Cleveland Heights and University Heights are among 12 eastern suburbs that have joined together to form a recycling consortium that will enable them to save money, and even turn a small profit, on recycled goods. The idea originated in Lyndhurst, and Cleveland Heights and University Heights became involved through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Through the consortium, cities can actually make money on their recycling and, more importantly, avoid having to pay for recycling. In the past, it has cost the city of Cleveland Heights up to $65 a ton to recycle, according to Council Member Bonnie Caplan. The new contracts, with Kimble Co. of Twinsburg, guarantee that cities will not have to pay for recycling in the next five years.

Caplan explained that each city has its own contract with Kimble Co., which will purchase the recyclables. This gives the city some flexibility and allows for Cleveland Heights to opt out of sending its paper recyclables through Kimble, if there is a better financial option. The amount of money the city can receive for recycled goods is variable based on market price. For example, last month Cleveland Heights earned $5,800 on blue bag recyclables. Of course, the amount of money the city makes also depends on how much the residents recycle. “It hurts me to see that people don’t have brown bags out, blue bags out,” Caplan lamented.

Recycling is one of the simplest ways to help the environment, and everything people do not recycle ends up in a landfill. In terms of city finances, it is also important to note that the city has to pay for every ton of garbage it puts in a landfill. With the new consortium, the city will pay nothing for what residents recycle. Caplan commented that residents should keep this in mind especially during the holiday season when so much gift material can be recycled rather than put in the trash.

Marissa Williams

Cleveland Heights and University Heights

Consortium saves Cleveland Heights and University Heights on recycling costs

Mr. Brisket wants you!
To help send salamis to the troops.

Mr. Brisket has just shipped its first salamis to 1st Lt. John Moffatt, who is serving outside Kandahar, Afghanistan. Lt. Moffatt and his unit are responsible for developing relationships with local villagers, protecting them from the Taliban. Story on page 20.

Bonnie Caplan. The new contracts, with Kimble Co. of Twinsburg, guarantee that cities will not have to pay for recycling in the next five years.

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Marissa Williams is a graduate student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and an intern at FutureHeights.

Former Coventry school to be leased to Ensemble Theatre for 2011 season

Angie Shaker

The Cleveland Heights–University Heights City School District has continued to seek partners who can put the former Coventry Elementary School property to appropriate use. The district has finally found a partner for the upcoming year—the Ensemble Theatre.

The agreement in principle between the district and Ensemble Theatre was announced after the City of Cleveland Heights Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit that will allow the theater to lease a portion of the building from Feb. 1 through Aug. 30, 2011. The lease language remains to be finalized, and the CH-UH Board of Education will consider and vote on the agreement at a December board meeting.

“Th olden Heights, and the whole community,” said Douglas Heuer, school superintendent. “The agreement are finalizing could be just the first step. If this part-

Kelii Fontenot

A custom-built treehouse, completed this fall by Make-A-Wish Foundation volunteers, is a dream come true for a 4-year-old Austin Gallagher, who has cancer of the kidneys. Even before entering kindergarten, Austin has already lived through more hospital visits, CT scans and surgeries than many people do in a lifetime. In 2007, when a visit to the doctor showed something unusual in his X-ray, one pediatrician recommended a trip to see a pediatric cardiologist. After thorough investigation, parents Mark and Krisy Gallagher received Austin’s diagnosis: bilateral Wilms tumor, which affects both kidneys and usually requires partial or complete kidney removal.

Four years, six abdominal surgeries, and 130 days in the hospital later, Austin became one of about 200,000 children Make-A-Wish has reached out to during the past 30 years. The organization’s volunteers designed and constructed Austin’s dream treehouse.

Make a wish: 4-year-old cancer patient gets dream treehouse
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: letters@futureheights.org or mail Bob Rosenbaum at bob@therosenbaums.net. To express your opinion privately, e-mail Bob Rosenbaum at bob@therosenbaums.net. To express your opinion as a letter to the editor, register at the Observer Member Center (http://observer.org/members) and click on “Submit New Story” to contribute your letter.

Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the Observer’s editorial advisory committee and a FutureHeights board member, writes this column to provide transparency and understanding about the Observer.

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OPENING UP THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

The Heights Observer is happy to accept and publish letters to the editor.

We don’t get very many of them. Maybe that’s because letters to the editor usually represent the only way an ordinary resident can contribute to a newspaper. But the Observer’s articles and columns are also written by residents, and with so many ways to contribute, letters may somehow seem unnecessary.

But they have an important role. Letters represent the community dialogue that the Observer and its parent organization, FutureHeights, seek to encourage.

News articles and opinion pieces don’t really count as a conversation until someone else responds. That’s what the letters are for.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR continued from page 1

Downey agreed that the city’s proximity to University Circle should be a draw and that the city could provide incubator space and services. “Companies of 5 to 20 people can be in smaller buildings and we have several locations where we can cluster them,” he said.

Thompson said the biggest difference between the cities of Beachwood and Cleveland Heights is their land use. “Beachwood has well-defined commercial districts that are separate from residential areas,” he said. “Cleveland Heights has multi-use areas that must be packaged to attract someone from outside the region.” He thinks Cleveland Heights can attract entrepreneurial companies. “They like diversity and want to be close to a place to shop, live and have fun.”

Thompson’s phone is already ringing off the hook. He is reaching out to the city’s special improvement districts and small business owners to determine what their needs are and to see what opportunities might exist.

One of Thompson’s first priorities is to create a current, detailed and Web-accessible list of vacant properties based on the needs of realtors and brokers. He will also compile a list of financing opportunities and help finalize the city’s economic development plan, including developing specific timelines and time lines within the overall vision.

Thompson said the leadership in Cleveland Heights is dedicated to making the city friendly to business and he is looking forward to hearing suggestions and ideas.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights.

The Heights Observer
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer’s name, phone number and e-mail address, to: letters@futureheights.org.
CH sharrows do not follow guidelines

Editor:
I was excited about Cleveland Heights trying to become more bicycle-friendly by installing sharrows on some roads, but I am very concerned about the way it was done. Instead of improving safety for cyclists, the new sharrows actually seem to increase the danger to bicyclists.

Though not mentioned in Nick Matthew’s [November] Heights Observer article on the new sharrows in Cleveland Heights, the main purpose of sharrows is to help bicyclists position themselves in the lane. According to federal guidelines in the 2009 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, sharrows are meant to:
- Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist’s impacting the open door of a parked vehicle;
- Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane;
- Alert road users of the lateral location of bicyclists “ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable,” excepting engineering reasons. A bicyclist riding the 14-foot width cited above is not located here in beautiful Cleveland Heights, was lifted from www.bikearlington.com and shows a correctly placed sharrow in Arlington, Virginia. The last line of Mr. Matthew’s article even states that the position of the Cleveland Heights sharrows does not follow ODOT or bike coalition recommendations. I am concerned about the safety of cyclists on these roads and liability issues for the city.

These sharrows should be re-painted at the safe and recommended distances from the curb.

Ann Henderson
Cleveland Heights

Cycling community wants excellence in sharrows program

Editor:
The city of Cleveland Heights has received an overwhelmingly positive response from the community since installing the sharrows in late October.

As a whole, people are enthusiastic that the city is striving to become bicycle friendly, and have applauded Mayor Ed Kelley, City Manager Robert Downey, and City Planning Director Richard Wong for their decisive actions in ensuring that the sharrows were installed a month ahead of schedule. With bicycling up to 10 percent since 2006 in Greater Cleveland, Cleveland Heights is positioning itself to become a regional leader in bicycle friendliness.

Critics are correct in that some, but not all, of the sharrows have not been installed according to federal guidelines. On Oct. 1, prior to the installation of the sharrows, the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition sent a statement to the city manager requesting that the sharrows be installed at the distances recommended in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Despite this request, the city concluded that it would install the sharrows closer to the curb than recommended by the Federal Department of Transportation due to legal and aesthetic concerns.

As stated during the Aug. 16 city council meeting, the sharrows on Euclid Heights Boulevard and Edgehill Road are a pilot program to help the city gauge the community’s response.

Since feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, we’re looking forward to the city acting progressively and installing sharrows on Coventry Road according to MUTCD guidelines by Bike Week in May 2011. Doing so would put Cleveland Heights among the ranks of Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton, all of which are Ohio cities that have installed sharrows according to the MUTCD guidelines.

Nicholas Matthew
Cleveland Heights

Nicholas Matthew is a founder and officer of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.

Cleveland Heights responds to questions about placement of sharrows

Editor:
The city is using sharrows to encourage motorists and bicyclists to share the road. The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices reads (Section G6.07):

...If used on a street without on-street parking that has an outside travel lane that is less than 14 feet wide, the centers of the Shared Lane Marking should be at least 4 feet from the face of the curb, or from the edge of the pavement where there is no curb.

The 14-foot width cited above is found in reports from the Federal Department of Transportation and from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Fourteen feet of usable lane width found in most of the sharrow area of Euclid Heights Boulevard is a recommended and desirable width for shared use by bicyclists and motorists. Conversely, a 4-foot-from-the-curb sharrow placement would have forced motorists left of a double-yellow road stripe to pass with a safe berth from a bicyclist centered four feet from the curb.

On Edgehill Road, sharrows are 2.5 feet from the curb, rather than the manual’s recommended 11 feet for instances with parallel parking. The manual permits deviations for traffic engineering reasons. A bicyclist riding 11 feet from the curb would be too far out for most of Edgehill Road since parallel parked vehicles are absent on most of the road. Furthermore, the Ohio Revised Code states that bicyclists “ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable,” excepting hazards, objects such as parked vehicles and surface hazards, or when it is unsafe, such as when the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side. Edgehill Road has 19-foot lanes and that’s plenty of width to share.

Richard Wong
Director of Planning and Development
City of Cleveland Heights

The Journey to Bethlehem is Friday, December 10, 2010.

Book your holiday party. Clyde’s caters.
She writes: “I feel like we’ve look forward to.” about and had plans for, something to “It became something that we talked a treehouse in our backyard,” she said. “He looked up at me one day out of the blue and said ‘Mom, I want to build the house in Austin’s favorite movie, “Up.”’

Krissy said that the treehouse was launched the day “for Mark to attach to the fin-

- low slides and a fireman’s pole, along -

- wish continued from page 1

WISH continued from page 1

the first and third weeks or the second and fourth weeks. Each street in the city will have a leaf pick-up schedule. The streets, divided by the main arterial roads, were listed in the National Register of Historic Places last spring.

New historic district

Signage for the city’s newest historic district, Grant Deming’s Forest Hill, has been unveiled. This district, which lies within Euclid Heights and Washington boulevards and Coralway and Lee roads, was listed in the National Register of His-

Full leaf pick-up

Council Member Ron Maier pointed out the leaf pickup schedule. Each street in the city will be collected twice during November on either the first and third weeks or the second and fourth weeks. In general, collection will be the day after the regularly scheduled refuse collection.

Focus supplement

A supplement to the city’s fall Focus publication includes a special message from the fire chief, information about the city’s new no-texting-while-driving law, storm warning, recycling, and the introduction of sharrows (bowed markings that emphasize the legal right of bicyclists to share the road).

WLV observers: Katherine Solender & Blanche Valency.

Wish continued from page 1

treehouse, which boasts two shiny yellow slides and a fireman’s pole, along with shutters, shingles and a 20 x 20-ft. wooden deck, Krissy said. On the day the construction was revealed, volunteers brought 200 colorful helium balloons for Mark to attach to the finished project, inspired by the floating house in Austin’s favorite movie, “Up.”

Krissy said that the treehouse was completed in October, but it had been Austin’s big wish since December 2009.

“He looked up at me one day out of the blue and said ‘Mom, I want to build a treehouse in our backyard,’” she said. “It became something that we talked about and had plans for, something to look forward to.”

 Fighting serious illness makes these events and holidays hold special significance, according to Krissy, who documents birthdays, heart-wrenching doctor visits, and memorable moments in detail on her blog, kriosgyalagher.wordpress.com.

She writes: “I feel like we’ve been through so many years now of extra-special Christmas celebrations or Easter hunts or birthday parties, all planned and executed with aingering fear that each one could be our last.”

Christmas this year, Krissy will share her own wishes for Austin, as well as for her 6-year-old son Braedan, with what she calls “wishing stars.” The stars, made from wood and construction paper, bear handwritten messages of humor and
time, and the community has been invaluable, according to Krissy, who participates in a variety of volunteer projects. What about a public forum on
discussing her new book, “The Make-A-Wish Foundation recently completed construction on a dream treehouse for 4-year-old Austin Gallagher, who was diagnosed with bilateral Wilms tumor at 10 months old.

Landmark Commission membership

Council approved the following citizens to serve on several city committees and boards:

- Landmarks Commission: Mazie Adams, Mark Souther and Tom Veader

- Recreation Board: Alissa Bronford, Carl Campbell and Susan Foul

- Commission on Aging: Emma Gordon, Anne Hunter, Shirley Lecompte and Carol Whish.

Council Member Cheryl Stephens noted there were vacancies on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Grant to support Cain Park

Council accepted a grant of $24,542 from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture on behalf of the city to support the 2011 Cain Park Arts Festival.

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Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 18, 2010
All council members were present.

TIF accounting error
Virginia Benjamin, Esq., of Calfee, Halter & Griswold and bond counsel for the city, addressed council regarding the accounting error on the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) passage through account. She reported that the county is indicating that the city establish a Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) and that the city was not advised in 2001 when the TIF was established for University Square.

A TIRC determines if there is an increase in the land value, the value of property improvements, and the number of new or retained employees as a result of the property improvements. Benjamin explained that the property owner pays taxes on the base value of the property prior to improvements, and pays service fees on the value of the improvements and the increase in value. Although there is no penalty for not having created a TIRC, there’s no reason not to create one at this time. The new county executive would appoint one member and Mayor Infeld would appoint two. Later in the meeting council approved the creation of the TIRC.

The day after the last council meeting, the city transferred $500,000, which is approximately 25 percent of what is owed, to the trustees. Benjamin has tentatively determined that the school district is owed more than $2 million because they were due the full amount of the increased tax levies, which was not paid. She is attempting to resolve both the missed payments and the amount because they were due the full amount of the increased tax levies, which was not paid.

Moratorium on sweepstakes cafés
Building Commissioner David Mendonca had requested a moratorium on sweepstakes terminal cafés. Mayor Infeld said he is honored to have been chosen as the chair of the TIRC. The moratorium on sweepstakes cafés was approved and the moratorium on sweepstakes terminals is unclear, with contradictory rulings in court cases thus far.

New Year’s Day observance
Council amended the city code so that New Year’s Day will be legally observed the following Monday, when January 1 falls on a Saturday. It also amended the city code so that the New Year’s Day observance will be observed on Monday, Jan. 3.

High school games at JCU
Representatives of John Carroll University (JCU) spoke regarding a motion to allow the university to use St. Ignatius High School as a high school playoff game. The motion had become a mute issue for the season, as the school was not eligible to play in the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The JCU representatives pointed out the need for quick action in order to host playoff games, or it would go elsewhere.

Order Tickets: 216-231-1111 or clevelandorchestra.com
Sekera Restaurant is open for pre-concert dining. Call 216-231-7373 for reservations.

Handcrafted Jewelry Gifts for all occasions

Advertise in the Heights Observer
www.heightsobserver.org

Free classes for CERT volunteers

New volunteers signed up for the University Heights Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) at the Nov. 3 meeting in University Heights City Hall. Mayor Susan Infeld expressed appreciation to the current CERT volunteers and new members for their support and their ability to give to their city. New member applications will continue to be accepted. CERT volunteers are eligible to take both Red Cross and FEMA courses for free. Volunteers learn what to do in an emergency and how to increase their family’s safety and chances for survival with the knowledge they gain.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, founder of Noah’s Landing, LLC, and a long-time resident of University Heights. Contact her at antina11 tribute@gmail.com.

Music of Chanukah
DEC 4 Saturday at 12:30 p.m. DEC 7 Tuesday at 10 a.m.
Carolyn Warner, violin; Stephen Warner, viola
Kathryn Wolfe Seba, cantor
with Maryann Hagel, host

Christmas Brass Quintet
DEC 15 Wednesday at 10 a.m.
DEC 18 Saturday at 11 a.m.
Jack Sutte, trumpet; Michael Miller, trumpet; Hans Clebsch, horn
Edward Zadrozny, trombone; Kenneth Heilmein, tuba
with Maryann Hagel, host

Kwanzaa Celebration
DEC 16 Thursday at 10 a.m.
Donna Willingham, storyteller
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William Clarence Marshall III, bass
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With increasing sewer rates in the future, every effort to protect our water supply helps. Why the focus on poop? Animal waste contains bacteria. Most dog walkers allow their pets to use either tree lawns or curbs. If not picked up, this bacterial pollution goes directly into our sewers. The pick-up-poop signs are cute; they are small and green. If you want a sign, send me an e-mail and I’ll deliver it to your door.

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The Star still beckons...
Forest Hill Church... come and see

Christmas Eve: 5 pm Family service – 11 pm Candlelight service
Sunday worship 11 am
Complete holiday schedule @ www.flcpres.org
3031 Monticello Blvd. Cleveland Hts. 216-321-2660

Nela Florist Inc.
Phone (216) 451-8333 1-800-837-8333
Fax (216) 451-8336
www.nelaflorist.net
2132 Noble Road (Opposite Nela Park)
East Cleveland, Ohio 44112

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Job searches made easy at Heights Libraries
Dean Schnurr

When David Cottle’s job was downsized in March of 2010, he was left in a tough spot. He had a wife and four children to support and the job market was dismal. He had ample experience, but had not conducted a job search in more than 45 years.

Cottle turned to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library for help.

According to the American Library Association, more than 3,000 people each day receive job-related help from libraries. Locally, Heights Libraries is a great resource for job search books and materials. There are hundreds of options, with titles ranging from "Killer Interview" to "Winning the Job." Staff provide recommendations and point customers in the right direction.

Job search services at the library are not limited to books alone, however. Through the computer classroom and a dedicated 20-unit computer lab, Heights Libraries offers a variety of services. An employment and job resource lab provides advanced and basic skills on how to find employment, retain for the modern workforce and utilize technology to aid a job search. Details on this course and other employment classes can be found at www.chulib.org.

"Library staff also provide individualized support tailored to meet specific needs, but many people just need to be brought up to speed with current employment practices. "Everything is done online and many people need help preparing and submitting resumes," said Joseph Kaiser, Heights Libraries technology training supervisor, adding "Many top-level employers no longer accept hardcopy submissions of resumes."

Within months, Cottle had received two job offers and is currently determining which is best for his future. He credits Heights Libraries for his success. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of the employment resources at the library," urged Cottle.

Dean Schnurr is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.
The Funky Hippy brings vintage finds to Cedar Taylor

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Just in time for the snow, Martini Skate and Snow, a store that offers the latest skateboarding and snowboarding equipment, apparel and footwear, will open soon in the Cedar Taylor commercial district, just north of Melt Bar & Grilled. The shop blends a boutique atmosphere with the expertise and selection of a board shop.

"The sports of skateboarding and snowboarding are defined by personal style and originality," says owner Mike Tirpak, who has been snowboarding for 15 years. His sister snowboarded at the World Cup level. "She got me interested in the sport," he says. "Skateboarding is what you do when you can’t find snow."

This is the second location for Martini Skate and Snow; the first is located in Northfield, Ohio.

"We wanted to branch out to the eastside," says Tirpak. "We wanted to be close to the Coventry Road scene and we think that our location by Melt will be good."

"The skate park at Cain Park is just a quarter mile down the street," he adds.

Why did Tirpak choose the name Martini? "According to an ancient Latin legend," he says, "Martini was the name of a festival marking the end of fall and the beginning of winter, which included masquerading and sledding, among other winter activities."

Learn more about Martini Skate and Snow and its planned mid-December opening, at www.martiniskateandsnow.com.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is the executive director of FutureHeights.
Edward Jones is long term investor in Cleveland Heights

Kaye Lowe

A young boy’s dream became a reality for David Lavelle, when he graduated from college, joined the Edward Jones Investments firm, and opened its Cleveland Heights branch office in 1993.

Since peddling papers on his Plain Dealer route in fourth grade, Lavelle had an interest in money: how to make it, spend it, and invest it to have more.

Edward Jones offered one of the best intern programs for college graduates. Six months into the program, Lavelle knew that being an investment advisor was his calling. Edward Jones is a full-service investment firm helping clients with all their financial needs, big and small. The company’s philosophy of investing and client care demonstrated that it was the firm for him.

Lavelle chose Cleveland Heights’s Cedar Fairmount Business District to open his office. The intense sense of community and diversity with the city’s rich history, blended with the arts and education of University Circle, provides an ideal place to work, live, and raise a family.

When it became necessary to find a new office location this fall, Lavelle chose Cleveland Heights’s Cedar Road, Suite 15, or 216-231-7160.

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

Our village is your neighborhood, whether you live next door or farther away!
A visit with Karen Allgire, co-owner of Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts

Kay Lowe

Julie Roberts’ character in Eat, Pray, Love, isn’t the only one traveling to India for yoga study. Cleveland Heights’ Iyengar Yoga instructor, Karen Allgire, recently returned from a month in Pune, India, where she studied for the third time at the Ramanami Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute. I visited with Allgire at her studio, Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts, to learn more about her experience. As we talked, her quiet demeanor, pleasant personality and calmness was apparent. It led me to want to discover more about Allgire and how she gained her serene presence.

Why did you pick Cleveland Heights for your studio?

I have great affection for this city and would not want to live anywhere else. I love our progressive values, our diverse people and our unique, locally owned businesses. I enjoy our access to downtown, University Circle and the Metro parks. I love Commonwealth Pool, Cain Park and our beautiful old homes and canopy of developed trees.

What is Iyengar Yoga?

Iyengar Yoga is a form of classical yoga as developed and refined by living yoga master B.K.S. Iyengar. This method utilizes alignment and breath to create integrated action and awareness. The hallmarks of Iyengar Yoga are precise attention to correct alignment, the use of props as teaching tools, individual correction and adjustment of poses, and creative sequencing of poses to create specific effects.

How has practicing yoga benefited you?

I feel strong, flexible and fit. Yoga has brought me deeper body awareness, enabling me to work harder with less strain. It has improved my posture, my balance and my breathing. I feel calmer and am better able to handle the ups and downs of life. The practice of yoga has made me reflective and more aware of how my actions affect others. Yoga teaches us to be unattached to the outcomes of our effort, because we can’t control results, but only our actions. This view has helped me to be less anxious about the future and more grounded in the present.

Tell us why you traveled to India.

Within the system of Iyengar Yoga, serious students and teachers are encouraged to go to India to study at the Ramanami Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute (RIMYI). There, we train directly with the Iyengars for complete immersion in yoga for a one- or two-month period. I have now made three month-long trips to India, to study at RIMYI. Each day we have a two-to-three-hour practice time and a two-hour class. We also have the opportunity to watch B.K.S. Iyengar practicing. It is very inspiring to see his amazing postures at the age of 91! The teaching is clear and methodical, bringing the light of understanding to the mind. What I enjoyed the most were the long practices. To have three hours per day of completely uninterrupted yoga practice is something that is almost impossible to achieve at home.

How did your travels to India help you in your teaching of yoga?

Through my studies in India, I have been able to improve my teaching and deepen the learning experience for my students. I can now take one or two themes and weave them into the entire class, so the students leave with a clear understanding. I think the knowledge I gained in India has transferred directly to the rate of learning for my students.

What is your favorite aspect of teaching yoga?

I think the most rewarding aspect of teaching yoga is supporting growth and awareness in students. I love helping them recognize that they themselves brought about that transformation through attentive, intelligent practice over a period of time. I truly enjoy the connection I make with each individual, especially when some new learning has taken place. I can see the light of new understanding in their eyes. That is just such a joy.

How does the ancient art of yoga fit into modern day life?

Yoga is a practical subject. It exists to help people experience health in the body, awareness in the mind and serenity in the spirit. Those values can never become old, as everyone wants to be free from illness and experience joy and peace. In the midst of our very busy lives, I encourage students to fit in small moments of yoga throughout the day and to eventually develop a regular practice. Even 10 minutes of yoga can make a difference in how we feel and how the rest of the day goes. If people do some practice they will get some benefit. Each of us has to make spiritual practice a priority and figure out how to make the time for it, while still tending to the duties of work and family.

Karen Allgire can be reached at her studio, Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts, 2450 Fairmount Blvd. Contact her at 216-382-0592 or info@greentarayoga.com.

Kay Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Christmas at the Covenant

First Sunday of Advent
November 28
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Holiday Sale

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5
10 a.m. Worship
Holiday Circle Fest in University Circle
11-3 Cache Resale Shop
Open for Holiday Shopping!
1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Sanctuary tours
4-5 p.m. Carol Singing
Join the Church of the Covenant Choir, Windsong Chorus, & the CWRU Orchestra and Concert Choir

Christmas Cookie Reception to follow

The Church of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

11205 Euclid Avenue–East of Severance Hall • 216-421-0482 or CovenantWeb.org
Free Parking at the church and Ford Road Garage • Sunday School

Upward bow pose.
CH-HU Board of Education

Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 19, 2010

All board members were present.

5-year financial forecast

The board approved the 5-year forecast presented by Treasurer Scott Gainer. Gainer emphasized that a 5-year forecast is based on assumptions and offers no guarantee. The current economy makes forecasting especially difficult. A number of factors, which were considered in the forecast, could lead to decreased revenue. Home foreclosures, an increase in homeowner appeals to decrease valuations and property taxes, and the phase out of the tangible personal property tax will affect tax collection. Further revenue declines are likely from redirected textbook funds. The district’s One to One Teaching and Learning Initiative began two years ago with laptop distribution in the middle schools. “Increasing access to technology is an essential part of education. Making this technology universal across cities, however, is a significant challenge,” said Doug Hauer, CH-UH school superintendent. The goal is to help all students use the laptops in school and at home. Students will return the laptops at the end of the school year and the computers will be updated and reissued in the fall. Funding for the initiative came from redirected textbook funds.

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

Dec. 8 is next meeting of School Facilities Committee

Deanna Brimer Fisher

The School Facilities Committee, an ad hoc committee created by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education to analyze the district’s facilities, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Roxboro Middle School, 2400 Roxboro Road. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting begins with networking at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting follows at 7 p.m. and concludes at 9 p.m. Steve Shergalis, director of business services for the district, serves as the point person for the project. Interested residents are encouraged to contact him with their thoughts about the condition of the district’s buildings and needs for the future. Contact him at 216-320-2005 or s_shergalis@chuh.org.

For more information about the committee and a full meeting schedule, visit www.chuh.org.

Deanna Brimer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and a member of the district’s school facilities committee.

CHHS students receive laptops

Mosaic School students Taylor Woodruff, Joe Manfredo, and Sydney Ingram (L-R) are getting to know their new computers. Librarian Amy Bloomberg is helping Joe with the login process.

West Side Observer December 1, 2010

www.heightsobserver.org

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Heights High Concert Orchestra visits KSU

Joy Henderson

The Cleveland Heights High School Concert Orchestra, made up of 32 young musicians, went to Kent State University on Oct. 15 to learn and perform. The group performed for undergraduate and graduate students and several professors from KSU's music education department.

After the initial performance, the students received small group instruction. Each group had an instructor to work on a specific skill.

The instructor who worked with the bass players showed the students a different way to find the C# note. Senior Sheri Chambers is new to bass, after playing trumpet for several years. “Our bass coach showed us a way to find C# from the D," she said. "It was a little thing, but it was a big help."

The violin group worked on the first 15 measures of "Allegro in D" by Antonio Vivaldi. "We worked on the 4th-finger notes," said Heights High student Alexandra Cobb. Thomas Fredrick plays cello, and his group's leader worked on pacing. "She used a metronome and had us focus on tempo and pace," he shared.

"Did the focused instruction make a difference? "We did sound better after the group lessons," Cobb admitted.

Dan Heim, instrumental music director, arranged the trip to expose students to other instructors and the opportunity to perform outside the school.

"Travel and instruction from different teachers helps cement group dynamics," he said. In the words of the students: "It was fun to go somewhere else to play and to eat in a college dining hall. It improves our sound and teamwork."

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

CHHS varsity men’s soccer team receives sportsmanship award

Angese Shaker

The Cleveland Heights High School varsity men’s soccer team has won the 2010 All Greater Cleveland Team Sportsmanship award. The team was nominated for the award in each of the past four years. It goes to the team that best exemplifies the spirit of good sportsmanship and positive values, on and off the field. More than 50 Greater Cleveland Division I head coaches vote to determine the winner.

“Civility is modeled both on and off the field by the coaching staff and players at all times,” Sullivan said. “This award exemplifies what our program is about; playing with intensity, pride, dignity and civility.”

This is Sullivan’s 10th year as head coach. He began working with kids as young as five in the Heights recreational soccer program and the Eastside Kickers travel club. Several Heights High graduating seniors have been with Sullivan since they were six years old, including Ryan Perlic and Danny Pease Kerr. Assistant coaches Kyle Gisser and Peter Eckendorf are also Heights High soccer alumni. The team and coaches will be recognized for their achievement at the CH-UH School Board meeting on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Angese Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Parenting Q & A

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. If you have a question for Barrett, e-mail her at ebarrett@heights-parentcenter.org.

Q. We have two kids, ages 3 and 5. Last year our holiday season was a disaster! Temper tantrums and meltdowns for the kids; fatigue and stress for us. With this year’s festivities right around the corner, I am determined to avoid a repeat of last year. What can we do to enjoy the special celebrations and help the kids stay calm and happy?

A. Oh, the holidays—such a mixed bag! They bring good food, family visits, religious observances, and time off from work, as well as too much sugar, overstimulation, high expectations and overly full schedules. All of this activity can make kids cranky and leave parents exhausted. Luckily your kids are still young enough that you can hit the reset button and try things differently this year, without them even realizing.

Here are a few key strategies to help you enjoy, celebrate and maybe even relax a bit over the holidays:

• Simplify activities, and reduce the number of traditions in which you participate. If in past years you baked ten different kinds of cookies, pies or cakes, this season make just three or four. If you have several families to visit over the holidays, spread the visits out over a week or make special plans for another time, such as President’s Day or Valentine’s Day. If you exchange gifts with multiple family members, suggest drawing names and buying a gift for only one person.

• Stick to as many routines as possible. Most of the time children become cranky because they are tired or hungry. We tend to move bedtimes and mealtimes around during the holidays, and this can upset the usual rhythm of your child’s day. Make sure to honor bedtime and naptime as much as possible, and save the sweets for after a nutritious meal. If you celebrate the holidays with a large group, stay firm about the schedule or skip some of the gatherings. Stay home and create your own family traditions—these can be just as fulfilling, especially if they come with less stress.

• Plan ahead whenever possible. If you can bake and freeze now, or shop ahead of time or online, it will free you up during the busiest days. Make a budget and stick to it so you don’t face big bills in January.

• Take time for yourself by taking breaks, pacing yourself and treating yourself to things you enjoy. This will help you to stay more energized for the hectic days, and help to keep everyone else in the family calm and happy.

Although it may be impossible to follow all of these suggestions, it is important to set priorities. Unfortunately, the very things that make the holidays special can also make them disruptive. If you don’t overreach and try to do too much, it will be easier to deal with the inevitable bumps in the road.

As your children grow, they will become better able to cope with all the activity and chaos, and learn to appreciate the special moments and traditions, too.

Upward Basketball returns to Church of the Saviour

Rhonda Dorfman

Upward Basketball begins its second season on Jan. 10, 2012. Last year almost 100 children participated in the Upward Basketball program at Church of the Saviour on Lee Road. Designed for boys and girls, K-6th grade, Upward is the world’s largest Christian sports program for kids. Not only were valuable basketball skills learned on the court, but players also enjoyed values-based stories for life. It was created to provide a positive sports experience for every child.

Upward Basketball is a unique league that offers children the opportunity to build athletic skills, make new friends, and learn good sportsmanship in a healthy, competitive environment. Upward players always have guaranteed play time.

“Parents will watch their kids get exercise, have fun and make friends, and learn what’s great about basketball,” said Lauren Lamphear, the league’s director. The first games of the 2011 season will begin on Jan. 22 and the league will conclude with an awards celebration on Sunday, March 25.

Skills assessments take place on Dec. 13, 14 and 18, but no previous experience is necessary. Upward Basketball utilizes a unique game format. Games consist of two 18-minute halves and an 8-minute half time. Possession alternates in jump ball situations. There are no timeouts, and ball possession changes at the end of each six-minute segment to encourage end of the period shots. Teams are balanced and games are refereed on time because of these unique rules.

“You will not find the ‘win at all costs’ mentality,” Lamphear said. Upward was designed to teach basketball skills and to bring out the winner in every child.

Upward Basketball is sensitive to a busy family’s needs. The time commitment is only two hours each week—one hour of practice on weekday evenings and one hour of play on Saturday mornings—which should fit the schedules of busy Heights families. All of the league’s games will be played in the new multipurpose building at Church of the Saviour, where there will be concessions and half-time entertainment.

Register online at upward@chsaviour.org or call 216-321-8880, ext. 257 for information or to request a brochure. Brochures can also be picked up outside the family center of the Lee Road Library or at Church of the Saviour. Registration forms can be found near all entry ways. Registration continues through Dec. 18 and active-duty military families receive a discount.

Rhonda Dorfman is a recent arrival to the Heights and a volunteer with Upward Basketball.
2010 Holiday Gift Guide

Local, independent Heights merchants have a wide variety of offerings for those in search of the most unique gift. And many merchants will gift wrap and ship your items! Here are some of our favorites.

FOODIES

The Deck: $25, each, representing a local, independently-owned restaurant. Each card gives a $10 discount off a fixed purchase of $30 or more. Good through December 30, 2011. Many of the Cleveland Independents are in the Heights area ($29.95, www.clevelandindependents.com).

American Vegan Kitchen by Geauga County resident Tamara Yovas delivers delicious recipes for ambitious cooks ($18.95, Mac's Backs).

Gift certificates: purchase gift certificates to any of your favorite Heights restaurants.

ECO-CONSCIOUS

Hugger Mugger recycled paper yoga mat bag ($23.95, Atma Center).

Hugger Mugger recycled paper yoga mat bag ($23.95, Atma Center).

Eco-friendly sneakers: Army-style high-top sneakers.

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Gift certificates: purchase gift certificates to any of your favorite Heights restaurants.

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Cleveland Heights Holiday Tradition

A Cleveland Heights Holiday Tradition

Elegantly Packaged Chocolates and Truffles

Edible Centerpieces and Hostess Gifts

Stocking Stuffers and Molded Chocolates

Mitchell's Fine Chocolates since 1939

2285 Lee Road • 216.932.3200
www.mitchellschocolates.com

Mom will relate to the experiences shared in this novel of survival, resilience and redemption ($27, Mac's Backs).

DAD

Night Star LED Shake Flashlight requires no batteries or bulbs and is maintenance free. A mere 23 seconds of shaking gives 20 minutes of light. Completely sealed, the flashlight floats in water and is submersible ($9.99, Heights Hardware).


If your Dad doesn't spend all his downtime spectator sporting, give him Unbroken: A World War II Novel of Survival, Resilience and Redemption ($27, Mac's Backs).

KIDS

Animal Hats and Mittens: choose a ladybug, frog, bee or bear for your favorite child. These whimsical hats and mittens are knit from a soft, insulating blend of alpaca and acrylic fibers and are embellished by hand ($24 each, Revive Fair Trade).

Bilibo, for kids ages 2–7, is an open-ended plaything. It is a rocking chair, a spinning toy, a hat, a cradle, a sandbox or a chair. It's up to the child to figure it out. One thing for sure, it will bring many hours of imaginative fun for the recipient ($32, Sunbeam Shop).

10-Minute Papayas, by Nick MacNeil, tells you how to make papayas anywhere in 10 minutes or less, using ordinary ingredients at hand. MacNeil is a dad and puppeteer, trained in his art by Jim Henson and Frank Oz at Huppert fame. This book will keep a busy toddler amused and will stimulate older children with ideas for creative dramatic play ($10.95, Sunbeam Shop).

Don't look any further than What Happened on Fox Street, by Heights author Tricia Springstubb. It's the perfect choice for middle-grade girl readers ($15.99, Mac's Backs).

Boys will enjoy Funny Business, a collection of funny stories from the writers who know exactly what appeals to boys ($8.99, Mac's Backs).

**BOOKS ON COVENTRY**

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Open 24 hours at www.macsbacks.com

Three Floors of New & Used Books & Magazines

Used Book Exchange

Bring us your used books!

Buy Local First!

Join us for Christmas Worship at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m. • The Christmas Story for the Very Young, Communion

3:30 p.m. • Organ Noëls and Carol Sing-a-long Prelude

4:00 p.m. • Christmas Pageant, Communion (interpreted for Deaf)

8:00 p.m. • Concert of Seasonal Music with violin, organ, soloist & choir

9:00 p.m. • A Choral Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

10:30 p.m. • Salerni Festival Carillonneur

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. • Holy Eucharist with organ and vocal solos

Sunday, December 26: The First Sunday after Christmas Day

7:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

10 a.m. • Christmas Lessons and Carols, Communion

Saturday, January 1: The Feast of the Holy Name

12 noon • Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Alan M. Gates, Rector
Karel Paukert, Organist/Choirmaster
2747 Fairmount Boulevard (at Coventry)
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106
(216) 932-5813
www.stpauls-church.org
TEENS

Alpaca Leg Warmers are made from soft, 100% alpaca fiber. Cozy and warm, they are handcrafted by skilled knitters in South America ($28, Revive Fair Trade). 13

Batik Creations T-shirts from an Ohio vendor ($21.95, Atma Center)

SENIOR CITIZENS

Ceramic Mugs: handpainted by artists on the shores of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. These 12 oz. mugs depict San Antonio’s traditional drop design. They are certified 100% lead free and are microwave- and dishwasher safe ($14.95 each, Revive Fair Trade). 14

Jane Addams: Spirit in Action by Louise Knight is a terrific biography of the founder of Hull House, who was also a leading suffragette and early civil rights activist ($28.95, Mac's Backs)

UNDER $25

Striped Beanie: hand knit from natural wool fibers, this hat is fully lined to provide extra warmth and protection, while maintaining a sense of style ($19, Revive Fair Trade). 15

Squash Seeds Chipmunk: A Modern Bestiary by David Sedaris is this year’s side-splitting entry from one of America’s best humorists ($21.99, Mac’s Backs)

UP TO $10


LEFT-CENTER-RIGHT: a best-selling dice game that is fun for all ages ($7.50, Big Fun).

PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Salami for the Troops: Support the men and women of our armed forces by sending an all-beef salami, in your friend’s name, to military personnel serving our country in trouble spots around the world. Each salami is dried prior to shipment and sent with Cleveland’s own Stadium Mustard ($20, Mr. Brisket).

Live Music and Dinner at Nighttown. Buy tickets for a particular show or choose from the hundreds of shows each year. ($81, on average, for two tickets to a particular show or choose from the hundreds of shows each year. ($81, on average, for two tickets

For more gift ideas from local merchants, visit www.heightsobserver.org/read/3/12/gift-guide

www.heightsobserver.org
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
Unique puppetry group finds new Heights home
Possibilitarian Puppet Theater named Artists in Residence at Unitarian Universalist Society

Walt Nicholas

Daniel McNamara and Diana Sette were full-time members of the Vermont-based, politically radical Bread and Puppet Theater when they came to McNamara’s parents’ Cleveland Heights home for a winter holiday break in 2007. While here they staged a New Year’s Eve puppetry event, “Funeral March for the Rotten Ideas of 2007.”

Their intent was to bury all the rotten events of the old year and start the new year clean. One of these new starts was Sette and McNamara creating and producing Possibilitarian Puppet Theater (PPT) in Cleveland Heights. They have continued to refine and expand their unique form of puppet theater, and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, 2758 Lancashire Road in Coventry Village, recently named them Artists in Residence.

“This saves us massive stress,” said McNamara. “We don’t have to be under the gun to make rent or be a primarily moneymaking operation. We exchange ideas with many interesting people in other creative professions. We can rehearse and perform as we wish and it’s a great help.”

PPT’s next public performance is a combined mini-circus and passion play, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4, at the society.

McNamara is a multi-instrument musician and a graduate of Heights High’s famed musical program. Sette, is a Drew University graduate in English and religious studies.

What fascination with puppetry drives them to devote futures to a theater style renowned for its low-profit status?

“Puppetry plays a historically accessible form for the public to hear can do so through puppetry, because it cuts right to the heart of the message.”

We all know Punch and Judy, the world-famous puppet theater that began as 16th-century street theater, and was essentially subversive. Punch was a symbol for the mythical Lord of Misrule, who goes way back.

Because puppetry is easily portable anywhere to enact subversive attacks on the military, whatever popular rate all of the feelings of creation using public fully understood. Records show issue. Puppeteers acted their messages interesting people in puppetry in a Punch and Judy show of his time.

Ellen Sindelar is president of Heights Youth Theatre, a University Heights-based non-profit organization committed to providing performances and producing Possibilitarian Puppet Theater named Artists in Residence at Unitarian Universalist Society. For more information, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org or call 216-923-1583.

Ellen Sindelar is president of Heights Youth Theatre, a University Heights-based non-profit organization committed to providing quality children’s theater. She also directs a master’s program in diversity management at Cleveland State University.

Heights Youth Theatre presents ‘Our Town’

Ellen Sindelar

Heights Youth Theatre will bring “Our Town” to University Heights in December. Thornton Wilder’s American classic about the citizens of Grover’s Corners addresses the subjects of love, marriage and death within the context of life in a small New England town at the start of the 20th century. With the Stage Manager as the audience’s guide, the play is a character study that centers around George Gibbs and Emily Webb, whose mutual affection grows and affects decisions that determine the course of their lives.

Directed by Nathan Motta, featured performers include: Sidney Perelman (11th grade, Heights High School) as the Stage Manager; Nick Hyland (Shaker Heights High School alumna) as Dr. Gibbs; Katie Wilkinson (8th grade, Shaker Middle School) as Mrs. Gibbs; Abby Fox (8th grade, Brusl High School) as Mrs Webb; Patrick Mooney (11th grade, Orange High School) as George Gibbs; and Jessie Pinnick (12 grade, Hathaway Brown) as Emily Webb.

Performances will be held at Wiley Auditorium, 2818 Miramar Road, on Friday, Dec. 3 and 10, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4 and 11, at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $9. The Dec. 3 performance is a special benefit that includes refreshments; tickets for that evening will be $15. For more information, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org or call 216-923-1583.

As seen on

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Specializing in Steam and Hot Water Systems
Arts groups share cigarette tax funding

Jonah Weinberg

In October, the trustees for Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) announced grants for its 2011 funding cycle. More than 130 new and returning organizations throughout Cuyahoga County will share in nearly $15 million over the coming year.

Just over half of that funding will go to 32 organizations that are based in Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and University Circle.

“More people need to be aware of the incredible impact that this public funding for the arts has in our region,” said Steven Minter, CAC board president. “Every dollar of CAC funding is an investment in the economic development of our county, helping to bring about ticket sales, event attendance, which leads to more restaurant and nightlife activity, which results in greater income and salaries, which goes back into our region’s tax base. It’s a great symbiotic process.”

The list of 2011 grantees includes recipients from both of CAC’s grant programs, General Operating Support and Project Support, which are open to arts- and culture-focused nonprofit organizations based in Cuyahoga County.

“Many people are under the impression that CAC funds only big players like the Cleveland Orchestra or the Western Reserve Historical Society,” said Karen Gahl-Mills, CAC executive director. “They don’t realize we also fund organizations of all sizes, from the Heights Y’s grantee to the Shaker Historical Society.”

“The CAC means more than just grant dollars to the district,” said Steve Presser, marketing director for Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID). “It means that the CAC board that reviews applicants must look very favorably upon the Coventry Street Arts Fair as a unique and special summer arts and cultural venue. The CVSID is proud and honored by the CAC grant award.”

Minter points out that, since Cuyahoga County voters approved the CVSID in 2006, “We have invested nearly $60 million in hundreds of arts and culture programs. We’re the fifth largest public arts funder in the entire United States, and that’s an achievement we can all be proud of.”

CAC is a subdivision of the State of Ohio, which collects a dedicated tax on cigarettes sold in Cuyahoga County, to fund local arts and culture organizations.

The list of 2011 CAC grant recipients follows, arranged alphabetically by city and, otherwise noted:

**Cleveland Heights**

- Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID)
- Heights arts
- Heights Arts Collaborative, $396,900
- “Revelations in Seasons” and “Call-Backs,” $7,080
- Shaker Heights Shaker Historical Society, $16,000
- Heights Arts
- “Mortal Men and Their Immortal Words,” $7,080
- Heights Arts
craft by the finest regional artists.
- Heights Arts
- “People in our community know that if they want to live in a place full of artists, they need to buy their art,” Spaeth said. “We are hopeful that they will shop at the holiday store this season, and also make a year-end renovation donation to help us create a vibrant new and improved space.”

The holiday store, staffed by the artists and other volunteers, is open Monday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., through Dec. 30, at 2173 Lee Road, a few steps from the Cedar Lee Theatre.

Jane Flaherty is administrative assistant for Heights Art.

**Constellation**

By Shelley Chernin

connect the dots

patterns wink in the cards we’re dealt

connect the dots

the Jack of Hearts makes Libra hot

to unbuckle Orion’s belt

but distant hands probe space unfelt

connect the dot

Shelley Chernin’s poems have appeared in Scrivener Creative Review, Rhapsody, What I Knew Before I Knew Poems from the Pudding House Salon — Cleveland, and the 2010 Hessler Street Fair Anthology. The Akron Art Museum awarded her Honorable Mention in its New Work Poetry Contest in 2009 and 2010. She recently moved from Coventry to rural Lorain County, where she enjoys magnificent night skies.

**Heights Arts Gallery expands; opens holiday store**

Jane Flaherty

Eight years of increased sales at Heights Arts Gallery on Lee Road has encouraged the organization to expand into the adjacent storefront at the corner of the Cedar Lee Building, recently vacated by Aoeshi. A lead grant from The George Gund Foundation, architectural services donated by Studio Techne, and a storefront grant from the City of Cleveland Heights, for signage, are helping to initiate the expansion.

Executive Director Peggy Spaeth said, “Eight years ago a small group of Lee Road fans were having a casual conversation about how to invigorate the business district, and someone suggested a temporary pop-up holiday store, offering work by local artists. The pop-up was popular, and led to the establishment of Heights Arts Gallery and its annual holiday store, presenting art and craft by the finest regional artists.

Sprecht and Heights Arts Board of Trustees imagine expanded year-round offerings by local artists, and flexible space for new art classes, workshops, events and concerts.

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The annual Coventry Village street festival attracts many visitors to the Heights. The Coventry Village SID received CAC funding for the festival for 2011.

**Heights Writes**

Poem for December 2010

Think the universe is a cold and lonely place?

—Marital Holms

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**Poems from the Pudding House Salon**

Shelley Chernin

—Meredith Holmes

“Holden,” $23,700.

Theatre of Cleveland, play: “Huck & Holden,” $23,700.

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Area youths in delegation to Italy

Kirsten Radivoyevitch

Although social networking websites, such as Facebook, have the ability to connect people from one point of the globe to another, CISV International programs connect people face-to-face. Five area youths learned this firsthand as participants in CISV’s Interchange program in Forli, Italy.

“After exchanging e-mails for about four weeks, it was nice to finally meet the Matteuccis in person. I lived with them for two weeks. We swam in the Mediterranean, ate gelato every day, and learned a lot about each other,” says Evan Radivoyevitch, an eighth grader at Roxboro Middle School. Another area delegate, Ian Bartz, learned that “it was a lot easier to communicate than I thought it would be even though we didn’t speak the same language. It was a lot of fun!”

CISV was founded over 50 years ago as an independent, nonpolitical volunteer organization. It promotes peace education and cross-cultural understanding through the interactive experiences of its participants. Local and international chapter programs are available for participants of any age, though most programs focus on age groups ranging from 11 to 30 years old. CISV programs do not focus on travel - rather, on the opportunity to share time with people in places participants would otherwise know little about.

This year’s Northeast Ohio delegation to Forli was part of the interchange program, in which participants live with families in another country and then reciprocating by hosting the family from their own country. Delegates are carefully matched with one another to ensure that the program is a mutually enriching one. “I loved the experience of being able to see another country and learn what their culture is like, and I love the family I stayed with,” says Emma Bartz, a freshman at Cleveland Heights High School. “They made me feel like I was part of the family.”

After experiencing family life in Italy for two weeks, the American children returned home. Three days later, the Italian delegation came to the United States to experience life in the Heights. Anna Brock, an eighth grade student at Wiley Middle School, said “It was great to have the Italian delegation here. They were all really excited to be in America. They were especially excited to see how we live and to visit places that they had read about, like Niagara Falls. They all really liked that.”

Face-to-face connections are the focus of the programs, but modern technology makes them even more effective. Having participated in two CISV programs, Stephen Bell feels the world getting smaller and smaller. “I enjoyed learning what kids in other countries do, and I was amazed how many things we have in common. Thanks to CISV, I have friends in 12 different countries who I stay in contact with through the Internet!”

Summer 2011 presents another set of international travel opportunities for children and adults. An informational meeting will take place on Monday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Lee Road Library.

Kirsten Radivoyevitch is an early childhood educator, mother of four boys and longtime Heights resident.

Help to pay for college

Becky Rocker

Jewish Family Service Association is accepting applications for the Jack W. and Shirley J. Berger Scholarship. The fund was established in 1988, by two former Clevelanders, to assist and encourage students entering college to attain academic excellence within a secular institution. The scholarship requires that applicants:

• Exhibit financial need.
• Be a resident of Cuyahoga County or its contiguous counties.
• Be a high school senior with a minimum 3.5 GPA in high school.
• Have a minimum SAT of 1900 or a minimum ACT score of 27.
• Be a full-time student seeking a secular education.

• Take a college course in comparative religion.
• Priority is given, but not limited, to students planning to attend an Ohio state-supported school. Students awarded this scholarship can receive funding of $2,000 each year for up to four years of college if a 3.0 GPA is maintained.
• Interested students should obtain an application from their guidance office. The deadline for submissions is March 4, 2011, and recipients will be selected by May 23, 2011. More information, contact Toby Bresky, manager of college scholarships and financial aid, at 216-378-3429 or thresky@jfsa-cleveland.org.

Becky Rocker is a marketing/public relations specialist for JFSA.
Heights alumni hold holiday cocktail party
Eric Silverman

On Thursday, Dec. 9, the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation will hold its 10th Holiday Cocktail Party and Winter Gala at the Heights Rockefeller Building at Mayfield and Lee roads. Each year the Alumni Foundation hosts this event, bringing alumni, staff and supporters of the Heights schools together for good food, tasty desserts and great bargains at its silent auction.

This year the cocktail party has two new features. The first is a renovated venue with a new caterer, as the former Cleveland Trust bank lobby will soon reopen as Rockefeller’s. The cocktail party is a great way for guests to sample Rockefeller’s menu before its formal opening.

Also new to the cocktail party is an online auction featuring two paintings by Heights High alumnus and artist, Craig Baskin. A 1980 graduate of Heights, Baskin is known for the rich layered colors he creates in his acrylic paintings. Commissioned by global contemporary art collectors to create original, large-scale installations, his paintings sell in the $2,000 to $15,000 range. Baskin says, “Although my paintings are abstract in the artistic definition, each tells a story—the colors and their flow on the canvas as the words.”

Two of Baskin’s paintings will be offered through the on-line auction at www.heightsalumni.org/auction, with the proceeds going toward the foundation’s plan to restore and renovate the clock tower at Heights High.

Humane society holds tree-lighting ceremony and adoption event
Anita Kazarian

University Heights joined with Rich- mond Heights and the City of South Euclid to form a collaborative. The cities now share an animal warden. Finding homes for homeless animals has been the work of the South Euclid Humane Society for some time. It was founded in 2002 by Sunny Simon, the newly elected County Council District 11 representative.

The society does not have its own shelter and relies on foster homes to care for stray animals until permanent homes can be identified. Volunteers face an overwhelming increase in the number of stray animals desperate for assistance.

Without the society’s help, the abandoned animals would be taken to the already overcrowded county kennel. Inevitably many dogs and cats are euthanized. In order to provide veterinary care, and ensure that all animals taken in are spayed and neutered, the society must raise money through private donations. It does not receive public funding.

Simon began the annual Pets Light up Our Lives tree-lighting ceremony now in its ninth year. The event raises more than $1,000 for the society each year, and has resulted in the adoption of many animals into new homes in time for the holidays. It has become a community tradition, which now includes the City of University Heights and its residents.

The Humane Society will present the Pets Light Up Our Lives ceremony and Home for the Holidays Adoption event at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, at the garden area on the northwest corner of Green and Mayfield roads. A tree will be decorated with lights, honoring living and deceased pets. Rabbi Susan Stone, of South Euclid, will offer a blessing for pets. The public is invited to bring their pets to this free event. Donations of $5 per named pet will benefit the South Euclid Humane Society.

Adoptable pets will be available to good homes at a reception following the ceremony at South Euclid City Hall, 1349 South Green Road. There is an adoption fee. For more information, call 216-291-8773.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, founder of Noah’s Landing, LLC, and a long-time resident of University Heights. Contact her at akazarian@gmail.com.

As for the clock tower, Baskin explains his involvement: “When I was asked to create an original, abstract painting to help save the clock tower, aside from the nostalgia aspect, it struck me how important this mission is to our nation’s preservation of important structures. Having been away from Cleveland for three decades, when I recall the flat terrain of the area, it occurs to me that the clock tower is truly significant. It is actually one of the highest points in the community. Even in its current decay, the tower maintains its architectural integrity. Every effort—by anyone who recognizes its prominence and potential as one of the state’s landmark structures—must be undertaken to preserve it.”

Tickets for the party are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the party lasting until 10 p.m. For more details on the online auction or to purchase tickets visit www.heightsalumni.org.

Community News

Cleveland Heights unveils new historic district signs
The City of Cleveland Heights held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the Great Gidding Forest Hill Historic District on Nov. 1, at the sign near the Coventry Library/P.E.A.C.E. Arch and Washington Boulevard. This past spring, the National Park Service listed the district, which lies generally in an area bounded by Euclid Heights Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, Lee Road, and Coventry Road, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Lio R Marjorie Kinnick, Landmark Commission; Kara Hamley O’Donnell, Cleveland Heights Historic Preservation Planner; Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans; Chris Ray and Mark Souther; Landmark Commission; Mayor Ed Kelley; and Chuck Miller and Jim Edmonson, Landmark Commission members.

For more information on the district, including the self-guided walking tour, visit www.clevelandheights.com/history/foresthill.asp.

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Misters Brisket

By Eleanor Mallet

We’re in the food sea-son, I mean the holi-day season, so my thoughts have turned to Mister Brisket. I have been doing business with him for 20 years. In fact, some of my most in-depth conversations about world politics and life have been with him when I’m ordering a “side of chicken.” Right now I’m in the market for a turkey. So I went to see him in his lair, a storefront on Taylor Road near Cedar.

Sanford Herskovitz and Hank Kornblut are the Misters Brisket.

Rebecca Stager

This spring 18 single women homeowners will have the opportunity to build their knowledge of basic carpentry, electrical, and plumbing repairs. Home How-To is an intensive, six-month program designed to give women personalized instruction and hands-on practice with tools and repair techniques. The 2011 course will be the 14th offered by Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), a community nonprofit organization.

Each woman who enrolls in the
in psychology. He has been on Taylor Road for 32 years, when he bought the business from butcher Max Greenfield. He is a purveyor of prime meat, poultry and fish.

The counter was Hank’s innovation. He has also computerized the business and sends out chatty informative e-mails. “Hank has taken over,” said Mister Brisket, now 71. “I come in, I get yelled at and I go home at 3 o’clock.”

On Tuesday we’ll have lettuce and tomato,” he says in disbelief. “We are not a health food store! The customers ask for it, so Hank is accommodating. I fought him tooth and nail!” Hank smiles.

I comment on the steady flow of customers. “Schieg izn in mole?” he says in Yiddish, meaning “you should hit your self in the mouth!” to ward off the bad luck that can come from acknowledging a good.

Mister Brisket has had his own innovations, such as his brisket recipe, of course. “This damn thing got me on national TV!” If you try it, he may tell you to bring your cooked brisket in for him to slice. Some find him intimidat-ing. I do what I’m told.

His eight-page instructions for roasting a turkey begin with “PLEASE READ THIS RECIPE IN ITS EN-TIRETY BEFORE BEGINNING.” This will allow you time to choose an appropriate Chinese or Vietnamese restaurant if this looks like too much work (as these are the only ones open on Thanksgiving and Christmas days).”

For years he has been in the trench-es of the food/fat/nutrition wars. He survived the no-red-meat phase. “Steak is back and carb is the enemy,” he said.

“Frances [his wife] and I went to Italy to learn about the Piedmont castle. They are fed hay, straw, oats, barley, grass and corn. The flavor is great. Grass-fed is a hoax!”

He’s also had to contend with new grocery stores, high-end and bulk. But he has loyal customers. And he supplies Zack Bruev’s four restaurants.

You’re probably wondering about that “side of chicken” I mentioned. “I didn’t have a scale and they came in parc-ages of 21,” he said. “So you had to order the whole package. I sank changed that, too. Now you can get one chicken breast if you want.” If you buy his skinless and boneless chicken, you can get the bones for $1 a pound. I would put the flavor up against any chicken broth anywhere and it will cure practically anything.

“So you’re the next Mister Brisket?” I say to Hank after I put in my order. “We are all Mister Brisket,” he said judiciously, smiling again.

Long live Misters Brisket!

Eleanor Mallet’s column, “A Heights Observer,” explores the nooks and crannies in the Heights. Reach her at eleanormallet@yahoo.com.

HRRC seeks applicants for women’s home repair program

Rebecca Stager

This spring 18 single women homeowners will have the opportunity to build their knowledge of basic carpentry, electrical, and plumbing repairs. Home How-To is an intensive, six-month program designed to give women personalized instruction and hands-on practice with tools and repair techniques. The 2011 course will be the 14th offered by Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), a community nonprofit organization.

Each woman who enrolls in the program will have one repair completed by the class at her house. Previous projects have ranged from replacing damaged porch flooring to reroofing a garage; from replacing a light fixture to running a new electrical circuit; and from installing a new faucet to replacing old galvanized water lines. Participants will also receive an in-home consultation with HRRC’s repair instructor to identify needed repairs and determine which ones they might reasonably tackle on their own.

Program participants must be a female head of house, must own and oc-ccupy a home in Cleveland Heights, and must have a household income within program guidelines ($47,557 for family of one; $64,825 for family of four). In addition, applicants must be willing and able to attend at least 10 of the 12 classes that make up the course curriculum.

This winter Home How-To course will run from late April through early November. Most of the classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, but a few—those involving more extensive repairs—will be held on Saturdays.

Each participant pays a $20 program supply fee, as well as the cost of materials installed during the class at her house.

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.

Thank you for your business. JAC wishes you and your family happy holidays and a healthy, prosperous new year.

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Help Mr. Brisket send salamis to the troops

The holidays are a great time to show our respect for the men and women in our armed forces. Mister Brisket is asking Heights families to help send all-beef salamis to those serving our country.

All salamis are dried prior to shipping and sent with Cleveland’s own Stadium Mustard. Each will include a note of support from the contributor. Donors will be e-mailed when their salami has shipped and told where it has been sent.

Last year Mr. Brisket set a goal of 100 salamis. With Heights families’ support, they sent 400. This year the goal is $20 per salami, including mustard and shipping. For more information or to participate call 216-932-8620 or e-mail www.mister-brisket.com/newsletters/salamitroops.html.

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Journey to Bethlehem
Ron Werman
Disciples Christian Church will give its own Christmas gift to the community. On Sunday, Dec. 12, from 2 to 5 p.m., Disciples Christian Church will present Journey to Bethlehem, a walk-through drama that recreates the sights and sounds of Bethlehem’s marketplace at the time of Christ’s birth.

Before entering Bethlehem, participants may have an audience with King Herod and then be counted in the census. Once in Bethlehem, they can interact with street merchants, as well as view some animals. They can watch craftsmen at their work and be prodded along by Roman guards. They can listen while townpeople, shepherds and other biblical characters set the stage for the discovery of the newborn baby in the stable.

As participants wait their turn to enter Bethlehem, they will be entertained by the No Strings Attached puppets, listen to music performances or sing along to Christmas carols.

Disciples Christian Church is located at 3665 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone Road, across from Severance Town Center) in Cleveland Heights. For more information, call 216-382-5344 or visit www.discipleschristian.org.

Ron Werman is an elder of Disciples Christian Church.

Fairmount Square open house
Amy Schneider
The mezzanine businesses of Fairmount Square are hosting an open house and grand reopening Saturday, Dec. 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. The businesses will celebrate with light refreshments, demonstrations, discounts and prizes. One large grand prize will be awarded.

The businesses are virtually hidden on the mezzanine level, between the Heights Medical Building and Dave’s Supermarket at Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard. But their loyal clients know where to find them, and they are easily accessed from Cedar Road and the parking lot at the rear of the building. Holding a grand reopening is Troy McCarty’s White Cloud Studio, which will show off its new and larger studio at the front of the building. The studio will demonstrate its new machinery and techniques.

Hang it Up! Framing Gallery has been in Fairmount Square since 1983. The gallery frames and preserves all art, from the precious to the precocious. Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts specializes in Iyengar Yoga. Owner Karen Allgire teaches unique classes and workshops. During the open house, videos of Allgire’s journey to India will be shown in the studio. There will also be demonstrations on the mats and on the studio’s renowned rope wall.

Cindy John’s Abstract, A Hair Salon is a hip and comfortable salon offering a full range of hair and nail services. The salon offers a full line of Paul Mitchell hair care for its clients and a line of pampering products for their pets.

Lady Mendo Home Health Care, run by CEO Grace Parker, is the new est addition to the Fairmount Square family.

Amy Schneider is the owner of Hang it Up! Framing Gallery in Fairmount Square.

Swedish community hosts Saint Lucia celebration Dec. 11
Marty Bergman
The Swedish organization, Nobel Monitor Lodge, invites the public to attend a Saint Lucia program and celebration on Saturday, Dec. 11 at Forest Hill Church Presbyterian, located at the corner of Lee Road and Monticello Boulevard, in Cleveland Heights. The program begins at 4 p.m.

Each December, the story about Lucia—the saint who brought light during the darkest night of the year—is retold. Her story is a favorite of children in the Swedish community.

The program begins with a concert by the Vasa Voices, a mixed choral group, singing traditional songs of the season in Swedish. The program concludes with a procession of Lucia, and her attendants, singing “Sankta Lucia” and other children’s favorites.

For further information and registration, contact Marty Bergman at 216-321-7341 or martybergman@sbgglobal.net.

The public is also invited to the 6:30 a.m. Christmas Day Julotta Service, held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 3740 Mayfield Road, in Cleveland Heights, on Dec. 25. A light breakfast will follow the service. God Jul (Swedish for “Merry Christ mas”).

Marty Bergman is a 35-year resident of Cleveland Heights, and Swedish by marriage.

Church of the Redeemer hosts holiday market and soup café
Jane Finley
On Saturday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Church of the Redeemer will host a Holiday Market and Soup Café featuring homemade baked goods and handicraft items. The market will include fair trade booths and vendors from the local community, including J Bird’s Garden. In addition, there will be a café where one may enjoy a bowl of soup and relax while browsing the market.

Children 12 and under are invited to shop in Santa’s Dollar Store. A Nearly New Shop with bargains galore will be open to all. Admission is free. All proceeds will help to support the missions of Church of the Redeemer.

For more information, contact Church of the Redeemer United Methodist Church at 216-532-2056 or visit www.CCRedeemer.org. The church is located at 1420 South Taylor Road.

Jane Finley is a member of Church of the Redeemer.

Christmas in a minor key A service for the sadness of the season
Robin Craig
Many of us find the holidays a real struggle in the aftermath of major losses in our lives. The stores, the lights, the music—even our houses of worship—all enveloped in disappointment and sorrow. It is not uncommon for people disappointed in hope and sorrow to avoid past traditions and communi ties altogether, and alternatives are not easy to locate or create anew.

Forest Hill Church will hold an early evening service of readings, music, and silence, designed as a time apart for those challenged by the holidays, at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 20. The death of a loved one or a relationship, a family separation, job loss, or another personal or family loss are events that make it difficult to find joy or even to cope with the holiday season. The church invites everyone residents to celebrate Christmas quietly, in a way that acknowledges the darkness and honors the light. Coffee and hot cider will be available afterward, if participants would like to stay for conversation.

Forest Hill Church is located at 1031 Monticello Blvd.

Robin Craig is an elder at Forest Hill Church.

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Monday, December 13
7:00 PM
at the
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Community events

Sunday, Dec. 5
Advent Lessons and Carols
Featuring readings for Advent and anthems by the St. Paul’s Senior, Youth and Handbell Choirs. The Handbell Prelude begins at 4:45 p.m. All are welcome! 3 to 6 p.m. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2767 Fountain Blvd.

Tuesday, Dec. 7
7 to 8 p.m. Meeting Room B, Lee Road library.

Tuesday, Dec. 7
Jupiter String Quartet, Cleveland Chamber Music Society
Beethoven: “Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2”
Kurtág: “Two Microisodes for String Quartet”
Schumann: “Quartet in A Major, Op. 41, No. 3”
In collaboration with the CIM Chamber Music Festival.
8 p.m. Plymouth Church, 2860 Coventry Road.

Wednesday, Dec. 8
School Facilities Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Reardon Middle School, 2400 Reardon Road

Wednesday, Dec. 8
CityMusic Cleveland holiday concert
Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons,” Schumann’s “Serenade” and excerpts from Handel’s “Messiah.” Reservations are required for free childcare services; call 216-321-5800. For more dates, venues and times visit www.citymusiccleveland.org/concerts or call 216-321-8273. No tickets are required, but some are only for good seats and parking.
7:30 p.m. Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Boulevard.

Saturday, Dec. 11
Library Print Sale
The Eleanor Squire Library of Cleveland Botanical Garden will host a special all-day sale of botanical art books, posters, paintings, and prints. Many prints are old and would make an excellent seasonal gift as a framed art piece to be enjoyed for generations.
Prices range from hundreds of dollars to fifty cents, with the bulk under $20.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., The Garden Room and Main Library of Cleveland Botanical Garden, 11300 East Blvd.

Saturday, Dec. 11
The Powers Concert Series
A Christmas concert in the magniﬁcent, historic Saint Ann Church.
Tickets are available online at www.lauferfilm.com/lauferfest/pcs.html. Call 216-321-0024 and speak with Renee, or call 216-229-4444 or 216-321-0024.

Saturday, Dec. 11
Live from Cleveland: Holiday Cocktail Party & Winter Gala
Proud to be supported by:
2757 Fairmount Blvd.

The idea was pretty simple: participants taking a class, borrowing a tool, or enrolling in the women’s program received a discount card to reduce the cost of materials for the home repairs that they learned how to complete.

The program is now even better: participants in HRRC’s repair education program participants, to help keep the houses of Cleveland Heights in good repair. The participating businesses are Cedar Center Hardware (Warrensville Road in South Euclid), Dunn Hardware (Wilson Mills Road in Richmond Heights), Heights Hardware (Covington Road in Cleveland Heights), Seitz-Agin Hardware (Lee Road in Cleveland Heights), Sherwin Williams Company (South Taylor Road in University Heights), South Euclid Hardware (Mayfield Road in South Euclid), and the Title Shop (Broadway Avenue in Oakwood Village).

The new rewards program was announced in letters sent to more than 2,500 local households in early November, kicking off HRRC’s annual fundraising drive.

During HRRC’s upcoming phonestation, volunteers will remind residents of this new premium. In addition to the businesses previously listed, Bremner on the Heights (Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights) has begun accepting the discount card.

Local merchant partners not only support HRRC by honoring this new savings card, but also serve our community by sharing their expertise on repairs and improvements with homeowners seeking advice.

HRRC encourages area residents to support these local merchants, who are truly among the benefits of living in the Heights.

Mike Gaynier is board president of the Home Repair Resource Center.

Michael Gaynier
Cleveland Heights residents who participate in Home Repair Resource Center’s (HRRC) Project Repair program, or Home How-To program for women, have enjoyed a special benefit for many years, thanks to the generosity of several local merchants.

Eight community-minded merchants have been offering a 10 percent discount on purchases to HRRC’s repair education program participants, to help keep the houses of Cleveland Heights in good repair. The participating businesses are Cedar Center Hardware (Warrensville Road in South Euclid), Dunn Hardware (Wilson Mills Road in Richmond Heights), Heights Hardware (Covington Road in Cleveland Heights), Seitz-Agin Hardware (Lee Road in Cleveland Heights), Sherwin Williams Company (South Taylor Road in University Heights), South Euclid Hardware (Mayfield Road in South Euclid), and the Title Shop (Broadway Avenue in Oakwood Village).

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Heights Observer December 1, 2010 23 www.heightsobserver.org
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.