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Music Settlement halts plan, but talks continue

Jessica Kahn

One year ago, in September 2009, The Music Settlement, based in University Circle, reached an agreement with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District to transform the former Coventry Elementary School into a state-of-the-art early childhood center. After conducting a comprehensive feasibility study, however, The Music Settlement now believes that the campaign goal of raising \$16-19 million would be difficult to achieve.

"The Music Settlement's board and administration are, of course, disappointed about the results of the study," said Charles D. Lawrence, president and CEO of The Music Settlement. "But after careful consideration, we believe moving forward with our original plans in such an uncertain economy would be detrimental."

Coventry residents are also disappointed. Mark Majewski, whose home abuts the property, said there have been loud parties near the playground at the back of the building, and reported that his daughter was confronted by a man with a gun near the school. "I'm hopeful that the school district and the city will continue to be aggressive to find a new use for the property," Majewski stated.

Although unaware of any recent crime on the property, Stephen Shergalis, director of business services for the school district, stated that all security systems are being maintained and an off-duty Cleveland Heights police officer was hired to patrol the site at night.

Majewski added that, despite the disturbances, the school district has done a good job in maintaining the building, which has been vacant since June 2007. "I compliment the school district for making the building look nice. It does not look derelict."

Superintendent Douglas Heuer said that he and the school district "remain committed to finding the best use for the Coventry property, as soon as it's possible to do so" and added that, "whatever the answer, the people of our community—and especially that neighborhood—should know that finding the

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Boulevard Elementary School students work together on a science project.

CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ohio wins Race to the Top

Angee Shaker

CH-UH students will benefit

The U.S. Department of Education chose nine states—Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Rhode Island—and the District of Columbia in the second round of a national grant competition.

The Race to the Top program, part of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan, rewards states for plans to make ambitious changes to improve struggling schools. Ohio is scheduled to receive \$400 million dollars, half of which

will be directly distributed to the 538 districts and charter schools that pledged their support. Cleveland Heights-University Heights is one of those districts.

"This is great news for our students. According to formulas issued at the start of the application process, we anticipate Race to the Top funding in excess of \$1 million for our district. These funds will be used in accordance with Race to the Top guidelines.

"We are grateful to have this opportunity to expend grant monies to further improve the quality of education for our students. I would also like to extend

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Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition petitions CH City Council to improve bicycle infrastructure

Nicholas Matthew

Cities across the United States are learning the benefits of becoming more bicycle friendly.

Portland, Oregon, with nearly 100 miles of new bicycle lanes installed in the last decade, is now one of the top eight U.S. cities to attract recent college graduates.

In San Francisco, 66 percent of merchants said that bicycle lanes had a positive overall impact on their business, according to a survey conducted four and a half years after the lanes were painted.

A study of house prices by the Monon Bicycle Trail in Indianapolis found that homes closer to the bike path sold for an average of 11 percent more than other homes identical in the number bathrooms, bedrooms, and square footage, but farther away from the trail.

These are just a few reasons why the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition is urging Cleveland Heights City Council to improve bicycle infrastructure. In just four weeks, the coalition collected signatures from more than 500 individuals who support its cause. When the coalition presented its petition to Mayor Ed Kelley at the Aug. 16 city council meeting, more than 30 coalition members attended, applauding when Mayor Kelley announced, "we're with you on this."

Along with improved education and awareness, the coalition has requested that the city implement a program of

installing bicycle "sharrows" on five key streets in Cleveland Heights. In order of priority, these roads are:

1. Edgehill Road from Euclid Heights Boulevard to the Cleveland border,
2. Euclid Heights Boulevard from South Taylor Road to Cedar Road,
3. Coventry Road from Mayfield Road to Fairmount Boulevard,
4. Lee Road from Mayfield Road to Fairmount Boulevard, and
5. Fairmount Boulevard from South Taylor Road, through Cedar Road to Cedar Hill.

Sharrows are markings painted on the road to remind motorists and cyclists to share the road, and are an alternative to bicycle lanes when they cannot be installed because the roads are too narrow or because the asphalt is crumbling. Sharrows bear the image of a bicycle with two chevrons, sometime referred to as "Sergeant Bike." They can be found on the roads of 86 other U.S. cities, including Columbus and Pittsburgh, and internationally in England and Australia.

The coalition has asked the city to install the sharrows on Euclid Heights Boulevard and Edgehill Road by Nov. 15 as a pilot program, and on Coventry Road by May of 2011.

If you'd like to learn more, visit www.bikesintheheights.org.

Nicholas Matthew is an officer of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.

New business alliance partners with FutureHeights in Best of the Heights awards

Megan Johnson

The recently-formed Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA) is collaborating with FutureHeights to build a vital Heights economy based on independent, locally-owned businesses. Together the organizations seek to prevent proliferation of retail chains and similar trends from displacing local entrepreneurs by uniting area independent businesses, citizens and community organizations.

A launch party for HIBA is scheduled for Oct. 18 in conjunction with

FutureHeights's 2010 Best of the Heights awards ceremony. The event will be held at Motorcars Toyota, 2950 Mayfield Road, in Cleveland Heights, at 6:30 p.m.

"We are very excited about the inception of an independent business alliance in the Heights, and look forward to teaming up on many projects in the future," said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. "HIBA's goals support FutureHeights's mission to promote a vibrant and sus-

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Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor
The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to:
www.heightsobserver.org/members or e-mail: info@futureheights.org

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Workshops for becoming a true Observer



Bob Rosenbaum

The *Heights Observer*, published by FutureHeights, is about engagement: helping to keep residents of University Heights and Cleveland Heights informed, and providing a platform to actively share information about community issues and organizations.

It's a chicken-and-egg proposition: The greater the engagement, the more contributions the *Observer* receives—and the better informed people will be.

I observe two common barriers to this process:

1. People don't want to take the time.
2. People don't know how, or don't feel qualified, to contribute.

There's not much the *Observer* can do about the first barrier, except perhaps to convince people that sharing their knowledge doesn't take a lot of time. We're addressing that, and tackling the second barrier in depth with a series of Tuesday-evening workshops to help residents figure out what, and how, to contribute information to the *Observer*.

All of the workshops are at the CH-UH Main Library on Lee Road. They are free and open to the public, though we are asking people to call in reservations as a courtesy, at 216-320-1423 (the office of FutureHeights and the *Observer*). You may attend as few or as many as you want.

I'll be at all of them, and hope to see you there.

Tuesday, Sept. 21: Help Yourself, Serve the Community. How to Use

the *Heights Observer* to benefit your team, club or organization, and how to submit information. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Meeting Room A.

Tuesday, Sept. 28: What's the News: How to be an Educated News Consumer, by freelance journalist and former *Plain Dealer* columnist Afri Odellia Scruggs. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Meeting Room B.

Tuesday, Oct. 5: You Too Can Write the News. Basic reporting and writing for community journalists. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Meeting Room B.

Tuesday, Oct. 12: How to Edit (for community journalists). Why, what, and how editors do what they do. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Meeting Room B.

Tuesday, Nov 23: Photography for Community Journalists. How to take better newspaper photos, and how to submit them for publication in the *Heights Observer*. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Meeting Room B.

Tuesday, Dec. 7: The Media Meltdown. What happened to newspapers and magazines, and what's next. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Meeting Room B.

Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the Observer's editorial advisory committee and member of the futureheights board, writes this column to provide transparency and understanding about the Observer. Send questions to bob@therosenbaums.net.

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

How to Walk to School movement gains traction here

Joan Spoerl

Perhaps you've read *How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance* by Jacqueline Edelberg and Susan Kurland, or read about the book in the June issue of the *Heights Observer*, or Eleanor Mallet's column in the July issue. Either way, you're invited to join the local How to Walk to School movement that's gaining traction here.

Regardless of your connection to the schools, we want your input and assistance. Many community members are reading the book, or heard the author speak here in June, and are inspired to organize and act to uplift the youngest in our community, and thereby all of us.

I've been meeting and speaking with community residents and leaders these last few months. Doug Heuer, our school superintendent, is eager to collaborate with the community. In the coming weeks, I'll continue to spread the word at various community meetings and venues.

Now is the time for parents, teachers, principals and others to compile wish lists and brainstorm ideas for the schools. It's time to create a community resource list that includes people or businesses with skills or materials to contribute. Next we can match up these resources with the needs of our schools, and get to work on a creative and productive process of embracing the schools. While we're at it, let's formulate a list of all the positive programs, activities and stories already happening in our schools. I know there are many.

Our challenges are different from those of the Chicago school Edelberg and Kurland wrote about. Their process, however, can inspire us to see that anything is possible here. I envision groups of people, inspired by their concerns, passions or dreams for the school and community, organizing into committees to work with the school administration to prioritize and act. We may tackle a few positive initiatives this year and others the next. But let's start somewhere.

Already, there are parents wanting to improve the nutritional value of the food schools serve. Others want to implement safe routes so that more children can bicycle and walk safely to school. This alone could have many positive outcomes by fostering health through exercise, more effective learning from the benefits of exercise, and greater community feeling as more residents escort children to school.

Let's begin to think outside the box and bring the rich social and intellectual capital of our community to this endeavor. You can support the district's efforts by conveying positive stories and critical messages to the community.

You can share your ideas and offer your resources by contacting me at joanspoerl@sbcglobal.net or 216-371-3753. Please provide me with your contact information. Also, let me know if you are able to create and maintain a Facebook page for our growing movement.

Joan Spoerl is a Cleveland Heights resident and early childhood consultant with over 13 years of combined experience teaching kindergarten, Head Start, preschool and college.

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R. Hogg

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CH officials playing politics with fire fighting

Today Cleveland Heights is less safe than it has been in years because city officials have slashed the city's fire department by 10 percent.

The 69 firefighters and paramedics, who remain since City Manager Bob Downey laid off three of them, and demoted two lieutenants, are struggling to respond to emergency calls. We have been forced to work overtime just to maintain minimum safe staffing levels.

The situation could get a lot worse—and less safe—for the residents of Cleveland Heights if city officials continue to whittle away at the fire department.

It did not have to be this way. The city turned its back on a \$458,286 federal grant offered back in March to bring firefighters back to work. This is nearly half a million dollars that would have been poured into the local economy of Cleveland Heights to keep the city safe and keep people employed.

In an economy like this, it's foolish not to do everything we can to preserve jobs.

These grants are called SAFER grants because they help local communities keep their residents safe at a time when the economy is wreaking havoc on local budgets. Hundreds of U.S. cities facing similar budgeting issues have accepted \$165 million in SAFER grants since the Federal Emergency Management Agency began distributing the money on March 31. Those grants put first responders back on the frontlines, and improved public safety in each community that welcomed the funding—but not here.

Cleveland Heights is less safe because

Mayor Edward Kelley and City Manager Bob Downey rejected a federal grant and reduced staffing. They also have acknowledged that more layoffs in the fire department may be on the horizon.

While struggling to keep the city safe, Cleveland Heights Local 402 has bent over backwards to help the city meet its financial obligations. Last year, Local 402 offered to forego raises for its members in exchange for a promise not to lay off firefighters or paramedics. The city rejected that offer.

The matter went to arbitration and a ruling was issued granting extremely modest raises. The city responded to that decision by laying off firefighters and paramedics.

This is poor city management. Public safety should be a top priority for city leaders. Instead they appear to be waging a political war against first responders at the peril of the residents who rely on their fire department to keep them safe.

First responders are breaking their backs to keep Cleveland Heights safe. Every firefighter or paramedic cut means the department will have to struggle even harder to get to burning buildings in time and with enough resources to save lives and protect property.

The cuts must end because they jeopardize your safety. Our public officials must stop playing politics with public safety.

Paul Hallisy
President, CH Firefighters
IAFF Local 402

Fire chief explains SAFER grant and current department staffing levels

From the Editor: The Observer has received questions from Cleveland Heights residents about staffing levels of the city's fire department and the city's rejection of federal stimulus funding for the fire department—questions raised, in part, by recent information distributed by the International Association of Firefighters Local 402/Cleveland Heights. The union's perspective is presented separately in this issue as a letter to the editor. The Observer asked the City of Cleveland Heights to explain its position on current staffing and on the federal grant. The city's response follows.

Kevin Mohr

Due to challenging economic conditions, virtually every local government has been forced to make difficult decisions regarding expenditures and staffing. Cleveland Heights is no exception.

Since 2005, our city has had to look at every program and service it offers to determine where cuts could be made. Throughout this process, our priority has been maintaining the safety of our residents.

In February 2009, the city formulated a multipart plan to address budget concerns. Successful implementation of the plan required the cooperation of the city's union and nonunion employees. All unions—except the firefighters'—agreed to freeze wages for one year or, in the case of the service union, three. For their part, nonunion employees have had no raises in three years and were required to take 10 unpaid furlough days in 2009. More than 100 positions have been eliminated.

Because of its budgetary hardships, and the sacrifices of other unions and employees, the city made it clear to the firefighters' union, and to me, that any benefits awarded through an arbitration process would need to be paid for out of the fire department budget. Such a requirement would, most certainly, result in firefighter layoffs.

In March 2009, I urged firefighters to cooperate with the city in order to avoid job losses among CHFD employees. Unfortunately, the union filed for arbitration shortly thereafter. When the union lost its appeal in the first round of arbitration, it had the opportunity to reconsider its

pursuit of an award that would predictably result in firefighter layoffs.

In early 2010, a conciliator awarded a salary increase to the union. Consequently, three firefighters were laid off. The union has stated that it had originally been willing to accept a contract with no pay raise, but the conditions attached to that offer included a work-week reduction from 50 to 48 hours and minimum staffing guarantees. A two-hour-per-week reduction in work hours would have been equivalent to a four-percent pay raise. The offer was not realistic.

There has been much misinformation about a federal grant known as SAFER. The grant could have been used by the city to hire three firefighters. Restrictions applied, however. The grant dollars could only be used for hiring and could not have been used toward underwriting the cost of the arbitration award. Also, as a SAFER grantee, the city would have been prohibited from laying off firefighters during the grant period. Therefore, faced with the need to pay for the conciliator's award and knowing that the grant could not be used toward those costs, the city had to go ahead with the firefighter layoffs and could not accept the grant.

Adjustments to CHFD operations have been made to accommodate the conciliator's award while maintaining our emergency response capabilities. Our minimum daily staffing remains at 16 members. We have not changed the number of vehicles in service, vehicle staffing or the assignment of those vehicles at the two fire stations.

We will continue to respond to calls in a timely manner, without disturbing the balance of mutual aid and automatic aid provided to our neighboring cities. Cleveland Heights remains one of fewer than five fire departments of the 50-plus in Cuyahoga County that meets and will continue to meet the initial full alarm assignment capability staffing levels set out in the National Fire Protection Association's 1710 Standards.

The City of Cleveland Heights Fire Department will never compromise safety.

Kevin Mohr is chief of the Cleveland Heights Division of Fire/EMS.

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

JULY 19, 2010

All council members were present.

Community Center lighting renovation costs

Council approved an increase in the cost of the contract with South Shore Electric, Inc. for the Community Center/Ice Rink Lighting Renovation Project. Grant monies will cover the increased cost.

City's strategic development plan

A draft of the city's strategic development plan is available for review on the city's website or from city hall. A public hearing will take place on Sept. 13, at 7 p.m., at the community center.

Nelaview homes declared nuisances

Council declared two properties to be nuisances. 851 Nelaview Road and 875 Nelaview Road. Rick Wagner, housing projects manager, recommended demolition because, in both cases, the cost of repairs would amount to more than the market value of the properties. Completion of demolition is expected by the beginning of September.

Fall/winter recreation fees

An ordinance amending fees for the Cleveland Heights Community Center and parks for the 2010-2011 fall/winter season received a first reading. Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans noted that there were only a few slight increases.

2011 tax budget

Council passed the 2011 tax budget. The city's 2011 income is estimated to be \$41,000,000, and the budget would spend approximately \$40,500,000.

Heights Parent Center merger

Heights Parent Center is merging with another

nonprofit corporation to form a new entity to be known as Family Connections. In order to accommodate the name change, council amended the agreement for Community Development Block Grant funds for assistance with the center's Family School Connection program.

Municipal court upgrade

Council authorized an agreement with Henschen and Associates Inc. for an integrated document imaging and redaction system for the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court at the cost of not more than \$37,510. This will bring the court into compliance with the Ohio Supreme Court order that courts go paperless.

LWV observers: Lisa Peters and Kirsten Karakul.

AUGUST 2, 2010

All council members were present.

Euclid Heights Boulevard property

Council declared the residential property at 3436 Euclid Heights Boulevard to be a nuisance and authorized abatement. This property, owned by Hatorah Modos Ohr, has not been maintained for a number of years, and although the owner is supposed to be demolishing the property, that effort is proceeding too slowly.

Landlord training

Council Member Ken Montlack noted the correlation between the professionalism of rental property owners and the condition of the property. The police department is offering a landlord training seminar focused on keeping illegal activity out of rental properties. The first session took place on July 29 with about 40 people attending. When landlords complete the training and commit to its principles, their properties will be listed on the city's website.

City commissions have openings

Residents are encouraged to apply for openings on the city's Landmarks Commission and the Commission on Aging. Applications can be obtained by calling 216-291-3925, visiting City Hall, or downloading from the city's website, www.clevelandheights.com.

Recreation fees

Council enacted small rate increases for admission and other services at the Cleveland Heights Community Center and parks for the 2010-2011 fall/winter season.

Community Improvement and Tender Loving Care awards.

Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans encouraged residents to submit nominations for the annual Community Improvement and Tender Loving Care awards. For a property to qualify, the improvements must be visible from a public right-of-way and must make the area more attractive. A property may be nominated for restoration, renovation, an addition, outdoor furniture or sitting areas, lighting, new construction, signage, painting, and excellent maintenance. Nomination forms are available from Community Relations at 216-291-2323. The award winners will be honored and historic preservation awards will be presented at a ceremony in the City Hall atrium on Oct. 7.

Water division purchases

Council authorized the purchase of a water jet and cab and chassis for the public works department's water division. The water jet, which is used to clean out water and sanitary sewer lines, will be purchased from Jack Doheny Supplies Ohio Inc. through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program, at a total cost of \$46,187.94, which includes the trade-in of an older jet. The issuance of \$47,000



in tax-exempt notes or bonds will cover the cost. The cab and chassis for mounting the water jet will be bought from Miami Valley International Trucks and purchased through the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program at a total cost of \$60,763. The issuance of \$61,000 in tax-exempt notes or bonds will pay for the cab and chassis.

Storm water management at Denison Park

Council authorized Behnke Associates Inc. to prepare a storm water management plan, necessitated by the Denison Park Soccer Field Improvement project, which involves replacing the existing natural turf soccer field with a synthetic turf surface. The total cost of Behnke's services for this portion of the project is not to exceed \$6,000.

LWV observer: Katherine Solender.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Marilyn McLaughlin and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lww-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

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NEW BUSINESS ALLIANCE continued from page 1

tainable future for the Heights."

A member of the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA), HIBA unites locally-owned independent businesses, citizens, and community organizations to support the unique culture of the Heights through public education; cooperative promotion, advertising and purchasing; creating a strong and uncompromised voice for one-of-a-kind independent businesses; and engaging citizens in guiding the future of the community.

FutureHeights is a nonprofit organization focused on providing tools to promote positive change through volunteerism and community activism in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Its programs include publishing the *Heights Observer* and promoting independent merchants through its annual Best of the Heights survey and awards. For several years, the organization's Heights Shops program has educated consumers on the

benefits of shopping locally.

HIBA, a 501 (c) 6 nonprofit organization, is still in its organizational stages. Alex Quintana, who owns Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa with his wife, Dawn, is a cofounder of HIBA. He said he looks forward to bringing together the Heights's many independent storefront and home-based businesses. "There is a wonderful community here in the Heights, and creating a strong partnership among local businesses will do so much to sustain our future. There is strength in numbers."

For more information about opportunities with HIBA, visit www.facebook.com/sbophiba or contact HIBA cofounders Alex Quintana at eaquintana@att.net or Trevor Gile at trevorgile@motorcarshonda.com. For more information about FutureHeights, visit www.futureheights.org.

Megan Johnson is a public relations volunteer for the Heights Independent Business Alliance. Reach her at megan@thekarenfoundation.org.

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Will UH senior adults be shortchanged?



Anita Kazarian

If senior adult residents of University Heights want to keep the services they have come to expect from our city, they need to pay attention to what some councilmen are saying.

On July 26, several members of council proposed to create the new position of economic development director. The position would add up to \$80,000 plus benefits to the city's payroll each year, taking a significant bite out of the city's tax revenues.

State law requires UH to have a balanced budget. Adding even a part-time economic development person will require either new taxes or a reduction in current city services.

As one councilman said, "We can't do everything, there are always tradeoffs." One likely tradeoff may be a senior services manager. "If I had to place these two items—work on development issues against a senior service manager," said the councilman, "I believe I would have to say the development person would have a higher priority."

What these councilmen have in mind is that the economic development director will find tenants for vacant, privately-owned commercial space in UH. This would increase employment and thereby increase tax revenues. What is not to like about that?

The difficulty with the scheme is that the development director would be doing what realtors in the private market already do—find business tenants for vacant, privately-owned commercial property. Driven by the need to earn commissions to feed their families, they are already diligently at work searching for tenants. Realtors are somewhat hampered, however, by the current economic climate and by the political rejection of some businesses that have desired to open here. It is not likely that a hired economic

development director, even a good one, would be able to overcome those obstacles more easily than the army of experienced realtors already on the job.

Should our already high taxes be used to replace private sector real estate agents? Should, as one councilman considered and decided, these tax dollars be at the expense of lowering the priority of our senior adults? The question is an important one.

Of all UH voters registered in 2009, around 25 percent were born in 1950 or earlier. They have raised families, planned block parties, financed the new swimming pool and worked to make this a friendly small town of beautiful homes. Many are empty nesters. More important, they have been, and are, the consistent and reliable taxpayers supporting UH by their decision to remain in their homes.

I repeat my marketing proposal to brand and promote our city. We should use our tax dollars for the benefit of the entire city. We can do that without adding to our payroll an expensive executive with vaguely defined duties.

We have many "for sale" signs in our city. We are competing with neighboring cities for future homebuyers. Buyers move here for our housing stock, the quality of the city and our services. We need to market our housing stock to senior adults who are empty nesters in the region.

Council would be wise not to jeopardize this potential market of homebuyers by reducing or eliminating services important to them. Let us hope they do not attempt to balance the 2011 budget by shortchanging our senior adult residents.

I am interested in hearing directly from you. E-mail me your thoughts and comments to anitakazarian@gmail.com.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and a 29-year resident of University Heights.

Preschool night



Preschoolers Kate Hammond (left), Savannah Clark (center) and Paris Copeland (right) enjoy outdoor fun on the playground at the Early Childhood Program at Gearity.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District will hold an information session for parents of preschoolers on Oct. 14 at Gearity Professional Development School, 2323 Wrenford Road. At "Fall into the Heights" preschool night parents

and their children can learn more about the district's preschool and elementary school programs and meet a district kindergarten teacher, elementary school principals and Kindernet representatives. Call 216-371-7356 for more information.

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RACE TO THE TOP continued from page 1

thanks and congratulations on behalf of the CH-UH Board of Education to the CH-UH Teachers Association, without whose collaboration, our participation in Race to the Top would not have been possible," said

Superintendent Douglas Heuer.

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

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CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights

JULY 19, 2010

Board Member Jason Stein was absent.



Architect presentation on Noble library

Architect James Duber of Studio Techne displayed floor plans for the renovation of Noble Neighborhood Library. The circulation desk will be in the center of the first floor, as it was in 1928, and the color palette will complement the original design of the Walker and Weeks building. Project Manager Julie Criscione outlined the bid package for the \$831,275 project.

The timeline shows the building will be closed in November and December. During that time, some of the after-school activities may be held in neighboring buildings.

Sunday closings to continue

Branches will remain closed on Sundays, but the issue will be revisited when the 2011-2012 state biennium budget is adopted.

Library volunteers

Currently 51 volunteers, largely recruited by Heather Howler, support the summer lunch program (34 adult and teen volunteers) and assist landscape gardener Michael German with the gardens at the four branches (16 adults and teens).

Summer lunch and reading programs

The summer lunch program now serves 200 meals a day, and the summer reading program has already enrolled more than 1,100 children.

Friends of the Library activities

Three teens are interns this summer: Steven Barnes, in photography; Deanna Thompson, in website management; and Jessica Vinson, in data management.

Between Aug. 15 and Oct. 1 of this year,

the Scholarship Committee will solicit applicants for stipends for the second semester at the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science.

Both online and event auctions will be featured at this year's WiseUp—Chapter 21, and donations are welcomed. The online auction will begin in September and end on Oct. 24, while both a live and a silent auction will be held at the event on Oct. 24.

Public service report

Included in this report are the following items:

- In June, there were 194 meeting room groups with a total of 2,795 people using rooms; income was \$400.
- The library hosted 235 library programs with a total of 5,514 people attending.
- The first teen summer reading event, "Library Luau," drew more than 80 teens.
- Around 103 staff members attended the staff development day, and three librarians attended the American Library Association's annual conference.
- The library has established an apprenticeship program to introduce library experience to those contemplating a degree in library and information science. Shannon Horrock is the first apprentice.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 4.

Noble Neighborhood Library to be renovated; closing October through February

Dean Schnurr

Since 1995, Noble Neighborhood Library has remained substantially unchanged. Next year, however, when you walk into the library, be prepared for a completely different look.

"We wanted to retain the stately atmosphere of the current building, but also make it more visually pleasing, user friendly and functional," said Heights Library director, Nancy Levin, of the changes, which will begin this fall and should be completed in early 2011.

One of the first elements patrons will notice is a new centralized information desk, which will provide all the services customers need, from answering circulation questions to checking out books. Patrons also will appreciate the use of original woodwork and decorative elements in the main lobby, which will maintain that "classic library" feel.

Other renovations include an entrance from the rear parking lot, so guests will not have to walk around the building, first and second floor bathrooms, and large, open interior areas

designed to offer more space. There will also be separate and expanded areas for children, teens and adults.

The children's area will receive significant changes and will now be located on the lower level, closer to bathrooms. Sunlit and airy, the space will have a separate story-reading room and will be designed to stimulate the imagination of children.

"Staff worked diligently with the architects to design a library that will make this community proud," said Levin.

Beyond the basic architectural elements, the renovated library will offer more computers for public use. The newly remodeled building will provide nearly double the present number of computers.

Another critical component of the renovations will be the maximization of energy efficiency. The entire heating and ventilation system is being replaced with small, quieter, more efficient and cost saving equipment. Insulation is being added to the ceilings and walls,

continued on page 11



Architects' drawing of Noble Neighborhood Library's renovated children's area.

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Heights Library's 2009 financial reports available

Dean Schnurr

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library has completed, and made available to the public, its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The CAFR includes complete details of the library's financial activity in 2009, including revenues and expenses and balance sheets for all funds. Copies

of the CAFR may be reviewed by request to the library's fiscal officer at 2345 Lee Road in the administrative offices. CAFR is also available on the library's website, www.heightsobserver.org/page/board.

Dean Schnurr is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Karaoke Fridays,
Fridays, Sept. 3 & 24, 4 p.m.

Step Out of Time,
Thursday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

Coventry Kennel Doggy Derby,
Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Ukulele Jam,
Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

OddyFest Presents: The Individual & Society,
Fridays, Sept. 3 & 17, 7:15 p.m.

Backstage Tour of Dobama Theatre,
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Talk Like a Pirate,
Monday, Sept. 20, 3:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday Book Discussion: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society,
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Cooking Up Fun from the Garden,
Thursday, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Noble Knitting Circle,
Thursdays, Sept. 2 & 16, 6:45 p.m.

Teen Knitters Guild,
Tuesdays, Sept. 7-28, 4 p.m.

Mystery Evening: My Lady Judge by Cora Harrison,
Thursday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

The Senior Spot,
Wednesdays, Sept. 1-29, 12:30 p.m.

Teen Talk Radio,
Mondays, Sept. 13 & 20, 4 p.m.

Cedar Center Whole Foods Market

13998 Cedar Road, 216-932-3918

Stories, Snacks and Crafts,
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Motorcars in Cleveland Heights opens eco-friendly car wash

Marci Bernstein Lu

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prefers that you use a professional car wash.

According to the EPA, dirty water runoff from driveway washing flows down the street, enters the storm drain, and directly pollutes our lakes and streams. Commercial car washes, on the other hand, are required to route wastewater to treatment plants, where contaminants, such as oil, grease and detergents, are removed. Yet, not all professional car washes are alike.

Car owners now have a greener option with the Sept. 1 opening of the Rainforest Car Wash at the corner of Mayfield and Middlehurst roads in Cleveland Heights. Motorcars, which owns and operates the wash, invested in an expensive water reclamation system that recycles the wash water. Three 500-gallon underground tanks separate the oil and sediment. The water is then filtered and reused for the high-pressure wash cycles, including the undercarriage flush.

Manager Jay Keffer wants to conserve as much water as possible, but he also wants people to know their cars will be cleaned, explaining, "This car wash has the ability to do a fantastic job, but if we don't choose where we use the recycled water it can affect the cleanliness

of the car." Rainforest will use about 15 gallons of freshwater per car to ensure that the final rinse will be spot-free.

Rainforest's computer-controlled technology consumes less electricity than traditional hydraulic power. It turns equipment on only when needed, and easily adjusts the wash to combat seasonal problems, such as summer bugs and winter salt. The system is also fast—customers are in and out quickly.

Motorcars saw an opportunity to enhance its green image, but also wanted to build a better, more convenient car wash for its Honda, Toyota and Scion customers, who have long enjoyed free car washes. The dealership has more than 2,000 participants in its Platinum Rewards program, which grants, among other benefits, unlimited, anytime car washes. Other customers receive a wash with auto service. Altogether, Motorcars reports it has been washing more than 30,000 cars per year.

With growing demand, Motorcars realized it had outgrown its in-service department wash. Known for top-tier customer service—open until 3 a.m. weekdays—the company did not want to over-promise and under-deliver. "We wanted to give our customers a really good wash," said Keffer, "so we invested heavily. With the capacity of what we ended up with, it was a no-brainer to open it to the public." The new, stand-



The Rainforest Car Wash at 1720 Middlehurst Road in Cleveland Heights opens Sept. 1.

alone facility can wash 900 cars per day.

Rainforest offers four wash options at competitive price points: \$6, \$8, \$10 and \$12, and accepts cash, credit or debit cards. Platinum Motorcars members can zip in with their radio frequency sticker (think smaller E-ZPass). Car wash hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. The entrance, located next to Motorcars 1st Choice Used Cars lot, is off Middlehurst Road. Vehicles will exit onto Mayfield Road via a heated driveway that melts ice and snow.

If you must wash your car at home,

keep in mind that a standard garden hose produces about 10 gallons a minute. This means you use 100 gallons of water in only 10 minutes. To minimize environmental impact, the EPA and other environmental groups advise that you wash on the grass or gravel to allow water to sink into the ground, use biodegradable products, limit hose use, keep soapy water contained in a bucket and pour it down a household sink or toilet.

Marci Bernstein Lu is a nonprofit and philanthropic consultant residing in Cleveland Heights.

Grog Shop turns 18

Nancy Phanstiel

The annals of Cleveland music are littered with the remains of defunct clubs, DIY spaces and even big concert halls, so it's encouraging to see that Coventry fixture the Grog Shop has clung to life so tenaciously for nearly two decades.

From humble beginnings in a tiny former saloon on Coventry Road, to its current digs on Euclid Heights Boulevard, the Grog has survived by consistently providing Cleveland's music fans with a space in which to see top-shelf touring acts and enjoy a worthy beer selection.

The last weekend in September, the Grog Shop will celebrate 18 years of business with performances from legendary artists. Among them are the Talking Heads spinoff band the Tom Tom Club (whose utterly elemental

groove from their hit, "Genius of Love," has been sampled by so many other artists that you've heard it, even if you don't know you've heard it), the massively influential indie rock band, Built To Spill, and a wonderful electronic band whose name is, alas, unprintable.

"I've tried to consistently treat the bands right and act professionally," owner Kathy Blackman said. "I really think that it goes a long way. It is the reason bands and agents keep coming back."

When the bands keep coming back, the audiences naturally follow.

Blackman opened the club in 1992, with partners Matt Mugridge and Sean Heineman, both coworkers of hers at University Circle's late, lamented restaurant and jazz venue, Club Isabella.

continued on page 8

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Documentary sheds light on successful minority-owned businesses

Kelli Fontenot

If a documentary's story is not worth telling, flashy cinematography and dramatic music won't overcome an audience's lack of interest, according to Tim Gaydos, a videographer for a new documentary by local filmmaking group Educo Films.

In this case, Gaydos said the subject matter speaks for itself.

The 30-minute documentary, a concept developed by the company's producer, Stephon J. Davis, aims to educate viewers about how to support and create successful African American-owned businesses in the Cleveland Heights area.

"I found a lot of times I was standing there with the camera, listening in, and I forgot I was there filming it," Gaydos said. "I got sucked into what they're saying because it's so interesting. The point they're making and discussing is so valuable. It comes across very well in terms of engaging the audience."

The film company takes its name from a Latin word meaning "to draw forth or bring out." Davis said that definition echoes the goal of the new documentary, "Creating Successful Black Owned Businesses." Davis has explored many avenues of film production, from acting, to producing commercials, to shooting music videos and short films. Today, his efforts are focused on enlightening local entrepreneurs.

"Creating a successful minority business is not an easy task," he explains, adding that statistics show blacks own only five percent of U.S. businesses and

receive less than 0.5 percent of the revenue. "They're failing at a higher rate. This documentary focuses on people who can shed more light on the inner workings of a successful minority business."

The film features local entrepreneurs including Darian Tucker, a graphic designer in the Cleveland area; Cleveland State University's Dr. Michael Williams, head of the black studies department; Mike Pruitt, who owns a Honda dealership; and Bob Lanier, of the *Black Pages*—a directory of black-owned businesses. Viewers will learn how they got started and how they do their work.

Using professional cameras, lighting, Sennheiser microphones and what Davis deemed a "standard, but cinematic" approach, Educo Films shot on location at more than seven businesses.

Some of the professionals in the documentary are struggling against chain stores and larger operations, Gaydos said. The film not only addresses why there aren't more companies run by black men and women in Cleveland, but also what individuals within the community can do to help facilitate a more welcoming environment for them, he explained.

"It's easy to pretend that these problems don't exist, especially in the area where you live," Gaydos said. "It's a very local project to show people that even within their own community, there's this problem, but it's certainly a problem that we can solve. It's saying, 'There's a way to fix this, and it won't be fixed by people sitting passively and complaining about why they're not getting their fair share.'"

It's about getting out there and making the changes for yourself."

Another goal of the film, according to producer Jerome Brown, is to share insight with students at high schools, colleges and career centers. Within the next month or so, Davis is also hoping to post clips of the documentary on websites, such as Facebook, YouTube and Vimeo, with physical copies of the 30-minute TV version and an extended director's cut also being sold for between \$15 and \$20.

Brown, who helped find and arrange interviews with the subjects of the documentary, said the stories within are both educational and inspiring.

"One of the interviews is with a man who worked for a printing company for some time," Brown remembered. "The guy who owned the company wanted to retire and sell the business. And this man, instead of saying he wanted to move on and find another job, he went in and tried to find a way to own the company. He talked to the owner, and talked to the right people, made some connections, and in the end, he bought the company himself."

Such a transaction might intimidate young entrepreneurs, Brown said, but with small payments and dedication, it is possible. "That's a great message to send out to people," Brown said.

Brown added that starting a business can be challenging to people who lack experience, knowledge and even knowing who he calls "the right people."

"We've talked to people who've somehow found the path to get to where



Stephon J. Davis, 28, has always enjoyed working with film—from being on camera to working behind the scenes. His latest documentary highlights successful African American business owners.

they want to be, and they're successful or on their way to success," Brown said. "It's just something you don't hear about on a regular basis, and we wanted to shine a little spotlight on them."

The main goal of the documentary, Davis said, is to encourage young people to see the potential of such businesses and see what it takes to make it.

Davis said, "If even one person saw it and it awakened something in them either as a consumer, to support minority businesses more; as a contract provider, to consider a minority business more than they have; or as a business owner or potential owner, to realize the importance of providing excellent service, employing those in the community and learning ways to better structure and do business for maximum service and profits, then it was very well worth it. Because at the end of the day, that is what it is all about, making a difference in the world."

Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.

GROG SHOP continued from page 7

"The Grog Shop had been the Saloon for years and reopened as the Jazz Saloon for a short time before we found it. It did no business to speak of, but we thought we could make something work there. It was a very low initial investment," noted Blackman, adding, "We did a management agreement for

a year to see how it ended up and then paid it off for the next few years."

During those years, she also bought out her partners, as they began moving on to other ventures in Cleveland Heights's nighttime scene. (Heineman currently owns McNulty's pub, another Coventry Village mainstay.)

Although the indie music scene was growing in popularity at the time, in the wake of Nirvana's success, the Grog Shop faced stiff competition. Clubs like Peabody's (in the Flats), the Phantasy Complex (on the West Side) and independent promoters, like Larry Collins (owner of City Buddha), had a lock on the touring business, and the then popular Euclid Tavern was the scene's darling upstart. Apparently, two upstarts were one too many.

"Initially I had a very hard time breaking into the booking-agent scene," Blackman said. "People were very loyal and didn't really take my calls or take me seriously. Eventually I wore them down and proved myself. Reputation and honorability go a long way."

Once the club finally secured its place on the touring circuit, soon after celebrating its 10th anniversary, it lost its lease. The City of Cleveland Heights, however, rallied around the venue and helped it find a new home nearby, keeping it in Coventry Village, in the space vacated when Arabica moved out a few years earlier.

With the new space came a large, literally underground venue, and the former Café D'Oro (if you were ever there, there's no way you could forget those wood-fired pizzas) was transformed into the B-Side Liquor Lounge, a dance-music counterpart to the Grog Shop upstairs. Run by club DJ Brad Petty, who showcases cutting edge electronic music just as the Grog highlights forward-thinking rock and pop, the B-Side has tapped into a previously underserved

demographic for Coventry Village, and has proven itself a hip lounge alternative to the strip's numerous sports bars.

That long-ago "very low initial investment" has provided a career for Blackman, who now divides her time between the club and her children, Ruby, 5, and Indiana, 3 1/2.

"With each anniversary I am shocked that I am still doing this. I guess what started as a far-fetched idea that I thought would last a year or two has developed into a full-blown career. Every time I consider moving on, I can't imagine what I would do with my life."

Given that her humble little club served as a launching pad for future superstars like the Flaming Lips, Kid Rock, Oasis, Matchbox 20, Modest Mouse, Bright Eyes and Fall Out Boy, we certainly hope she doesn't move on.

Nancy Phanstibl is a longtime patron and fan of the Grog Shop.

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CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights



AUGUST 3, 2010

Board Member Karen Jones participated by teleconference and was not voting.

RTA bus transportation

Myra Cook, a parent of two Heights High students, was concerned about the impact of RTA cutbacks on the safety of students living in northeast Cleveland Heights. These students would be required to walk a mile to an RTA bus stop, sometimes in the dark, and then take two buses to get to school. This can take an hour and RTA bus fare is \$5.00 per day per student. Cook requested school bus transportation for these students or the district's financial assistance. She also suggested collaboration with Cleveland Heights City Council because Mayor Kelley is RTA board president.

Renhill staffing services

Renhill Staffing Services provides substitutes for the district. A staff survey showed that 74 percent felt the substitute quality was average or higher. Renhill is working to bring down costs for the upcoming school year, increase the size of its substitute pool, and do more orientation for substitutes to provide those who are most suited to their assigned classrooms. Treasurer Scott Gainer reported that the contract with Renhill for 2009-2010 was a money saver.

Career and technical program

All courses in the district's career and technical program will be upgraded to obtain state of Ohio Tech Education approval and thus carry college credit.

Field trips

The board approved the following field trips:

- Gospel Choir's field trip to Nassau in the spring of 2011.
- Minority Student Achievement members trip to a Network conference in White Plains, NY in September 2010.

Credit flexibility

The board approved credit flexibility guidelines mandated by Senate Bill 311, which will allow students to receive credit for alternate learning experiences. Discussion followed as to how to ensure adult guidance of student learning and collaboration with other districts concerning such tasks as common record keeping.

Federal technology policy guidelines

The board approved an update to the Student and Staff Acceptable Use Policies for technology to meet new federal guidelines.

Donation

The board accepted miscellaneous science materials for the Heights High science department from a donor who recently passed away.

Cleveland Music School Settlement

Board President Nancy Pepler reported that the Cleveland Music School Settlement would not go forward with its proposal to buy or lease the Coventry property because it is not feasible at this time for the organization to raise the necessary money.

LWV observer: Nancy Dietrich.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 4.

Fundraiser for CH High School Tiger Touchdown Football Booster Club

Katura Simmons

Cleveland Heights High School Tiger Touchdown Football Booster Club is holding a raffle to support the club. Each \$20 ticket gives the donor a chance to win a three-year lease on a new Toyota from Motorcars Toyota, 2950 Mayfield Road. A cash option is available, tax and title are included and insurance is extended.

The winning ticket will be pulled at the first Heights High home basketball game on Dec. 3. For more information, contact Katura Simmons at 216-326-3373.



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Heights High welcomes new parents

Kristina Austin

We all remember how it felt to start high school. The anxiety about making friends and adjusting to a new environment, classes and teachers resonates for each of us. Parents also have some anxiety and lots of questions, which is why the Cleveland Heights High School Parent Connection Council (PCC) is hosting its New Parent Welcome on at Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at Heights High.

The evening will provide information and give parents (and students) an opportunity to interact with seasoned Heights High families. Administrators and staff will also be on hand. They are looking forward to helping families transition and making the students' first year a very positive experience.

After a brief introduction and welcome session in the social room, parents will rotate through three sessions that include a tutorial on Heights High's online tool that parents can use to check their child's progress, a question-and-answer

period and an information session with school principals. At the end of the evening, parents can return to the social hall to speak with representatives from the various extracurricular programs, and spend time getting to know one another.

Feedback from attendees at last year's New Parent Welcome indicates the program is helpful and that parents appreciate having their needs addressed. For the PCC, it's an opportunity to engage with new families and interest them in becoming an active part of the Heights High community. PCC president, Kym Wallace, said, "Having the support of other parents helps to make a big difference in a successful school experience. PCC is all about engaging parents and helping them connect with the school, the students and the community. We are excited about this year's welcoming event and hope to have a great turnout."

For more information about the Heights High New Parent Welcome contact Kym Wallace at 216-526-3738 or Kristina Austin, PCC vice president, at 216-244-5532.

CH-UH parents can now access grades online

Angee Shaker

All parents in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District may now sign up for the student information system, the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Infinite Campus is an important tool for parents and guardians. It is the official grade book for the district, meaning that all grades are maintained in it, rather than paper grade books, for grades 3-12. K-2 parents can benefit from the system, as well, because it allows parents or guardians to check their student's attendance, assignments and academic progress.

"It's also another way for parents to communicate with teachers. Signing on to Infinite Campus is quick and easy, and once

completed, parents can follow their child's progress throughout the year," Assistant Superintendent Jeffery Talbert said.

Parents who don't have access to Internet can visit either the Lee Road Library (2345 Lee Road) or the University Heights Library (13866 Cedar Road) to use a computer there. Library staff are expecting CH-UH families and are prepared to offer any assistance. An Infinite Campus computer station has also been set up in each school building's main office, for use during school hours. All parents who sign in before Sept. 15 will have a chance to win an Apple iPod Touch.

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

CH-UH schools launch new website

Jacalyn Elfvin

To make it even easier for parents and residents to stay informed, the CH-UH City School District has redesigned its website, www.chub.org. The new design is more visually appealing, and it will improve communication with parents, students, staff and the community. It will launch Aug. 31, the first day of school.

"We want to make it easier and more fulfilling for families and community members to become involved in our schools," Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement, said. "The new school website focuses more on providing current information about our district, schools and programs, and it tries to present that information in an easily accessible way. We believe that when parents are involved and informed about our schools, and the options available to their children, students have a better chance of succeeding."

Visitors to the site will notice several

new features, including the ability to register for e-communication updates. By registering, visitors can choose to receive important updates regarding building and district news, announcements, and upcoming events. Once registered, subscribers will automatically be added to the communication e-mail lists.

"Overhauling a school website is an enormous challenge. I was fortunate enough to have a team that was committed to making this a cutting-edge school website. My sincerest gratitude goes to the team: Drew Dallet, Jackie Elfvin, Mike Beckman, Hannah Reid, Kathy Lawrence, and Joy Henderson. Special thanks also to Western Reserve Internet Service for developing the site, Janet Century for the beautiful photographs, and our IT team for their expert guidance along the way," said Shaker.

Jackie Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the office of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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Parenting Q&A



Ellen Barrett

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

Q. My daughter is extremely shy. Whenever we go anywhere she hangs on my leg, and may be reluctant to enter a new place at all. Even after we've been someplace multiple times or have been there awhile, she tends to stay very close to me. I tell her that I would never put her in harm's way, and that all the people we know are nice, but she still has trouble adjusting to anyone new. I am worried that she won't have any friends and will miss out on all the usual children's activities. Is there anything I can do to bring her out of her shell?

A. Shyness is a personality trait that is not necessarily a bad quality or a fault. Shy kids are often focused, attentive, sensitive and observant. Shyness doesn't always mean a child is insecure; instead, she may be slow to warm up or introverted. In fact, shy kids often make great friends because they tend to be perceptive and loyal. If you see that your child

could use some encouragement in social situations, there are several things that you can do to set her up for success.

- Be sure to emphasize the positive elements of her personality; don't label her as "shy" to others, but instead use terms such as "observant" and "focused."
- Provide her with opportunities to interact in safe, small social settings where she may warm up slowly and comfortably; don't pressure her.
- Be outgoing yourself, so that she may learn from observing your behavior. For example, look others in the eye, be the first to say hello, compliment someone, and offer unsolicited assistance by opening a door for someone, or picking up a dropped item.
- Share with your daughter your feelings about doing something difficult. For example, you might tell her, "It was hard for me to try roller skating again, but I'm glad I did. It was fun!"

Although it may be difficult for you to sit on the sidelines and watch, try to give your daughter time and opportunity to develop her own social personality. With support, she will eventually learn to fit in, however it feels most natural to her.

LIBRARY continued from page 6

interior lighting will be updated for maximum efficiency and ambiance, and storm windows are being installed. The benefits of these changes will be realized immediately in reduced utility costs.

To accommodate the renovations, the Noble Neighborhood Library will be closing in October until interior work is completed. A second phase, of exterior renovations, is scheduled to begin in 2011, but will not require closing. During the closed period, the library will be offering limited programming at Noble Elementary School. Library staff is currently working with the school administration to determine how best to deliver those programs.

In addition, library staff is encouraging patrons to make arrangements for

book reserves at Noble. Beginning Oct. 2, all Noble Library customer reserves will be sent to the Lee Road Library for pickup. If a customer does not want the reserved books to go to Lee Road, he or she must notify the circulation staff at Noble prior to Oct. 2 which library branch is preferred.

Updates and renovation information, temporary programming offerings, and other issues related to the Noble Neighborhood Library project can be found at www.heightslibrary.com/page/renovations.

Dean Schnurr is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

MUSIC SETTLEMENT continued from page 1

right use for the Coventry property is our highest priority."

The school district is currently in discussions with The Music Settlement and The Ensemble Theatre regarding the possibility of leasing a portion of the building, and plans to contact other arts organizations they believe might be a good fit.

Lawrence stated that the board's

decision will not affect future collaborations. "We have a great relationship with the CH-UH School District, and we are committed to the school system and to the community. This is not the end of opportunity."

Jessica Kabn is a PR professional who loves crossword puzzles, crepes and Cleveland Heights.

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Sea Serpents win silver

The Cleveland Heights Sea Serpents Swim Team recently captured second place in the ICSL Championships held at the Wembley Club in Chagrin Falls. Pictured are Coach Andrea Chan, Coach Marco Pardo, Eleanor Pippin, Dylan Forrest, Head Coach Paul Wagner, Nicholas Bislich, Monica Chan, Hannah Kausen, Mitchell Fragassi, Juliana Soreo, Adam Goldfarb, Claire Hall, Maddie Hengst and Luisa Soreo.

The CH Sea Serpents of Cumberland Pool is open to all residents ages 6-18.



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Sustainability Week

Sponsored by the Sustainable Heights Network

OCTOBER 2-10

The Sustainable Heights Network invites Heights residents to participate in Sustainability Week 2010, a week-long series of community events designed to help us build a more sustainable community.

The Sustainable Heights Network is an active and open group of over 50 organizations and individuals who came together in April to celebrate the work undertaken by the people, the community, and the organizations of Cleveland Heights and University Heights to improve their quality of life and to inspire others to become involved. The network is an outgrowth of Sustainable Cleveland 2019, a process that seeks to mobilize Greater Cleveland to create a green and sustainable economy by the year 2019.

Tour a solar-powered house, ride your bike to the farmer's market, hike Doan Brook or participate in a Green Assets Mapping Party in historic Coventry Village. Most events are free and many are family friendly. See a partial list of events below and visit www.sustainableheightsnetwork.blogspot.com for a full list of events. For more information, e-mail the network at sustainablehts@gmail.com or call 216-320-1423.

AVAILABLE ALL WEEK

Keeping Your \$Green\$: Financial Stability Kits.

The Home Repair Resource Center presents ways to trim your budget and save on everyday things. You can download a kit from the HRRRC website, www.hrrc-ch.org, or pick one up the HRRRC office, 2520 Noble Road, beginning Oct. 1. Family Friendly. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

Sustainable Community Displays at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Boulevard. Learn about the various projects and activities initiated by the City of Cleveland Heights that promote sustainable practices: solar panels on the Cedar Lee parking garage, solar bus shelters, energy-efficient lighting at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, Forest Hill Park Clean Ohio project, EPA Cumberland Pool parking lot project, Sustainable Zoning update and other projects. A schedule of Sustainability Week Activities will also be available.

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

8:30 a.m. Nature Center Hike and Run The Nature Center's annual Hike and Run in memory of Jenny Goldman is held annually to benefit the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and the Jenny Goldman Outreach funding of enrichment programs at the Michael R. White School and John Hay High School. Join in your choice of a 5k race, a 12-mile hike to Dike 14, a one-mile hike for families (leashed pets welcome), or a two-mile Doan Brook Gorge Hike. Scout troops welcome. Hikes start at 9 a.m. and the 5k race begins at 9:15 a.m. at the center, 2600 South Park Boulevard. FEE: Adults \$15 before Sept. 29; \$20 after Sept. 29. Children (age 12 and under)/Scouts/Student Club members \$5. Family rate (max. 2 adults/4 kids) \$35. Sponsored by Baker Hostetler. Call 216-321-5935 to register or visit www.shakerlakes.org.

10 a.m. Farmer's Market By Bike Ride to the Shaker Square Farmer's Market with other cyclists to purchase locally-grown produce. Learn to carry food and other items on your bike. Meet under the P.E.A.C.E. Arch at the corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. FREE. For more information e-mail ann@bikesintheheights.org or visit www.bikesintheheights.org/shopbybike.html. Family Friendly. Near Public Transportation. Sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ohio Solar Tour Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is the Ohio Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES), and GEO's 8th Annual Ohio Solar Tour is part of the National Solar Tour managed by ASES. This year's tour features open house sites in communities across Ohio. One of the sites is located in Cleveland Heights (1042 Renfield Road). This FREE statewide event provides a unique opportunity for people to visit homes and talk with owners living and working with clean energy technologies. For more information, www.greenenergyohio.org.

10 a.m. Tai Chi and Qi Gong These gentle forms of exercise are designed to bring about a total union of mind, body and spirit. Join instructor Ruth Butler at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road, as she teaches the 24 short forms of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises, including the "Eight Best Movements for Health." Classes are ideal for any age group. FREE.

SUNDAY, OCT. 3

A Day at Forest Hill Park Come for one or all of the activities scheduled in the park. Ongoing walking tours will be provided on request. Spend a day discovering or rediscovering historic Forest Hill Park. Sponsored by the City of Cleveland Heights, the East Cleveland Parks Association and Severance Neighborhood Organization.

9:30 a.m. Dog-Gone Dog Walk in Forest Hill Park Bring your well-behaved dog on a leash to Forest Hill Park for a fun group activity. Enjoy the early autumn weather, meet your neighbors and their puppies, see the beauty of the park. Meet in the East Cleveland parking lot of Forest Hill Park, off Lee Boulevard, just north of Forest Hill Boulevard, on the left. FREE. Family Friendly. Near Public Transportation. For more information, contact ECPA (East Cleveland Parks Association) at 216-956-5533.

10 a.m. Walking Tour of Forest Hill Park Enjoy a walk through Forest Hill Park discovering natural and historic facts led by a trained naturalist. Bring water bottle and binoculars if you have them. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. FREE. Family Friendly. Near Public Transportation.

10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Forest Hill Park Volunteer Clean-ups Prune, lop, and help eradicate invasive species from historic Forest Hill Park, a gem of nature right in your own backyard! Be part of a grassroots movement to restore the park's natural beauty. Park volunteers will greet you either in the City of Cleveland Heights parking lot #2 off Forest Hill Boulevard (just west of Lee Road), or in the East Cleveland lot off Lee Boulevard (north of Forest Hills Boulevard). Bring your own tools, dress for the weather and the work. Bring your lunch if you plan to stay the day. There will be a potluck/mixer for all volunteers at 4:30 p.m. Bring a nonperishable dish, labeled if it contains common allergens. Cosponsored by the City of Cleveland Heights. For more information, contact ECPA (East Cleveland Parks Association) at 216-956-5533. FREE. Near Public Transportation.

12 p.m. Forest Hill Park on Horseback The Cleveland Mounted Police Unit will be riding around Forest Hill Park starting at noon. Enjoy a walk with them or just have fun watching them in the distance in this beautiful green space. Forest Hill was John D. Rockefeller's summer home. Sponsored by the Severance Neighborhood Organization. FREE. Family Friendly. Near Public Transportation.

MONDAY, OCT. 4

Noon-6 p.m. Red Cross Blood Donation Help the American Red Cross and your community by donating blood at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. Donors' names will be entered into a special drawing and receive a buy-one-get-one coupon for the Friends of the Library ongoing book sale. For more information visit www.heightslibrary.org.

5 p.m.-7 p.m. Home Repair Resource Center Open House Drop in to see our facilities and learn about programs to help sustain you in your home: keeping your home in good repair, keeping your finances in shape, and knowing your options if you are facing mortgage delinquency. Our counselors and instructors will be on hand to meet with you and answer questions. The center is located at 2520 Noble Road. Visit www.hrrc-ch.org for more information.

7 p.m. Energy Audits: Assessing and Improving Your Home. Energy audits are a sustainable approach to assessing building performance and maintaining your older home. Join speaker Wesley B. Walker, BPI, at the Home Repair Resource Center, 2520 Noble Road. You can make an older home energy-efficient and save on heating costs. Learn what techniques and equipment can be used to assess and improve the efficiency of your home. In addition, Alison Urbanek, HRRRC financial programs counselor,



ELEANOR MALLET

will give a brief overview of HRRC programs that can help make energy-saving improvements more affordable. Call 216-381-9560 to register. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

7 p.m. Locally-Produced Money: A Sustainable (and Legal) Economic Path Communities across the country are printing and circulating their own legal local complementary currencies to meet the needs of people and local businesses. Local currencies reinforce local businesses, trading and resources. They also help insulate communities from the wide instabilities of the larger unsustainable national and global economies. Learn what people in our communities are doing, what discussions have already taken place in the Heights and what steps are needed to move forward. Meet at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. Sponsored by the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee. For more information, call 330-928-2301 or 216-255-2184 or e-mail gcoleridge@afsc.org. FREE. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

TUESDAY, OCT. 5

10 a.m. Brainstorming Session: Connecting Our Schools With the Community. Come with your wish, idea, resource and good story lists for a working meeting to start planning for better connecting our community with our schools. This conversation is inspired by the work of authors Jacqueline Edelberg and Susan Kurland, whose book, *How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance*, discusses the transformation of their Chicago public school. Meet at the Levey Room in the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. For more information, contact Joan Spoerl at 216-371-3753.

7 p.m. A Happier Community for All, Dogs and Cats Included! Jed Mignano, chief humane investigator from the Cleveland Animal Protective League, will give a presentation about what is considered animal abuse and neglect, and when and how you should report it. He will bring us up to date on the laws in Ohio that regulate treatment of companion animals, and the policies in place in our cities. Following the presentation, Mignano will answer questions from the audience. Meet at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road. Sponsored by the Severance Neighborhood Organization. For more information, visit www.heightsno.org. FREE. Handicapped Accessible. Near public transportation.

7 p.m. Global Warming: An Emergency in Slow Motion Dr. Eric R. Schreiber, M.D., of the Climate Project, will frame the issues that our communities will face due to climate change and increasingly chaotic weather. This is the first in a series of talks on related subjects. In this talk, he will speak about the basic science involved, the manifestations of global warming we have already begun to see, and what we as a community and society can do about it. Meet at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Boulevard. FREE.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6

International Walk To School Day Students are encouraged to walk to their schools on International Walk to School Day, which will promote the health and environmental benefits of walking or bicycling to school. Millions of people in all 50 United States and in more than 40 countries worldwide participate in International Walk to School events. The CH-UH schools anticipate support for this event from a wide range of community resources, from physical education teachers to PTAs and more. As of Aug. 20, Fairfax, Canterbury, Gearity and Roxboro elementary schools were planning to participate. Mary Dunbar and Nancy Dietrich are cochairing the event. Contact them at 216-321-1335 (Dunbar) or 216-371-9379 (Dietrich). For more information, visit www.iwalktoschool.org.

10:30 a.m. Stay and Play at Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road. Children and parents or caregivers learn early literacy skills and build relationships. The session starts with storytime at 10:30 a.m. and then participants can enjoy books and music and play with toys, puppets and puzzles. Savor a morning of literacy and fun! For more information, visit www.heightslibrary.org. FREE. Family Friendly. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

10:30 a.m. Stay and Play at the University Heights Library, 13866 Cedar Road. Children and parents or caregivers learn early literacy skills and build relationships. The session starts with storytime at 10:30 a.m. and then participants can enjoy books and music and play with toys, puppets

and puzzles. Savor a morning of literacy and fun! For more information visit, www.heightslibrary.org. FREE. Family Friendly. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

12 p.m. Tai Chi and Qi Gong These gentle forms of exercise are designed to bring about a total union of mind, body and spirit. Join instructor Ruth Butler at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road, as she teaches the 24 short forms of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises, including the "Eight Best Movements for Health." Classes are ideal for any age group. FREE.

7 p.m. A Sea Change: a documentary film and community discussion at Forest Hill Church, 3031 Monticello Boulevard. Despite wishful thinking, our lifestyle is changing our planet and has already begun to affect communities like ours. Half of the CO₂ produced by burning fossil fuels has gone into the atmosphere. The other half has been absorbed by the ocean. As a result, the ocean has become slightly more acid. The change in ocean chemistry is already affecting sea life on which we depend. This documentary and the discussion afterward with Dr. Eric Schreiber of the Climate Project is a continuation of a series of talks and discussions about the manifestations and public health impact of global warming. For more information about the film visit www.seachange.net or contact sustainablehets@gmail.com. FREE. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

THURSDAY, OCT. 7

4 p.m.–8 p.m. Home in the Heights Rehab Open House Tour the Home Repair Resource Center's latest rehabilitation project and learn how the center is working to sustain our neighborhoods by renovating foreclosed, vacant properties and selling them to responsible owner/occupants. You'll see a work in progress—a home currently being renovated by HRRC subsidiary, Home in the Heights. All homes renovated by Home in the Heights feature high energy efficiency and low maintenance costs, with new kitchens, bathrooms, and numerous other improvements. Construction utilizes green technology, high-quality materials, and superb finish detail to match neighborhood and community standards. The open house is located at 3795 Berkeley Road. For more information, visit www.hrrc-ch.org. FREE.

4:30 p.m. Fencpiration Workshop Join Heights Arts for a workshop to transform recycled materials, including aluminum cans and plastic bags, into eye-catching elements for the temporary public art project, Fencpiration at Cedar Center. The event takes place at the Heights Arts Workshop, above the Cedar Lee Theatre, 2163 Lee Road, at the corner of Cedar and Lee roads. For more information, visit www.heightsarts.org. Family Friendly. Near Public Transportation.

7 p.m. Cleveland Heights Community Improvement and Historic Preservation Awards. Join in the celebration of those who go that extra mile to improve their properties, their neighborhoods, and their community through renovation and preservation. At Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle. Info: www.clevelandheights.com. FREE. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation.

7 p.m. Composting Workshop The workshop is led by Kathy Rocco of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Boulevard. Participants can purchase or order a compost bin or compost digester for \$55. Call 216-321-5935 to register. For more information, visit www.shakerlakes.org. FREE.

Beyond Green: The Essential Components of True Sustainability Heights Community Congress will present a community conversation about the key facets of a sustainable community. "Beyond Green: The Essential Components of True Sustainability" will feature conversation leaders who will help spark a community dialogue about the role of community engagement and the important role that racial, religious, cultural, intergenerational and socio-economic diversity plays in sustainability efforts. Location and time to be determined. For more information, call Heights Community Congress at 216-321-6775.

SATURDAY, OCT. 9

9 a.m.–noon Learn Photography and Hike the Doan Brook Bring your own camera equipment and explore the gorge with award-winning local photographer David Perelman-Hall. You will learn new photographic techniques while enjoying the fall colors of the gorge. Meet at the Lower Lake Bridge

at the corner of North Park Boulevard and Coventry Road, otherwise known as Lover's Lane. Then on Wednesday, Oct. 13, the group will meet at the Nature Center from 7–9 p.m. to view and critique the photos from the hike. Fee: \$10. For more information, call 216-321-5935, x 234.

9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Ohio Fair Trade Expo hosted by John Carroll University Ohioans will gather to further the fair trade consumer movement across our state. The Ohio Fair Trade Expo will bring together students, faith community members, community leaders, and business owners who will learn and become active in the international campaign for socially and environmentally responsible consumerism. Held at JCU's Dolan Science Center, 20700 North Park Boulevard. Fee: \$6.00–\$15.00. Volunteers Needed. Near Public Transportation. For more information, call 216-397-4777 or visit www.ohiofairtrade.com.

1 p.m. Coventry Village Green Mapping Party On your walking tour of the Coventry Village neighborhood identify neighborhood assets and what makes Coventry Village a sustainable place. Add these important sites to the Sustainable Heights Open Green Map, an online mapping project of FutureHeights. There will be refreshments and fun for all. Meet at the Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road. Family Friendly. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation. For more information, call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or e-mail sustainablehets@gmail.com.

1:30 p.m. Your Health & Social Well-being through Yoga and Meditation Learn how yoga and meditation can improve your health and well-being at the Atma Center, Yoga for Every Body, 2319 Lee Road. A healthier, happier you will benefit all those around you. For more information, visit www.atmacenter.com. Handicapped Accessible.

4 p.m.–6:30 p.m. A Play Date in the Heights Come one, come all to A Play Date in the Heights, family fun for everyone! Visit "play stations" for people of all ages to explore and play in nature around the Coventry School site. Scavenger hunt, games in nature, rubbing and journaling, storytelling, refreshments and more. Join us at the Coventry

P.E.A.C.E. Park, playground and library in celebrating a beginning of connecting to nature in the Heights and to our playful sides. The event is sponsored by Funny Times and the Sustainable Heights Network. **Please note:** event will be canceled in case of rain. Family Friendly. Near Public Transportation. For more information, contact sustainablehets@gmail.com.

5 p.m.–7 p.m. Community Pot-Luck and Rain Barrel Workshop Join the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire Road, as it celebrates its community garden and makes rain barrels for its building. Bring a dish from your garden or favorite farmers' market and learn how to catch rainwater, and reduce runoff, at your home. FREE. Family Friendly. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation. For more information, call 216-932-1898 or visit www.uucleveland.org.

SUNDAY, OCT. 10

2 p.m.–5 p.m. Adopt A Tree The Funny Times Peace Fund and Council Gardens want to keep our cities green with trees. Their goal is to have 100 new trees planted in the yards of local residents. Heights residents are invited to adopt a small hardwood or flowering tree to plant in their yards. Free trees will be available at Council Gardens, 2501 North Taylor Road, to residents who promise to plant the trees and care for them. The Funny Times, Council Gardens, The Cleveland Botanical Garden and Lawn Lad are teaming up to make trees and knowledge about tree care available through workshops and printed materials. FREE. For more information, call 216-382-8625 or contact Sasha Usher at sasha.usher@gmail.com. Or contact the Funny Times at 216-371-8600.

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Organic Gardening and Tree Planting Program Come to Council Gardens, 2501 North Taylor Road, for an afternoon of basic organic gardening and tree planting education from local experts. Learn to go pesticide-free and see how organic gardening works in cooperation with nature for a healthier environment. See Council Gardens' community garden and urban farm project. FREE. Family Friendly. Handicapped Accessible. Near Public Transportation. For more information, e-mail Spencer Caress at spencer1612@yahoo.com.

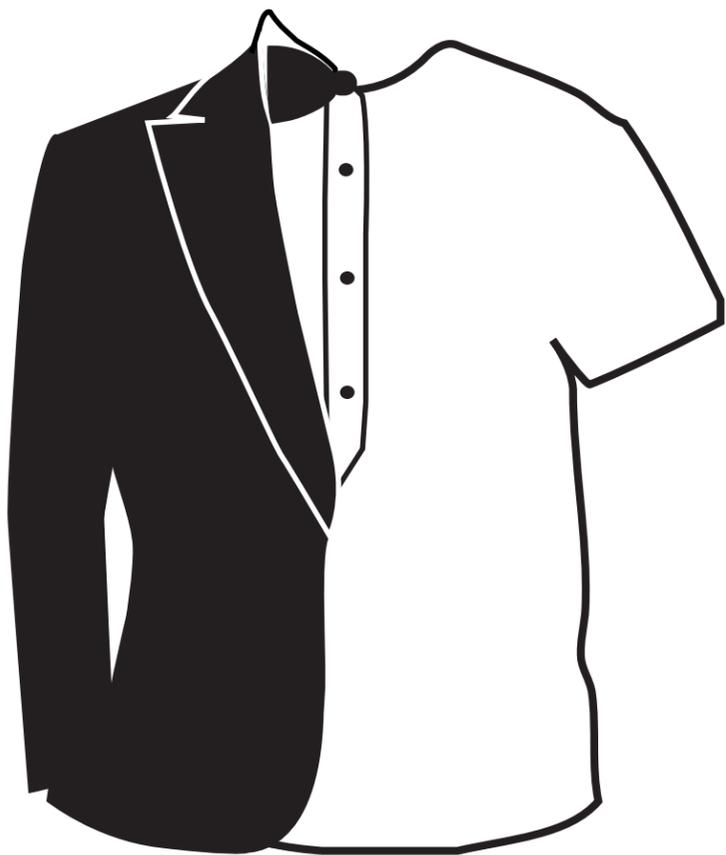


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HeightsWrites

Poem for September 2010

*Solitaire or Patience, as it used to be called, is
more than a card game.*

—Meredith Holmes

Solitaire

By Mary E. Weems

I used to wonder why grown folks, my grandmother
in particular, could sit still long enough to play a game
of solitaire? What was it about shuffling through a deck
of cards long enough to line up all four suits that appealed
to them?

Back then when I was tall and gangly as a just-born
mare, I'd spend all my free time somewhere learning
the latest dance moves, my body shaking in the air, my feet
stomping out funk rhythms.

I didn't even know how to play cards, and any time my grandmother tried
to sit me down to learn, I'd pretend to be interested, then break all the
rules, until she finally let me go outside where time was waiting to take me
for a long ride,

teach me one year at a time what patience was
and why grown folks learned to play.

*Mary E. Weems is a poet and playwright and served as the 2007-2008 Poet Laureate
of Cleveland Heights. She is assistant professor in the Department of Education and
Allied Studies at John Carroll University. Her new play Closure opens the fall 2010
season at Karamu Theatre.*

Heights photographer publishes book on 21 now-shuttered churches

James Toman

When Debra First learned that the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was planning to shutter many churches, she knew she had to get involved.

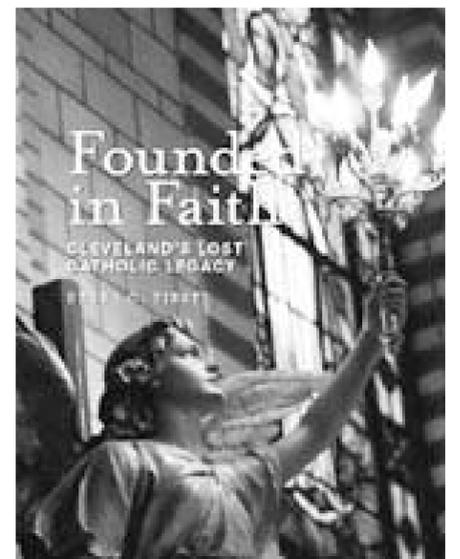
A professional photographer who lives in Cleveland Heights, First set out to preserve the lifetime memories which, for so many Greater Clevelanders, were tied up with their parish church.

She wanted, however, to do more than simply record the scenes on film. She knew that there were also moving stories to be told. Most of the churches that were to be closed had their roots in ethnic communities, and these churches not only served a spiritual mission, they were of incalculable importance in helping immigrants adjust to their new home.

First decided to make her project a family affair. With her husband Rick and their four sons, she made Sunday morning pilgrimages to all the targeted churches. From parishioners, she learned about the church's history and what parish life meant to these people who would soon be losing their religious anchor.

The result of months of travel and countless hours of interviews is her first book, *Founded in Faith: Cleveland's Lost Catholic Legacy*, which is making its way to area bookstores this month.

Published by Cleveland Landmarks Press, the softcover book tells the stories of 21 of the closed churches. The volume contains 144 pages and



**From parishioners at
each, she learned about
the churches' history and
what parish life meant to
these people who would
soon be losing their
religious anchor.**

127 photos. It retails for \$19.95 and can be purchased at local bookstores or online at www.clevelandlandmarkspress.com.

James Toman, publisher of Cleveland Landmarks Press Inc., is a retired college professor, a writer of Cleveland history, and author of the introduction to Founded in Faith.

Farce to launch Dobama's new season

Evan Komito

If you loved the English-garden opulence in the stage setting for *Humble Boy*, prepare yourself for something completely different in *The Walworth Farce*. The play, written by Enda Walsh and directed by Marc Moritz, opens on Sept. 20—the start of Dobama Theatre's 2010-2011 season.

Picture a three-room "council flat" in London, a low-rent, rundown "piece of crap," as Ron Newell describes it. He uses strong language, but as set designer for both plays, he may be entitled. The play is about Dinny and his two sons, living in London, but missing their Irish homeland. Described as hilarious, terrifying and ferociously entertaining, the play comes with rapid-fire costume changes and mistaken identities.

Attractive backyard garden or shabby apartment, Ron Newell's approach to set design follows the same process. First comes a session with the play's director to develop ideas. Then, a script reading leads to floor plans and rough sketches. Again, a meeting with the director to review sight lines for Dobama's thrust stage, and to accommodate player movement, entrances and exits. Finding just the right set pieces was a challenge. *The Walworth Farce* sent Newell to junk stores, resale shops and garage sales.

He's gone dumpster diving, and combed curbsides for discarded treasures. Before layering in the set's color palette, the costumer is consulted. It is all a very

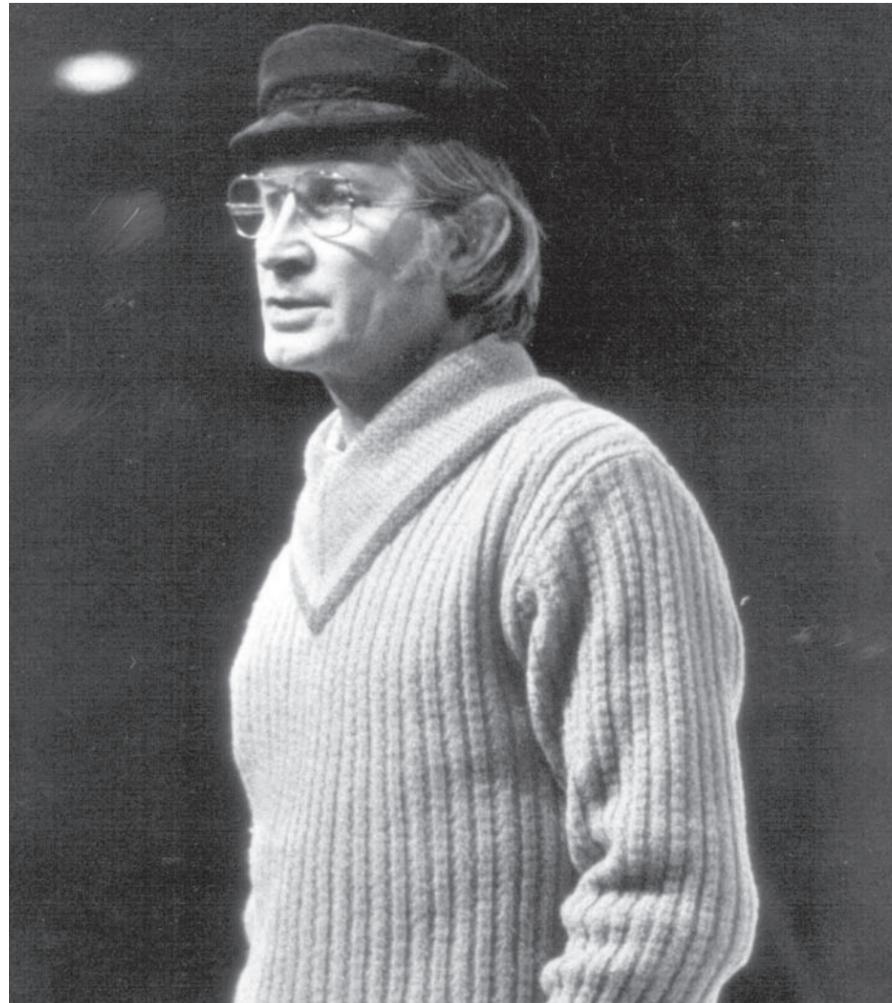
Attractive backyard garden or shabby apartment, Ron Newell's approach to set design follows the same process.

First comes a session with the play's director to develop ideas. Then, a script reading leads to floor plans and rough sketches.

iterative process, sometimes stressing the art of negotiation. In the end, says Newell, "you want to do what's best for the play."

The Walworth Farce runs from Sept. 10 through Oct. 3. For tickets and a schedule for the upcoming season, call 216-932-3396 or visit www.dobama.org.

Evan Komito is a resident of Cleveland Heights and an avid theater goer.



Set designer Ron Newell finds just the right pieces to build the best sets for Dobama Theatre.

COURTESY DOBAMA THEATRE

Cleveland Chamber Music Society's 61st season

Eric Kisch

The Cleveland Chamber Music Society, in its 61st season, welcomes return visits by three popular string quartets—the Takacs (Oct. 12 at Fairmount Temple in Beachwood), the Jerusalem (Nov. 2 at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights) and the Cuarteto Casals (Feb. 22 at Fairmount Temple). A fourth string quartet, the Jupiter, appears for the society in conjunction with the Cleveland Institute of Music's Chamber Music Festival on Dec. 6 and 7.

The society, in conjunction with Cleveland State University, will also present the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in a special program of music for pianos and percussion by Bartok and Crumb, on Nov. 16 in CSU's Waetjen Auditorium.

The European-based ATOS piano

trio, which gave a sensational private concert when they were in Cleveland a couple of years ago to make a recording, is also part of the society's series this season. Their first public concert in Cleveland will be held at Fairmount Temple on April 12.

The society's season closes May 17 with a recital featuring Desmond Hoebig, former principal cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra, and pianist Anita Pontremoli, at Fairmount Temple.

Ticket prices remain the same as last season, and season subscriptions offer substantial discounts off the cost of individual concert tickets.

For tickets and information, visit www.clevelandchambermusic.org, or call 216-291-2777.

In addition to its concert season, the Cleveland Chamber Music Society continues its outreach program, bring-

ing fine chamber music to Cleveland schools. In the past two years, the society has sponsored, in collaboration with Cleveland Institute of Music, a series of programs by a senior student quartet to 3rd- and 4th-graders in Cleveland, East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and

Shaker Heights public schools. Annie Fullard, first violinist of the Cavani Quartet, is artistic director of the outreach program.

Eric Kisch is the marketing manager for the Cleveland Chamber Music Society.





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League celebrates Women's Equality Day

Joan Hirsh

Ninety years ago, on Aug. 26, 1920, women gained the right to vote with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. It has been said that no other single event in the 20th century has had a more profound influence in shaping our country, our government and our lives. It is commemorated each year on Aug. 26, as Women's Equality Day.

More than any other organization, the League of Women Voters (LWV) claims ownership of this defining moment in American History. Anticipating the need to educate women about the mechanics and responsibilities of voting, the LWV was formally established in February 1920 in Chicago.

Today's nonpartisan, political organization evolved from the Women's Suffrage Movement. Now the LWV has more than 150,000 members and supporters and 850 chapters throughout all 50 states.

There are three chapters serving our area: the League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area; the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area (with a chapter in Cleveland Heights/University Heights); and the League of Women Voters Shaker Heights.

With its 90th anniversary and the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment this year, the League of Women Voters rightfully celebrated Women's Equality Day. The three area LWVs organized a dinner cruise for members

with the theme, "90 Years of Women Making Waves," honoring the legacy of the suffragists, whose sacrifices and public advocacy led to equal voting rights.

The path to women's suffrage began in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others first proposed women's right to vote. In 1919, suffragist leader Carrie Chapman Catt spoke at a National American Suffrage Association convention in St. Louis, Missouri, and proposed the formation of "a league of women voters." One of the first state leagues to be recognized in 1920 was the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

Because many attempts to amend the Constitution were thwarted by the U.S. Senate, a campaign began on June 4, 1919 to win the vote by amending every single state constitution. It took six days for Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin to ratify the amendment. Kansas, New York and Ohio followed on June 16, 1919. The last state required to ratify was Tennessee. There, the vote hinged on a 24-year-old state legislator named Harry Burn. He had originally voted against ratification, but changed his mind after his mother urged him to do so.

With the Tennessee ratification, the 36 states met the constitutional requirement. The remaining 12 states took more than 60 years to adopt the amendment. Mississippi was the last of the 48 states to ratify the 19th Amendment, on March 22, 1984.

The sacrifices that suffragists made to win the right to vote for women were

It has been said that no other single event in the 20th century has had a more profound influence in shaping our country, our government and our lives.

amazing, amid circumstances that few people recognize today. It is almost impossible to conceive how difficult their lives were, what hardships they endured—public humiliation, ridicule, jail, torture, and sometimes loss of life,—and they did it so that the women of yesterday, today and tomorrow could exercise their right to vote.

The LWV recommends the HBO film, "Iron Jawed Angels," for without re-

mindings, few of us can really know what these brave women endured.

Women's Equality Day reminds us how the 19th Amendment has changed the nation.

Today, the nonpartisan League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic engagement. The League encourages citizens to get involved. For more information call the Cuyahoga Area League office at 216-781-0555 (referral will be made to a local chapter), or visit these websites: League of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area at www.lwvcef.org; League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area at www.LWVCuyahogaArea.org; League of Women Voters Shaker Heights at www.shakerlwv.org.

Joan Hirsch is the media contact for the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area.

Step It Up invites residents to dine together

Mark Chupp

Step It Up Cleveland Heights announces the second round of Best Suburb Dinners, where a diverse group of Cleveland Heights residents come together to share a meal, get to know one another and to talk about what they value about their community.

Step It Up arranges each dinner to create a mix of people from different neighborhoods, new and long-time residents, people of differing ethnicities, ages and backgrounds. Hosts open their homes and provide a main course.

Guests bring a dish to share, stories and photos of the community at its best. During dinner, the hosts collect ideas for making Cleveland Heights the best suburb in the nation.



Step It Up Cleveland Heights is now accepting dinner reservations for the fall. To ensure a place at the table and a date that suits, interested people should contact Diana Woodbridge at dwoodbridge@sbcglobal.net or 216-291-3745. Hosts and cohosts are also needed.

For more information about Step It Up Cleveland Heights, visit www.stepitupheights.org.

Mark Chupp lives in the Coventry Neighborhood and is a member of Step It Up Cleveland Heights.

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Talking with Dan Chaon



By Eleanor Mallet

I am in awe of Dan Chaon's best-selling novel *Await Your Reply*—the complexity of the plot, his mastery of suspense, and a darkness he dwells in that speaks to modern life. For me, the book is larger than life.

Yet, across the table at Phoenix on Lee, having a cup of coffee and sharing a cookie, he is warm and smiling, an easy-to-talk-to, for-real kind of guy, with blue eyes and a boyish face. He laughs a lot and insists he's a "pretty optimistic, upbeat person."

Chaon (pronounced *Shawn*) and his wife, Sheila Schwartz—also a writer and once his professor—moved here in 1990, when she got a teaching job at Cleveland State University. The next year they moved to their home on Meadowbrook. He patched together a living doing odd jobs, and in 1996 published his first novel, *You Remind Me of Me*. Oberlin College hired him in 1998 to teach creative writing. "I love Oberlin," said Chaon, now 46. "I love teaching there, and I have great students."

Their two sons, who attended the Cleveland Heights schools, are now in college. Sheila died in 2008 after years of abiding with ovarian cancer. "I stayed in the Heights," Chaon said. "My kids were in school and I don't mind the commute.

Now the boys are gone and Sheila is gone. I feel comfortable where I am. I love my house and my neighborhood."

How did you get the idea [for the book]? Where did you begin? I wanted to know.

"I started with three scenes or images," Chaon said. "A motel on a dried-up lake in Nebraska, the Arctic, and a father and son driving to a hospital with the son's severed hand." These three disconnected scenes open the book and flow into three stories, which then intertwine.

"I knew they were connected—by mood," he said. "I wanted the iconography of a thriller, of suspense and horror." He likens the mood to film noir with

"the slipperiness of people who have all kinds of secrets, and no one tells the truth. Not until the middle did I get into identity theft."

Identity theft is just one assault on identity. Chaon covers a spectrum from mental illness to how flimsily many people are put together, especially young people who seem to slip with ease into new identities.

Chaon says his acute awareness of identity, its blank spaces and pieces that don't fit, may come from having been adopted, with all its attendant secrets. At 30, with the help of the Adoption Network of Cleveland, he searched for his birth parents. He came to know his birth father, Huck. "We look alike and

many of our gestures are the same."

Now with both sons away, his 25-year-old half-brother, Huck's son, has moved in with him and is going to school at Tri-C.

I came to know of Chaon when I read the book *Long Way Gone*, by Ishmael Beah, the story of being forced to become a boy soldier in Sierra Leone. Beah was a student at Oberlin and Chaon was his creative writing teacher and mentor. This fall the two men will be featured at a convocation on the college's long-standing tradition of mentoring.

Chaon considers narrative a way of thinking, just as analytic and scientific are ways of thinking. "It is a complicated thought process, why people do what they do, what happens next. You use intuition, and you must develop empathy. It is a complicated set of skills, but it's a discipline that can be taught.

"I started writing stories when I was eight or nine and sent them off to magazines. The editor of *Tri-Quarterly* actually wrote back to me, 'You are not ready, but this is good stuff.' I was going to be an actor, writer and director."

He may be on his way. A new Dan Chaon attraction may appear at the Cedar Lee one day. His first novel, *You Remind Me of Me*, is being made into a movie.



Cleveland Heights author Dan Chaon.

ELEANOR MALLET

Eleanor Mallet's column, "A Heights Observer," explores the nooks and crannies in the Heights. She can be reached at eleanormallet@yahoo.com.

Rock concert commemorates 9/11

G. Michael Skerritt

"Rock of Faith: The Transformation of the Soul Spoken through Rock Music" will feature the music of Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Kenny Chesney, Eric Clapton, Sheryl Crow and many others, performed by 16 talented contemporary music singers. They will be accompanied by a seven-piece band made up of some of Northeast Ohio's best contemporary instrumentalists. This gala event takes place on Saturday, Sept. 11, at the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, in commemoration of 9/11.

The event runs from 4:30 to 10 p.m. in the church sanctuary, at 3630

Fairmount Boulevard, at Eaton Road. It will include a BBQ dinner from 5-6:30 p.m., and dessert and raffle at intermission.

All proceeds will benefit the First Baptist Church Contemporary Music Fund.

Tickets are \$25 each, \$45 per couple and \$75 for a family of three or more. Admission for college students with a valid ID is \$15, and children under five are free. Child care will be provided.

Tickets are available at the door, but reservations are encouraged. Call Karen at 216-496-5672.

G. Michael Skerritt is chair of the First Baptist Church Music and Fine Arts Committee.

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HCC's Home and Garden tour returns this year

Shirley Kasey Stockton

It's been only a year, but it seems like forever. After taking a year off from the event, the Heights Community Congress will present "Imagine If . . .," the 33rd Heights Heritage Home and Garden tour. The tour is a community-wide celebration of diversity in Cleveland Heights—its people and the homes in which they dwell.

The festivities will begin on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Preview Party, with a toast given by local author and historian, Marian Morton, this year's honorary tour chairperson. Lolley the Trolley will convey patrons and partygoers to a preview tour of the featured homes and then return to the benefit party at the College Club of Cleveland, located in Cleveland Heights.

According to Martha Goble and Claudia Cull, cochairs of the tour, "There will be delicious food, fantastic music by Blues DeVille and lots of fun and fellowship, in addition to getting a sneak peek at the amazing homes featured this year." They added, "This year we will be unveiling HCC's new specialty drink, which comes in both alcoholic and nonalcoholic varieties—the Trolley-tini!"

Then on Sunday, Sept. 26, from noon-6 p.m., "tourists" will begin their trek through Cleveland Heights to visit the seven homes and four gardens featured in this year's event. The selection of homes and gardens represents a truly diverse group—in architecture, history,



Patrons embark on their preview tour in 2008.

The tour is a community-wide celebration of diversity in Cleveland Heights—its people and the homes in which they dwell.

design and décor. There is something for all tastes.

As a self-guided tour, people can travel at their leisure and by their preferred mode of transportation. Many people drive, some bike, and the truly hearty walk or run it. "It's all up to you," said Kasey Greer, executive director of Heights Community Congress, "It's a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon with family and friends."

The Home and Garden Tour is HCC's largest fundraiser and all proceeds benefit the organization and its mission of preserving fair housing practices, diversity and community engagement programs and activities. For more information about the Preview Party, the self-guided tour, or to purchase tickets, visit www.heightscongress.org or call 216-321-6775.

Shirley Kasey Stockton, a Cleveland Heights resident of 26 years, recently moved to Texas, but remains deeply committed to the mission of HCC and the City of Cleveland Heights. So much so that she has already purchased her tickets for the tour.

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– Plain Dealer, August 10, 2010

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Overcoming the odds

Cameron Williams

My name is Cameron Williams and I was born with an "abnormal dysformative" condition that made me face a lot of challenges. I had surgery after surgery, which led to many hospital stays. My condition was rare and it baffled a lot of doctors. I have had more than eight surgeries from the age of six weeks until the present. I am 17 years old.

Through all of my challenges, I also faced autism at an early age. A lot of people, including educators, gave up on me. But, my mother, Rosa Jones, never did. As a matter of fact, she became my biggest advocate. She believed in me and made me feel that I could accomplish anything I put my mind to.

Since about the age of six, based on my experiences, I decided I wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon. I also wanted to make a difference in the lives of others who faced the same challenges that I have had in my life.

In the spring, I received two letters both based on my GPA of 3.78 and my PSAT scores. One said I was accepted into the National Honor Society for 2010; the other invited me to the National Youth Leadership Forum in Medicine in Philadelphia. I was the first African American male from Ohio.

While attending the forum, I gained several leadership traits. I learned how to be confident, prompt, speak in public and, overall, how to be professional.

I had the opportunity to participate in hands-on surgery—a gall bladder removal and total knee replacement.

A lot of people, including educators, gave up on me. But, my mother never did. As a matter of fact, she became my biggest advocate. She believed in me and made me feel that I could accomplish anything I put my mind to.

I socialized with other scholars from around the world. I lived at Villanova University while I was in Philadelphia.

While I was there, I went to the University of Pennsylvania and petitioned for a scholarship. I had the chance to go to Delaware and New Jersey to visit various hospitals to enhance my medical knowledge.

I would like to give a special thanks to all the people who, with their donations, helped to sponsor this trip. God willing, I hope to be able to attend the Global Youth Leadership Forum, which will be in Spain and I will be seeking donations for that.

Cameron Williams is an aspiring orthopedic surgeon who lives in Cleveland Heights

HRRC to offer special events for Sustainability Week

Rebecca Stager

During Sustainability Week (October 2-10), residents will have several opportunities to gain information about how to live a more sustainable lifestyle, thanks to Home Repair Resource Center.

From 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 4, HRRC will host an open house at its office/teaching center, 2520 Noble Road. Residents are invited to drop in to view HRRC's facilities and learn about programs to help keep them in their homes: keeping their homes in good repair, keeping their finances in shape, and knowing their options if they face mortgage delinquency.

HRRC's counselors and instructors will be on hand to meet with visitors and answer questions.

Immediately following the open house, at 7 p.m., Wesley B. Walker will share his expertise as a Building Performance Institute certified energy auditor in a talk titled "Energy Audits: A sustainable approach to assessing building performance and maintaining your older home."

Attendees will learn about the techniques and equipment used to assess and improve the performance of an older home, making it energy-efficient and saving on heating costs.

Call 216-381-9560 to register for this

free presentation.

On Thursday, Oct. 7, HRRC's Home in the Heights subsidiary will hold a special open house to showcase its current purchase and renovation project. From 7-8 p.m. visitors can tour the latest rehabilitation project at 3795 Berkeley Road and learn how HRRC is working to sustain our neighborhoods by renovating foreclosed, vacant properties and selling them to responsible owner-occupants.

The open house will showcase a work in progress: the renovation features high energy efficiency and low maintenance costs, utilizes green technology, high-quality materials, and superb finish detail to match neighborhood standards.

Finally, throughout October, HRRC will offer Financial Stability Kits as a way of helping people "keep their green." The kit includes ways to trim budgets and save on everyday things. Download it from the HRRC website or pick it up at the HRRC office beginning October 1.

You can find information on these offerings and other HRRC programs at www.hrcc-ch.org.

Becky Stager, home repair education program coordinator at HRRC since 1989, is always excited when workshop attendees use the skills they learn to improve their homes.

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My father and the facts of life

John O'Connor

Born and bred on a farm in West Virginia until he was 26 years of age, my father came to Cleveland to take a job on the railroad in Collinwood. He worked for the New York Central, first in the steam engine roundhouse, and later in the diesel shops.

His work was dirty, grimy and physically hard on him. But because of his hard work, he was able to raise two of us children to be mature adults.

Tall and slim, he was a simple man of few words. Yet, he wore a suit well and could converse with anyone. Even though he washed up after work each day, for me the smell of the shops became associated with him. Years after his death, I could even smell him on the work clothes still hanging in the basement.

My father was a very religious man, attending Mass every morning before work. His modesty would never let him swear, or utter a dirty joke. Because neither he nor I were interested in sports, our time together became very special in the walks we took together.

Living close to Lake Erie as a young boy, I have many fond memories of walks to the lake with my father. They usually happened on Sunday afternoons, after dinner. Mornings would involve going to church, then my mother preparing dinner. I can still smell the aromas coming from the kitchen. I would sit in the kitchen and either talk with her or read the Sunday comics in the newspaper.

After dinner, my dad would always ask me to go for a constitutional to "walk off the meal." A walk down to the lake was a special treat for me—to have time with him alone.

We would walk to Wildwood Park, where there was a breakwall and a place to launch boats. Going out on the breakwall, built of massive stone blocks stacked on top of each other like giant ice cubes, was the most fun for me. I remember that I would have to hop over the gaps between the blocks as we walked out into the water.

There were always anglers on the breakwall, with their buckets of worms and fish. We would halt our progress, as they held their lines back to pitch them forward into the water.

When we got out to the farthest point one could walk, we could see the

vast lake before us. Besides the small craft, sometimes, there would be lake steamers carrying ore to Cleveland. We could also see ships from many countries heading to and from Cleveland and other Great Lakes ports to the west.

The most memorable part of these walks would be the conversations my father and I had. They were about many things, like school, life, or the sights we had seen. It was on one of these walks that I learned "the facts of life."

On the walk we took that Sunday, I ended up more confused than enlightened by our conversation. In his modesty, I am sure he struggled with the best way to tell me. He, therefore, fell back on his own background and points of reference. My father related the "facts" in the following manner: "Now son, the

The most memorable part of these walks would be the conversations my father and I had. They were about many things, like school, life, or the sights we had seen. It was on one of these walks that I learned "the facts of life."

cow goes into heat. The bull services the cow. Then the cow calves."

He also said, there are such places as "sporting houses" (bordellos), and that I should stay away from them. Cows?

Bulls? I knew nothing about them. That is, other than pictures I had seen in books. I certainly would not be going to a "sporting house," because, as he knew, I was not into sports. I came away from that walk totally flummoxed as to what he was telling me.

Fortunately, I had a childhood friend whose mother had tossed him a book with all the graphic information, which I read.

Through my youth, our walks together were many and I have visceral memories of the sights, smells, and closeness that I felt with my dad. The "Facts of Life Walk," however, will always stand out in my memory as special. It was so much about who he was as a man and father to me.

John O'Connor is a semi-retired artist and psychotherapist, living in the Coventry neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. He lives with his best friend, Margo, the dog.

Greek Festival, an August tradition in the Heights

Anita Kazarian

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral held its annual Greek Festival Aug. 19-22. People come from all over Northeast Ohio to Cleveland Heights each year to celebrate the music, dance, food, culture, faith and Greek hospitality.

According to Pantelis "Pete" Moisis, the festival chair, planning for this major event started in April, the baking started in June, and hundreds of people helped with the final arrangements starting early August.

The rain on Saturday evening didn't

dampen any spirits. Lines for food sales were long and two bands played continuous music.

Food was being served in several locations in addition to the tented outdoor picnic area. Shops sold jewelry, art, books, plants and apparel. There was a huge flea market and even a cigar stand.

Go to www.heightsobserver.org for more photos of the festivities.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and a 29-year resident of University Heights. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.





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The case of the disappearing mansions: the Overlook and Carlton Road

Chris Roy

In 1910, some of the grandest homes in all of Cleveland lined Overlook Road. Several others ran down Carlton Road, extending almost to the tip of the precipice overlooking University Circle.

In 2010, only a few of those architectural masterpieces remain.

What happened to all those magnificent homes and why did they disappear? Find out at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16, as author, lecturer and history professor emeritus, Marian J. Morton, discusses the life and eventual death of Cleveland Heights's own "Millionaire's Row."

The event will be held at Cleveland Heights Historical Center at Superior Schoolhouse, at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Superior Road. Admission is free, but seating is limited to 50 people. Call 216-291-4878 for reservations.

Parking is available at the Cumerland Pool parking lot. Parking for the el-



Lowe Ridge mansion on the eve of its demise.

derly and disabled is available in the lot immediately east of the schoolhouse.

Morton's newest book, *The Overlook of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights* will be available for sale at the event, which is sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Landmark Commission of Cleveland Heights.

Chris Roy is the president of Cleveland Heights Historical Society.



The Kelley mansion is razed.



The Kelley mansion.

From martyrdom to hope

Mary Ann Kerr

Nasser Abufarha, scholar, writer and founder of the Palestinian Fair Trade Association (PFTA) and Canaan Fair Trade (CFT), will be visiting Northeast Ohio this month to discuss how his research on suicide bombers led to the founding of the largest fair trade producers' union in Palestine. Dr. Abufarha will be speaking at John Carroll University's Lombardo Student Center on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. and at Oberlin College on Friday, Sept. 17, at noon in West Hall. His talk is titled "Insisting on Life."

Established only five years ago, PFTA now has 49 national cooperatives with more than 1,700 small farmers participating. CFT, its corporate partner, has a state-of-the-art olive oil refinery and is a worldwide distributor of certified organic fair trade olive oil.

CFT sells its products to major corporations in Europe, North America, and the Middle East, including Whole Foods and Williams-Sonoma. CFT also supports economic and social empowerment programs, including college scholarships, micro-loans for women and the marketing of their products, replanting thousands of uprooted olive trees, and jobs for the growing olive industry.

Nasser Abufarha was born near the West Bank city of Jenin, once a hot bed of young militants and home to many suicide bombers. Now PFTA and CFT have given Jenin's citizens reason to live and hope. While creating a national union of fair trade cooperatives, processors and exporters, Abufarha completed his doctorate in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. His book, *The Making of a Human Bomb: An Ethnography of Palestinian Resistance*, based on his dissertation, was published by Duke



Nasser Abufarha (far right) serves tea to the Kerr family in an olive grove.

University Press in 2009.

Abufarha's work merited an invitation to the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship in Washington, DC, last April. President Obama described this meeting of international Muslim entrepreneurs and American business and government leaders as a "new beginning" in strengthening business ties with the Muslim world.

For more information, contact

Mary Ann Kerr at 216-371-1855 or by e-mail at maryannkerr@aol.com.

Mary Ann Kerr and her husband, Douglas, are longtime residents of Cleveland Heights. They became involved with Middle East peace issues after Doug's brother, Malcolm Kerr, president of American University of Beirut, was assassinated in 1984. The Kerrs have visited Israel and the Palestinian territories several times.

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Zoo Crew works in Forest Hill Park

Elsa Johnson

The Metroparks Zoo Crew, made up of teen volunteers, ages 14 to 17, have been working in Forest Hill Park this summer. They have been clearing trees from a sapling circle that had grown up under one of the venerable old oaks in the Great Meadow.

The sapling circle originated with the idea that the saplings, while still small, could be dug up and sold individually as part of a fund-raising effort to help with the care and feeding of all the big oaks in the meadow.

The acorns that produced the saplings fell during a mast year, and many of the saplings grew too close together to harvest without damage to the parent tree. A dozen or more saplings on the outer edge of the sapling circle, just beyond the parent tree's drip line, have been tagged to be saved.

A few of these will be left to grow where nature placed them. The remainder of the smaller saplings will be transplanted in the fall to other locations in the Great Meadow as part of a tree replacement program.

The Metroparks has sent out from five to a dozen Zoo Crew volunteers each week. Zoo Crew teens come from all over the metropolitan area. Asked what their favorite job has been as Zoo Crew volunteers, the teens responded, "This one!" A sign saying "This tree has been adopted by the Zoo Crew" was placed on



Pictured (l to r): Dick Secor, Lyndsey Maruna, Casimier Weakley, Katrina Toone, Hilary Rizk, Elsa Johnson and Sarah Gridley.

the tree in recognition of their efforts.

The Great Meadow Task Group of the East Cleveland Parks Association is working to organize a similar program for next summer.

Many important tasks remain, including clearing saplings under other

Great Meadow trees and invasive species eradication. The Great Meadow Task Group will be promoting an Adopt-a-Tree program, through which Great Meadow trees will be fed and treated for the funguses that have been killing so many of the big trees in the

park.

For more information about volunteering in the park, the teen program, or Adopt-a-Tree, e-mail Elsa Johnson at vicnela@earthlink.net.

Elsa Johnson is a community volunteer.

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Auction supports yoga nonprofit

Rick Szekelyi

Every now and then, it strikes me that I really do very little that affects the greater good. Every day (OK, most days), I try to have a positive impact on people I come in contact with and events that I have an opportunity to touch. No matter, the feeling always revisits me that I am doing little to cause a farreaching benefit to those outside my immediate sphere.

My guess is that I am not all that different from most folks. Well, here is an opportunity to have that farreaching impact, and gain a great deal in the pro-

cess. Beginning Aug. 27 through Sept. 12, the second annual North American Gurukul (NAG) online auction will be held at www.biddingforgood.org/northamericangurukul.

NAG, headquartered in Cleveland Heights, is a not-for-profit organization that supports and spreads awareness of Satyananda Yoga throughout North America, in order to enhance the health, well-being and human potential of individuals and society.

The money raised through the online auction is used to support NAG's various activities, including yoga service projects, known as Seva, which bring the tradition of yoga to various groups of people such as incarcerated individuals and those going through recovery from addiction.

When people place bids for the antique lamp, guitar, massage, or even private belly dancing lessons, they will be doing something for the greater good. Not only can you bid on these treasures, but there is also still time to donate items or services to the auction. Donations can be made on the same website, or by calling 216-371 9760. The auction staff are available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

More information about NAG is at www.northamericangurukul.org.

Rick Szekelyi is a 12-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a 10-year yoga practitioner at the Atma Center on Lee Road.

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 Cleveland Heights Community Center,
 1 Monticello Boulevard
 Visit www.clevelandheights.com/whatsnew

Tuesday, Sept. 21
Workshop: Using the Heights Observer to Help Your Organization
 7-8:30 p.m.
 Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road
 Call 216-320-1423

Thursday, Sept. 23
District 10 General Election Forum
 Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and FutureHeights
 7-9 p.m.
 Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road

Saturday, Sept. 25
Home & Garden Tour Preview Party,
 Heights Community Congress
 6 p.m., Tickets \$100 and up
 College Club of Cleveland, 2348 Overlook Road
 Call 216-321-6775 or visit
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Saturday, Sept. 26
Home & Garden Tour
 Heights Community Congress
 Noon to 6 p.m., Tickets \$20 in advance.
 Call 216-321-6775 or visit www.heightscongress.org

Tuesday, Sept. 28
Workshop: What's the News: How to Be an Educated News Consumer
 By freelance journalist and former *Plain Dealer* columnist Afi-Odelia Scruggs
 7-8:30 p.m.
 Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road

Wednesday, Oct. 6
District 11 General Election Forum
 7-9 p.m., League of Women Voters
 Brush High School, 4875 Glenlyn Road, Lyndhurst

Tuesday, Oct. 12
County Executive General Election Eastside Forum
 7-9 p.m., League of Women Voters
 Shaker Heights Middle School

Monday, Oct. 18
Best of the Heights Awards and Heights Independent Business Alliance Launch Party
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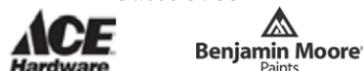
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