faces.” The remaining hour is spent on a handful of volume and surface area problems.

Getting the right answer is important, but Creel also expects students to describe how they arrived at an answer. Many students talk about the class conversation, students respond to each other and ask their peers questions about the problem-solving process.

One student clearly knew the math words but was not using them in the correct context. “Don’t just use important words,” said Creel. “You’re giving me too much information, and making it harder than it’s the problem to get right and talk it through.”

This process is repeated for each problem, calculating and then talking about the process. And for the really serious math statements – a little chair standing.

Grading That Measures Learning
By Joy Henderson

The Homework Opportunity Club at Roxboro Middle School reflects a fundamental rethinking of what grades mean. Grades historically have reflected the completion of activities, but across our district and beyond, educators are working to have grades reflect learning. In the past, when a student did not complete an assignment, they received a zero.

“Mathematically, a zero is a disastrous mark for a student’s grade because it is 60 times worse than the lowest D,” said Roxboro Principal Brian Sharosky. At Roxboro Middle, students receiving a D or F as a cumulative grade over a two-week period must attend the afterschool club. All core subject teachers (Math, English, Social Studies and Sciences) host a section. Every two weeks, families are notified if their students need to attend a session.

“We don’t want to wait until the five-week report progress for parents to find out if their child is failing a subject,” said Mr. Sharosky. To keep students interested in learning and to encourage their progress, students can demonstrate their knowledge of a section of the work and re-do the work or re-take the test.

Ten of Marcie Beggs’ eighth grade American History students were in her classroom on a December afternoon. Most were preparing to re-take a test. They must demonstrate mastery of knowledge on incomplete or missed assignments. Then they are given credit for the work and can re-take a test.

“If I get a B on the re-test, what will my grade be?” asks one boy. He is thrilled when Mrs. Beggs tells him he will have a B in her class if he gets a B on the re-test.

“This process has encouraged many students to be more responsible for and engaged in their own learning,” she said. “We are seeing even more effort and less discouragement.” While the Homework Club started in October, preliminary results are encouraging. 41% of students had a 3.0 GPA in the first quarter of this school year, up from 33% a year earlier.

Learning Opportunities Abound Outside the Classroom
Each of our elementary schools offers exciting opportunities outside the classroom. Here are some examples:

- **BOULEVARD Spanish Club**: Students in all grades enjoy after-school songs, colorful visuals and conversation as they learn about the language and culture. Chess Club: Chess for Success, an after-school program, offers chess instruction and competition. Rebus: Rebus is an activity for third, fourth and fifth grade students. Students read and write poetry that culminates with a poetry slam in spring. SIA: Special Interests Area offers activities for grades 3-5.

- **Roxboro Spanish Club**: Students receive enrichment classes, organized by the PTA, are available: Art, Chess, Spanish, Dance, Yoga, African Drumming, and Theater. Girls Circle: Fourth and fifth grade girls join the school counselor for this program that builds self-confidence, enhances judgment skills, and encourages the use of critical thinking to make wise and healthy choices. Girls on the Run: Parent volunteers follow a national curriculum that engages pre-teen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running.

- **FAIRFAX Student Council**: Fourth and fifth grade students elect class representatives who plan service and social activities. Safety Patrol: Fifth grade students help adults keep students safe in the outside area of the school. Lunch Bunch Book Clubs: Fourth and fifth grade students read and discuss books with a teacher. Teen Challenge: Teen Challenge-sponsored after-school activities is offered to all students.

- **Challenge Choir**: Fifth grade students audition for this performance choir.

- **ARTS Club and Classes**: Students enjoy after-school and lunchtime enrichment classes and clubs meet: Spanish, Yoga, Hip Hop, Poetry, Art, Math and Chess. Environmental Club: Students travel to the Ohio State Lake Erie biology laboratory for field projects. Classroom Community Gardens: Students in all grades plant gardens, are planned, maintained and harvested by students and neighbors. Meaningful Work: Students who want a job in the office, cafeteria, library or library begin by writing a résumé. A variety of positions are interviewed, trained and evaluated. These students are volunteers who gain work experience that is meaningful.

- **NOBLE Young Men & Young Ladies of Noble**: Students with at least a 3.0 grade point average and good citizenship are invited to join these groups to reinforce and encourage academic achievement. Student Employment: Students can complete an application and apply for volunteer jobs as helpers in the cafeteria, library, office, gym or student store. More than 70 students participate, learning the value of work.

- **Chess Club**: Students meet after school to learn and play chess. Recycling: Students receiving special education services collect and recycle juice boxes. Reading Buddies: Selected third, fourth, and fifth grade students are trained to read with younger students.

- **OXFORD Art Club**: Interested students meet with the art teacher after school to draw, paint and create original art. Green Team: Students continue their work from each month with a recycling program. Young Men & Women of Oxford: Fourth and fifth grade students with at least a 3.0 grade point average and good citizenship are invited to join these groups to reinforce and encourage academic achievement. Student Employment: Students can complete an application and apply for volunteer jobs in the cafeteria, library, office, gym or student store. More than 70 students participate, learning the value of work.

- **Shaker Heights Art Club**: Students may apply for jobs to help at the office, cafeteria and library. Students who write resumes, are interviewed and evaluated. Good Friends: Adults mentor and tutor students.

SCHOOL NEWS FROM REACHING HEIGHTS - FOCUS ON LEARNING

HEIGHTS OBSERVER May 4, 2010

By free text

- **Students in Damien Creel’s seventh grade math class at Wiley Middle School work on a problem.**

- **Anna Gregory works with Monticello sixth grade student Christa Dover on a writing assignment.**
Heights’ Melt to open May 21

Christina Klenotic

The average wait for a gourmet grilled cheese at Melt Bar and Grilled in Lakewood has been nothing compared to the anticipation by Heights residents for the opening of the new East Side location. After an 18-month investment by owner Matt Fish, Melt will be making its Cleveland Heights debut on May 21 at the corner of Taylor and Cedar roads.

Marked with larger-than-life, 3D grilled cheese signage designed by Cleveland-based Signature Sign Co., Melt will be the anchor tenant for the 1920s building owned by Geoff Loree, which previously housed Peabody’s. Loree said four potential tenants will move in next to Melt, ranging from a local clothing boutique to a bakery.

While the new location captures the original restaurant’s menu and atmosphere with similar hardwood floors, a blue tin ceiling and stained glass, it’s much larger than its sister spot. Fish said his goal for the East Side location is to “alleviate the wait issue.” With that in mind, the 1,200-square-foot kitchen is nearly three times the size of Lakewood’s. The total restaurant space can accommodate 170 guests and is just shy of 5,000 square feet, compared to Lakewood’s 3,600.

In addition, the horsehoe bar, which seats 50 and features 30 beers on tap, will be first come, first served, while Lakewood’s bar has space for only 16. Fish said he is also considering accepting reservations for a large table in the front of the restaurant that seats 15 to 20. When not reserved, Fish said it can function as a “committer” table so different parties can share the space and eat together.

Many of the materials used in the rebuilding of the interior space have local origins. For example, the wood used in the bar is from southern Ohio, and the reclaimed pews and stained glass came from churches in Lakewood and Toledo.

“Both restaurants have the same feeling—you know they’re Melt,” Fish said. “Our goal is to be everything to everybody, an ‘institution’ kind of place.”

Late this summer, a to-be-constructed outdoor patio with a privacy fence, vegetable garden and bar might seat an additional 40 guests.

Fish said the city was “very supportive” of Melt’s eclectic personality and actually suggested the 3D signage. In addition, local artist John G. created the East Side Invasion comic posters in Melt’s windows and will continue to do original art for both locations.

According to Fish, approximately 200 parking spots behind the building and across the street will accommodate Melt’s patrons.

Fish said he expects to hire about 35 staff for the restaurant. More than 500 applicants showed up to apply during Melt’s two-day job fair in April.

Melt will be open seven days a week and will feature brunch on Sundays. Fans can join the Big Cheese Club for updates on the new location, employment opportunities and monthly sandwich specials.

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

Tom Wooldworth

The federal government has designated the week of May 23-29 as this year’s National Small Business Week, in honor of the nation’s 27.2 million small businesses. It is estimated that businesses with fewer than 500 employees work more than half of all Americans. Three hundred of these small businesses are based in the Heights.

In Cleveland, the Small Business Administration and SCORE, Counselors to America’s Small Business, will mark Small Business Week by presenting a seminar on market research information available through the Cleveland Public Library. Aaron Mason and Robert Murman, market research librarians with CPL, will facilitate. The presenters will demonstrate a variety of proprietary data-based programs the library subscribes to and makes available to the public, and participants will learn how to identify competitors, determine the size of prospective markets, and develop prospecting lists.

The seminar will take place at the SCORE office, 1720 Euclid Avenue, on Friday, May 28, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The event is free to holders of a Cleveland Public Library card, but reservations are required by May 21. To reserve one of the 80 available seats, call 216-522-4194 weekdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Reduced-rate parking will be available in the Hanna garage, and the location is easily accessible by RTA.

Mason notes that one of the Cleveland Public Library’s greatest assets is its skilled staff who can help small business owners find the most current and reliable information available. “A common misconception,” he notes, “is that the answer you are seeking is neatly packaged within a single website, book or article.”

Inspiration and planning for the seminar was provided by George Sapin, a SCORE counselor for over 15 years and a longtime Heights resident. He views the seminar as a gift to every current or prospective small business person who wants to market their business intelligently.

SCORE is a nonprofit association with 380 offices staffed by 10,500 retired professionals, who volunteer to help startup and established businesses succeed. The SCORE Cleveland chapter has 45 active volunteers who provide face-to-face counseling to over 2,000 clients each year.

Height businesses move, expand

Gwynty moves Gwynty Antiques has a new location and a new name. The shop has moved across the street from the Heights Medical Building to the Heights Center Building, 1247 Cedar Road and is now Cedar Fairmount Antiques.

Heights Floral Shoppe moves Heights Floral has moved into the Garden Room at Payage. Its new location is 1386 Coventry Road.

Studio Taylor expands Studio Taylor in the Fairmount Taylor district has expanded its salon services into the former Dickson’s space. Owner Nancy Taylor’s next project is to renovate the rest of the salon.

Cedar Lee Pub expands patio Declan Synnott, owner of the Cedar Lee Pub and Grill, will expand the pub’s outdoor dining area into the adjacent rear parking lot. The expansion will create 45 more seats.

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More stories online at www.heightsobserver.org
Grant aids Fairmount Group expansion

Kelli Fontenot

Entrepreneur Dawn Hanson’s company, The Fairmount Group, will be going global with much greater ease because of a grant from British Airways. Fairmount Group received one of the 100 Business Opportunity grants given out by British Airways. It will enable Hanson to travel to Europe, meet with clients and expand her business from her small office in Cleveland Heights to cities in Finland and Denmark. The company conducts market research, manages brands and plans special events. The grant includes airfare for round-trip business class flights, five global shipments with British Airways World Cargo and $1,000 in hotel accommodations at Courtyard by Marriott. While Hanson said the company embraces modern communications technology, one aspect of its success is its commitment to face-to-face connections. The grant will enable the firm to focus on building relationships with clients.

“A lot of clients I deal with are facing a change or a challenge,” she said. “They share proprietary information and there are nonverbal cues that go along with that. You can’t see all that on Skype. It’s a trust issue; people need to get to know you personally.”

The British Airways grant is part of a campaign promoting such meetings in international business. Hanson said the company has been planning to expand business to Europe for years. Team members have worked in England, Finland, Denmark and Germany before, and familiarity with local languages and culture gives them an advantage.

Hanson recently set up meetings with eight prospective clients at company offices in Finland, although the volcanic ash from Iceland delayed her trip.

Hanson earned a public relations degree and thought she would spend her career shaking hands and attending important meetings. She worked in communications for a private hospital in her hometown of Shreveport, La., and then in corporate communications for a bank in Washington, D.C. After that, she moved to Finland with her husband, Olli Patrikainen, and worked for an oil company in Finland, Denmark and Germany before, and familiarity with local languages and culture gives them an advantage.

Fairmount Group owner Dawn Hanson in Europe building face-to-face connections with clients.

The grant aids Fairmount Group expansion with much greater ease because of a grant from British Airways.
Standing down the deluge

By Eleanor Mallet

Driving the attractive residential streets in Noble, around Lee Road, or any Cleveland Heights neighborhood for that matter, is somewhat deceptive. You see a sprinkling of signs: For Sale—New Price—Reduced Price—Sale by Owner, and some houses, if you look closely, are empty. But if you look at a map with lots of houses in foreclosure, it seems more like a pretty bad case of the chicken pox.

From 2006 through 2009, foreclosures proceeded steadily and briskly. According to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Case Western Reserve University’s Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, 2,203 Cleveland Heights homeowners have lost their houses. That’s about 5% a year or one and a half per day—for four years.

Like the tidy streets, homeowners in trouble may look OK, too. “They have been keeping up appearances for so long with family and friends,” said Keisha Matthews, a housing counselor at Community Housing Solutions, which serves Greater Cleveland and receives about 200 calls a month asking for counseling. “Often, they spill out everything: problems in finance, marriage. This is a safe place to get it all off your chest.”

With a 50-clerk caseload, Matthews and Molly Nackley, two of the housing counselors at Community Housing Solutions, attempt every day to stand down or at least slow the deluge of foreclosure. Both see a shift in the past year. “Now most who come in are here because of job loss or reduced income, not because of bad loans,” said Nackley. The bad economy is hitting hard. People are often overwhelmed.

“It is very, very private,” Nackley said, “the hardship, the job loss, feeling taken and overwhelmed with the cost of things and at a loss as to how to approach any of it. We are here to guide them through the process and help them see what their options are.”

Counselors help clients create a budget and work out what a more realistic payment, or housing plan, would be before approaching the lender. But compassion is only one side of the job. The other is the Steele perseverance it takes to deal with lenders. Getting the paperwork is where it is supposed to be is a monumental feat. “A call is transferred five times and then disconnected. You fax something and they say, ‘No, I didn’t get it;’ or ‘Why did they give you this number, try this one.’ You are lucky if ever speak to someone who can make decisions,” Nackley said.

Matthews says one of the advantages of the mediation program set up by Common Pleas Court is that it obligates the lender to sit across the table. No more run-around. “Mediation freezes the foreclosure process for four to six months during which the client can stay in the house. Even if the client is eventually out, they have more time to plan the transition,” Matthews said.

President Obama’s loan modification program, Making Home Affordable, is also helping. Under this program, a mortgage can be no more than 31 percent of income, and interest can be as low as 2.5 percent. But processing the paperwork is still slow.

Foreclosures cost the city in loss of tax revenue, vandalism, grass cutting, and ultimately, the decline in housing values degrade the tax base. And the foreclosures keep rolling. Right now, 288 houses are bank-owned. Since January, an additional 34 houses are in pre-foreclosure and 29 are up for sheriff sale, according to RealyTrac.

Eleanor Mallet is a longtime volunteer of the node of the Cuyahoga County Council. Her column, Observing in the Heights, explores the special people and places in the Heights.

FutureHeights launches 2010 Best of the Heights awards program

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Citizens can vote for their favorite Heights businesses in FutureHeights’ annual Best of the Heights awards program. The program begins May 1 and runs through August 31.

“There are 20 award categories this year,” said FutureHeights Programs Committee Chair Michael Wellman, “Some are the same as previous years, such as the Best New Business and others are new, such as Best Pub, Bar or Tavern. We try to keep the program fresh and create opportunities for all categories of businesses to be considered for an award.”

Since 2005, FutureHeights, a non-profit dedicated to civic engagement and innovative ideas, has conducted this public opinion survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally-owned businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights and their contributions to the local economy.

“The program has grown each year,” said Board President Gina Cheverine, “We had a capacity crowd at last year’s awards ceremony to receive a FutureHeights gift package. Participants need not be present to win. Best of the Heights awards ballots are available on the back page of this issue of the Heights Observer, at one of the many Heights independent businesses or at www.futureheights.org. For more information call FutureHeights at 216-310-1423.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is the executive director of FutureHeights.
Festival focuses on Dugway Brook watershed

Megan Parnell

Lake Erie is the source of our drinking water. The lake provides a valuable fish habitat and a place for boating and swimming. Everyday actions affect the quality of our water.

Dugway Brook is in the Lake Erie watersheds, which means that runoff from the brook ultimately ends up in Lake Erie.

Dugway Brook is located in Cuyahoga County on the east side of Cleveland and the surrounding suburbs. The watershed is approximately nine square miles in size. Most of Dugway Brook has been culverted, which means it flows underground through pipes called storm sewers. The majority of the brook is within the cities of Cleveland, East Cleveland, University Heights and Cleveland Heights. Small portions are within the boundaries of Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Bratenahl.

Here are five easy things you can do to protect water quality:

1) Properly dispose of pet waste. Bag it and throw it away in the trash.
2) Recycle reusable materials and discard trash properly.
3) Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on the lawn, not on your driveway.
4) Minimize the use of fertilizers and other lawn chemicals. Always follow the instructions on the label.
5) Dispose of used motor oil and antifreeze at a local service station or recycling center. Never dump automotive wastes into the storm sewer.

Learn more about the Dugway Brook and how it impacts Lake Erie, our drinking water, and our watershed community at the 2nd annual Dugway Brook Watershed Festival on Saturday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Forest Hill Park Boat House in East Cleveland.

This free event will feature family-friendly activities, demonstrations, free food samples and arts and crafts for kids.

A tour of the Dugway Brook through Lake View Cemetery will be held in conjunction with the festival. Tours depart the Forest Hill Park Boat House at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., with transportation to and from the cemetery provided by Lolly the Trolley. Register for a tour by calling Lake View Cemetery at 216-432-2665 after May 1.

Activities at the festival will include:

- Composting and rain barrel demonstrations
- Fish T-shirts for kids
- Envirocape watershed model
- Chef demonstration
- Raffle prizes

Contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health at 216-201-2001 x1223 or visit www.ccbohnet.org for more information.

Megan Parnell is an employee of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Heights Community congress presents "Live Life In Full Color... Especially Green" May 30

Mayethyl White

HCC presents “Live Life In Full Color... Especially Green” on Sunday, May 30, 1-4 p.m. at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

Join the fun-filled community celebration that highlights the value and richness of different cultures, cuisines and forms of entertainment from across the globe. It’s Heights Community Congress’s 6th international festival. "Living Life In Full Color... Especially Green" will focus on sustainability issues from a local, regional and global point of view. Attendees can enjoy a ride on a Segway, attend a mini-workshop on water reclamation, gather information about bicycling, community gardens and more.

For more information, visit www.heightscongress.org or call HCC at 216-321-6775.

Mayethyl White resides in Cleveland Heights and is the vice chair of the Heights Community Congress Board of Directors.

Community supports Heights Parent Center

More than 160 people partied to the music of Sarah’s Girl at the Great Lakes Science Center on April 24. Guests enjoyed food and drink and cheered the winner of the 2010 Carolyn Grossman Award for extraordinary commitment to families and children. Terri Davis, the director of Family Health at Beech Brook (right), received this year’s award. She is pictured with Carolyn and Rick Grossman.

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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 for more information.

*Noun 1. geothermal energy Making the planet greener, one house at a time.
Help for those who lost a loved one in the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes

Paige Boyer

Emotional support is available for those who lost family members in the Haitian or Chilean earthquakes at the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center.

“Losing a loved one in a natural disaster such as these devastating earthquakes can shatter one’s sense of well-being,” said Diane Snyder Cowan, bereavement center director. “Seeking individual counseling or a support group can help.”

In a traumatic loss, grief can be compounded by fear, anger, shock, helplessness and sometimes horror. These reactions can make coping with the trauma overwhelming. Reactions may appear immediately after the sudden tragedy or it may take days or even weeks before feelings surface.

In addition to the emotional effects, physical symptoms may appear such as changes in eating or sleeping habits, nausea, thirst, headaches or tremors. Any of these physical symptoms may indicate the need for a physician’s evaluation.

“It is vital to remember when you’re experiencing this type of grief that you’re likely wondered about appropriate treatments and furnishings. This presentation will help you find inspiration for period interiors.

Saturday, May 8 from 3 to 5 p.m.

“Space for Place: Event One,” Ursuline College Students for Historic Preservation Association, curated by Jessica Wobig, Space for Place director.

Space for Place is an art lecture series that provides local and regional artists with historical venues to showcase their endeavors. Historic preservation is activism; critical thinking about human action, thoughtful consideration about the social needs of the past, present, and future.

For more information, contact the center at 216-466-6383, located at 19201 Villawood Road, Cleveland, or visit www.hospicewr.org. Clients may also be seen at the Warrensville Heights office at 4670 Richmond Road, suite 200.

Hospice of the Western Reserve is a community-based, nonprofit agency providing comfort care and emotional support to seriously ill adult and children and their families, regardless of disease or ability to pay. Care is provided wherever the patient lives: in the home, a nursing facility, our hospice residential facility or a hospital.

Paige Boyer is the communications and media relations specialist for the Hospice of the Western Reserve.

Observer spotted in Hawaii

Annalena Weissman of Cleveland Heights, a sixth grade student at Ruffing Montessori School, pauses atop Haleakula Volcano on Maui to catch up on the news from back home.

At 3:30, John Quinn presents his experience in photo documentation, preservation, and saving a Parma landmark, the Henniger House.

At 4 p.m., Tom Kondilas screens a 20-minute excerpt from “PolyCultures,” a documentary that portrays Greater Cleveland’s diverse communities coming together to grow a more sustainable and equitable food system.

Matt Lenz follows at 4:30 with several video shorts, offering a lyrical interpretation of art and preservation (live sound from Eric Kolnow).

Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m. (space limited; preregistration required, 216-291-4878) “Cleveland Heights’ National Register Historic Districts,” slide lecture by Chris Roy, Cleveland Heights Historical Society president. Most Clevelanders are aware that, of all the area’s suburbs, Cleveland Heights has one of the richest and most interesting histories. The city has many neighborhoods recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. Armed with scores of old photographs and historic tidbits, Chris Roy leads a virtual tour of Cleveland Heights’ most interesting historical areas, all of which are now—or are slated to soon become—part of the National Register. Learn more about National Preservation Month at www.preservationnation.org/Preservation-Month.

Kara O’Donnell is the historic preservation planner for the City of Cleveland Heights.
Three Local churches join to celebrate Easter sunrise at Lake View Cemetery

By Arleen Twist

Where else can you hear a sousaphone played by one who once dotted the “i” in Scripture? Or, but at sunrise in Cleveland Heights on Easter Sunday? Bob Windle, of Shaker Heights, the i-dottedter, who in 1960, in the fall of his senior year at Ohio State University, is that sousaphone player. He has been playing his instrument as part of a brass band for seven years at the Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by three local United Methodist Churches and open to all early risers.

The idea for a sunrise service at Lake View Cemetery originated in the mid-1980s with the Rev. Sally Dyke of Church of the Redeemer (S. Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights). She and a church member decided that the cross monument of the John L. Severance family, at the crest of the ravine east of the Garfield Monument, would be the ideal location for an Easter service. By the mid-90s, South Euclid Hillcrest United Methodist Church (S. Green Rd.) and Church of the Saviour (Lee and Bradford roads in Cleveland Heights) had joined Church of the Redeemer, to carry on the tradition. The Rev. Elizabeth Nau (Hillcrest), the Rev. Daniel Bogre (Saviour), and the Rev. Karen Graham (Redeemer), led the 2010 sunrise worship service.

When Easter occurs after daylight savings time has begun, people begin to gather in darkness a little before the 6:30 a.m. starting time. This year after the brilliant sunrise, the brilliant 6:30 a.m. starting time. This year after the brilliant sunrise, a flock of Canada geese added their quacking to the band’s music as they flew overhead, a woodpecker added its drumbeat, and numerous smaller birds provided treble to the Severance Cross. Gradually, as the glow before dawn became brighter and as the brass band began to tune up, friends and neighbors recognized each other and stood close together against the morning chill. A few, less able to stand, brought chairs, and some brought their coffee mugs.

Adding to the music of the brass band were the birds. A flock of Canada geese added their quacking to the band’s music as they flew overhead, a woodpecker added its drumbeat, and numerous smaller birds provided treble to the Severance Cross. Gradually, as the glow before dawn became brighter and as the brass band began to tune up, friends and neighbors recognized each other and stood close together against the morning chill. A few, less able to stand, brought chairs, and some brought their coffee mugs.

Easter-band: Paul Sherrod, Ill.; and Laura Wadsworth, harmonium; syria Benash, French horns; bob windle, sousaphone; Nicholas Rosi, tuba; Pete Evangelista, trumpet; Lisa Wadsworth, worshiper; Bill Benish, baritone horns; Tony Evangelista, trumpets.

Miracles Happen Run/Walk to raise funds for breast cancer research

Adrienne Petrella

The second annual Miracles Happen 5K Run/Walk is set for Sunday, May 23 through the scenic streets of Cleveland Heights.

The event will benefit the Diana Hyland Miracle Fund, whose mission is to advance research for recurrent breast cancer—focusing on new theories, trials and treatments aimed at managing the cancer and extending lives.

The Miracle Fund was created in memory of Diana Hyland of Shaker Heights who sadly lost her battle with breast cancer on Oct. 27, 2008.

Every dollar raised goes toward research at University Hospitals Ireland Cancer Center, which is dedicated to innovative treatment and promising research with the ultimate goal to cure cancer.

Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. at Nighttown restaurant, 12353 Cedar Road. The 5K Run/Walk and 1-mile Family Fun Walk will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. (rain or shine). Runners and walkers will follow the route through Cleveland Heights ending back at Nighttown for the post-event gathering. Awards will be presented at 1:45 p.m. followed by light fare and brief remarks.

The entry fee is $20 in advance or $25 the day of the event. Participants under the age of 14 are $10. The entry fee includes light fare, a T-shirt and a souvenir water bottle donated by University Hospitals. (T-shirts are available to the first 300 registrants.) Awards will be given to the top three male and female overall and top three in the following age groups: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over.

Participants are encouraged to gather pledges from friends, family and coworkers. Those participants who raise $250 or more will receive a Miracles Happen lapel pin. To register or for more information about the Run/Walk, visit HMA Promotions at www.hmapromotions.net, call 216-732-5151 or e-mail hma@hacs.net. Deadline for preregistration is May 14. Online registration is available on the University Hospitals website, http://bit.ly/90Rytz.

For more information about the Diana Hyland Miracle Fund, visit www.dianahylandmiraclefund.org. Adrienne Petrella is a senior at John Carroll University and a resident of University Heights.

The Lake View Cemetery
Mayfield and Kenilworth Roads

HORTICULTURAL WALKING TOUR
Saturday, May 8, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

MOTHER’S DAY WALKING TOUR
Sunday, May 9, 2010, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

$6.00 per person for each tour
Pre-paid registration required

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Salon 180

We are pleased to announce Bradley Mulby has joined our team!!

Bradley has recently merged with Salon 180’s Woodmere location. Bradley brings with him his outstanding coloring techniques as well as his ability to produce celebrity styles and create the latest trends. Come in for a cut and color with Bradley and receive $10 off your service total.

www.salon180.com
Lita Gonzalez honored

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Reaching Heights honored community volunteer Lita Gonzalez for her work with the PATH (Parent Ambassadors to Heights) program. Gonzalez started the program in March 2003 to help familiarize new and prospective parents with Cleveland Heights High School. Each year since, PATH’s volunteers, who are parents of current high school students, give tours of the high school when it is in session and answer prospective parent’s questions.

“The first year we expected to do five tours,” said Gonzalez, “and ended up having 39 parents contact us. Our hope was that direct experience with current high school parents would counter any negative perceptions prospective parents might have and give them an opportunity to discuss any concerns openly and honestly.”

Reaching Heights presented Gonzalez with its 2010 Friend of Public Education Award at its annual spelling bee last month.

The award honors citizens and institutions who “embrace our shared responsibility for the success of our public schools,” says Executive Director Patrick Mullen. “Their example reminds us that, together, we can improve the lives of our students, families, and community.”

“Getting this award was a very special honor,” said Gonzalez. “I truly believe our school district is an important part of the vitality in our community. It deserves our support and nurturing. Every time I step into the high school I can feel the energy. I see exceptional creativity among the students and passion from the teachers and staff. The learning that is taking place is top notch, and I love to show it off.”

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights. Lita Gonzalez serves on the FutureHeights board of directors.

Deming’s Forest Hill neighborhood listed on National Register of Historic Places

Kara Hamley O’Donnell

On April 23, the National Park Service listed Grant Deming’s Forest Hill Allotment Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places.

The effort to designate the Forest Hill Allotment as a historic district, headed by Cleveland State University history professor Mark Souther, began in spring 2008.

The district lies generally in an area bounded by Euclid Heights Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, Lee Road and Coventry Road.

With 654 major structures, the district is the largest in Cleveland Heights to achieve National Register status. It is the seventh such district in the city and follows the Ingleswood Historic District, which was listed in 2009.

Grant Deming, brother of Euclid Golf Allotment developer Barton Deming, conceived the idea for Forest Hill shortly after the turn of the 20th century and named it for John D. Rockefeller, who developed his own Forest Hill subdivision on the Cleveland Heights–East Cleveland border.

Deming’s Forest Hill, now 101 years old, features a curvilinear street plan designed by Fred A. Pease, who also laid out the Van Sweringens’ Shaker Village. Its architectural eclecticism melding Arts and Crafts, Tudor, Colonial, Prairie, Neo-classical, and other influences typifies the period designs found in Cleveland Heights and across the nation in the 1910s and 1920s.

The district’s oldest house, completed in 1909, is the original Grant Deming homestead on Redwood Road behind Zagara’s Marketplace. The Deming house and Coventry library also in the district, are Cleveland Heights landmarks.

Kara Hamley O’Donnell is the historic preservation planner for the City of Cleveland Heights.

JCU’s nonprofit masters program

Degree helps students pursue dreams of helping others

Amanda Oliveri

In these times of layoffs and cutbacks, you can’t avoid the advertisements and stories suggesting that now is the perfect time to go back to school. However, it’s not quite that simple: it could mean incurring large amounts of debt, taking away time from job hunting and networking, or eating up the remaining time you have with your family. But it is possible to find the right program for you. Jana Longsworth Nassif, currently a knowledge center manager for a global mergers and acquisitions firm, did just that.

As an economics undergrad at Bowling Green University, Nassif had hoped to take her experience into the nonprofit sector after graduation. But her first opportunity was a for-profit position, and she accepted an offer from National City Bank. Nassif adjusted her plan: gain experience in the corporate world and then transfer it to the nonprofit sector. Six years and a promotion later, she decided it was time to make that move.

Previously, Nassif had returned to school briefly in an attempt to obtain an MBA with a nonprofit focus, but was forced to stop when her employer changed the rules for tuition reimbursement. After reviewing several schools in the area, Nassif chose John Carroll University. “I always liked the school, and the tuition break was fantastic,” she explains. John Carroll University is currently offering a 40-percent tuition reduction for masters in nonprofit administration students. “I also felt that the connection to Boler [JCU’s business school] was very important.”

Nassif also considered the courses offered. “I found that other schools were either focused in one specific aspect of nonprofits, or they didn’t offer the same courses and benefits to part-time students. JCU caters to working adults and offers everything to all students in the program.”

To find out more information about John Carroll University Nonprofit Administration Program, go to www.jcu.edu/nonprofit.

Amanda Oliveri is administrative assistant for John Carroll University Nonprofit Administration Program.

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Tips from the home repair trenches

Allison Urbanek

As we enter home repair season, my phone rings more frequently. The city is alive with a buzz of repair hysteria (as I lovingly refer to it). Violation lists from the city inspectors are on their way to anxious homeowners, and the melting snow has revealed exterior repairs in need of attention. Here are a few tips I can share with residents who may be experiencing some of these springtime rituals.

Don’t put off till tomorrow what can be done today. Home repairs that aren’t fixed sooner rather than later will only lead to more extreme issues down the line. Keep an eye on things. If something doesn’t seem right, get it checked out in a timely manner.

Do your homework. Whether you decide to contract out a repair or do the work yourself, look online or at the library to get information about the project. Home Repair Resource Center has a repair library with handouts, DVDs, and videos that offer information on the best materials and repair techniques to use. The more information you have, the better. You will be a more informed consumer when dealing with a contractor or a supply company. Get several estimates and always check references. The City of Cleveland Heights has a list of registered contractors, and the Home Repair Resource Center has several contractor books that are filled with evaluations to help you make your choice.

Money doesn’t grow on trees. As with many things, you never know what to expect regarding the costs of repairs. It is always best to search out the options that are available to you in your community. For residents of Cleveland Heights who have a low-to-moderate income, Home Repair Resource Center offers HUD-supported repair grants and low to no-interest loans for home repairs, as well as a National Guarantee that can help homeowners with credit issues obtain bank financing. These benefits are designed to make home repairs more affordable.

There are also several loan programs available through local banks, such as the Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP), which reduces the current market interest rate by 3 percent; and the Heritage Home Program, provided through the Cleveland Restoration Society. Either of these loans will help with repairs, enhance your curb appeal, provide a low interest rate, and much more. Both are available to homeowners of any income who can qualify for a conventional bank loan.

Don’t be fooled. Pay your contractor only for work completed or value received. You work hard for your money, so don’t watch it walk away. Always make sure that you are happy with the completed job before paying the contractor. Make sure that if the work needs a permit, that it passes inspection. These are just a few tips. Please call 216-391-1060 or visit www.ohcvb.org for more helpful hints.

Allison Urbanek is the financial programs counselor at Home Repair Resource Center.
Dig in and plant a tree
Kathy Dawson

Spring and fall are great times of year to plant trees and other landscape plants. Before digging in, take time to select the right tree for the right location, to ensure your planting is successful.

Ten steps for planting a tree:

1. Transport with care: Transport your tree from the nursery by covering the canopy to avoid windburn. To avoid damaging fragile roots, do not bounce or drop the root ball. Keep the root ball moist if you’re not planting immediately.

2. Dig In: Dig your hole twice as wide as the root ball and just slightly shallower than the height of the root ball. Scuff and roughen the sides of the planting hole. Compress the bottom of the hole so the tree won’t settle lower.

3. Remove the container: Remove any plastic container from the tree before placing it in the hole, and separate and loosen circling and dense roots. For balled and burlapped trees, cut and remove the top of the burlap and twine away from the trunk.

4. Select the right soil planting height: Find the trunk or root flare where the roots meet the trunk, generally where the trunk becomes wider before going into the soil. You may need to scrape away some of the soil back to find the root flare if it is buried inside the root ball. Set the top of the root flare to be approximately 1/2 to 1 inch above the surrounding grade. If you must add soil to the planting hole, be sure to compact it before installing the tree.

5. "Face" the tree: Orient the preferred side of the tree to a prominent viewpoint, such as a patio or window of the house. When moving the tree, lift it from the container or root ball and not from the trunk or branches.

6. Plum the tree: Once the tree is in the hole ensure that it is standing upright. Adjust the root ball until the tree is plumb and then pack soil under and around the root ball to secure it.

7. Improve the soil: Improve the native clay soil in our area with soil amendments like compost or Sweet Peet mulch. Mix one part amendment to three parts native soil.

8. Backfill: Pack in the soil as you backfill around the tree by compressing the soil after every few shovels of soil. This will remove air pockets which will help to stabilize the plant.

9. Water: Water only after backfilling is completed and the soil is compacted. Create a berm around the base of the tree larger than the root ball so water is concentrated around the tree and does not run off. Water more heavily for the first watering, then continue monitoring the tree for water, adding generally one gallon of water per caliper inch plus one gallon. For example, a 2-caliper inch tree will need three gallons of water once or twice a week, depending on the season and soil conditions.

10. Mulch: Cover the planting area with 2 to 3 inches of bark mulch, but keep it away from the trunk of the tree. Mulch moderates the soil temperature, helps to maintain moisture, reduces weed growth and prevents a hard crust from occurring on the soil which prevents water from getting into the soil. Before you plant a tree, know where your utilities are located. Call Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) at 811 or 900-362-2764 at least 48 hours before digging to have utility lines marked. For more information, visit www.lawnlad.com, www.treesaregood.com or www.arborday.org.

Douglas Freer is a Cleveland Heights native and the owner of Lawn Lad, Inc., which provides residential landscape services in the Heights area. Call 216.371.1935 or visit www.lawnlad.com.
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