Cleveland Heights installs its first sharrows

Nicholas Matthew

This October, Cleveland Heights received its first bicycle "sharrows." These shared lane markings (shar e + arrow = sharrow), help cyclists and motorists cooperate to use the road. Although found in many cities throughout the United States, and used internationally in Australia and the United Kingdom, sharrows are new to Cleveland's East Side.

Advantages of sharrows

There are many benefits of sharrows. They remind motorists and bicyclists to politely share the roadways. For retailers, improved bicycle infrastructure improves traffic to their business. For homeowners, bicycle-friendly communities attract potential residents, thus boosting property values. For you, a bicycle-friendly community can help incorporate a healthy mode of transportation into your lifestyle. Sharrows help signal that this is a great place to live, with convenient access between homes, workplaces and amenities. Furthermore, they are low-tech and inexpensive.

How common are sharrows in the United States?

The first sharrows appeared in Denver, Colorado in the 1990s. Since then, they have been embraced by many other cities—Flagstaff, Az.; Louisville, Ky.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Portland, both Oregon and Maine; and Columbus and Dayton in Ohio.

Difference between sharrows and bike lanes

Think of sharrows as "share the road" signs painted on the asphalt. On roads with sharrows, all vehicles can use pavement equally. Bicycle lanes, on the other hand, strictly segregate parts of the paved area for the exclusive use of either by cyclists or motorists.

Driving or parking on sharrows

Sharrows are intended to emphasize sharing the road. Although parking on shared lane markings may be inconvenient to some cyclists, motorists have the right to park wherever they're permitted to do so by the city.

Are bicyclists permitted to ride in the middle of the lane?

Generally, yes. In Ohio, cyclists may use the full lane and are permitted to ride two abreast, if conditions permit. At the same time, Ohio law states that bicyclists "shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, unless it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so." Hazards—such as potholes, debris, parked cars, or lanes too narrow to safely accommodate a bike and a car side by side—may lead bicyclists to use the full width of the lane to ensure safety. Common sense prevails. When motorists are patient with cyclists, they in turn respect motorists, and everyone arrives safely and on time.

Heights High holds mock elections

Carol Gibson

On Oct. 28, more than 200 Heights High juniors and seniors grilled Matt Bracey and Julian Rogers, candidates for the District 10 seat on the newly forming county council. The next day, students had the chance to vote for one of them, and for one of two county executive candidates running on the Republican and Democratic tickets. The candidate forum and voting were continued on page 3

Best of the Heights winners announced

Audrey Wynn

A capacity crowd gathered at Motorcars Toyota on Oct. 18 to learn who had won FutureHeights' annual Best of the Heights awards. The crowd enjoyed music by the Cleveland Heights-based band, oldboys, and nibbles from Cleveland Heights chef Nolan Konkoski as they awaited the announcement of the winners.

According to Deanna Bremer Fischer, executive director of FutureHeights, "This year's Best of the Heights awards ceremony was bigger and better than it has ever been before. We thank Motorcars Toyota for hosting us and all of our sponsors and volunteers for helping make this event such a success."

Nearly 700 people cast votes for their favorite Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses. Resident

City joins in challenge against new sewer fees

Vince Reddy

Cleveland Heights has joined with other suburban communities in challenging the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (NEORSD) recently adopted stormwater management program and the associated fee, which would be used to manage stormwater in the district's service area. The service area covers most of Cuyahoga County and parts of Summit and Lorain counties.

The communities (University Heights is not among them) are opposing the fees that NEORSD hopes to impose on homeowners and business owners to mitigate the damage caused by stormwater runoff in urban and suburban areas. The runoff—from rooftops, driveways, and parking lots—goes into the storm sewers maintained by the numerous cities, villages and townships in the sewer district’s service area. From there it is channeled, often forcefully, into streams, rivers, and eventually Lake Erie. The stormwater surges bring pollutants, erode stream banks, and put strain on regional ecosystems.

During heavy rains, when the drain pipes are filled to capacity in some areas served by older sewers, untreated sewage continues on page 4

Public input vital to sustainable development study

John Patterson won a FutureHeights gift package when his ballot was pulled from among those who voted in the contest.

"Best of the Heights recognizes the many unique businesses that contribute to our quality of life in the Heights," said Gina Cheverine, president of the FutureHeights board of directors. "This is a small way to show our appreciation for the entrepreneurs, who through investment in their own businesses, strengthen our local economy and our neighborhoods. I congratulate all of the winners and all of the nominees."

"This year’s award winners are:
Best New Business
First place: Melt Bar & Grilled
Second place: Rainforest Car Wash
Third place: Restore Hair Studio

continued on page 2

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continued on page 2
New online directory puts focus on Heights businesses

Bob Rosenbaum

We’re pleased to announce that the Heights Observer has launched the only online business directory dedicated to Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Offering listings from accountants to variety stores and everything in between, the directory is one more way the Observer facilitates the connection between residents and the businesses that serve them.

The directory is available through a link in the left-hand menu at www.heightsobserver.org, the Heights Observer website.

It has been launched in support of the new Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA), of which it was written before. HIBA was founded with urging from the Observer’s nonprofit owner, FutureHeights, to help keep local, independently owned businesses foremost in the minds of residents.

HIBA is a natural extension of the Observer’s “shop local” emphasis, which argues that the character of our community is based in part on the independent businesses that exist to serve us as residents. Further, compared with national chains, a much larger share of money spent with local independently actually stays in the community. By helping to keep these businesses strong, we keep the community strong, too.

To that end, the new directory is very much a work in progress. The technology behind it isn’t exactly next-generation. And the listings aren’t yet comprehensive—though they strive to be. Currently, most of the listings are for Cleveland Heights businesses, because that’s what was readily available to populate the database. But we know the list is not complete, and are looking to add any businesses that aren’t already included—including most of those in University Heights.

Directions for adding a business are on the directory’s intro page.

Any business or organization in CH-UH is entitled to a free listing in this directory. But HIBA members are also highlighted with the HIBA shopping-bag logo, so you can easily identify the businesses that do the most to support the community.

Please take a look at the directory. It may help you find some resources you didn’t know about, and it might help you find a local alternative next time you go out to shop at a national chain store.

Bob Rosenbaum is a media consultant, and a former journalist and publishing executive. As chairman of the FutureHeights Observer committee, he 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.

Letters Policy
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Don Ott

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Tammie Collins and Ruth F. Smith

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
Deanna Bremer Fisher

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Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 20, 2010
All council members were present
Cumberland Pool
Resident Angel Frasoli, representing the group Take Back Cumberland Pool, asked council to continue the question of a meeting for a discussion of the pool and requested a financial report prior to the meeting. She also requested the appointment of a Cumberland Pool patron to the Recreation Board. Mayor Edward Kelly replied that the meeting was set for Sept. 30 that financial reports through 2009 had been sent to the group.

Good news for students driving to school
Beginning Oct. 4, the city will offer to Cleveland Heights High School students a parking pass for the Cedar-Lee Garage, which will be valid Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will cost $30 per semester.

Gas Aggregation Program
Council authorized an agreement with Integrity Energy Services/Natural Gas, LLC for the continued provision of natural gas services to Cleveland Heights residents and businesses under the city’s Gas Aggregation Program. The current fixed rate of $6.92/mcf will probably drop to between $6.13 and $6.18/mcf in the first year of the new multi-year contract. Residents can expect a letter from the city in about 10 days and also a card from Integrys explaining the current fixed rate of $6.92/mcf will probably drop to between $6.13 and $6.18/mcf in the first year of the new multi-year contract. Residents can expect a letter from the city in about 10 days and also a card from Integrys explaining that the program was a good deal.

Taylor Road paving
Council authorized application, through the Office of the District One Public Works Integration, for the Taylor Road Rehabilitation Capital Improvement Project (from Euclid Heights Boulevard to the north corporate line). The State of Ohio will issue bonds to cover 80 percent of the project and the city will fund 20 percent.

Text messaging traffic offense
Council passed an ordinance to prohibit the use of wireless handsets to text while driving. The penalty shall be $100 on the first offense, $250 for the second offense, and no more than $500 for subsequent offenses. Two exceptions allow text messaging when contacting law enforcement or emergency personnel and using a wireless handset when the vehicle is parked, standing or stopped off the flow of traffic or inoperable. Enforcement will begin Nov. 1.

Commission and board openings
Council Member Cheryl Stephens announced that 10 boards and commissions are seeking applicants for membership: the Citizens Advisory Commission, the Recreation Board and the Landmarks Commission. LWV observers: Blanche Vidyans and Lisa Peters.

Tax procedures
Council approved a resolution that accepts the amounts and rates as determined by the county’s Budget Commission, authorizes the necessary tax levies, and certifies them to the county auditor.

CDGB application
Council authorized the city manager to submit the Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) application to the Federal Department of Transportation for Cleveland Heights funding. The guidelines for sharrow installation
There is no universally accepted system of installing sharrows, although the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) non-binding guidelines advise communities to extend sharrows four feet from the curb on roads without street parking. Each municipality must determine what is best for its own community.

Because of safety concerns, the coalition advocates, and the DOT recommends, that sharrows should be installed four feet from the curb on roads without street parking, and eleven feet when there is street parking. For more information on sharrows visit www.signsintheheights.org.

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

City Hall prepares to update Cleveland Heights website
Bonnie Caplan
It was reported early this year that the City of Cleveland Heights has been working to update its website. What are the objectives of a new and/or improved website and what is the current status of that effort?
The Heights Observer asked city officials the question above. Their response follows.

Website has become the expected mode of communication between organizations and their various publics. How do these websites look and function that gives the audience a first- and often lasting-impression about the organization? Because the website for the City of Cleveland Heights was last updated in 2005, a citizen’s committee of residents with website development experience was invited to assist the city’s staff and council in brainstorming ways to improve the site and, in so doing, update the level of communication from the city to residents and visitors.

It was agreed during this process that although the current website contains much information and many pertinent links, the time has come for a redesign and update.

The objective for the new site is to improve ease of navigation, including search functions; to more effectively and efficiently serve residents in their interactions with city departments; to make it easier to find ordinances and forms; and to market the city as effectively as possible by providing more specific information for individuals and businesses that are considering locating here.

In addition, the new site will be a better vehicle for promoting the city’s commercial and community businesses. The citizen’s committee worked through late spring. That prompted internal planning at City Hall to update the information technology infrastructure to accommodate more advanced communications within the city’s government as well as through its website.

An RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for website design services will be advertised in November, and we look forward to having the new site in operation by late spring 2011.

Bonnie Caplan is a Cleveland Heights City Council Member and led the committee that worked toward development of the RFQ.

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What sharing the road means in Cleveland Heights
Nicholas Matteo is an officer of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.

Are the sharrows intended to indicate a cyclist’s direction of travel? Although the chevrons indicate directionality, they should not be treated as bicycle lanes. Bicyclists should always be four feet from the curb on roads without street parking. For more information on sharrows visit www.signsintheheights.org.

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The Heights Observer November 2, 2010

University Heights
City Council

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 20, 2010
All council members were present.

Rain garden on Ashurst Road

Under Johnson of the Cleveland Heights TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Fund, the board voted to begin assessing a new monthly fee on property owners in the City of Cleveland Heights. The proposed fees, which would be based on an estimated $2.925 million annually, would cost the average homeowner $57 a year and could best be addressed by spreading the cost among its numerous municipal entities.

Greater Cleveland is not alone in its stormwater problems, but a report issued by the National Resources Defense Council in July noted that water quality at Ohio beaches ranked 27th among the 30 states it had surveyed. The report attributed the water quality problems to stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows.

The proposed fees, which would cost the average homeowner $2.925 million annually, would raise about $58 million annually.

Vince Reddy, who works for Cleveland Public Art, has lived in Cleveland Heights for nearly 14 years.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OCTOBER 4, 2010
Council members Kevin Patrick Murphy and Steven Sims were excused.

News items
Concerns that money from two state grants had not been distributed properly led to Finance Director Jennifer Esayev’s recommendation that a list of contractors working in the city are posted or responded in any other way. Mayor Infeld suggested inviting Virginia Bingham, the city bond counsel, to a future council meeting.

Cuyahoga County Energy Program
A resolution to authorize submission of an application to participate in the Cuyahoga County Municipal Energy Program was introduced on first reading. City Engineer Joseph Ciuni said the program would pay 100 percent of the cost to inventory the needs for upgrades to municipal buildings and would share the cost of upgrading those buildings.

The finance director presented the reasons for an ordinance, introduced on first reading, to create a tax incentive review council to assure proper placement of TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds, which were misplaced by the city in 2008. The city failed to return property tax revenues to the new state development as required by the TIF. When asked why council was never told about this problem, Esayev, who was not the finance director in 2008, said she investigated after receiving a letter from the County Auditor’s Office. She was told that repeated attempts were made to contact the financial director, but he never returned calls or responded in any other way. Mayor Infeld suggested inviting Virginia Bingham, the city bond counsel, to a future council meeting.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS NEWS
Taking University Heights for granted

Anita Kazarian

For 28 years I took you for granted. I never gave a thought to any of your city services. The only time I went to city hall was to pay for a special pickup. Career, interests and far-flung family was my focus. The frequent flyer miles just kept adding up. I knew more about the layout of Hopkins Airport than the streets of University Heights.

Sound familiar? You bet. But for me, it changed one cold dreary February night in 2009. The publisher of the Heights Observer, Deanna Bremer Fisher, asked me to cover a town hall meeting. Council had voted to form a Charter Review Commission to consider changing the city government from a mayor council form to a council-manager form. Mayor Beryl Rothschild called the town hall meeting to inform residents.

Rules of incorporation for business contracts are easier to understand than city charters. But I made it my business to learn. What I learned concerned me. In my opinion the proposed charter, as written, was flawed. I now know about our city, its governance, its ordinances, the concerns of its residents and its quirks.

I met many of you going door to door, at block parties, council and committee meetings, and as a volunteer on several city-sponsored committees. I also met many of our city’s employees and all of its directors.

University Heights, because of its diversity, beautiful homes, tree-lined streets and stability, attracts people I am happy to call “neighbor.” For a town of less than 1.9 square miles and more than 12,000 residents you deliver services day in, day out, with rarely a glitch. How do you do that?

It is you, our city employees, who go the extra step. You are professional, ready smiles, and demonstrate a desire to ensure I can go about my business without being concerned about the services you provide. And, if that isn’t enough, you return tax dollars back to UH from grants that have been created with our tax dollars.

Between the police, service and fire departments, you brought back almost $483,000 in grant monies. These grants support the purchase of a new rescue squad stretcher. The service department? You not only keep our trucks in good shape with ingenious repairs, but you also received a $50,000 grant from the sewer district to implement a storm water landscape design to alleviate flooding on a city-owned parcel on Ashurst Road.

Topping the list for this year is our fire department. Firefighter/paramedic Robert Perko brought in $275,000 from a FEMA grant proposal for a new fire truck that will retire the 1991 truck. Executive Captain Steve G. Ineman wrote a winning grant for almost $82,000 to purchase 3,883 state-of-the-art smoke detectors and batteries distributed free, to University Heights residents.

And who doesn’t know the Ohio “Click it or Ticket” campaign for seat belt use? The fines collected go into a fund for public safety for cities with EMS. Our fire department applied for and received a $3,470 grant toward the purchase of a new rescue squad stretcher.

Given the size of our city, we can come face to face with each and every city employee. Not one employee is shielded from the residents. Whether it is the building, law, engineering, finance or service departments; fire, police or EMS; the city hall staff or Nancy English, the clerk of council, their doors are open to us.

I was born, raised and lived in big cities—New York, the San Francisco Bay area, a Boston suburb and Edison, N.J. I lived in Rocky River and Cleveland. Larger cities have their influence and share coffee with your city’s service providers is not one of them. University Heights, thank you.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, founder of Noah’s Landing, LLC and a long-time resident of UH. Reach her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

For University Heights

Anita Kazarian

November 17-20th | 8:00 pm | Kulas Hall

DAVID BAMBERGER, director HARRY DAVIDSON, conductor

For 28 years I took you for granted. I never gave a thought to any of your city services. The only time I went to city hall was to pay for a special pickup. Career, interests and far-flung family was my focus. The frequent flyer miles just kept adding up. I knew more about the layout of Hopkins Airport than the streets of University Heights.

Sound familiar? You bet. But for me, it changed one cold dreary February night in 2009. The publisher of the Heights Observer, Deanna Bremer Fisher, asked me to cover a town hall meeting. Council had voted to form a Charter Review Commission to consider changing the city government from a mayor council form to a council-manager form. Mayor Beryl Rothschild called the town hall meeting to inform residents.

Rules of incorporation for business contracts are easier to understand than city charters. But I made it my business to learn. What I learned concerned me. In my opinion the proposed charter, as written, was flawed. I now know about our city, its governance, its ordinances, the concerns of its residents and its quirks.

I met many of you going door to door, at block parties, council and committee meetings, and as a volunteer on several city-sponsored committees. I also met many of our city’s employees and all of its directors.

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Ortner bids farewell to library board of trustees, new members sought

Kevin Ortner

Dean Schnurr

At the Oct. 25 meeting of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board of Trustees, member Kevin Ortner announced his resignation from the board.

"It is with sadness that I must tender my resignation," said Ortner in a public statement he read during the meeting. "I will soon be relocating outside of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights area."

Ortner's resignation will be effective Nov. 16, and he will be moving to Bainbridge, Ohio.

As a result of Ortner's resignation and the approaching completion of Glenn Billington's term on Dec. 31, the library is currently seeking applicants to fill two vacant board positions.

Storage of the materials in the Noble Neighborhood Library while the renovation is proceeding. Most of the furniture will be replaced, but furni- ture that can be used elsewhere in the system will be kept. Surplus material will be offered to the public.

New programs for fall are the Teen Writers' Group for grades 8 to 12 and the In The Middle Writers' Group for grades 4 to 7.

"We have had tremendous success and response to our Little Heights Program," said Levin. "We wanted to create a program that can be used elsewhere in the system and is something the library would ordinarily purchase."

Among the many items included in this report are the following:

• During the 10-week Summer Lunch Program, 32 adults and teens volunteered approximately 270 hours to help set up and clean up and to play board games with the kids. The program served more than 4,500 meals.

• "Two new programs for fall are the Teen Writ- ers' Group for grades 8 to 12 and In The Middle Writers' Group for grades 4 to 7."

• "Creating a program that supports our community is wonderful," said Cathy Hakala-Ausperk, Heights Libraries deputy director. "But having the opportunity to create a program with the potential to benefit communi- ties throughout Ohio is incredible."

Ortner has presided over many positive developments at the library. During his tenure, the library renovated the former YMCA building located across from Lee Road Library, which currently houses Dobama Theatre and the library's new computer technology lab, and successfully passed a levy through the OCLC library network and isn't something the library would have been able to do in the past few years.

What's going on at your library?

Lee Road Library

Step Out of Time: Tai Chi for Kids, Thursdays, Nov. 3–24, 12:30 p.m.

Lee Road Storytelling, Wednesdays, Nov. 3–24, 12 p.m.

Lee Road Kids Storytime, Tuesdays, Nov. 9–23, 3:30 p.m.

Lee Road Food for Thought, Mondays, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.

Lee Road Poetry Slam, Thursdays, Nov. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Cedar Center Whole Foods Market

"Tasting" events, Wednesdays, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.

University Heights Library

University Heights Library 13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700 The Senior Spot, Wednesdays, Nov. 3–24, 12:30 p.m.

Knitting Circle, Thursdays, Nov. 4 & 18, 6:45 p.m.

Mystery Evening, Thursdays, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400 Tai Chi and Qi Gong, Wednesdays, Nov. 3–24, 12 p.m.

Explorastory, Fridays, Nov. 5–26, 10:30 a.m.

Step Out of Time, Thursdays, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

Step Out of Time: Tai Chi for Kids, Thursdays, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.
HEIG Heights Schools

CH-UH Board of Education
Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 5, 2010
All board members were present. Fairfax students win art award Fairfax students Jamier Stevens and Sophia Arts were winners in a national art contest, the 8th Continent Soy Milk Design Contest. As a result of their achievements, Fairfax will receive $1,000 in art supplies. District Dashboard The District Dashboard is a component of the district’s website that keeps the public up to date on the district’s progress on the state report card and other data. The dashboard features district climate goals in such areas as the number of student suspensions, attendance, ACT participation, student enrollment in college, student credits earned, as well as test results from the last two years with trends and predictions. The dashboard will be linked to the www.chuh.org home page and will be available to the public by the end of November. Insurance savings Board Vice President Kal Zucker praised the administration for saving $280,000 in insurance costs through a Dependents’ Eligibility Audit. Heights High homecoming parade Oct. 22 at 6:15 p.m., the Heights High Homecoming Parade will make a comeback. Heights swimming pool open to community Through a collaboration with the Cleveland Heights Recreation Department, the Heights High swimming pool will be open to district residents at designated times. Heights alumni foundation party The Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation holiday party will take place on Dec. 9 at the Heights Rockefeller Building. Barbershoppers at Indians game Board Member Ron Register noted that the Heights Barbershoppers performed at an Indians game on Oct. 4 and will do so again in April 2011, possibly on opening day. LWV observer: Nancy Dietrich.

Guided recess play helps students develop social skills

Joy Henderson

Recess is a time for students to take a mental and physical break from the intellectual work of the classroom, a chance to move and breathe fresh air. Now it is also a place to learn and practice valuable social skills. At Gearity, and in all the Cleveland Heights-University Heights elementary schools, recess has evolved into different areas of play. The recent approach to recess offers more guidance for students. Students can choose from a selection of games, walk around the play area and talk, or play on the equipment. The adult recess aides are more involved in teaching and playing with students. The goal is to have the adults model and teach appropriate play behavior: sharing, taking turns and using the equipment appropriately. “Recess is really important,” said Gearity Elementary School Principal Sherri Miller. “It may not be the classroom, but students are still learning through play. The social skills that help students get along with each other are learned and practiced every day at recess.”

In districtwide elementary surveys, students consistently expressed concern regarding respectful behavior among students on the playground. Because of that, the district has embraced PBS (Positive Behavior Supports), a method that focuses on teaching the desired behavior through positive reinforcement. “We had anecdotal evidence that recess needed our attention but this survey gave us hard data,” said Miller. “With the PBS supports, we have seen real improvement in several areas.”

In the three years since Gearity implemented structured recess, the number of behavior incidents and injuries has decreased. Also, follow-up student surveys show that students think that the recess culture is more respectful and fair.

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

Heights Observer November 2, 2010 7 www.heightobserver.org

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Students beautify school grounds

Fourth graders from Gearty Elementary School recently partnered with students from Hiram College to clean up the garden and wooded area behind the school building. Students hauled fencing, wire, and large trash bags out of the woods, played environmental science games and enjoyed a picnic lunch.

“Cleaning up this space is just a first step,” fourth-grade teacher Joe Mendes said. “We plan to construct an interpretive nature trail in the woods and continue developing the Gearty Community Learning Garden. We are also designing an 88-foot mural to cover the chain-link fence along the garden’s back wall. It’s going to look fantastic.”

The participants included 50 fourth graders, 15 college students from Hiram, and Josh Hunter, Gearty parent and Hiram professor.

National Merit and Achievement Scholars

Four Cleveland High School seniors are semifinalists in the first round of the National Merit Scholarship Program and National Achievement Scholarship Program. National Merit semifinalists are Rachael Callier, Troy Friedman and Mairi Mull. The National Achievement Scholarship semifinalist is Carlin Jackson.

Joy Henderson

The PSAT scores of the semifinalists qualify them for National Merit and National Achievement Finalist status and college scholarships. Merit Scholarship semifinalists have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,400 awards, worth $165 million. Achievement Scholarship semifinalists are eligible for $800 awards worth more than $4.5 million.

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

CH-UH’s Scott Gainer selected Ohio’s Outstanding Treasurer/CFO of the Year

Angie Shaker

Adding to the numerous awards and recognitions he’s received through the years, Scott Gainer has reached the pinnacle of his profession this year by being named the Outstanding Treasurer/CFO of the Year for Ohio’s schools.

“I’m deeply honored to have been selected for such a prestigious award,” Gainer said. “I appreciate having the opportunity to work in such a dynamic district with a truly talented and innovative leadership team, and I see this recognition as a nod to our entire district.”

The award comes from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO). Each year, this prestigious award goes to individuals recognized for successfully managing billions of public dollars, for personal successes and accomplishments, and selfless service to their school districts, their profession, and the community. Gainer was chosen from over 600 eligible school treasurers in Ohio and will be honored at this year’s OASBO (Ohio School Boards Association) Capitol Conference in Columbus on Wednesday, Nov. 8. He will receive a plaque and a $100 cash award to be granted as a scholarship to a graduating senior from Heights High.

“We’ve long known that Scott is among the very best fiscal officers in Ohio, and this award confirms it,” Superintendent Douglas Heuer said. “Scott and his finance team have helped streamline the organization by reducing over $7 million from the annual budget in recent years while implementing creative solutions for cost savings and alternate revenue sources; we are very fortunate to have his expertise and continued commitment.”

Gainer was nominated for the award by Sue Pardee, coordinator of school improvement and federal programs.

Angie Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Two Fairfax students win art contest

Angie Shaker

Jamier Stevens, a fourth grader, and Sophia Arts, in fifth grade at Fairfax Elementary, are among the winners of a national art contest sponsored by Stremick’s Heritage Foods, manufacturer of the 8th Continent brand. Thanks to their success, Fairfax Elementary will receive a $1,000 gift card from Blick Art Materials.

“The $1,000 gift card is greatly appreciated. Our art teachers are going to purchase additional supplies for all of our students to enjoy. We are very proud of Jamier Stevens and Sophia Arts. They are creative children with tremendous talent. I’m glad their art teacher, Joan Levin, encouraged them to enter the contest,” Principal Michael Waster said. The students and Levin were recognized at the Oct. 5 school board meeting.

The 8th Continent Art Contest invited children and families across the United States to submit their sun-inspired artwork to the company’s website. More than 7,200 sun designs were submitted. Members of the public were asked to rate the artwork from one to five stars. These ratings determined half of the 100 winners, with the remaining 50 selected by the team at Stremick’s Heritage Foods. The winning designs can now be viewed on www.8thcontinent.com/art.

“As a family-owned and operated company, we believe in the importance of education and of self-expression. As many schools across the nation face fewer resources for art education programs, we’re excited to support our schools and promote creativity among our youth said Lou Stremick, owner of Stremick’s Heritage Foods.

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

Mosaic student at CHHS to explore U.S. national security

Joy Henderson

This fall, outstanding high school students from the CH-UH district and throughout the United States will take part in a unique career development program in Washington, D.C. Richard Wilson, a sophomore in the Mosaic Experience School, will join the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security (NYLF/NS): Exploring American Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defense. The six-day program will introduce students to challenging careers in national security, intelligence and the diplomatic corps.

Wilson received an invitation to apply based on his academic standing at Heights High. “I am honored and so excited to be going to D.C. for this program,” he said. “I hope to learn more about national security and the career opportunities available.”

He is also looking forward to meeting students from all over the country who have similar interests.

“Imagine being 16 or 17 years old, and the responsibility of securing the United States at home and abroad rests on your shoulders. Through simulations, the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security has students build a strategy that will uphold our national security,” said Marguerite Regan, dean of academic affairs for NYLF. “The combination of interacting with professionals and with other students in this setting ensures that leaders are being developed so the future of our country will remain very bright.”

The curriculum for the Forum on National Security is based on actual world events. Throughout the program, students use critical thinking, leadership, and public speaking skills to tackle the complexity of a national decision-making process similar to that employed by the nation’s top policy makers.

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

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Joy Henderson

Parenting Q&A

Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Family Connections (formerly known as Heights Parent Center) for the last 12 years, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. The same issues affect many parents.

Q: My wife and I both work full time and we have a 7-month-old who is in full-time daycare. I am worried about my wife's constant level of stress around balancing work and motherhood. She loves her job and we have chosen a quality daycare, but she still expresses concern about the possible lifelong harm we are doing to our son by not having a parent at home.

A. Many families are feeling exactly the way you are. Considering today's economy and the many strides women have made in the professional world, many parents can't rely on their parents' model of how to manage this juggling act. Here are some perspectives to keep in mind as you try to find the right balance:

• Recognize the benefits you and your child can gain from daycare. If you have done your homework and found a quality facility, use it to your advantage to enhance your parenting.

• Daycare providers can be an extra set of eyes and ears on your child and may notice things you might miss (milestones as well as concerns). They have experience to help you through tricky transitions, such as potty training, to take advantage of their professional support.

• Daycare providers can also help your child learn to trust and build close relationships with people beyond the family. This will be important as he grows and meets more of the world.

• Realize that exposure to other toys and environments can build skills and interests in your child that your home might not provide. This will give you added opportunity to see all of your child's special talents.

• Try to retain the schedule and rhythm that your daycare uses. Kids use routine to learn to predict and make sense of the world. Your daycare uses routine to keep the day running smoothly. You can take advantage of that and provide a safe predictable world for your child in his early years.

• Be sure to find support from other parents who are working outside the home. Find out if your daycare has parent nights and, if not, think about starting one. A monthly potluck or seasonal get-together would give you the opportunity to meet the other parents. You will find a great deal of comfort in sharing similar stories and challenges.

• Remember that you are both whole persons with many strengths and talents, and your work environment allows you to keep those qualities strong and vibrant. This can help you to be a better parent when you are home with your child.

• Make sure that, even though work and home life take up most of your time and energy, you find time for each other. Your relationship with your spouse and the support you give and gain from each other is vital for the overall health of your family.

• Balancing the demands of work and home life is often stressful, and it is understandable that it can cause second guessing. By taking advantage of the benefits of your daycare and recognizing the positive personal growth elements your work life provides, you can have a happy and well-rounded family life.

Fairmount Co-op Preschool holds bike-a-thon

The Fairmount Church Co-op Preschool held its fall bike-a-thon fundraiser on Sept. 25. The children had lots of fun riding their bikes and raising money for the preschool. On Oct. 23, they carved pumpkins and more at their Family Halloween Party.

To learn more about the Fairmount Church Co-op Preschool, call 216-321-5800 or visit www.fairmountcoop.org.

Homecoming Parade returns to the Heights

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Homecoming Parade is back after a long hiatus.

Angie Shaker

After a hiatus of nearly a decade, Cleveland Heights-University Heights families welcomed back the community’s homecoming parade with gusto. It was a spectacle that brought lots of families to Washington Boulevard to watch, listen and even dive for candy.

It was bigger than a school event; it was another opportunity to bring our communities together. Board members, mayors, principals, library staff, parents, and lots of students were there to show their support for our schools,” Superintendent Doug Heuer said.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley, University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, University Heights Councilman Frank Consolo, CH-UH Board of Education members Nancy Pepperl, Ron Register and Parade Marshal Claude Holland, a former track coach and Nike Coach of the Year, participated.

“We had more than 100 youth football players and cheerleaders take part in the parade, and one of our football teams, the Mighty Mites-Tiger Black, just qualified for Nationals to be held in Florida, so they participated with terrific pride,” stated athletic director, Kristin Hughes.

Awards were given to three floats: Youth Ice Hockey won Most Creative, Roxboro Elementary won Most Enthusiastic and Oxford Elementary won Most Spirited.

During the half-time homecoming ceremony, Ryan Perlic and Ciera Marcano were crowned Homecoming King and Queen.

“We are already planning for next year’s parade. We had fun, and it was a great way for us to connect with different sections of the community while showing enormous enthusiasm for our schools,” Hughes said.

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

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Be Our Guest

Students present annual musical, “Beauty and the Beast”

By Lily Gould and Luke Boyle

Costumes have arrived, sets have been built, and lights have been hung to ensure that all of this year’s stars of Cleveland Heights’ High School’s annual musical, Beauty and the Beast, will shine. The Disney classic, a collaboration between a number of different organizations at Heights, opens Thursday, November 4 and runs through Sunday, November 7.

The Vocal Music Department

On the fourth floor, the Vocal Music Department (VMD) is constantly rehearsing, and there is never a moment without song. “It gets tiring but it’s definitely fulfilling when you’re done and your character’s evolved into something,” says senior Julia Barcus, who plays Mrs. Potts in Cast A of the musical. Sophomore Mikah Maclachlan agrees, “Sometimes it gets really annoying, but it feels good to do something right and having someone tell you, ‘Wow, that’s really good!’ Not all of the actors are completely thrilled with the frequent rehearsals, for many it can be very stressful when combined with the school work. However, the students agree that it is worthwhile. Many actually enjoy going to rehearsals because it is a chance to be with friends.

The actors also say that rehearsal helps them master their role. Senior Brian Barron, in the role of Lefou, says, “Being able to see the other cast perform helps us grow as characters. When I see the other Lefou act out scenes, it helps me to get into my own character, and helps me grow.”

The high school is renting professional costumes from the Costume Holiday House in Fremont, Ohio. When asked how much he practices playing the Beast, senior Josh Toombs replied “Every night, every day.” It is a constant process of learning for all the cast members, who find staying in character the hardest aspect. Senior Jordan Raines, who is Cogsworth the clock, replied, “I have to adjust my walking and speech to match the character.” While everyone is trying to find themselves, it seems that the hardest struggle is interacting with other cast members. In the show the characters Lumiere and Cogsworth have one of the most interesting relationships. Senior Jack Lente (playing Lumiere) describes it as, “a love/hate relationship; we feed off one another but I basically always have to come out on top.” The actors and singers at Heights work diligently, but they give most of the credit to the their director, Craig McGaughey.

McGaughey, who is directing his fourth musical in his eleven-year tenure at Heights, brings together over 500 students from the elementary, middle, and high schools to create the fall productions. Junior Maddie Pollis, who plays the role of Belle in Cast A, explains, “I think that he [McGaughey] has a very clear vision of what he wants and, once you get it to work how he wants it, it turns out well.”

Stage Crew

In the meantime, members of stage crew have been diligently working on this year’s set. Led by teacher and technical director Keith Newman, the crew has created a massive and beautiful set, from the first nail to the last brush stroke. Though these crew members are hidden from sight for nearly the whole production, the show would cease to exist without them. Their main objective is not only to prepare for the production, but also to make sure everything runs smoothly throughout the show. The sound technician, light operator, and stage manager make certain the musical is executed without a glitch.

The Instrumental Music Department

Of course, where would a musical be without musicians? Every VMD musical has relied on the music provided by a live pit orchestra composed of Instrumental Music Department students and professional musicians. This year, Daniel Heim, orchestra director at Heights High, hopes to present an all-student pit orchestra. Student musicians enjoy the unique experience of performing theatrical music. French horn player, Colin Higgins, says that, “the music that you play is really different than what you play in band or marching band. You are exposed to playing music in a different format that’s a lot more personal and involved.”

Teacher receives conservation award

By Sofia Conic

Cleveland Heights science teacher Janett Korb was awarded the Conservation Teacher of the Year Award early this school year from the Museum of Natural History. She received the award for her and her class’ work in water testing last spring.

The Environmental Protection Agency awarded the city of Cleveland Heights a grant to build an environmentally friendly parking lot in Cumberland Park. The parking lot would prevent pollutants from running off into Dugway Brook, located near the park. Before construction, CHHS was asked to test the water. Ms. Korb eagerly led her honors biology students, along with Special Ed. students, in testing the quality of the water.

Although the tests showed that the water was far from satisfactory, there is an upside. The results create a starting point for the quality testing. Ms. Korb hopes to perform more tests once the construction of the parking lot is finished to see the long term effects of the pollution. The water testing generates valuable data on building more environmentally sustainable infrastructure, but more importantly, it is a fun and engaging learning opportunity for students.
Editorials

8 Periods:
The good, the bad, and the ugly

By Julia Gay

The mere notion of a longer school day was enough to elicit numerous complaints, grumbles, and grievances from the Cleveland Heights High student body. So, this school year, when the district added 48 minutes to the school day and shortened the time between classes in order to accommodate an eighth period, the change was met with some resistance.

Looking past the initial reluctance with the first quarter now complete, the pros and cons of the eight-period day are recognizable. For starters, the eight-period day provides scheduling flexibility. Heights offers a wide variety of courses. Unfortunately, there seems to be too many options and too little time. Previously, students who took an art or music, as well as a language, were unable to schedule the state required health and physical education without sacrificing their lunch. Now, however, those classes easily fit into the eight-period schedule and, for those upperclassmen who have met all the course requirements, the wide variety of available courses can be taken advantage of and fully appreciated.

In addition, the new schedule is designed so that all freshmen and those struggling in at least one of their classes are required to have one period of Educational Options for Success (EOS). EOS is, in essence, a study hall, in which students can catch up on homework and receive individualized aid from teachers. This encourages students to seek help and provides them with time in which to do so.

The one big downside to this revised schedule, however, is the loss of after school special help. This was a period at the end of the school day where students had the opportunity to go to any teacher for help with class material. Without special help, students not scheduled for an EOS find it difficult to receive help outside of class.

Like bitter-sweet chocolate, the eight-period day has its appealing, as well as its unappealing, aspects. Perhaps, though, this longer school day—which has a tendency to feel more like a detriment to sleep and to social life than an improvement—will soon become the norm, and the old, seven-period day, will long be forgotten.

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Opinions expressed are the consensus of The Black & Gold editorial board and do not represent the views of Cleveland Heights or the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District.

Fred Thaxton: the man behind the beard

By Colin Higgs

You can’t miss it. It falls gloriously down from his chin like a silvery waterfall of hair from the heavens above. In fact, anyone who doesn’t know Fred Thaxton probably wouldn’t remember anything from a chance encounter in the hall besides his massive beard.

And with good reason too. Thaxton’s bristly-bib is indeed fascinating. But the back story is just as interesting as the mane itself.

It all started back when Thaxton was a junior in college, in the early 80’s. At the age of 24, Thaxton and a group of friends went on a cross-country bike trip, travelling over 10,000 miles from Kent, Ohio to Seattle. On the bike trip, the men shared a single disposable razor, which is when Thaxton chose to grow out his beard.

And so, a legend was born.

“It just stuck,” says Thaxton, commenting on how long it has been since he was last clean shaven. And he’s definitely right about that. Mr. Thaxton’s beard is more than just magnificent facial hair, it’s become an identity. Many students and teachers might not even recognize him without his beard.

But despite what other people might think, Thaxton’s uniqueness is not just beard-deep. Aside from growing impressive whiskers, Thaxton also avidly grows garlic. He and his wife grow 14 different variations of garlic in a plot behind their home, and sell it at local farmers’ markets and around the community. In fact, they were recently crowned the king and queen of the Shaker Garlic Festival.

Another of Thaxton’s lesser-known hobbies might seem strange to many but, to him, it’s only expanding on a lifelong hobby.

“I’ve loved bird-watching for years,” says Thaxton. So it made perfect sense for him to begin collecting road kill. From small rodents to full size deer, Thaxton has put all kinds of animals up on a bird-of-prey feeder in his back yard. And, in return, all kinds of birds stop to visit. From red shouldered hawks to great horned owls, many different birds frequent Thaxton’s feeder, looking for a meal. “Most weekends I just wake up, grab a cup of coffee, and go watch the birds.”

And so, for over 16,000 cloves of garlic, for flocks of birds satisfied, and for 29 years of beardy glory and countless more yet to come, the Black and Gold salutes you, Fred Thaxton.
PSEO program brings opportunity to Heights

By Monica Chin

With more traditional courses being offered at Cleveland Heights High School, students are looking for more options: This is how the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program serves as an alternative. Through PSEO, which is paid for by tax dollars, students are offered the chance to take college courses for both high school and college credit.

Students choose to participate in PSEO for a variety of reasons. PSEO advisor at Cleveland State University, Dr. Frank Feola, notes, “Some want to earn credit towards college so they can save money. Some want to graduate from college early.”

There are 54 Heights students enrolled in PSEO, 22 of whom participate in Cuyahoga Community College’s Seniors to Sophomores program. This option is a unique opportunity for seniors who would like to complete their first year of college while still in high school by being a full-time student at Tri-C. Those who are not enrolled in the Seniors to Sophomores program go full-time to Cleveland State, Case Western Reserve University, or Tri-C, while others attend part-time. “Those who choose to do a part-time schedule still want to be connected to the high school. Sometimes there is a particular course that they want to take at their high school, or a certain teacher that they’d like to stay connected to by taking their class, but they also want to have the PSEO experience,” says Cooper.

Due to the fact that PSEO is the start of a student’s college transcript, their grades stay with them even though they are only in high school. If they do not pass a class, they are required to pay the college tuition themselves.

“Some students struggle to stay involved at their high school,” says Cooper. However, Feola notes that many PSEO students continue to stay connected. Through extra-curricular activities and friends, students are able to be involved in this program while still participating in their own school.

Heights High staff book club

By Margaret Hull

What started as a book club for Bellefaire teachers four years ago has grown into a bona fide reading group for Heights High staff. “Compared to most book groups, we are really low-key. We read only two or three books a year,” according to Kathy Lawrence, Program Specialist of Libraries for the district and the group’s organizer. However, Lawrence is quick to add that all of the books have been worth the read, even the more obscure works. “There are many well-read teachers in this school and I so appreciate their unique suggestions for titles, and the conversation they bring to the table around them.”

Though the discussions are usually held at a local restaurant, the readers of Mark Winegardner’s Crooked River Burning spent the evening dissecting that book at the Shaker Heights’ Van Sweringen mansion, which acted as part of the setting of the novel. In a recent appraisal of Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrow’s novel, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, which is set in Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands off the coast of France, a member contributed that her husband had grown up on that island. “It brought a part of the world close to home and added a richness and color to our discussion that couldn’t have happened without her comments and memories,” Lawrence added.

Reading titles have included What is the Water, For Elephants, The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, Suite Francaise and the upcoming December discussion title, The Devil in the White City. “Anyone and everyone at the high school is welcome to join us at any time. It’s nice to grab a bite and enjoy relaxed conversation with your colleagues—and the books are so good!”

If you are interested in joining the staff book club, please contact Kathy Lawrence at k_lawrence@chuh.org for details.

Outtakes

New snack bar takes Heights cafeteria by storm

By Mikale Thomas

On August 31, students rushed into Cleveland Heights High School looking forward to a new year. There were a number of noticeable changes. The entrance looked better. The breakfast hot food counter was moved to a room labeled “Outtakes,” with a relatively large sign, sat in the right corner of the cafeteria, its doors tightly closed.

Nearly a month later, on September 29, Greg Krone also walked in the high school with intentions of starting something new, something special that had never been done before. On this day, Outtakes, the mysterious locked room, opened to students for the first time. Krone was one of the many people who helped make Outtakes a reality, and can be found standing at the entrance of the small store every day of the week.

Long before this much anticipated day in September, the Board of Education teamed up with Chartwells’ Group to install Outtakes at Heights. The space students now view as a food haven was originally known as a snack line with basic beverages and chips before it was a teacher’s lounge.

Outtakes serves hot meals (Yes, food that is actually warm!) at breakfast and lunch, and provides a large variety of healthier food choices—a better alternative to the pizza and burgers. Other branches of Outtakes can also be found in colleges and universities—one even can be found at Cleveland State University.

Students like the change. Sophomore Nichole White notes, “I wouldn’t be eating lunch at school without it.” Kymeron Carter, also a sophomore, says, “It’s good. I really like the different options.” However, the prices have to be taken into consideration. Those unfree and reduced lunch still apply to Outtakes, chips, cereal, parfaits, fruits, cookies, drinks, and other items cost extra money. Cash obviously does not keep many kids away. Lunch attendant Marlene O’Neal acknowledged, “We really don’t hear any complaints other than the prices. But they complain and still come back for more everyday.”

Outtakes is still a work in progress. There are plans to include cappuccinos and make an online lunch account so that students do not have to worry about forgetting their lunch money. Sometime this school year, the small store will open for approximately half an hour after school for the students who participate in extracurricular activities. Krone added, “Tell us what you think so we can improve.”

Heights High National Honor Society chapter to include juniors

By Brandon Fernando

The National Honor Society (NHS) is a prestigious, nationwide program that stresses service and character. To be eligible, students must have a 3.5 grade point average and community service experience, as well as leadership qualities as recognized by an advisor. Ultimately, a five-member faculty council decides who gets inducted, and has the final say on all matters proposed by the advisor. NHS has a very optimistic outlook for the future, both immediate and long-term at Cleveland Heights High. According to Haethrum Rasul, new advisor for NHS and established Renaissance guidance counselor, there will be quite a few changes to our high school’s local branch.

Most notably among these changes will be the expansion to include qualified upcoming juniors along with the traditional upcoming seniors. “A growth from 28 members to possibly 60 or 70 members is significant,” acknowledges Rasul, “but would certainly bring some continuity – something NHS hasn’t really had here at Heights before.”

The new format will be a change of pace from the hectic start the National Honor Society endured last year. “There was a lot of hoopla during the selection process,” says Mr. Rasul. Last year, two teachers served as advisors for the NHS, but due to their already heavy workload of teaching, the experience was understandably stressful.

The aforementioned “hoopla” dealt with miscommunication and misdirection of paperwork. The paperwork had been, in fact, misplaced due to the numerous documents being sent in via various methods from various sources. “It was a lot to handle!” Rasul says, while pointing to the two overflowing boxes of paperwork from last year. Nevertheless, the paperwork was found the morning the induction process was set to begin. After that, it was “smooth sailing” as the most qualified students were selected, without bias, by the five-member council.

This year, Mr. Rasul has filled the position that the previous advisors chose to leave vacant. He was practically giddy with excitement during the interview. “I’m really happy to be able to help resuscitate NHS here at Heights.” The NHS already has some events planned, including a tailgate fundraiser at Homecoming, running the 8th Grade Parent Night, as well as organizing tutoring both during and after school. “Flexibility is something we have here at NHS that really enhances our ability to manage multiple projects at the same time.” When asked about last year, Mr. Rasul honestly replied, “They [the two advisors] did everything right. They did – but this year I feel like I’m great for this position because I’m not teaching five or six periods a day and, as a counselor, I am better suited resource-wise.”

According to Rasul, the selection process is set to begin around February and the induction ceremony will take place on April 7th, with entertainment provided by the Heights Barbershop choir. “I’m just really excited to see where this goes.”
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Sam Bell named Master Automobile Technician of the Year

Melissa Zagidulin

Sam Bell, the owner and founder of the Lusty Wrench garage on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, has just been named the Delmar/Cengage Learning ASE Master Automobile Technician of the Year.

As the dean of local mechanics, Bell routinely fields calls from his fellow professionals when they need advice on a difficult problem. “I think we all use him as our ‘guru’ when we get stuck,” says Kenny Block, co-owner of Mac’s Marathon on Taylor Road.

Once again, Bell turned in a perfect score on his Advanced Level recertification exams. In addition to being a hands-on technician, Bell teaches numerous advanced-level technical courses both locally and nationally. He is also a regular contributor to MOTOR Magazine, where his writing has won several national and international awards.

Sam Bell, who rides his bicycle to work year-round, is also known around town for his participation as a member of Patti’s Paladins, www.pattipaladins.com, a Cleveland Heights-based bike team, in the annual MS-150 Pedal to the Point, a charitable fundraiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. He and his wife Ellie are longtime Cleveland Heights residents.

The official award ceremony will take place in mid-November in Phoenix, Ariz. Each year, ASE, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, honors approximately 30 of the country’s top automotive technicians. There are more than 400,000 certified automotive service professionals in the United States. Delmar/Cengage Learning is a leading developer and publisher of textbooks and curriculum materials used in technical training programs worldwide.

Melissa Zagidulin is a digital preservation expert and freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights.

PUBLIC INPUT continued from page 1

part of a mock election organized by the League of Women Voters, Cuyahoga Area, at four area high schools.

Using nonpartisan voter guides provided by the league, government classes held discussions prior to the voting. Senior Andrew Feketik isn’t voting in the real election this year, she said, but the discussion and forum made her feel more prepared. “Now I know both sides,” he said.

While the process was “mock,” the candidates, voting machines, registration forms, and requirements to sign a pollbook and show ID before voting were real. When voting ended, results were tallied and broadcast to the student body.

Senior Sharon Askew said the simulated election process made her feel like she had “a say-so in my government.” History teacher Mary McDade agreed, saying it made voting “so much more real.”

Foundation support for the project was provided by Reaching Heights and the Raymond John Wean Foundation.

Carol Gibson is local league member living in Cleveland Heights.

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Melissa Zagidulin is a digital preservation expert and freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights.

MIXED ELECTION continued from page 1

It is not too late to provide input to this study. The Planning and Development Committee has provided a questionnaire (available on the city’s website) as a way to gather public input. Residents are free to answer only those questions they feel are relevant. General comments on the project or on sustain ability are also welcome.

The next public meeting is slated for December. Formal presentation to city council will be in January of 2011, and the report to the community is due in February.

Evan Komito is a resident of Cleveland Heights and frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.

McDade added that the discussion and forum made him feel more prepared. “Now I know both sides,” he said.

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Melissa Zagidulin

Melissa Zagidulin is an expert and freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights.


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By Nature on Coventry offers healthy convenience

Kim Sergio Inglis

Cleveland-area natives Paul and Bonnie Ursetti are the owners of By Nature, a new shop on Coventry Road that provides healthy, convenient food, beverages and snacks.

Opened in September, By Nature is still expanding its inventory, offering what Paul Ursetti describes as “conscionable convenience”—a variety of food items, each with a natural, organic or environmentally responsible focus.

“We were attracted to Coventry by its diversity,” Paul said, “and the forward-thinking folks of all ages, who are conscious of what they do and eat, and the effect on the environment.”

The health-conscious, eco-friendly By Nature sees a natural fit for Coventry’s eclectic retail district; yet the Ursetti’s didn’t necessarily have a store in mind when they came upon the Coventry space. Instead, the Coventry store grew from a need for a warehouse for their other business, Vending by Nature. Paul recalled, “I was in Brigade when I saw the “space available” signs go up, and looked into it. Now we have the space we need, and the benefit of foot traffic.”

The couple established Vending by Nature in 2009, to supply healthy, convenient food options, via vending machines, to schools and corporations throughout Northeast Ohio. “As busy parents to schools and corporations through foot traffic,” Paul said, “we started Vending by Nature to offer better choices for growing bodies and minds, and the response has been amazing!”

Sourcing food products locally is a priority for them. Said Bonnie, “We offer a thoughtful selection of natural and organic products. It’s not just that we take the time to pick out things for people with special diet needs or preferences; we make a conscious decision to look for local suppliers.”

By Nature offers a rotating selection of eight soups a day, with vegan and vegetarian options always available. The soups are sold in three sizes, and prices vary, ranging from approximately $3.75 for an 8-oz. serving to $7.25 for the 16-oz. size. Paul says the soups sell out each day, and are made fresh daily by Souper Market, a local soup purveyor that uses natural ingredients.

By Nature’s coffee is roasted locally, and the store’s coffee machine grinds beans for—and brews—each cup fresh. In mid-November, By Nature will add made-to-order salads to the menu. Soups, like other items, will change seasonally, and in the spring, Paul said, “We’ll add all-natural hand-dipped ice cream from a local North Royalton company, and offer cones, shakes and smoothies.”

In the meantime, customers can get their ice cream fix in the form of organic ice cream bars from By Nature’s freezer, next to refrigerated cases holding an extensive selection of organic juices and natural sodas, and bins and shelves full of natural snacks.

Kids and I saw a coffee drink offered in the kids’ vending machine. We started Vending by Nature to offer better choices for growing bodies and minds, and the response has been amazing!”

“The customers who are coming in are excited,” said Paul. “Among them are vegetarians, vegans and lactose-free individuals; they can find something to eat, drink or snack on here that they can’t usually get without going to Whole Foods.”

The Ursetti’s commitment to the environment extends to By Nature’s interior, which Bonnie describes as “inspired by West Coast café-style.” Paul installed much of the interior himself, using 90-95 percent reclaimed materials. He built counters from shipping pallets, and transformed recycled, corrugated cardboard into wall coverings.

Even the appliances at By Nature are environmentally responsible. Paul pointed out, “We use eco-friendly coolers, with extra insulation and sensors that adjust temperature and turn off lights when there is no one present. They use a third less energy than standard coolers.”

Bonnie is originally from Shaker Heights, and Paul was born in Tremont and raised in Bay Village. They now live in Pepper Pike with their children, Zoe, Paige, Logan and Kiersten, who range in age from 7 to 17. The kids are all involved in the store. Paul pointed to signs they made for the interior, and Bonnie added, “They had a great time tasting things!” She emphasized, “My kids are truly my inspiration. They are the reason we moved in this direction. We started the business to benefit them and other kids.”

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Fair Trade Festival at Fairmount Church

Betty Hess

Fairmount Presbyterian Church will host its third annual Fair Trade Festival on Friday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is $6 for adults, $4 for children, or $20 for a family. Admission includes a multicultural dinner from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The festival features traditional handmade clothing, jewelry, toys, holiday ornaments, olive oil and other articles unique to Central and South America, Africa, Asia and India. A Shepherd’s Shop will be available for children only, where they can purchase gifts for parents and family members and keep them a surprise.

“Unlike many mass-production operations in foreign countries, festivals like ours provide craftspeople an opportunity to receive fair wages for their labor,” explained Pastor Louise Westfall.

“A diverse array of sustainable goods at the 2009 Fairmount Fair trade Festival.”

Sustainability week a success

Marissa Williams

More than 40 events took place during Sustainability Week. When the week was initially conceived by the Sustainable Heights Network, no one knew if there would be enough events to fill the week. In the end, there were so many it was difficult to decide which ones to attend. Before the week started, Sustainable Heights had around 70 members on its mailing list; at the end of the week there would be enough events to fill the way.

One event that embodied the values of Sustainability Week was Adopt a Tree. Sponsored by the Nature Tour and Council Gardens, the event was organized by Sue Wolpert of the Funny Times. With support from Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Klyne Nurseries, and Lawn Lad, the event gave residents the opportunity to adopt one or more trees for their yards. The trees were free with the adopters’ promise to care for them. Experts on tree planting and tree care were there to teach adopters how to plant their tree and how to take care of it. Wolpert said that one of her best memories of the day was “seeing a tree sticking out the top of a car roof window on its way to a new home.”

Another highlight of the week was the series of events that took place on Oct. 9 around Coventry. A combination of hard work and beautiful weather allowed for the success of all of the events that day. More than 100 people participated in the Play Date in the Heights event. They had an opportunity to reconnect with nature and embrace their playful sides. “It was hectic, it was wild, it was fun,” said Dawn Alber of Meadowsweet Farm. “The week was a great celebration of sustainability and community.”

Marissa Williams is a graduate student at CWRU and intern at FutureHeights.

The Cleveland Museum of Art

www.clevelandart.org

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Artist, Neal Hamilton

Stop 2: Hough Community Mural
Thurgood Marshall Rec. Center
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12:30, 1:45, 3:00
Artist, Jerome White

Stop 3: Glenville Community Mural
Glenville Development Center
10650 St. Clair Ave.
12:30, 1:45, 3:00
Artist, Anna Arnold

Stop 4: East Cleveland Community Mural
MLK Civic Center
14801 Shaw Ave.
12:45, 2:15, 3:00
Artist, Ed Parker

The route takes around 1 hour and 15 minutes. Times are approximate.

Artists, locations and times are approximate.

Visit www.fairmountchurch.org/fairtrade.asp or call 216-321-5800.
**A Vidstar epilogue**

For Les & Staff

Sometimes the victory of David over Goliath is not so clear-cut. Goliath may appear dead. His lifesize body—like hoarded mounds of lunch-meat—a stone beside his giant head (a runway skim-male), & afterwards a crime chalk-line thar'll keep the kids hop-scotching for years.

David may feel secure. He may settle down, get married. Buy a home in the country. He may even open a video store, renting out good ol’ classic films. He may settle down, get married. He may even open a video store, renting out good ol’ classic films.

David endures, however.

David thinks, “Well, it’s been a solid run, in each increment of 5 yrs, say 27 yrs. This might last awhile—

renting out good ol’ classic films.

He may even open a video store, renting out good ol’ classic films. He may settle down, get married. He may even open a video store, renting out good ol’ classic films.

for years.

& afterwards a crime chalk-line thar’ll keep the kids hop-scotching for years.

The psychological portions I gathered about why Sara did this—

change men like menstrual cycles—

was explained by her neighbor, some pro-vegetarian, sign-pointer: “She wants to be remembered. She’s dying and she wants to live on in memory.”

I guess that’s all we want—just to be remembered.

Jason Floyd Williams, a nominee for Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate, worked at Big Fun before opening Spaceman Floyd’s Cosmic Toys in Madison, OH.

**Wear your art**

Anita Kazarian

Some people hang art on the wall and some people just wear it. The Textile Art Alliance (TAA) of the Cleveland Museum of Art held its 7th annual Wearable Art Fashion Show & Boutique on Oct. 17, in Mentor, to a sellout crowd of more than 500 guests. Volunteers modeled more than 50 wearable items during the luncheon runway show.

Heights artists, such as Eileen Coan, displayed their creations in the boutique section along with show sponsors Fine Points and Nagada. Coan, who calls herself a medical librarian by day and a felter by night, is the founder of NeedleLennie, hand-felted wearable art. Other items for sale in the boutique included puzzle coats, hats, gloves, robes, metallic and fiber jewelry, and tunics and totes in every color, yarn and textile imaginable. There were even handbags made from brassieres.

Jane Glashenger, a longtime Cleveland Heights resident and curator of prints for the Cleveland Museum of Art, is an enthusiastic TAA supporter. For more information about how the TAA benefits the textile collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art or to participate in next year’s show, contact TAA president, Karen Hinkle, at taa@clevelandart.org.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and founder of Noah’s Landing LLC. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.
Art show depicts life with schizophrenia

Kelli Fontenot

"An Artist’s Journey Through Schizophrenia," a new exhibit at Forest Hill Church from artist Daryl Musick, features works spanning 30 years of struggle, determination and healing through art.

Musick, a Euclid native, said that when he started carving wooden sculptures in 1982, he knew art was something he wanted to do for the rest of his life. His show at Forest Hill will feature 10 carvings, 15 oil paintings and 150 prints, mixed media and other works.

In spring of 1986, Musick was diagnosed with schizophrenia. He was hospitalized in 1987 and again in 1991, when he joined Planned Lifetime Assistance Network (PLAN) of Northeast Ohio, a nonprofit group that provides social work services. He has been seeing a social worker for about 20 years and said it has been a major factor in his recovery.

For much of his life, Musick has also focused on art as therapy; earning his undergraduate degree and acceptance, in 2001, into the art therapy program at Ursuline College. He also earned a master’s degree in art therapy counseling.

"It’s very therapeutic to make art," he said. "Art comes from inside. When you have a mental illness, certain choices are taken away from you. You have to see a doctor, and you have to take your medication. Depending on how things are for you, you might not be able to work; you’re very limited. Art really gives people a chance to grow and stretch out and have choices."

The art in Musick’s show spans the years 1984 through 2010, and some pieces were created prior to his first break, he said.

"A couple of the paintings are from when I was right out of the hospital," he explained. "I was hallucinating at that time. Even though I was on medication, for the first couple of years, I would still have voices coming to me and bouncing around my head. I don’t try to illustrate the illness, but I think it does show through.

The “Dreamer” and “Blue Jesus,” two works in the exhibit, feature several layers of thick paint. Some canvases represent eight years of work, Musick said, explaining that he sometimes starts a painting and then does not come back to it for six months, a year, or longer, adding “layers of time.”

He chose to schedule the show in November because patients and families affected by mental illness often struggle before the holiday season. “I’m hoping this will help people,” Musick said. "Art is a healing thing."

The opening reception, which takes place Nov. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m., will offer free food and more than 150 of Musick’s works for sale. The gallery will be open after Sunday services at Forest Hill Church Presbyterian, 1031 Monticello Boulevard, on Nov. 14, 21 and 28.

Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.

99th season opens in Cleveland Heights residence

Anita Kazarian

The Musical Art Society opened its 99th season on Oct. 8 in Cleveland Heights in the home of Susan Blackwell. The society was founded in 1921 to preserve and advance musical culture. Both performing and nonperforming women meet monthly, as they have for 99 years, in private homes for luncheons and to enjoy a music program performed by the group’s members.

Cleveland Heights resident Martha Scholosser performed Bach and Handel on the piano and concluded with a piece not often heard, Franz Liszt’s “Un Sospiro.” Scholosser taught piano in the Preparatory Department of Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) for 20 years. The society advances its mission by offering scholarships to students in the Cleveland area who intend to pursue a career in music. The society’s first scholarship was awarded to the then-new CIM in 1922.

The most recent scholarship was given to voice student Emily Campbell, who will continue her studies at Otterbein College.

For more information about the Musical Art Society, contact Norrine Sharp at norinessharp@sbcglobal.net.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and founder of Noah’s Landing, LLC. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.
`Dead Man’s Cell Phone’ is Dobama Theatre’s second offering of the season

Evan Komito

We’ve all had the experience: you’re enjoying a concert or having dinner with friends, when a cell phone starts to ring. One ring, two rings, three . . . OK, this is really becoming annoying. Just answer the phone already, or I’ll answer it for you, you think angrily. But would you really do that, if you knew in advance that answering someone else’s phone was going to send you hurtling down a rabbit hole into a wonderland of self-discovery and transformation?

Welcome to the world of “Dead Man’s Cell Phone” by award-winning playwright Sarah Ruhl. The play, which The New Yorker drama critic, John Lahr, describes as “a meditation on death, love, and disconnection in the digital age,” is Dobama Theatre’s second offering of the 2010-11 season.

Director Scott Miller can’t wait for the opening night of this multilayered play. “The audience will have serious fun,” he said recently. “The cast has been wonderful at ‘peeling back the onion’ to get at Ruhl’s different themes. There has been lots of exploring as the characters start out in a realistic world, but then locations begin to blur and suddenly they are in a magical realism.”

You might want to make after-theater dinner reservations. Miller expects you’ll want to eat, drink, and talk about what you’ve seen in this show, which, he says, is ultimately “uplifting and hopeful.”

Miller, director of the theater arts program at the Cleveland School of the Arts, is also a professional actor and director.

Miller was most recently seen in the Dobama production of “I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady From Rwanda,” and he couldn’t be more pleased to be working with Dobama again. He especially credits designer Mark Jenkins for the imaginative set in the show.

Ruhl asks the audience to be passionate detectives. Instead of providing a neat story arc, her storytelling is “one thing transforming into another.” She likes her actors to have “a sense of irony . . . touched with a little brush of the irrational.” Miller finds this story “intriguing without being intense.”

“Dead Man’s Cell Phone” opens Oct. 29 and runs through Nov. 21 at Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. For ticket details go to www.dobama.org or call 216-932-3396.

Evan Komito is a Cleveland Heights resident and frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.
A burgeoning hub for the arts

By Eleanor Mallett

Not long ago, Peggy Spaeth, Heights Arts executive director, was at a meeting on the south side of Cedar Center facing the vacant space that one day is to be a new shopping center.

“This looks like Dresden after the war,” she said. “It’s the apocolypse! Why don’t we do something?”

She held her head and shielded her eyes as if she were reliving the vision of that dreadful sight.

For someone like Spaeth, with an acute visual aesthetic, it was an affront. She was impelled to change it.

So she did. Today, “Fencepiration” adorns the chain link fence in front of the site—a delicate, playful rendition of mostly aluminum beverage cans, created by artists Debbie Apple Presser and Carol Hummel.

“So she did. Today, “Fencepiration” camouflages the construction site on Cedar Road. It's ministries touch church members, their friends and family, as well as people in the community.

Meet the Neighbors is DCC’s free community meal. On the last Thursday of the month, unless rescheduled for a holiday, a delicious meal is prepared and served by church members and volunteers. All are welcome. Whether someone is looking for a hot meal or someone is looking for a friend or family member.

No Strings Attached is a Christian puppet ministry. With more than 100 puppets, including some that are 12 feet tall, the group specializes in Christian-based religious. From programs in nursing homes to complete Sunday worship services, No Strings Attached provides fun family entertainment.

Disciples Christian Church is a vital part of the Cleveland Heights community and is located at 3606 Mayfield Road at Yellowstone Road. For more information, visit www.discipleschristian.org.

Ron Werman is an elder of Disciples Christian Church.
Call 216-513-3070
to find out how you can advertise your business for as low as $22/month.
‘Portraits of Homelessness’ exhibit comes to the Heights

Serving more than 3,000 men who are homeless each year, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry’s 22001 Lakeside Men’s Emergency Homeless Shelter is the largest shelter in Ohio. “Portraits of Homelessness,” an exhibit of 40 photographs with accompanying stories of shelter residents, is on view in the Heights this fall.

The exhibit puts a face to the statistics, and enables viewers to see homeless people as the individuals they are.

“There are several times I attended, I usually overhear in coffee shops. values—in fact, any subject that you normally overhear in coffee shops. French wine and food; instead, the home of its founder and president, Mancino at onlyjmm@aol.com. For more information, contact Julie Mancino. One might expect only French. Mancino is second from the left. The French Connection meets every two weeks for coffee and to speak English. They met in local coffee shops and arrived Frenchmen learn to speak English.

Parlez-vous français? The Heights has its Italian, British, Greek and Indian language fans, but where do you go to have a chance to practice your French? The French Connection.

It started back in 1984 when two residents decided to help two newly arrived Frenchmen learn to speak English. They met in local coffee shops and spoke one hour of only English and one hour of only French.

The exhibit consists of stories with accompanying photographs. It gives people a chance to practice your French. The French Connection meets every two weeks for coffee and to speak English. They met in local coffee shops and arrived Frenchmen learn to speak English.

Anita Kazarian Parlez-vous français? The Heights has its Italian, British, Greek and Indian language fans, but where do you go to have a chance to practice your French? The French Connection.

It started back in 1984 when two residents decided to help two newly arrived Frenchmen learn to speak English. They met in local coffee shops and spoke one hour of only English and one hour of only French.

Today, the French Connection has more than 45 formal members who meet every two weeks for coffee and to speak only French. Members are teachers, lawyers, artists, homemakers, doctors and new mothers.

The several times I attended, I usually overhear in coffee shops. values—in fact, any subject that you normally overhear in coffee shops.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and founder of Nobil’s Landing, LLC. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

There is nothing like coming home to a warm house after a long day out in the cold. To ensure that your heating system is ready for the cold weather ahead, it’s best to fire it up early, to make sure that it is working properly. If not, there will be time to repair or replace it before the snow starts to fly.

If a costly repair is needed, you might instead consider replacing your furnace with a more efficient model. Not only will you save on energy costs, but you may also qualify for the $1,500 tax credit that is available through the end of the year on units with a 95% efficiency rating or better.

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has information to help residents make informed decisions about repairs, and is a great place to begin researching new furnace and boiler systems. In HRRC’s resource library, you’ll find handouts that explain different types of heating systems, including high-efficiency models. You may also look through collected evaluations of heating contractors, submitted by local residents.

HRRC’s Financial Assistance Program can help make a new furnace or boiler more affordable. Low- and moderate-income households may apply for a loan with no additional interest cost—and reduce the amount borrowed by $1,000 ($1,500 for seniors age 62 or older).

Allison Urbanek is the financial programs counselor at Home Repair Resource Center and is enjoying her time meeting with Cleveland Heights residents.
The Rainforest Car Wash, in Cleveland Heights, is now open. Located on the corner of Mayfield and Middlehurst (enter from Middlehurst), this state of the art car wash is open to the public. Featuring a rain forest theme both inside and out, The Rainforest Car Wash will be the best car wash you’ve ever had.