

**VOTE
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Heights
pg. 24**

INSIDE



9
Art show at CH senior center



14
Gearity learning garden



18
Luna Bakery and Cafe opens



21
Paramount Pictures shoots film in CH

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Heights leaders react to Huron Hospital closing

Lewis Pollis

Local government officials expressed concern after the Cleveland Clinic announced this month that Huron Hospital, in East Cleveland, would close its doors on or before Sept. 4. The hospital will be replaced with a community health clinic, to open Oct. 3.

Cuyahoga County Councilman Julian Rogers, whose district includes Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, is worried about what the closure will mean for his constituents. "What do we do with the patients who are going to Huron?" he asked.

According to Rogers, it takes only about 3 to 7 minutes to get to Huron Hospital from most parts of Cleveland Heights, compared to 20 minutes with no traffic delays to reach MetroHealth and upwards of 25 minutes to reach Hillcrest Hospital. "When you're talking about trauma, minutes mean lives" Rogers said.

Rogers noted that 27,000 patients—the number "no one's talking about"—were seen in Huron's emergency room last year. MetroHealth will have to bear the burden of those additional patients, which will exacerbate that facility's ex-



Huron Hospital on Terrace Road in East Cleveland.

JEANETTE SICAN

isting financial problems and slow things down for patients from the West Side who rely on Metro, Rogers said.

The way the Cleveland Clinic went about its decision to close Huron "shows a lack of respect for the community," Rogers said. Hospital administrators had been talking to local officials about closing the Huron trauma center for months, but "at no time during those negotiations did they mention that there was a possibility of closing the entire hospital," he said. "The Cleveland Clinic did a horrible job of communicating their intentions to the public."

In addition, Rogers is concerned about losing Huron's 850 jobs. Beyond the increase in unemployment, the community will lose the commercial traffic

from hospital employees and visitors. "Those people go to lunch every day," Rogers said. One estimate suggested that East Cleveland would lose \$3 million in income tax revenue.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward Kelley is also upset about the decision to close Huron. "I'm not happy about it," he said. "We stand with Cleveland and East Cleveland with their frustration."

The extra time it will take for Cleveland Heights residents to get to MetroHealth or Hillcrest is "absolutely" significant, Kelley said, "I haven't seen anybody say that's not true."

The additional 10 to 15 minutes can mean "the difference between life and death" for trauma victims, Kelley

continued on page 5

The Heights celebrates its independents

Megan Johnson

The Heights Independent Business Alliance (HiBA), a member of the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA), has declared the week of July 1-7, 2011, Independents Week.

"This is a time to reflect on the importance of economic democracy and community self-determination by celebrating the nation's locally owned independent businesses and the stake each citizen has in shaping their hometown's future," said Jennifer Rockne, AMIBA director.

Residents of the Heights and the region are invited to celebrate by joining in the activities and in-store promotions offered by participating HiBA member businesses.

"HiBA is joining other local alliances and partner organizations nationwide

to celebrate our great local independent businesses, which exemplify the uniqueness of Cleveland Heights and University Heights," said Alex Quintana, owner of Quintana's Barbershop and Dream Spa, and cofounder of HiBA. "We have a reason to celebrate. These friends and neighbors embody the spirit of entrepreneurship and individuality in our community. Our citizens are integral to ensuring we keep these businesses that help define who we are, and contribute to our sense of place."

HiBA is part of a growing national movement of communities rallying to support their independent businesses, take control of their local economies, and reverse the trend of chains and big boxes displacing locally owned businesses.

To receive newsletters and updates

continued on page 11

Coventry disturbance ends in 16 arrests and special curfew proposal by city

Lewis Pollis

The first Coventry Street Fair of the summer ended on a bad note when a disturbance by a flash mob broke out in the early evening of June 26, resulting in 16 arrests.

"Every bit of 25,000" people attended what started out as "probably the best fair we've ever had," said Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun. "The vibe on the street was great . . . People were having a wonderful time."

According to Presser, who was one of the event's organizers, two small fights between teenagers broke out on the street shortly before 6 p.m., the fair's closing time. As the merchants started to pack up their booths, "it became an issue . . . They had to move those kids out."

"Probably 500 to 1,000 youth showed up," said Robert Downey, Cleveland Heights city manager, and with numbers that big, "trouble starts to happen."

There were kids playing in the Coventry P.E. A.C.E. Park when people came running across the field, said John Nelson, co-leader of the Youth of Coventry, a group of Cleveland Heights High School students and alumni who went to Monday's Cleveland Heights City Council meeting to express their concerns about the safety of the neigh-

continued on page 12

FutureHeights Annual Meeting draws large crowd for community discussion

Lewis Pollis

About 300 people gathered at the Cedar Lee Theatre to watch "The New Metropolis" and participate in a community discussion at the FutureHeights Annual Meeting on June 21.

"The New Metropolis" is a two-part documentary that highlights the efforts of two "first suburbs"—Madeira, Ohio and Pennsauken, New Jersey—that are struggling to retain their vitality as they compete for money and population with newer, outer-ring developments. The first part of the film argues that poli-

cies allocating federal and state funding for building infrastructure in new suburbs, while not supporting repair of infrastructure in older communities, is damaging in the short term and unsustainable in the long term. The second half explores how a group of concerned citizens are encouraging racial integration and civic involvement in their community.

The community discussion was moderated by Mark Chupp, a visiting assistant professor at CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, and a member of the FutureHeights Board

of Directors. He noted that Cleveland Heights embodies "a different kind of American dream" that values community and walkability.

Chupp also emphasized a need to be "intentional" about diversity. He compared Cleveland Heights's own diverse mix of people to salad dressing: If not shaken, it will separate.

Gail Broughton, the first audience member to offer her voice, said Cleveland Heights shares the "need for regionalism" with the suburbs seen in the movie. Beyond looking for

continued on page 8

Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Observer policy on information from candidates



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

In November, four seats on the Cleveland Heights City Council and four seats in University Heights come up for election.

The *Heights Observer* does not make endorsements or recommendations. We do, however, make it easy for anyone in the community to publish his or her opinions on issues and candidates. If you have something to say, please go to the *Heights Observer* Member Center (<http://heightsobserver.org/members/login.php>), register as a user, and start contributing.

Contributors may include the candidates themselves, a number of whom—since our founding four years ago—have used the *Observer's* editorial and advertising opportunities as a strategic cornerstone of their campaigns.

There is a concern, however, that candidates could swamp the *Observer's* pages with opinion pieces and articles. That's because each page of the newspaper costs money to print; the number of pages we print is based on the adver-

tising revenue in that issue. This is how most print publications operate.

If one candidate wrote something in July, and the others waited until the October issue—near the end of the campaign—we wouldn't be able to accommodate every candidate's submission within the pages of that issue.

So, between July and November, the *Observer* will not publish candidate contributions of any kind in the printed edition of the paper. That ensures that everyone is treated equally.

We will provide detailed information about the candidates in a pre-election roundup in the October issue. We welcome comments and contributions of others right up until the election.

The *Observer* provides a way for candidates to reach residents: through its websites, which don't have the same space limitation as the paper. All candidates are invited and encouraged to make submissions at the *Heights Observer* website (www.heightsobserver.org) and the Heights Observer/Blogs (<http://blogs.heightsobserver.org/>). A few candidates have already raised the question about using the *Observer* blogs to help community members get to know them better. Submissions can be made any time. Anyone—candidate or other—who wants to contribute a blog

should contact me directly.

This information has been provided, by mail, to candidates who are already registered for one of the two municipal elections. We'll do our best to keep up as new candidates enter the races—and hope they'll reach out to the *Observer* as well.

The *Observer* is owned by the community and produced entirely by members of the CH-UH community. Among media outlets in the region, only the *Observer* returns its profits back to the community in the form of community-building programs and services. For that reason, we feel a special responsibility around the elections. Now you know how we intend to handle it.

To express your opinion privately, e-mail Bob Rosenbaum at bob@tberosenbaums.net. To express your opinion as a letter to the editor, register at the Observer Member Center (<http://heightsobserver.org/members>) and click on "Submit New Story" to contribute your letter.

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

A recent post at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Uber-bored explode onto Coventry

My last entry was posted at the beginning of June and as the school year was winding to a close. In it, I encouraged Cleveland Heights residents to offer employment options to local teenagers in an effort to occupy their free time and to keep them busy, hence the title—Keep Heights Beautiful—because whether we'd rather admit it or not, bored teenagers with lots of idle time can be a recipe for all sorts of not-so-fun stuff, such as property damage and fighting.

Well, there are some things that aren't looking too fun this summer.

For the second time (that I am aware of) this month, Cleveland Heights's riot truck has been spotted parked on Coventry Road in an effort to waylay potential troublemakers from taking

liberties with their idle time, the latest occurrence being after the Coventry Street Fair on June 26. Unconfirmed by police, but witnessed by personal associates, was the use of force against teenagers after a sound like gunfire occurred. The first occurrence, approximately two weeks ago, appears to have been spurred by technology. Research (meaning a call to CHPD and perusing of my daughter's Facebook page) shows that there was an active campaign to initiate a derivative of a flash mob/kickback party. I was there during part of this event to check on my children and witnessed the crowd firsthand. The sight was overwhelming as hundreds of teenagers packed Coventry from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Mayfield. From what I witnessed, there was not much interest by the teenagers in causing much more than revelry during this "kickback," but hundreds of any bodies jam-packed on Coventry makes

for an uncomfortable evening regardless.

It is my belief that many of these kids strolling up and down Coventry are looking for something to do. They're bored and Coventry, with its eclectic and Bohemian atmosphere, is the type of area where people can congregate with no specific purpose in mind. Locals more saturated in the area's history than I touted a time when Coventry was likened to the west coast haven of Haight Ashbury, where hippies and flower power reigned. I imagine during that time there were some instances of not-so-fun stuff as well, when local merchants and residents weren't fond of sharing their environment with purposeless, unemployed and ungrounded young adults who were as anti-establishment and anti-capitalistic as they have always been portrayed. They share a bit of commonality with the bored teenag-

continued on page 3

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Thank you to Taste of the Heights participants

To the Editor,
Cleveland Heights celebrated its tradition of serving great food at the Taste of the Heights, held on June 2. More than 200 guests at the Heights Youth Club on Lee Road savored delicious platefuls of food, sipped a glass of wine or other beverage, and enjoyed wonderful entertainment provided by the club's kids.

Twenty-one area restaurateurs provided a favorite dish, prepared by their chefs for the fundraiser. The Heights Youth Club Board of Directors wants to extend a special "thank you" to Jimmy O'Neill for organizing all of the participating restaurants: Anatolia Café, Brennan's Colony, Café Tandoor, Cedar-Lee Pub, Golden Dragon, High Thai'd, Jimmy O'Neill's Tavern, Lee Road Phoenix Café, Lopez Bar and Grill, Mister Brisket, Nighttown, O'Reilly's Pub, Pacific East Japanese Res-

taurant, Parnell's Pub, Pizzazz, The Stone Oven, The Tavern Company, The Mad Greek, Tommy's, Tree Country Bistro and Zagara's Marketplace.

Guests participated in exciting raffles, which included more than 50 items, ranging from local restaurant gift certificates to vacations in Florida. This tasteful Cleveland Heights rally for kids raised between \$25,000 and \$30,000, which will be used to continue the club's extensive programming. This does not include the generous gift that sent seven of our kids to Managua, Nicaragua for a week in June!

A very special "thank you" to all the wonderful supporters of the Heights Youth Club.

Kimberly Morgan
Board Administrator
Heights Youth Club

Patron questions use of herbicides at Nature Center

To the Editor,
I've been walking around the area of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes for years, and I love it. It's disturbing to find out that they're spraying herbicides to kill the cattails. The first chemical application was September 2010, with more spraying planned for this summer. I was assured links to fact sheets and spraying schedules would be posted.

Seeing people with tanks on their backs is certainly not what I expect from the Nature Center, nor is embracing a plan that uses chemicals (Rodeo, Concentration 5). Allowing cut down cattails to wash into an already too-shallow,

oxygen-challenged lower lake seems questionable as well. The lower lake is now lined with cattail debris, four-feet deep in some places. Add to that the fervor against non-indigenous species, which includes plans to cut down willow trees. What's next?

We need a well-publicized public information meeting, *prior* to this summer's planned chemical application, with speakers representing nonchemical wetland management, and fact-based information that can be accessed on the website.

Susan Parente
Cleveland Heights

BLOG continued from page 2

ers of today—non-consumers with too much time on their hands, except that one group was a bit more pale than the other. But I don't think that mattered much in the categorization of ne'er-dowells versus do-wells.

As we venture further into the dog days of summer, it is my hope that if the recent assemblages are perceived as hindrances to the vitality of the Coventry area, we become as proactive as possible to offer alternatives other than simply parking a riot truck in front of Marc's. The events of the past few weeks have aroused concern for a good number of parents. Admittedly, I am not aware to what degree the saturation of teens has affected local merchants or whether rumors and retelling are completely accurate, but we must acknowledge that

Coventry is appealing for a reason. I, too, have spent many an evening drifting from one shop to another for hours on end. So have my children. If the area is to remain vibrant, it must be able to attract its base, while at the same time effectively managing those who may not yet have the resources to invest in the area to the degree that we might prefer.

If there are troublemakers, deal with the troublemakers on a case-by-case basis. But let's look for ways to share a community jewel, while at the same time engendering a sense of community in our students who are well on their way to becoming productive citizens.

—Andrea Davis
See more and comment at <http://blogs.heightsobserver.org>.



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It's not too late to make South Taylor a complete street

Marc Lefkowitz

As drawn today, the \$7.25 million rebuild of South Taylor Road, scheduled to begin construction this summer, won't make any improvements for those who use this major north-south connector (one of the few in Cleveland Heights) on a bike. The pedestrian experience on the six-lane stretch between Mayfield Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard is also little improved. Why is that, and what can be done to tweak the plans?

There are some good ideas. For example, the curb will be expanded, reducing six very wide lanes down to five. Five years ago, when the project was designed, there was a modest proposal to bump out the curb on both sides, to add a buffer between the road and the sidewalk, and to add a multi-use path. But that plan has been changed to a wider tree lawn on the mall side only. The path is gone from the plans, and so, too, are the shade trees.

So much more can be done to reflect the reality that Severance Town Center isn't the regional attraction its creators thought it would be in the 1970s. (It must have been quite a three-martini lunch that led to the massive widening of this road.) It would be laughable today if we weren't standing squarely in a new era. We cannot simply talk about supporting "complete streets" and livable cities and reducing our carbon footprint. When opportunities this ripe come along, we must figure out how to make good on those promises.

Cleveland Heights, like all the municipalities in the region, doesn't have a complete-streets policy. It also doesn't have a bike plan (Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition would like to rally support for starting both in the near future).



South Taylor Road at Euclid Heights Boulevard (facing north).

However, we do have one of the biggest bike-commuting populations in the region, and we have a planning department headed by a bicycle commuter. Richard Wong, director of planning and development for Cleveland Heights, seemed open and interested in modifications to the lane striping on Taylor, possibly to include a bike lane or sharrows. (See <http://www.gcbl.org/image/plans-rebuild-south-taylor-road-cleveland-heights-euclid-heights-section>.)

Even with the modest new curb position—which design consultants Wade Trim drew, extending into what was a car lane in front of Severance Tower apartments—South Taylor is still wider than it needs to be. If the city doesn't alter the current configuration of painted lines, it will have two 14-foot curb lanes, which are a full four feet wider than required by federal guidelines.

The city has an easy case to make if it wants a bike lane on the northbound (east) side of Taylor. All it takes is painting one in. Here's how: Take four feet from the curb lane and one from the center lane. Even this late in the game (and, surely, there will be those who will say it's too late, but the project is not scheduled for completion until 2013), there's still time to work out the details, such as where to put lanes even after the pavement is set.

Taylor is so wide here that, for only

the cost of paint, the city can add a bike lane. It can keep the ten feet of new grassy tree lawn if it wants, still have five lanes of traffic and easily accommodate a bike lane from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Monticello Boulevard. Using existing resources from the project, the city need only take a more thoughtful approach to the lane striping, one that incorporates the latest practices in complete streets design.

This is an exciting opportunity. We can take a very mundane design on one of the region's largest road-building projects this year, capitalize on the traffic-calming elements of bumping out the curb (as planned), and still provide a safe space for cyclists, and do it all without delaying or impacting the project's bottom line. Bike lanes on Taylor would provide a much-needed north-south connector in the Cleveland Heights bike system. Bike lanes on South and North Taylor Roads would provide a safe connection for residents north of Mayfield to the bike lane at Severance Town Center and the sharrows at Euclid Heights Boulevard.

Wong may have more say on the matter than he did previously. With the city's manager of capital projects, Carl Czaga, retiring and not being replaced, the duties of implementing big capital projects like S. Taylor are up for grabs. It will fall to either Wong or Alex Mannarino public works director. As a registered architect, Wong is qualified.

On the southbound (west) side of the road, off-peak, on-street parking adds a challenge for a bike lane, Wong said. But, it may be possible to have both an extended curb and add a bike lane here as well. The city can reuse three or four feet from the 14-foot curb lane and one or two feet from the center lane—two 10-foot lanes are an accepted road building standard. Presentations

at ODOT's recent HCAT conference attest that as long as it's not a federal or state truck route, 10-foot lanes are just as effective as 12-foot lanes. If the city is concerned about a bike lane with on-street parking, it could explore "floating bike lanes" as was implemented in Lexington, KY.

Another solution might be sharrows, the Share-the-Road pavement markers that the city is painting on Euclid Heights Boulevard and Edgehill Road. While walking through the site, we noted a few improvements for the pedestrian that are not currently in the road rebuilding plan. (We brought these to Wong's attention, and he promised to look into the possibility of adding them.) At the northeast corner of Euclid Heights and S. Taylor, an activation button for the cross signal to walk across the mall entrance doesn't exist. The pedestrian on this corner has no options because there has never been a crosswalk (a decision that was made for cars turning left from Euclid Heights on to S. Taylor to save a few seconds).

Decisions, such as omitting a crosswalk on all four corners, may seem unchangeable, but they are not set in stone. Crosswalks are inexpensive but valuable additions to modern city and suburb alike, even for mall entrances that were designed only for cars to enter or leave. In Cleveland Heights, it turns out, many residents walk to the Severance Town Center, especially around this neighborhood, which includes a large population that walks and bikes on a regular basis.

Marc Lefkowitz is Web editor for the Green-CityBlueLake Institute at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (www.gcbl.org) and a bicycle commuter.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

MAY 16, 2011

Vice Mayor Phyllis L. Evans was absent.

NeuroWave Systems loan amended

Council amended the terms and security of a loan agreement with NeuroWave Systems, Inc. The forgivable loan was made under the city's Commercial Revolving Loan Program to assist in the establishment of the medical technology business in Cleveland Heights. The amendment was made to help the business secure other financing.

Nuisance properties

Council declared four properties to be nuisances: three on Coventry Road (1633, 1655, and 1724) and one at 3563 Northcliffe Road. If no action is taken by the property owners, who have been notified, the properties will be demolished and the costs attached to a first lien.

Swimming pool announcements

Cumberland Pool will open Saturday, June 11. This year it will remain open through Labor Day weekend, with limited hours. The indoor pool at Heights High will close on June 9.

Mark Tumeo's last meeting

This being Council Member Mark Tumeo's last meeting, citizens and council members alike praised his service to council and the city. Resident Chris Johnson thanked Tumeo for always explaining issues clearly, and with care and concern. On behalf of the Millard Fillmore Society (a humorous reference), former Mayor Alan Rapoport expressed sorrow to see him go, but wished him well. Council members each expressed their appreciation, citing his energy

and his expertise in engineering, technology and administration. Council Member Dennis Wilcox noted some of Tumeo's contributions to the city: increasing communication between citizens and police, working on the upgrade of the city's computer and phone system, chairing the finance committee during difficult financial times, achieving balanced budgets, and making changes such as joining RITA to save money.

On behalf of the senior staff, City Manager Robert Downey thanked Tumeo for his support and work, especially during these difficult financial times. Working with him to achieve a balanced budget was easier because he took the time to learn the details of the city's budget.

Tumeo said that he was proud to have served with his fellow council members. He thanked the city's staff, who worked hard and professionally, and noted that the citizens were welcoming, creative and kind. He said it was the highest honor to have been elected by the "greatest people in the greatest city."

LWV observers: Lisa Peters and Pat Solomon

JUNE 6, 2011

All council members were present.

Jason Stein takes Mark Tumeo's seat

Jason Stein was appointed and sworn in to the council seat recently vacated by Mark Tumeo and will serve through December 31, 2011. If he wishes to serve the remaining two years of Mr. Tumeo's term, he will have to run in the November election. Mayor Kelley welcomed Stein and announced that he will serve as chair of the administrative services committee, vice chair of the public safety and health committee, and member

of the community relations and recreation committee. Council Member Stephens will now chair the finance committee.

House donated to city

Council approved the donation, from REO Clearinghouse, of a house at 859 Nelaview Road, which the city will demolish.

Development plan

Council adopted the Strategic Development Plan for the City of Cleveland Heights as prepared and recommended by the planning commission and amended by council. The document provides a guide to the future development of the city. The plan's seven goals include increasing the tax base through new development, improving infrastructure, and encouraging sustainable practices for all development activities.

Lead remediation

Council approved a three-year renewal of an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development for a grant for lead remediation work. The \$512,500 grant will be administered by the Housing Preservation Office and used for lead remediation in at least fifty dwelling units occupied by one or more children under the age of six.

Land bank agreement

Council amended a memorandum of understanding with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (land bank) for the land bank to act as the city's agent in connection with nuisance abatement in properties in the city, including the demolition of unsafe vacant properties. This will help coordinate policies and procedures for the maintenance and resale of foreclosed properties



within Cleveland Heights that are owned by the land bank.

1003 Greyton Road

Council authorized the sale of city-owned property at 1003 Greyton Road, which had been rehabilitated with federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds and for which a purchase offer has been made for \$76,900. The authorization also provides \$5,000 down-payment assistance for the purchaser.

3320 DeSota Ave.

Council declared the property at 3320 DeSota Ave. to be a nuisance and authorized demolition at a cost of \$13,000.

LWV observers: Katherine Solender and Lisa Peters

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

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

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

HURON continued from page 1

added. He said that closing Huron is not consistent with the Cleveland Clinic's promise of world-class care.

Kelley also said that Cleveland Heights would consider joining Cleveland and East Cleveland if they file another lawsuit to keep Huron open. The two cities sued after Huron announced its intention to close its trauma center last year, but withdrew the suit after the hospital agreed to reconsider.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld expressed concern for East Clevelanders and the city government. "I feel bad for that city," she said. "It's unfortunate that a community anchor . . . will be leaving."

University Heights residents, however, are unlikely to be affected by Huron's closing. UH ambulances take some trauma victims to Huron, but only about 10 percent of EMS trips go there, Infeld noted. Most residents already go to Hillcrest or University Hospitals.

Eileen Sheil, spokesperson for the Cleveland Clinic, said that Huron's closure should not be taken as a sign that the hospital system is leaving the area. The

Cleveland Clinic included East Cleveland residents in designing and planning the new health center, which "better meets the needs of the community," she said.

While the trauma center's closing will be a loss for the community, Sheil said the Northern Ohio Trauma System—a partnership between the clinic and MetroHealth—is "doing a great job" working toward better regionalized trauma care. "We have more trauma programs than most cities our size," she said. She also cited the clinic's and University Hospitals' emergency departments as nearby alternatives to Huron, and noted that the number of people who used Huron was declining.

Between the closing of the hospital and the opening of the community health center, on Oct. 3, Huron's outpatient department (one-day appointments and visits) will remain open. Beyond that, the clinic will be providing free shuttle services from Huron to other area hospitals, Sheil said.

In addition, the Cleveland Clinic is "committed to providing jobs to those impacted" and is trying to find

jobs for Huron employees elsewhere in the hospital system. Job security "goes a long way to calm people's fears," and reduces the chances of too many Huron employees quitting before Sept. 4, which would force the hospital to close

ahead of schedule, she said.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and a graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and a sophomore at Brown University.



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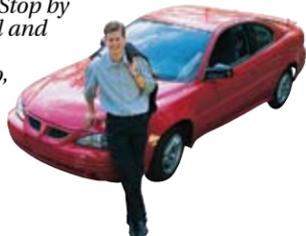
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Dennis Wilcox kicks off re-election campaign

Lewis Pollis

Dennis Wilcox, Cleveland Heights City Council member, is the first sitting member of council to officially announce his candidacy for re-election.



Dennis Wilcox

Wilcox is chair of the planning and development committee, vice chair of the finance committee and a member of the municipal services committee. He is seeking his fourth term on council.

Wilcox said he wants to be re-elected because "there's a lot to do." He wants to see projects he has worked on, such as the new Strategic Development Plan and the Green Zoning initiative, come to fruition.

"I think I've proven that I have good judgment," Wilcox said. He cited balancing the budget and continuing to develop good city services in the midst of the economic downturn as his best accomplishments on council.

"It has been an honor to serve the residents of this great and diverse city," Wilcox stated in a press release. "I look forward to again engaging with the voters on the issues of concern to them."

Other council members have yet to officially declare their candidacies.

New Council Member Jason Stein, has said that he will run to keep his seat. He has yet to make an official announcement. Stein said he is adjusting to his new position, and is focused on "getting those duties in order" before he looks ahead to November.

Council Member Kenneth Montlack has not yet made a public statement about re-election, but says he will make one fairly soon, adding, "I want to keep the entire world in suspense."

Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans has not yet made a public statement about her intentions either.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and a graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and a sophomore at Brown University.

Jason Stein appointed to CH City Council

Lewis Pollis

Newly appointed Cleveland Heights City Council Member Jason Stein was sworn in at the regularly scheduled Cleveland Heights City Council meeting on June 6.



PHOTO BY LEWIS POLLIS

Stein, who ran unsuccessfully for a seat in 2009, was chosen by city council to fill the vacancy left by Mark Tumeo, who resigned his seat after accepting a position at the University of North Florida.

After the roll call was taken—the other six council members were present, as was Tumeo—Mayor Edward Kelley announced that Stein was to be inducted.

Council Member Dennis Wilcox offered the formal nomination. Wilcox praised Stein for his honesty, practicality and good judgment, saying he was sure Stein would "take into account the needs of the entire community." He also mentioned that Tumeo had specifically suggested Stein as his replacement when he informed his colleagues of his resignation.

At Stein's request, Tumeo administered the oath to his successor.

Council Member Cheryl Stephens seconded Stein's nomination and he was approved by a unanimous vote.

Stein is filling Tumeo's positions as vice chair of the public safety and health committee and member of the commu-

nity relations and recreation committee. In addition, he is the new chair of the administrative services committee, with Stephens taking over Tumeo's former role as chair of the finance committee.

Stein introduced his first act of legislation at the meeting: Resolution No. 69-2011, a three-year renewal of Cleveland Heights's contract with the Walter H. Drane Company for an annual update of the city's codified ordinances. The measure passed, 7-0.

After the meeting, Stein said he is honored to have been appointed to city council. He cited regional cooperation, outreach to public schools, attracting small businesses and managing the city through the economic crisis among the top priorities for his term.

This was the first time city council made a midterm appointment since Council Member Phyllis Evans was selected in 1993, Kelley said, noting that council had to consult the city's charter to ensure that it followed the correct procedure.

Eighteen people applied for Tumeo's vacant seat before the May 17 deadline. Of those, six were interviewed for the position. "It was encouraging to see all the talented people in the city who love Cleveland Heights," Dennis Wilcox said.

Stein will complete the rest of the first half of Tumeo's term, but must run in November to keep the seat. If re-elected, he would serve the full remainder of Tumeo's term, which expires Dec. 31, 2013.

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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



MAY 16, 2011

Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg and Councilman Steven Bullock were excused.

Top it Off Pizza

Top it Off Pizza, which shares a parking area with Purvis Park, was required to deliver all pizzas (no pickup) from Memorial Day to Labor Day because of safety concerns for the many children going to the pool. Council approved owner Talia Gahanian's request to allow pickups from Memorial Day to June 3 because the pool doesn't open until June 4.

At the June 6 council meeting, owner Talia Gahanian will present data regarding the company's peak business hours in the hope of being allowed to continue pickup throughout the summer.

Karvo Paving Company

Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights and University Heights awarded the 2011 street resurfacing program to Karvo Paving Company.

IRS fine

The IRS has fined the city \$360 for the late filing of W2's in 2008. Also, the Public Fidelity Crime Bond had expired in January 2009 for nonpayment. A new bond from Traveler's Insurance, retroactive to April 4, 2011 for \$1,004, has been secured. This bond provides insurance coverage for city employees.

Grass notices

Building Director David Menn announced that more than 200 grass notices have been issued already this year. Mayor Infeld noted that the city is aware of the problems created for homeowners by the rain and is trying to be lenient in issuing warnings.

Pool repairs

Mayor Infeld announced that due to the rain, painting of the pool and slide would be postponed until fall, and concrete repairs remain barricaded because the concrete is curing more slowly than usual.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

JUNE 6, 2011

All council members were present.

Community gardens

Mayor Infeld stated there would be a fourth workday at the community gardens near the Taylor School building.

Pool passes

Pool passes must now be purchased at the pool. A number of residents took advantage of the new online payment option.

Continental Cup

John Carroll University will again help host the Continental Cup, which involves more than 500 international athletes. Due to construction at Shula

Stadium, competitions will be held on the quad.

Top it Off Pizza

Talia Gahanian and Zahava Seltzer, owners of Top it Off Pizza, 14270 Cedar Road, presented a continuation of their appeal of the zoning board's denial of changing the 2010 city council ruling that disallowed pickup orders from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The business is housed in Heights Jewish Center (HJC), which is adjacent to Purvis Park and pool. In a thorough discussion of the issue, council members pointed out that the location was an exception to the zoning code and that safety in the busy parking lot was a concern. Council upheld the zoning board's restriction to delivery-only service between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

High school football at JCU

Council granted John Carroll University's request to host the St. Ignatius vs. St. Xavier Cincinnati high school football game at Don Shula Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m., and to extend the lighting curfew from 9 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 21 and 22, so that men's and women's soccer games could be rescheduled to those evenings at 7 p.m.

Human resources manager

Council approved an ordinance on first reading for hiring a part-time human resources manager and paying up to \$20,000, with the stipulation that the finance director return to council with information about the consultant alternative. The mayor explained the need for a skilled and experienced individual who is familiar with government regulations, compensation and benefits, workers compensation, recruitment, contracts and plan design changes. The position would not include benefits, and money that had been set-aside for a finance clerk would be used to pay for part of this position.

PayPal

Council authorized an agreement with PayPal to provide online payment options for municipal fees. The initial experience for online pool passes resulted in fees of approximately \$100 for the service.

License bureau

The building commissioner announced that the license bureau was moving to University Corners (at Cedar and Taylor roads).

Gas and water lines

Mayor Infeld noted that the six-month Green Road gas line replacement project should finish by the end of June and that the water line replacement on Bushnell Road should start at the end of June and be finished in two weeks.

LWV Observer: Patricia C. Solomon.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

Part-time council seats pay about \$105/hour plus benefits



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

Four of seven part-time council seats in University Heights will be on the November ballot. The job description includes attending 20 scheduled council meetings a year, and forming council committees.

The terms of four councilmen will end Dec. 31. Their starting salary in 2008 was \$8,100 plus benefits. They will end with \$8,900 plus benefits, a 9.87 percent increase in pay.

That comes to \$445 plus benefits for each council meeting this year. In 2010, records show that the four were absent for a combined total of 12 council meetings, an average of three each.

Documenting their attendance at committee meetings is a bit of a challenge because only a handful of minutes are public. In our form of government, councilmen meet in committees to prepare what they will bring to council for a vote.

It is in the public committees where citizens see councilmen discussing, considering, evaluating, proposing, negotiating and formulating the future well-being of our city. Council minutes for 2010 show that only 10 committee meetings took place. The seven committees averaged less than 1.5 meetings each.

Without minutes, we don't know who attended meetings. Assume they each attended at least two of their own meetings (round up from 1.5). So if we add 20 council + 2 committee meetings, we have a total of 22 meetings.

To allow for any undocumented meetings, let's assume all were present. For 22 meetings at the 2010 salary of \$8,700 plus benefits, the four earned \$395.45 plus benefits per meeting.

How much did they earn on an hourly basis? Assume council meetings last about 2 hours, and committee meetings 1 hour for a total of 42 hours. In 2010, our four councilmen earned only \$207.14 an hour plus benefits.

"But surely," you say, "they must prepare for meetings, they don't just show up?" OK, assume our four councilmen work as many hours outside of public meetings as they do at public meetings.

They can read the \$83,000 worth of studies we paid for. They can hold regularly scheduled office hours at City Hall to hear from residents. Or, they

can write minutes. Adding additional work lowers their 2010 hourly rate to only \$103.57 an hour plus benefits. Or, \$105.95 an hour plus benefits at the 2011 rate.

So, are you interested in a part-time council job? I know exactly what you are going to say. You think you do not have the "smarts." After covering council for years, and hearing your views, and the views of hundreds of others, I can honestly say, you do.

Some issues are complex, for anyone. UH withheld making a required \$2 million TIF payment, a legal obligation. This fact was known to our four councilmen in 2008. Yet, they neglected to act on it; two are attorneys and another chairs the finance committee.

Most issues are routine; read a few minutes for yourself. Go to www.universityheights.com, click on Public Notices, then Minutes.

Are you interested in a unified city? Our charter says councilmen are to be at-large, to represent the city's best interest, not the best interest of an ethnic, geographical, racial or religious segment of the city.

Are you interested in being fair to all residents as a whole? Our charter also says councilmen are to be non-partisan. Creating an "us and them" mentality by introducing political party-affiliation bias into our city government is not desirable.

Council will have to decide on the zoning study, backyard garbage pickup, collaboration issues and numerous agenda items that have languished since 2008.

Council would also be wise to include citizens in the process when significant change is considered. Read what residents told council in the 9/2/2008 minutes. They advised council against rushing charter review without providing opportunity for citizen input. Council did not listen and voters turned down the proposed change in government.

If council returns to citizen participation and talks to residents, it will know what we, as a city, want. It would make the job, of council member easier. Yes, this can be done part-time. We need four citizens with common sense and ordinary intelligence, who can manage a household budget and make decisions in the community's best interest.

Anita Kazarian, a marketing professional, and founder of Noah's Landing, LLC, is a longtime resident of University Heights. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

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Council meeting deemed a step in the right direction for JCU and UH residents

Jim Perkins

At a council meeting on June 20, students and faculty of John Carroll University requested that the University Heights City Council change the use conditions for Shula Stadium. JCU asked the council to allow the football field to be used more regularly for varsity, club, and intramural athletics, and to allow local schools to use this facility.

The current use conditions, which JCU agreed to in 2002, allow for one night football game per year and prohibit the use of stadium lights and speaker systems after 9 p.m. JCU asked permission from council to allow stadium lights to remain on until 11 p.m., to allow for more varsity and club practice times, intramural games, and the sharing of the facilities with local schools.

Dora Pruce, director of government and community relations at JCU, has been instrumental in the university's efforts to modify stadium use conditions. In her opening statement before council, she expressed JCU's gratitude at being part of the University Heights community. She expressed her main concern with the current use conditions of Shula Stadium.

"The 2002 conditions restrict intramural, club, varsity and recreational use of Shula Stadium. The current conditions also prohibit seven possible practice times a week," said Pruce.



Aerial view of Shula Stadium, named for Donald Francis Shula, a JCU alum, who is best known for coaching the Miami Dolphins to two Super Bowl victories and the NFL's only perfect season.

Gretchen Weitbrecht, JCU's associate athletic director, asked the council and UH residents to reflect on their own lives and consider if anyone they love participates in youth sports, high school sports, collegiate track, baseball, football, rugby, soccer, or any other athletic activity. She went on to explain several scenarios in which the stadium could better serve these athletes if the university were permitted to use its lights until 11 p.m.

"Simply put, we want to better utilize our amazing facilities," said Weitbrecht.

University Heights residents had an opportunity to express their concerns. Several residents of Washington Boulevard and Claver Road, the two streets that would be most affected by noise and lights from Shula Stadium, shared

their thoughts on extending the hours.

The major concern of these residents was the stadium's impact on their personal and professional lives. Families fear that extended hours at the stadium would interrupt peaceful evenings and make it difficult to put young children to bed. Business people in the neighborhood fear the lights and speaker system would prevent them from preparing for important meetings.

Several residents commented on the number of vacant houses on Washington Boulevard and Claver Road. Residents fear that extended hours at Shula Stadium would increase the difficulty of selling these homes and their own homes in the future.

By the end of the evening, no ruling was made on the issue. Councilman Steven Bullock remained optimistic and confident that, if both JCU and the residents of University Heights work together, everyone's needs can be met.

"The response to this issue should be made together. With coordination and hard work, I believe a positive solution is possible," said Bullock.

The issue will be discussed during committee-of-the-whole work sessions scheduled for July 5, 17 and 18, at 7 p.m. Anyone who wishes to speak on the issue is encouraged to attend.

Jim Perkins is a student at John Carroll University and a Heights Observer summer intern.

FUTUREHEIGHTS continued from page 1

ways to combine community services, Broughton does not think each city in the Cleveland area needs its own major retail development and, she added, "very few people disagree" about that.

Another attendee, Charles Davis, drew parallels between Cleveland Heights's current problems and the struggles he saw in Warrensville Heights while growing up there. He spoke of a "PR campaign going on against Cleveland Heights," alluding to references in outer-ring suburbs to the supposed decline of this community. Davis said he moved here recently from such a suburb, and people there told him he was making a mistake. Because there is no direct highway access to this area, he said, it's easy for people to hear the rumors and never see the city for themselves.

Asked what keeps him in the CH-UH community, Steve Bennett, former president of the Northeast Ohio City Council Coalition, cited the "quaintness" of the area. "You can walk to things," he said. "You don't have that on the West Side."

Bennett also said proximity to medical care is a big part of the community's appeal. "It's a 10-minute drive" to a hospital, which is appealing to aging baby boomers. "You don't have that anywhere else."

At the midpoint of the evening, FutureHeights inducted four area merchants into its Innovators Circle. Honored for their longtime commitment to the community were Tom Fello (Tommy's), Steve Presser (Big Fun), Stan Soble (Nela Florist) and Joel Borwick

continued on page 11

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Kamille Harris receives 2011 Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship

Lita Gonzalez

Cleveland Heights High School held its annual Senior Awards Night on June 1. Among the seniors receiving scholarships—which totaled more than \$60,000 in local awards and millions in state and national awards—was Kamille Harris, this year's recipient of the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship.

Harris, a member of the Heights High marching band and symphonic winds, will attend Wright State University in the fall. She hopes to become an attorney, help people who have experienced life challenges similar to hers, and offer them different options and new possibilities.



Lita Gonzalez with scholarship recipient Kamille Harris.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by the residents and businesses of Cleveland Heights, together with the family, friends and fellow officers of Officer West, who lost his life in the line of duty in 2007.

The award is a two-part scholarship: The first part is awarded to a graduating senior in the law enforcement/criminal

justice program at Heights High who exemplifies Officer West's dedication to work as a police officer, and who plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. The second part of the scholarship is presented to the recipient after the student successfully completes his or her first year of college.

Contributions to the fund are always welcome, and can be mailed to:

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o The Treasurer's Office
The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District
2155 Miramar Boulevard
University Heights, Ohio 44118

Lita Gonzalez has lived in the Heights since 1985. She is an occasional contributor to the Heights Observer, and recently became a proud grandmother.



Elaine Wolk

Art on display at the CH Senior Center

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Ninety works of art, featuring colored pencil, collage and watercolor, were matted and hung by Elaine Wolk at the beginning of June, and will be on display at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center through August.

Featured artists are Catherine Aldrich, Laura Kaiser, Loretta Blackmon, Mary Lou Malave, Thyra Davis, Gloria Morman, Bernie Griesmer, Susan Roberts, Mary Hopewell, Simone Wallingford, Elaine Irvin, Carol Walton, Rebecca Jefferson, Marianne Wilham and Elaine Wolk.

Susan Morse, a graduate of Oberlin College and the Cleveland Institute of Art, taught the class at the center in which the works were produced.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center is located at One Monticello Blvd., and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

FutureHeights welcomes four new members to Innovator's Circle

Deanna Bremer Fisher

FutureHeights welcomed four new members into its Innovator's Circle during its annual meeting on June 21. The circle honors the vision and efforts of active and dedicated Heights residents, who make our communities the best they can be.

The 2011 inductees—Joel Borwick, Tom Fello, Steve Presser and Stan Soble—are business owners who volunteer their time and resources to community causes. "We thought it especially important to honor local business owners this year," said Lloyd Bell, president of the board of directors for FutureHeights. "Even though times



Joel Borwick



Tom Fello



Steve Presser



Stan Soble

are tough, they still find the time and resources to give back to their community. Joel, Tom, Steve and Stan give generously to local causes and, though their leadership in local nonprofits, inspire others to do the same."

Stan Soble has owned Nela Florist, an anchor in the Noble Nela business district, for more than 20 years. He sponsors and helps to coordinate the Noble Nela Street Fair, participates in

the East Cleveland bike rodeo, and is a member of the East Cleveland Library board. An avid baseball fan, he is a board member of East Cleveland Baseball Charities, and supports a number of Little League teams. Soble has been tireless in his efforts to revitalize the shopping district and engage youth in a positive way.

Tom Fello, owner of Tommy's Restaurant on Coventry, helped found the Coventry Village Special Improvement District (SID), which is responsible for the streetscape improvements, street festivals and other events that maintain the vitality of the district. He was instrumental in encouraging other Heights business districts to become SIDs. He supports numerous causes in the community and is known to plow sidewalks, weed flower beds, and do whatever it takes to maintain the appeal of the neighborhood.

Steve Presser has owned the Big Fun Toy Store on Coventry for more than 20 years. His store's unique offerings and his outgoing personality attract people from around the country to the Heights. In addition to supporting numerous neighborhood groups and local charities, Presser serves as the execu-

continued on page 11

July 9 is SummerFest 2011 at Church of the Saviour

Loretta Dahlstrom

On Saturday, July 9, from 5-9 p.m., Church of the Saviour opens its doors for a fun-filled event. SummerFest 2011 will feature carnival games; a 52-foot-long inflatable obstacle course; a dunk tank; a kids' Fun Zone with games, prizes, face painting, puppet theater and clowns; a team pie-eating contest; popsicles and cotton candy; live music; hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas.

Admission is free and the event is open to the community. Game tickets are 25 cents each and food is available for purchase.

All proceeds from this event will be used to fund local, national and international mission work.

Fun, food and games on a summer evening, and the chance to help people rebuild their lives—SummerFest 2011 is a place for the whole family to have a good time, meet new neighbors and see old friends.

Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Rd. in Cleveland Heights, one block North of Fairmount Boulevard. Parking is free.

Loretta Dahlstrom an administrative assistant for Church of the Saviour.



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Heights offers referral services for senior adults

Judith Eugene

Many families feel confused, pressured, and frustrated when it comes to deciding how best to care for an aging parent who is becoming more dependent. There are many questions that need to be answered: How will we make the time? How do we decide between home care and assisted living? How do we know when a parent has dementia or Alzheimer's? What legal and financial issues do we need to be concerned about?

Fortunately, Heights-area families have local resources to help with such difficult issues. One is the Cleveland Heights Office On Aging (216-691-7377), which employs two social workers. "We are an information and referral service that directs families to appropriate resources based on the needs of the individual and the family," said social worker Cathy Katz. Recommendations cover such issues as home healthcare, housing, legal issues, finances, meal assistance and home repair assistance.

The Senior Comfort Guide (www.seniorcomfortguide.com), founded in Beachwood, is an online guide to help families compare available options. Its extensive list of housing, home healthcare, day care, counseling, and providers of other services enables families to compare the features and benefits of each without having to make individual visits. "This is especially helpful for busy working families, and families that live out of town," said Max Compton, president of the guide. Families can search the database by city or zip code, and do not need to enter any personal information in order to use the

website.

For people seeking more than resource referrals, Eldercare Coaching is a new service available to families. Kelsey Loushin, president of Eldercare Professionals of Ohio (440-212-4987), helps families navigate the maze of senior adult agencies, businesses, hospitals and living communities to come up with an actual plan for care.

Loushin gathers information about the senior's physical and mental medical history, living situation, and the family's short-and long-term goals. She then develops a plan to help the family take the most appropriate action. "Families get a tremendous amount of relief and hope when they realize they're not alone," said Loushin.

Other local referral services include First Call For Help (211 on the phone or www.211.org), a hotline operated by The United Way. The Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services (216-420-6750), located downtown, operates several senior programs. The Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (216-621-0303) publishes a comprehensive guidebook, *The Older Adults Resource Guide*.

The most important advice that all of these services offer is the recommendation to start research early. "Most eldercare decisions are crisis driven," Loushin said. "It's an emotional time, and it's easy to make a wrong decision."

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with mobility challenges through www.Loving-HandsGroup.com.

Control mosquitoes naturally

Barry Zucker

Its name comes from the Spanish for "little fly." It is so agile it can fly through a rain shower without getting wet! Only the female sucks human blood.

Birds, bats, frogs, dragonflies and ants eat mosquitoes.

To control mosquitoes, get rid of all standing water. If you can't, add a little soap or a little neem oil to the water, or add some Bti, an effective biological control that kills insects without harming humans or the environment. Garlic oil also can be used for control (Good Nature Organic Lawn Care can garlic spray your backyard.)

On people, consider using Avon's Skin-So-Soft. Avoid using products

that contain DEET. People, especially children, may experience neurological symptoms, muscle pain, headaches or tremors. It is much safer, and just as effective, to use oil of lemon eucalyptus.

The Repel brand with 26 percent oil of lemon eucalyptus, prevents bites for 4-12 hours. However, note that pure oil of lemon eucalyptus, an essential oil, has not been tested for safety or efficacy.

For more information about natural ways to control mosquitoes, contact 216-371-3263 or visit www.beyondpesticides.org/mosquito.

Barry Zucker is executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio, which provides alternatives to chemical pest control. BPO is located in University Heights.

CH resident attempts to shatter Guinness record



Teens pose for a picture at Coventry P. E.A.C.E. Park.

Samara Katz

On Friday, June 17, teens gathered at the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park to attempt to break a world record by having the most people dressed up as video game characters in one place.

Cleveland Heights resident Keith Curry organized the attempt, which unfortunately fell short of its goal.

Samara Katz, a recent graduate of Ohio University, is a freelance photojournalist and writer. Visit her website at www.SamaraKatz.com.

Disciples Church goes global

Ronald Werman

Are you interested in traveling this summer but are on a budget? Are you taking "staycations" instead of vacations? Then, with its Disciples Go Global! series, Disciples Christian Church is the place for you. On most Sundays this summer, at 10:15 a.m., members of the church will speak and share photos of their world travels. The destinations range from Madagascar to Mexico, China to Chile and from the Galapagos Islands to Greenland.

Members of the church have been issued passports to be stamped for each destination (presentation) they visit. The person who visits the most destinations will be eligible to win a prize at the

end of the series.

Visitors are welcome to attend the presentations. No actual passport is necessary because the borders of Disciples Christian Church are open on Sunday mornings. And there are no baggage fees.

Visitors may consider attending one or both of the services. The contemporary service is at 9 a.m. and the traditional service is at 11 a.m.

Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road, at Yellowstone Road, in Cleveland Heights. For more information, call 216-382-5344 or visit www.discipleschristian.org.

Ronald Werman is an elder of Disciples Christian Church.

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CHBC urges residents to try bicycle commuting

Joy Henderson

Commuting by bicycle is growing in popularity as more and more people recognize it as a healthy and an environmentally sound way to get to work. Experienced bicycle commuters enjoy combining their travel time with a workout. They say it is a great way to transition to and from work, arriving at work ready to settle in and having time after work to de-stress before arriving home.

Most bike commuters combine bike commuting with public transportation and/or a car.

Three local bicycle commuters give their stories below. They will also give short presentations and answer questions at the July 20 Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition quarterly meeting. (See sidebar.)



Marc Lefkowitz, Web editor

Destination: Green City Blue Lake at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 2.6 miles each way, plus meetings outside the office.

Route: I avoid main arterials. I take Somerton to Wilton to Hampshire to Edgemoor to Cornell, where I turn left onto Euclid Avenue and pick up the bike lane to East Boulevard to Wade Oval.

Frequency: I'm mostly a fair weather rider, not a winter rider. My goal is to extend my riding seasons to include early spring and late fall.

Bike: Specialized XC mountain bike; I'm a weekend mountain biker. I have two sets of wheels, one for commuting and one for off road.

Years bike commuting: 9

Clothing: I wear my work clothes to ride: a button down shirt and casual

dress pants. My ride is mostly downhill so I'm not sweaty when I get there. But I ride up Edgemoor on my way home, so I get a workout then. I wear my clip-in bike shoes and carry my work shoes. If it is really hot out, I bring shorts for the ride home.

Rain/cold strategy: Honestly, I wimp out if it is really cold, raining or when there is snow on the road. In that case, I walk, take the bus, or drive as a last resort. In the early spring and late fall, I wear a balaclava (hooded hat), gloves and a heavy coat. I don't have fancy gear; I don't even have fenders, both things I hope to get eventually.

Best thing about bike commuting: I get my workout, and it helps sharpen my mind in the morning and clear my head at the end of the day. I like knowing that I am reducing my carbon footprint, boosting my health and taking advantage of living close to work.

Favorite equipment: My messenger bag for work shoes, papers and jacket. My helmet makes me feel safe and my clip-in pedals help me take on the monster hill—Edgemoor!

Last word: I would like to see the Heights-area bike community promote complete streets, policy and design standards that provide safer roads for cyclists, pedestrians, kids, seniors and the disabled.



Ian Hoffman, attorney

Destination: Stokes Federal Courthouse, 7.5 miles each way.

Route: Cedar Hill to the Euclid Avenue bike lanes.

Frequency: All seasons. The coldest that I've ridden in is 10°F.

Bike: A 1980s steel-frame Giant road bike with flat handle bars and a Lotus converted to a single speed (with the help of the Ohio City Bicycle Co-op).

Years bike commuting: 10

Clothing: I wear cycling clothes to ride in, shower at the gym in my building and then change into my work clothes. I keep several days worth of work clothes in my office. These get restocked on the days I have to drive.

Rain/cold strategy: I avoid ice and rain.

Best thing about bike commuting: I observe things I'd otherwise miss. For example, mulberry season is coming up. I like getting exercise on my way to work, helping the environment, and saving money.

Favorite equipment: I use a backpack for work materials and other stuff and wear a Gorewear windproof jacket that is good for 50°F–10°F and snowboard mittens for the cold. My shoes are Adidas with bike cleats, but they look like regular sneakers. If there is rain in the forecast, I attach my fenders.

Last word: The Euclid Avenue bike lanes make my commute much nicer. I once carried a watermelon and cantaloupe in my backpack.



Andrea Joki, artist, program director

Destination: Heights Arts in the Cedar-Lee area, one mile each way; studio near downtown, five miles each way. For eight years, I commuted to University Circle.

Route: Canterbury to Brockway to Tullamore to Lee Road. When I ride to my studio, I take the sidewalk down Cedar Hill, cut through CWRU parking lots to

the Euclid Avenue bike lane to E. 23rd, then head north to Superior Avenue.

Frequency: All seasons.

Bike: Bianchi Valle for nice weather and a Raleigh Sprite for all weather.

Years bike commuting: 15

Clothing: I wear my work clothes to commute.

Rain/cold strategy: In cold rainy weather, I wear rain pants, protective eyeglasses, a waterproof shell over my warm coat, wind/waterproof gloves, and waterproof zip-up boots. I tape the vents on my helmet to keep my head dry.

Best thing about bike commuting: I'm not in a car. It's refreshing and meditative to pedal along the back roads, enjoying the trees and gardens with the wind in my face. Commuting by bike tricks me into getting in shape.

Favorite equipment: Rain pants, my lovely Raleigh and rear panniers or a backpack to carry my stuff.

Last word: I used to ride because I did not have a car, now I ride because it makes me feel good. In good weather, my husband and I use our bikes go to the grocery store, library, the pubs and other places.

Joy Henderson is a founding member of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition and she commutes one mile to work on her Schwinn.

Consider bike commuting

Wednesday, July 20, Dennison Park (corner of Monticello Boulevard and South Belvoir Boulevard), 6 p.m. potluck picnic (BBQ grills available), 7-8:30 p.m. program.

Three experienced bicycle commuters will talk about how they do it, an RTA bus with bike rack will be available for demonstration, and Cleveland Heights residents can purchase a bike license. Q & A to follow presentations.

For more information, contact Joy Henderson at 216-321-8081.

INNOVATORS CIRCLE continued from page 9

tive director of the Coventry SID and coordinates the Coventry Street Fair.

Joel Borwick operated Seitz-Agin Hardware on Lee Road for more than 35 years, and was president of the Cedar Lee SID. Borwick and his staff received many awards over the years for their customer service.

Although the store closed in June, Borwick continues to serve the community. He helped found the Heights Youth Club and serves as its president.

In her remarks at the induction ceremony, FutureHeights board member Judi Miles said that all of the inductees

“are held in high regard here in the Heights. People speak of them with the type of affection normally reserved for lifelong friends. They run the kind of iconic businesses that define the Heights for a lot of people. Truly, they are ambassadors for our cities.”

View a video of the event at <http://www.vimeo.com/25540797>.

To learn more about the Innovator's Circle, visit www.futureheights.org or call 216-320-1423.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

FUTUREHEIGHTS continued from page 8

(Seitz-Agin Hardware). Later, Megan Johnson, interim director of the Heights Independent Business Alliance, said local businesses that are active in the community have “really kept us together.”

“Encouraging spending at local places is one of the best things we can do to keep the Heights strong,” Johnson said. “Anytime there's a choice, shop locally.”

Cheryl Stephens, Cleveland Heights city council member, was the last to take the microphone and acknowledged the complexity of the problems the city is facing. “There is no cookie-cutter answer” she said, adding that the municipal government is making strides to fix them. She cited the hiring of an economic devel-

opment director, work on a more sustainable zoning code, and the rehabilitation of vacant houses and school buildings as big steps the city has taken since she joined council 18 months ago.

Stephens encouraged attendees to lobby their federal and state officials to change policies that allocate more funding to building infrastructure in new communities than to fixing it in older cities. Her message to the audience: “Don't let them take our money away!”

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and a graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and a sophomore at Brown University.

INDEPENDENTS continued from page 1

about Independents Week and other HiBA initiatives and specials, community members are encouraged to “Take the Pledge to Buy Local/Buy Independent Whenever Possible” at www.shopHiBA.org.

HiBA was launched October 2010

with the mission of building a vital local economy based on independent, locally owned businesses; and helping local entrepreneurs to thrive by uniting and educating the public about the benefits of recycling their money within the community. Currently, HiBA boasts a

membership of about 45 independent businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. The fee for business membership is \$100 a year, with other membership levels available for individuals and nonprofit organizations.

More information about the Inde-

pendents Week schedule of events is available online at the HiBA website, www.shopHiBA.org.

Megan Johnson is the interim executive director of the Heights Independent Business Alliance.

YWCA gives permanent housing to former foster girls

Kelli Fontenot

The second floor of the YWCA building on Prospect Avenue has been repurposed to house Cuyahoga County's young women who have aged out of foster care. The newly renovated facilities, called Independence Place, include 23 furnished efficiency apartments with kitchenettes, bathrooms, closets and basic household items, as well as a community room, laundry facilities and a playroom for children.

Three YWCA employees who live in the Heights helped make the \$5 million undertaking possible: Gina Cheverine, chief program officer; Fannie Johnson-Baxter, manager of supportive services; and Margaret Mitchell, president and CEO of the YWCA. Mitchell said planning for Independence Place has been a top priority for her since she joined the organization in May.

"This is not a halfway house, or a temporary solution," Mitchell explained. "The housing is such a stabilizing factor. Being able to have a permanent home, a telephone number where you can be reached, access to a computer on a regular basis, all of these are basic necessities that help move your life forward. Our goal is to see each of our residents move into a life of independence and self-sufficiency."

Each year, about 200 teenagers in Cuyahoga County become too old for foster care.

"They age out when they turn 18, but many do not have a high school



The YWCA building on Prospect Avenue is now the home of young women in Cuyahoga County who have aged out of foster care.

diploma, they do not have a home, they do not have preparation for work, and without the Y stepping in, it really is a bleak situation," Mitchell said.

Independence Place houses women between the ages of 18 and 24. "It's a time when you have a certain degree of independence, but at the same time, you're still very dependent on parents or guardians to get you to that next step. And when you come out of foster care, that really isn't there for you," Mitchell explained.

With the YWCA's support, residents pay rent on a sliding scale, depending on their income level. Child care and education are provided through the YWCA's Nurturing Independence and Aspirations (NIA) program, which helps the young women overcome various challenges and enables them to

spend time on career development.

Funding for the program came from low-income housing tax credits, donors, and federal, state and local governments. The project also received historic tax credits, which meant architects and contractors had to ensure that the integrity of the building was preserved throughout construction, according to Chuck Miller, of Doty & Miller Architects. Repurposing old buildings is a green concept in itself, but Independence Place also meets requirements for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification by the United States Green Building Council.

"There are lots of challenges associated with renovating old buildings," said Miller, a resident of Cleveland Heights and a founder of FutureHeights. Renovating Independence Place included using cleaner fuel, new electricity and plumbing and the use of sustainable and locally produced materials.

Tenants moved in last January, and an opening ceremony was held last

month. Miller said the project speaks to how the local community can respond to needs for such programs on a grassroots level. Independence Place also provides a model that could be used in repurposing other Cleveland Heights buildings.

"The YWCA building was built during the 1920s, and most of our architecture dates back to that time," he said. "They were trying to build for future generations, and so it's very sturdy, and we wanted to maintain that. With the adaptations we've made to this, there's no reason we can't use this building for another 100 years."

"When we think about the YWCA's mission—eliminating racism and empowering women—we have to make sure we are thinking about those who are often last, lost and the least among us," Mitchell said.

For more information, go to www.ywcaofcleveland.org.

Kelli Fontenot is a writer and editor living in Cleveland Heights.

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COVENTRY continued from page 1

borhood. There were "mothers and fathers running around . . . screaming for their children," he said.

Cleveland Heights Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson said most of the troublemakers were from outside of Cleveland Heights, and had used social media to find out about the street fair. Of those arrested, only two or three were Cleveland Heights residents, he said.

"Fortunately, nobody got hurt," Robertson said. Presser also noted that "there wasn't really any major violence" and, as far as he knew, there had not been any property damage.

In one response to the disturbance, a special Cleveland Heights City Council meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 29 to discuss an emergency amendment to the city's curfew policies, Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward Kelley said.

At the very latest, the legislation will be enacted at the next regularly scheduled council meeting, July 5, he said.

In addition, Robertson said the city will install 24 surveillance cameras around Coventry Village. While these will help in identifying suspects when problems arise, the cameras' main purpose is to deter criminal activity. "These aren't going to be subtle cameras," he said.

Presser is not sure whether the sec-

ond street fair, currently scheduled for July 24, will happen. "We'll talk to the city, the community, the merchants," he said. "No decision has been made at this point. None."

If it goes on as planned, Presser suggested alterations designed to inhibit another flash mob, such as charging admission and shortening the hours.

Robertson also is not yet sure if he would want the second street fair to be cancelled. He said he wants to see how successful the new ordinances and surveillance systems are at preventing crime in Coventry Village before he expresses an opinion on the matter.

The Youth of Coventry advocated passionately against canceling the fair. "We do not want that," Nelson said. "We don't want to lose what Cleveland Heights is known for."

Council seemed at least somewhat moved by the students' appeals. Kelley, who spent about 30 minutes meeting with Robertson and the Youth of Coventry, said he empathized with them because he had spent much of his time hanging out on Coventry when he was their age.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and a graduate of Heights High, is an Observer intern and a sophomore at Brown University.

Heights Libraries first pet show draws howls, meows, rabbits of delight

Sheryl Banks

Maybe it was the robo dwarf hamsters that said it best: "Squeal!"

The small patch of lawn across the street from the Lee Road Library could barely contain the action and excitement as pets, owners and spectators enjoyed the Heights Libraries' first community pet show on June 15.

The show was made possible by a grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in honor of children's author Keat's book, *Pet Show!* Like the show in the book, the library's pet show featured a surprising variety of animals.

In addition to dogs and cats, the young participants brought dwarf frogs, fish, a ferret, a rabbit, a toad, dwarf hamsters, and even a sow bug (also known as a "roly poly").

Henry Drak, children's librarian, emceed the event, encouraging each child to tell the crowd about his or her

pet, and to demonstrate what makes each pet special. Some dogs did tricks, and several pets wore costumes, including a cat named Gizmo, who sported a baseball cap and Cleveland Indians T-shirt.

Each pet clearly had a special place in the heart of its owner. "It was so interesting to hear from the kids what they loved about their pets, and to hear them describe life at home with them," said Drak. "These animals are clearly well-loved family members."

The show also featured an educational component: The van Bakeren Foundation, a local nonprofit animal-welfare organization, was on hand to educate both kids and adults about the importance of proper pet care, including regular checkups and vaccinations.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.



Henry Drak, Heights children's librarian, asks sisters Natalie (left) and Claire Nichols about their dog's fashion choices.

COURTESY CHUJH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights



May 16, 2011

All board members were present.

Freegal trial membership

The board discussed a proposal for a trial membership to the music downloading service, Freegal. The trial membership, involving 12 other Cleveland libraries, would last for six months, at a cost of \$12,016.67. Each library cardholder could download three songs a week from the Sony Music catalog. The downloaded songs would remain indefinitely on a patron's device.

Noble Neighborhood Library news

Director Nancy Levin and Board President Audrey Cole discussed their experiences with Noble's reopening celebration. They thanked the Friends for an incredible effort put into the fundraiser, held May 12.

The board approved a budget for Phase II of the Noble Neighborhood Library renovation. The initial budget of \$216,881.56 includes architect fees not to exceed \$18,000 plus expenses. Studio Techne will continue as architectural firm.

Home Repair Resource Center library

The library will partner with the HRRC to house the repair library developed by HRRC over a number of years. In addition to books and DVDs, a vast collection of handouts from the classes will be posted online. The HRRC collection will become part of the adult collection and will feature home repair experts appearing on a regular basis to help with queries from the public. Target date for completion of the project is January 2012.

Public service report April highlights

- In partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Children's Services offered five weeks of the Explore Your Neighborhood program. More 50 children were involved in activities involving gardening, composting, water quality, and soil.
- The Cleveland Museum of Art's Art to Go program came to Lee Road with a program on ancient Egypt. Nearly 30 children learned about the Nile and mummification.
- Jane Kessler of Appletree Books and Suzanne DeGaetano of Mac's Backs will join Coventry Librarian Pat Gray in planning the 2011-2012 Local Author Series.
- Coventry has begun a series of ASL (American sign language) classes as a result of a \$6,000 grant from the Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center.
- The University Heights City Beautiful Commission will provide advice and volunteers to help with planting and maintaining the front yard of the University Heights Library.
- Kent State library and information science student Nancy Mocsarin is continuing a practicum project at the University Heights Library to review archival materials to digitize for the Cleveland Memory Project database.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

Summer lunch and summer reading go hand in hand

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries' summer lunch program, in partnership with the Cleveland Foodbank, is off to a great start this year, with the number of lunches distributed the first week significantly higher than the 2010 numbers for the same week. Those numbers correspond to what appears to be an increase in the number of kids signing up for Heights Libraries' summer reading program this season.

"So far this year, we have more kids signed up than we had last year at this time," noted Susan Black, children's services librarian, "And a lot of those kids have come right from the summer lunch

program."

According to Nancy Levin, library director, "These programs complement each other perfectly." Levin spent time on the first day of the lunch program signing up young book lovers for the reading program, and sending them on to the children's department to hand in their forms.

Levin explained, "The lunch program draws them in, and the reading program will hopefully keep them coming back for a lifetime."

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

What's going on at your library?

All branches

Summer reading programs for children, teens and adults last all summer! It's not too late to sign up—just ask a librarian. Visit www.heightslibrary.org.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
 Wednesdays, July 6-27, 12-1 p.m.
Tai Chi and Qi Gong
 Thursday, July 7, 6:45 p.m.
Deaf Culture Film Series
 Monday, July 18
Reading Comics: Cancer Vixen by Marisa Acocella Marchetto

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
 Friday, July 8, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Let's Make Comics! (Workshop for sixth to eighth graders. Registration required.)
 Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m.
Garden Herbs: Use and Preservation (Registration required.)

Wednesday, July 27, 3:30-5 p.m.
West African Art: Craft-making for kids (Registration required.)

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
 Fridays, July 1-29, 10:30-11 a.m.
Reading Rumpus: Fun and Games for Early Literacy
 Thursdays, July 7 and 21, 7-8 p.m.
Read with the Teachers Night

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, University Hts., 216-321-4700
 Tuesdays, July 5-26, 6-9 p.m.
"The World in Your Neighborhood" foreign film series
 Wednesdays, July 6-27, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Senior Spot: Programs for Seniors
 Wednesdays, July 6-27, 2-2:30 p.m.
Stories in the Park (at Purvis Park, University Heights)

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and Dives

Parenting Q & A

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

Q. My husband and I have two children, ages five and seven. I always thought I'd be the mom who could work outside the home, prepare nutritious meals, attend PTA meetings, volunteer at our church and in the community, and entertain friends. Each year, as the kids get older, I expect to find time for all of that. I'm waiting for our family life to get easier, to feel more settled, and for us to be able to enjoy each other and do more than just survive. How can I find time for work and family, and have some kind of a life outside that as well?

A. I remember watching my son learn to



juggle when he was about nine years old. He went outside and started to throw three balls in the air. At first he had to dart wildly around the yard to try and catch them all. He dropped more than he caught, so he put one ball down and tried to juggle just two.

After he got the hang of that, and was able to stand in one place, smoothly catching each ball, he added the third ball back in. Again, he darted back and forth, out of breath, catching each ball before it hit the ground. Little by little, as he learned to perfect his timing and toss, he mastered the juggling—but not without much trial and error, practice and readjustment.

Balancing family life and learning to juggle have much in common. No system is perfect, but here are a few strategies that might help you get a little closer to keeping all of those balls in the air:

- **Prioritize.** Make a list of the things you have to do—all of the family, school and work obligations. Then, list the extra things you'd like to do. Put them in order of importance for your family or for you personally. Put each one in a category, such as ongoing, seasonal, one-time obligation. Ask yourself how much time and energy you would need to devote to each activity, then rank them and make some choices. Learn to say no to the activities that fall farther down on your priority list—and let yourself feel OK about that.
- **Build collaboration and teamwork.** Look for ways to share obligations, such as being part of a committee or taking on small tasks that are part of a bigger project, so that you can make a contribution without overextending yourself. "Kid-share" with another family—watch their kids on occasion so that they in turn watch yours

another time. Carpooling, or rotating other obligations with families participating in the same activities, will ease your schedule a bit, too.

- **Delegate more tasks to your kids.** As they get older they will be able to contribute more to household chores and free up your time a bit.
- **Don't skimp on "me time."** It is OK to put your needs ahead of your kids' needs sometimes. If entertaining or being involved in your church or community contributes to your happiness, make those priorities as well. Taking care of yourself is vital to the health and welfare of your family.
- **Make time for your marriage.** Like taking care of yourself, nurturing your marriage is essential and will contribute to the feelings of success and satisfaction you are seeking.

Above all, don't be afraid to drop a ball now and then. No mom is perfect and no family runs smoothly all of the time. Just like learning to juggle, sometimes you'll have to put a few balls down and other times you'll be able to pick some up—and it does get easier.

Gearity garden grows plants and learners

Simone Quartell

In 2008, as a new parent at Gearity Professional Development School, Joshua Hunter proposed starting a learning garden. Three years later, that garden is an important part of the school community.

"Gardens are a really good way to get parents and students involved in many different ways," Hunter said. "The students learn the importance of working hard together, learn about food and



Students use weather instruments to record temperature and rainfall at the Gearity Learning Garden.

animals, and learn about their academic subjects in different ways. By having a garden, students get out of doors, get to

work with adults, and learn to express themselves artistically."

During this school year, Hiram College students helped Gearity students build a fence and an archway for the garden. A fall festival was held with apple tasting and a bake sale. A bird habitat is also being set up on the far side of the school, where Amy Machmer's second-

grade class has been feeding the birds.

Throughout the 2010-11 school year, students planted six raised flower beds, 15 apple and pear trees, shrubs and some blueberry bushes. They frequently went outside to pull weeds and pick up trash in the garden.

Last May, the school held a spring event for maintenance work, planting and fun. Students planted flowers, onions, radishes, corn, squash and carrots. Students who attended the event painted two murals: one with flowers and handprints for the garden, and another painted entirely in blue. Joe Mendes and his fourth grade students will likely paint fish on that one.

The garden received financial support from several organizations. Topsoil was donated by the school district. In 2009, a \$250 grant from Reaching Heights enabled the school to purchase fruit trees. This past school year, a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's helped Gearity finish the barn and fence, buy plants and buy new tools.

Hunter hopes the district can hire an environmental specialist to work with the students in the garden and hopes the project will expand to other schools in the district.

Simone Quartell, a Cleveland Heights High School graduate, is studying journalism at Kent State University.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights



MAY 17, 2011

All board members were present.

Financial forecast

The board discussed the fiscal year 2012 budget and the five-year forecast. The forecast—which includes a three-year history, the actual year, and four years beyond, thus encompassing 2008–15—must be approved in October and May despite changing revenue due to uncertainties at the state and local level.

The schools receive revenue from real estate taxes, personal property tax, tuition, investment interest, state foundation programs, state rollback and homestead reimbursements, tuition, federal Medicaid, and miscellany. Expenditures include salaries and wages, fringe benefits, purchased services, materials and supplies, textbooks, and capital outlays. The budget is projected to have a balance for 2011–13, but a deficit is projected for 2014–15 due to cuts in state and federal monies.

Reduced tax collections at the local and state levels, along with drastic and substantive legislation at the state level, will impact the financial situation of public schools. The 2007 levy was affected by home foreclosures and residential tax complaints. The personal property tax was reduced by 2 percent per year with the lost revenue reimbursed by the state. HB 153 would reduce this reimbursement by half in 2012 and eliminate it in 2013. Interest rates are low and state funding is expected to decrease. Negotiated salary items, health care, utilities, and non-salary items are expected to increase. A levy should be

considered in 2011.

Revenue options

Dr. Joseph Micheller presented alternative options for revenue, which would require policy changes. School choice, private schools, home schooling, charter schools, online charter schools, vouchers, and tuition are drawing students from the district. HB 153 eliminates caps on the number of charter schools. Interdistrict open enrollment includes 78 percent of all Ohio districts. The impact on CH-UH schools is loss of revenue, with most students going to Cleveland, where innovative schools are marketed. The district can choose to participate in open enrollment and sponsor a district community school and/or e-school. The district must market the small classes at the elementary level or develop an online community school. The board must consider many factors if the district is to participate in the school choice option.

LWV observer: Lillian Houser.

JUNE 7, 2011

All board members were present.

Race to the Top (RtT)

On June 2, the “scope of work” for the second year of RtT was submitted to the Ohio Department of Education. The district will receive an additional \$60,000, which selected teachers will be able to use to offset tuition in a professional development

program established with John Carroll University. Using criteria set by the state, the district and the university will select qualified teachers, most likely those who are working toward becoming, or already are, master teachers.

Staff reassignment

Of 589 teachers in the district, 124 (about 20 percent) will move to a different building or small school.

- Among the elementary schools, teaching staff will be distributed so that each school has a mix of experienced and less experienced staff.
- At the middle schools, more content-licensed teachers will be assigned.
- At the high school, the four remaining small schools will be reorganized. The number of students taking the core curriculum will be maximized and career tech programs will be matched to the appropriate small school.

Bullying prevention program

The program seeks to prevent bullying through education and systematic discipline. A committee, which includes staff from the Alternative Learning Environment, social workers, and program specialists for behavior and student conduct, reviewed current procedures, the results of a survey, and a nationally recognized program at Solon’s Orchard Middle School, and developed the Tiger Proud and Bully-Free program for all levels.

Tiger Proud aims to change the culture through positive behavioral support, positive messages, resources, and support. Student ideas are central to implementation. An anti-bullying handbook for students and parents also helps parents know that

what they do is important. The school climate will be assessed annually with input from staff, students and parents. The handbook will be updated accordingly.

Building managers

Several building manager positions were created last year to coordinate support staff at the building level. In July, Steve Shergalis will recommend a full-time position to support the middle school principals because the middle school assistant principal position has been eliminated.

Board members expressed concern that the new job description for building managers seemed ambiguous. Shergalis said that the day-to-day responsibilities will be to continue to provide technical expertise and that the goal of better utilizing support staff will be an evolutionary process.

Levy

The lay finance committee met May 25 and determined that a levy is needed and recommended one be placed on the November ballot. The millage will be determined at a June 22 lay finance meeting and then put before the board for consideration at the July 5 meeting.

LWV observer: Cassandra Talerico.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

Blame no substitute for constructive public policy



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

The blame game rarely works when it comes to finding good solutions to complex issues. One such issue is how to ensure that every child has access to an effective teacher.

There is little disagreement that effective teachers are the most important resource a school has for educating its children. The literature is full of evidence that the quality of the classroom teacher makes a huge difference to student learning, especially for children who have limited support at home. Creating a supply of effective teachers is a great way to improve student outcomes.

There are plenty of voices suggesting that teachers are incompetent, underworked and overpaid. Their plan for increasing student achievement is to fire bad teachers, cut their pay, and give unregulated charter schools more opportunities to use public money. To me, this exemplifies the blaming approach, and the real goal is to cut spending; it’s not a path to more effective public schools.

Firing bad teachers is not a plan for creating a supply of highly effective teachers.

While widespread layoffs of teachers due to deep cuts in public school funding is creating a temporary supply of out-of-work experienced teachers, that is not a long-term solution to having a pool of high quality teachers for every classroom. Our population is growing and the baby boomer teacher corps is leaving in droves. The problem isn’t our inability to weed out a few bad apples; the policy problem is a looming shortage.

One rule of thumb in teacher development circles is that it takes about

five years of classroom experience for teachers to master the vast array of skills that make up the portfolio of an effective teacher. As Cleveland Heights teacher leader Laurel Chapman explains it, “There is expertise that can’t be front loaded in a teacher preparation program.” While it takes time to master the complex work of teaching, the supply of effective new teachers is stymied by a high attrition rate in the early years. About half of new teachers leave by the fifth year. The main cause: frustration with their own lack of effectiveness.

The medical profession uses residency programs to develop new doctors by having them work with patients under the tutelage of experienced physicians. Fortunately, we are now applying this model to the teaching profession, and it is working.

In 2002, the Ohio legislature mandated that local school districts implement programs to ease new teachers into the real work of the classroom. Our local school district has fully embraced this strategy and is having great results. New teachers are learning, sticking with teaching and thriving. Next year, Ohio is slated to turn the entry-year program into a four-year residency program. Deborah Delisle, former state superintendent, included this initiative in Ohio’s Race to the Top proposal. If the initiative survives Ohio’s change in leadership, new teachers will receive support that should translate into an even larger pool of effective teachers.

Giving every student access to a great education depends on giving them great teachers. Blame will not improve outcomes. Mentoring programs are proving that investing in new teachers will.

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She is the former director of Reaching Heights and current board member of the Home Repair Resource Center.

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Teaching new teachers: it's all about learning

Susie Kaeser

"As much as I would like to forget my first year, I cannot. Like most new teachers, I felt entirely overwhelmed and questioned my ability on a daily basis—not a good feeling," remembered Brad Hallam, who teaches math at Monticello Middle School in Cleveland Heights.

Thanks to the support of a mentor teacher assigned to him through the school district's Entry-Year Teacher Program, he not only survived the transition into classroom reality, but also became a teacher leader in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

"My mentor supported me in many ways, but perhaps in no greater way than by advocating for me to myself," he recalled. "It kept me in the game."

During the 2010-11 school year, his eighth year teaching, Hallam became a mentor himself, and offered confidence-boosting support to Monticello math teacher Sarah Cusick. They spent the year exploring what good teaching looks like and how to make it a reality in her classroom.

"By stepping back and listening to Sarah, it helped me understand what it means to be a good teacher. Now I can really articulate the characteristics of good teaching," said Hallam.

"An initial sense of failure is predictable," said 36-year veteran teacher Laurel Chapman, who is coordinator of the Entry-Year programs. She had a hand in the design of this state-mandated initiative, and in its local implementation in 2002. This year, Chapman matched 18 new teachers and 3 new counselors with accomplished educators, and guided the teams through activities to fortify the new education graduates. Since she started her master mentor position, she has observed more than 150 new teachers.

"Within less than 10 days in the classroom, eager and well-prepared new teachers are overwhelmed by the fear that they can't succeed. They don't know how much they don't know until they begin the job. A lot of teaching can't be front-loaded in teacher preparation programs. It can only be developed in the process of taking charge of a classroom," said Chapman.

For Lisa Berusch, Heights High English teacher and a mentor, it took until her fifth year to feel that she had the basics down. When she started



Laurel Chapman (left) and Nylajeane McDaniel lead the program that supports new teachers in the CH-UH district. Twenty-one teachers completed the Entry-Year Teacher Program in 2010-11, fulfilling the requirements to earn their five-year Ohio teaching licenses.

teaching in 1989, she was on her own. She believes that the program provides a structure to support new teachers and ends the isolation. It promotes collaboration, and it validates teachers looking to one another for ideas and support.

Berusch mentored fellow English teacher Emile Snitley. "My job was to help her feel successful. It's hard to see what you are good at early in your teaching career," observed Berusch. "The bonus of mentoring is I had an opportunity to learn from a creative new teacher."

In 2002, the Ohio Department of Education mandated that local school districts create Entry-Year programs to mentor new teachers. Raised expectations for student achievement called for a more systematic way to ensure that all students have access to highly effective teachers. An aging teaching corps and high attrition rates among new teachers limit the supply. In addition, there was greater recognition that teaching is complex and expert teachers—who are able to help diverse learners achieve at high levels—don't show up on their first day of teaching.

The need to replace retiring teachers and to raise student achievement makes the supply of highly effective teachers an important local concern. The CH-UH school district, which employs around 600 teachers, has had an average of 40 retiring teachers each year for the last five years. Fifty left this year, according to Tom Schmida, president of AFT Local 795.

Nationally, about one-third of new teachers quit within the first three years and half leave within five years, reported Schmida, a proponent of the Entry-Year Teacher Program. Research shows that frustration stemming from a lack of success is one of the main reasons new teachers quit.

Attrition is costly for school districts that invest significant resources in new staff, and it is expensive for teachers who quit before they reap the benefits of their college training. If it takes at least five years to master the complex work of teaching, early attrition interferes with meeting the demand for effective teachers. That's where the Entry-Year programs come in.

The Ohio Department of Educa-

tion provides a framework for weekly teacher-mentor interactions and self-reflection, and mandates that each new teacher produce a personal professional development plan. Successful completion of this yearlong exploration of teaching practice, informed by the teacher's immediate experience, also serves as the final requirement for earning a five-year teaching certificate.

"Growing teachers is a big priority for us," says Nylajeane McDaniel, director of personnel for the district, who works hand in hand with Chapman to oversee the development of new teachers. "We invest in it, and we expect to see the payoff in student achievement and teacher retention."

The school district's Entry-Year Teacher Program goes beyond the state's expectations. Under Chapman's guidance, teachers participate in monthly professional development meetings

that deal with survival issues and critical skills, such as differentiating between instruction and classroom management. Teachers have up to nine half-days of released time to observe one another teaching, observe and reflect on the practices of master teachers, develop effective teaching materials, and prepare for two evaluation visits from the principal, which influence whether to rehire them for the next year.

"We have a strong program because Laurie Chapman knows what she is talking about and she is so empowering," said Hallam.

McDaniel agreed. "Laurie is perfect for the position. She has a good way of helping people capitalize on their strengths. Teachers hear her messages; they don't feel beat up by her even when she is critical," she explained.

The investment of expertise in the program is paying off. This year, all 21 of the first-time educators were rehired by the district and earned their five-year teaching licenses, in part because they participated in the program. All 19 of the teachers who started in 2006-07 are still teaching, countering the predicted 50 percent attrition rate. The program also works to weed out people with low chances of success. Thus, 7 of the 24 new teachers in 2007-08 were not rehired.

As Chapman looked over the list of teachers who passed through the program since 2005, she smiled and nodded. Nearly 80 percent of them are still employed by the school district, but even more important, they are the teacher leaders in their schools. The program is creating the future stars in a greatly changed profession where collaboration and a willingness to keep learning are the keys to success.

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She is the former director of Reaching Heights and current board member of the Home Repair Resource Center.

A senior promenade



Seniors Gwen Donley and Bennett Wildey talk to Judson Park residents before attending their Senior Prom at Landerhaven on June 3. Sixty Heights High students stopped at Judson Park that evening, talking to residents about their prom traditions and learning about the high school experiences of the Judson residents.



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Historian to lecture on Rockefeller's local legacy at 10th annual Discover Cedar-Fairmount Festival

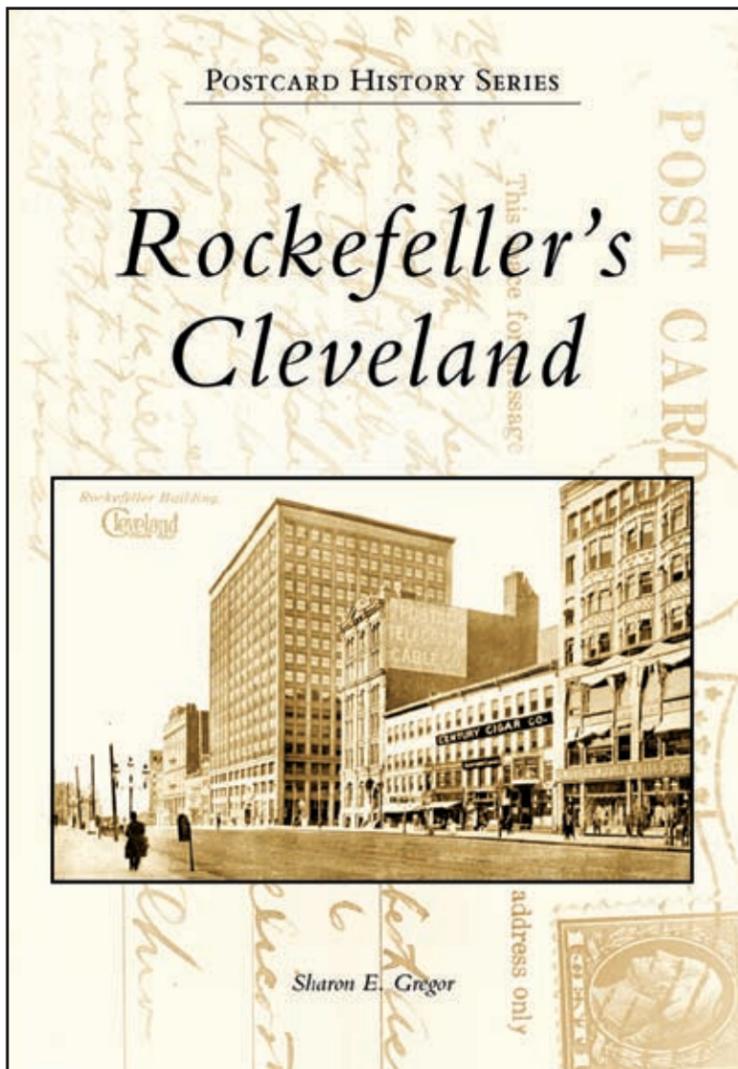
Deanna Bremer Fisher

"Cleveland had a huge impact on Rockefeller's success," said Sharon Gregor, an East Cleveland resident and author of two books about John D. Rockefeller. As part of the 10th annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival on Aug. 7, Gregor will give a presentation about her research at 1:30 p.m. in the Alcazar's music room.

Gregor says she began her research hoping to address the accuracy of the myths and legends that surround Rockefeller, the richest man in the world at the turn of the 19th century. "For example," she said, "many people believe that Rockefeller never returned to Cleveland after the 1914-15 tax dispute. In fact, he returned several times and frequently credited Cleveland for his success."

Gregor's first book, *Forest Hill: The Rockefeller Estate* (2006, Arcadia of America, Images of America series), describes in detail Rockefeller's 300-acre estate and summer home, in what is now Forest Hill Park and the Forest Hill neighborhood in Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland.

Her second book, *Rockefeller's Cleveland* (2010, Arcadia of America, Postcard History series), gives a visual tour of Cleveland during Rockefeller's time. Gregor dedicates two pages per topic and provides detailed descriptions in the captions, a treatment she hopes will enable readers to locate the historic sites in the present day.



For her presentation, Gregor will examine the myths and discuss little-known stories about John D. Rockefeller, including a surprise visit he made to the Euclid Club's National Amateur

Golf Championship in 1907. The Euclid Club was located in Cleveland Heights, at the intersection of Cedar and Norfolk roads.

Gregor coordinated the effort that

placed the 81 Rockefeller homes in Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland on the National Register of Historic Places. She is a founder of the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society, served as its first president, and chaired the City of East Cleveland's historic preservation board.

Still working on documenting Rockefeller in Cleveland, Gregor said, "There is so much more out there." A third book is in the works.

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Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

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VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER f

CHHS athletes sign letters of intent



Nine student athletes from Cleveland Heights High School signed letters of intent on May 31 to continue playing their chosen sport at the collegiate level.

The students are (front row) Jared Alcorn, soccer, Otterbein University; Larissa Davis, basketball, Muskingum University; Ra'Chel Walton, basketball, Cincinnati State; and Javon Jackson, Wrestling, Northern Iowa Community College, and (back row) Aaron Ashley, basketball, Bethany College; Sam Collins, basketball, Wittenberg University; Cody Martin, basketball, Cincinnati State; Cory Dodson, football, Muskingum University; and Adam Ceasor, football, University of Mount Union.

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Luna Bakery Cafe opens to the delight of neighbors

Hugh Fisher

In the interest of full disclosure, I went to the newly opened Luna Bakery and Café fully intending for it to be just what I wanted. My wife and I had wanted a place like this near our house for many years. We envisioned a relaxed place a few minutes walk from our house where we could get a light bite, specifically crepes, sandwiches, salads, and pastries, with an urban café feel. We also harbored a desire for it to offer our favorite dessert, which no one in Cleveland seems to offer—*pots de crème au chocolat*, the rendition of chocolate so sublime it makes mousse look silly.

So we dropped into Luna on opening day, and there it all was. A simple menu consisting of crepes, paninis, and a few salads, as well as breakfast items, such as eggs and oatmeal. The showcase had a variety of desserts—cookies, tarts, cupcakes, cheesecake, and to our great delight, yes, *pots de crème au chocolat*!

Luna Bakery and Café, located at 2482 Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights, is a partnership of Flour Girl owner Bridget Thiebault and Stone Oven owners Tatyana Rehn and John Emerman. The store occupies two storefronts, one side is the bakery and the other is the café. The décor of the café is simple and clean, with stucco walls, exposed concrete and brick, wood floors and seating for about 24. There is also an inviting patio and ample parking.

Emerman told us that he had



Luna Bakery Cafe owners (l to r) Tatyana Rehn, John Emerman and Bridget Thiebault.

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wanted to open another business and was seeking a partner to help him run it. He searched online for pastry chefs. The second person he interviewed was Thiebault, who happened to live in Cleveland Heights. The two storefronts becoming available on Fairmount was

also fortunate.

The menu features a variety of simple fare. We had a black forest ham crepe with spinach, cheese and mustard, and the portabello crepe with summer squash, goat cheese and artichoke pesto. Both were very good, especially the portabello crepe. Each came with a small amount of tomato and onion salsa. All crepes are available made with either buckwheat or traditional batter. Our daughter had a turkey and cheese panini and enjoyed it, which is saying something because what she decides to

enjoy at any given moment is a matter of pure speculation.

Of course, we finished our meal with the *pots de crème au chocolat*, and our daughter had a chocolate cupcake with mocha butter crème. Both were excellent.

We could not be happier with this new neighborhood amenity, and expect to be regulars.

Hugh Fisher lives on Fairmount Boulevard, a bit too close to Luna Bakery and Café and their pots de crème au chocolat for comfort!

Cedar-Taylor merchants move toward organizing a district association

Jim Perkins

The stretch of businesses at Cedar and Taylor roads, from Cedarbrook Road to Washington Boulevard, hope they will soon be as popular a destination as Coventry Village and Cedar and Lee.

Business owners on this stretch, such as Alex Quintana of Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa, believe that something special is happening in their business district. Quintana, who has also helped to found the Heights Independent Business Alliance, is working to create a merchants association for the Cedar-Taylor district.

The opening of Melt Bar and Grilled last year gave the district a notable boost, but Quintana believes this is only the beginning.

"We may quite possibly have the

quirkiest business district ever. The merchants of Cedar and Taylor need to embrace what we are and run with it," he said.

Quintana believes the next steps for the Cedar-Taylor district are to create an identity and improve the streetscape. "It will take some time for merchants and residents to believe what is going on here, but once they do, this district will take off," says Quintana.

A merchant association will help unite the district and take care of basic needs. Such associations, which already exist at Coventry, Cedar-Lee and Cedar-Fairmount, assess monthly fees to their members to pay for signage, landscaping and beautification. It also could fund a Special Improvement District (SID), which can attract grants and funding for other improvements.



The Cedar Taylor Business District.

Cleveland Heights city officials, including Howard Thompson, director of economic development, are working with the district's merchants to further energize the commercial strip—in part by trying to attract more businesses.

"By bringing in merchants that add quality to the Cedar-Taylor district, the district as a whole increases in quality," said Thompson.

Because the district straddles the border of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, University Heights also is contributing to the effort.

Peter Rubin, president and CEO of the Coral Company, owns the property on the University Heights side of Cedar-Taylor. "Quality merchants of Cedar Taylor are energizing the district and re-encouraging the potential of the district," Rubin said.

Rubin, like Thompson, is encouraging the uniqueness of Cedar-Taylor and hopes to add different kinds of shops than already exist in other commercial districts. Rubin believes the next step is getting current merchants inspired, organized and energized—after which the district's own makeup will do the rest.

"There's a secret to the Cedar Taylor district. Come discover it," said Rubin.

Jim Perkins is a student at John Carroll University and a Heights Observer summer intern.

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Reflections has helped Heights homeowners design beautiful interiors for more than 30 years

Kaye Lowe

Many homeowners are looking for ways to spruce up their homes this summer. Reflections, in Cleveland Heights, in operation for more than 31 years, can assist in updating home interiors.

Reflections Interior Design is located in the heart of the historic Cedar Fairmount Business District. Its designers have been creating beautiful homes in the Greater Cleveland area since Reita Bayman founded the business in 1980. They can help you put together a plan so you can move forward with confidence to create the home you've been dreaming about.

In 2009, Marissa Iacovetta became the owner of the studio. She carries on the mission statement Bayman created when the business began: "To be Cleveland's premier interior design firm by creating appealing, comfortable spaces using the design formula. The designers will identify their clients' needs, teach them about good design, provide creative options and help them purchase the best products."

Reflections is a full-service interior design firm whose three designers work cooperatively. Iacovetta, principal and owner of Reflections, is certified by the National Council for Interior Design Certification. She earned a B.S. in interior design from Bowling Green State University.

Anne Raby has been working at Reflections for 15 years and has a B.A. from



One of the many inviting interiors designed by Reflections Interior Design.

the University of Dayton. Raby studied design and drawing at the Cleveland Institute of Art and graduated from the interior design department at Tri-C.

Angela Potts joined Reflections in 2004 and has a B.S. in interior design from Ohio University and a M.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

All three designers believe it is their job to tell the client's story. When approaching each project, they focus on creating an overall design plan that

reflects their clients' tastes.

The designers charge an hourly rate for their services and work on a variety of large- and small-scale projects. They believe everyone deserves good design, no matter what the budget.

Reflections has developed relationships with local tradespeople and craftsmen to help with any size project. They also carry many product lines, from high-end to budget-friendly items.

Most of the dozens of product lines they carry are exclusive to the trade.

These include Global Views, Arteriors Home, Uttermost, Palecek and Chelsea House.

To view some of the projects Reflections has completed over the years, visit www.ReflectionsInteriorDesign.net.

You can also visit the studio at 12423 Cedar Rd., Cleveland Heights, or call 216-229-1000.

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

Cedar Fairmount's festival celebrates 10th anniversary

Kaye Lowe

In 2001, the Cedar Fairmount Business Association decided to show its appreciation to its neighbors and patrons by hosting a street festival, with free activities and lots of good food.

Ten years later, the Discover Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival has developed into a fun-filled, family-friendly event that includes many fine arts and crafts people.

The festival will take place on Sunday, Aug. 7, from noon to 4 p.m. It's still free and continues to offer something for all age groups. This year's musicians include Get Back Duo, Karma Kings, oldboy and the Symtors Band, which will accompany dancing at the Alcazar from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The Church in Cleveland Heights will provide children's activities and games. There will also be a balloon clown, Cleveland Bouncer, pony rides and the popular Euclid Beach Rocket Car.

Sharon Gregor, author of two books about John D. Rockefeller's years in Cleveland, will give a presentation

about her research in the music room of the Alcazar. Gregor also will join local history authors Judith Cetina and Marian Morton at Appletree Books, where they will discuss writing about Cleveland history.

Myxx, the soon-to-open Cleveland Heights nightclub, will be the destination for those interested in ballroom dancing. Cheek-2-Cheek Dance Studio will give demonstrations throughout the day.

The Cleveland Animal Protective League and the South Euclid Humane Society will have cats and dogs for adoption. Arts and crafts at the festival will include paintings, jewelry, handmade clothing, pottery, soaps and lotions, pet treats, photography and more.

The Cedar Fairmount festival is made possible through the generous support of many business sponsors and private citizens. For more information, visit www.cedarfairmount.org or call 216-791-3172.

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

Gardening at the Senior Center

Catherine Aldrich

On June 3, five senior volunteers purchased several dozen perennial plants and planted them in the oval garden near the entrance to the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center. Much of the garden contains annuals. Last year and this year, senior members donated money to buy the perennial plants for the balance of the garden.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center is located at One Monticello Blvd. and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Catherine Aldrich is a longtime Cleveland Heights resident.



www.heightsobserver.org

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The Flavor



JULY 14TH

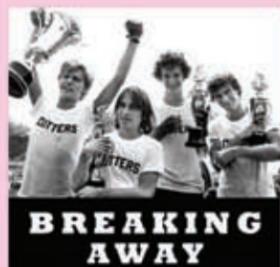
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Filmstrip



CARTOON NIGHT!

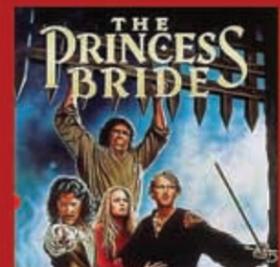
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AUG. 4TH

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AUG. 11TH

music act
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Find out more about Coventry's summer activities at www.coventryvillage.org

Paramount Pictures films movie in Cleveland Heights

Lewis Pollis

Filming will take place in Cleveland Heights over the next month for a major Paramount Pictures movie called "Fun Size," according to Susanna Niermann O'Neil, Cleveland Heights assistant city manager.

Set for release in 2012, "Fun Size" is about "a sarcastic teenage girl who is forced to take her little brother trick-or-treating on Halloween, then loses him and must find him before their mother finds out," according to a press release from the Greater Cleveland Film Commission. Nickelodeon's Victoria Justice will star in the film, directed by Josh Schwartz—producer of "The O.C.," "Gossip Girl" and "Chuck."

Two nights of shooting will take place in Coventry Village, Niermann O'Neil said. The exact schedule keeps changing, but as of now the street will be closed to cars and pedestrians starting at 9 p.m., July 5 and 6, she said.

Coventry businesses will not be too negatively impacted because Tuesdays and Wednesdays are their "slow nights," Niermann O'Neil said. The filmmakers have said that names in the storefronts will remain in the movie.

Two residential streets will also be decorated and closed for all-night filming, but the studio and city are not releasing the specific locations out of security concerns for the stars, Niermann O'Neil said.

It was Paramount's responsibility to contact, and get approval from, all the residents of the neighborhoods where



The Paramount Pictures production crew decorates homes for Halloween in preparation for filming "Fun Size" in Cleveland Heights.

they are filming, she said.

Additional filming will take place in other locations in and around Cleveland, but Cleveland Heights was chosen for these scenes because they "loved our neighborhoods and liked the feel of the city," Niermann O'Neil said.

All extras have already been cast, Niermann O'Neil said. "People should not think they can get in the movie."

Despite rumors that a second movie—I, Alex Cross—will also be filmed in Cleveland Heights this summer, Niermann O'Neil said nobody from that

production has contacted the city.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and graduate of Cleveland Heights High, is an Observer intern and a sophomore at Brown University. Read more on his blog: WahooBlues.com.

1980 movie shot in Cain Park receives rare screening

John Ewing

Frank Langella, Glynnis O'Connor and Tom Hulce star in Michael Pressman's 1980 film, "Those Lips, Those Eyes," an affectionate remembrance of 1950s summer stock theatre that was filmed largely in Cain Park. The 1980 movie, which has never been released on DVD, will receive a rare theatrical screening, on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m., at the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque, 11141 East Boulevard in University Circle.

"Those Lips, Those Eyes" was writ-



The stars of "Those lips, Those Eyes."

ten by David Shaber, an ex-Cleveland who worked at Cain Park when he was a student. The film tells of a frustrated

actor (Langella) awaiting his big break, a young premed student (Hulce) who turns star-struck stage manager during one unforgettable summer, and the company ingénue (O'Connor) who is the object of his affections. The movie lasts 107 minutes and is rated R.

For more information, call 216-421-7450 or visit www.cia.edu/cinematheque. Tickets (at the door only) cost \$9, Cinematheque members \$7, anyone 25 and under \$5.

John Ewing is the director of the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque.

HeightsWrites

Poem for July 2011

When people disappear from our lives, it's an unsolvable mystery. We can never fully understand the empty space they leave.

—Meredith Holmes

Missing Person

By Loren F. Weiss

If you try to
lose me in the shadows
of your halcyon world,
it will not work.
I can fly on the instruments,
remember? The lurking
storm clouds, or fog, or darkness
can not turn me back.
Do not try to hide
behind that frightening façade.
Yes, I'm scared. I lack
the answers you can't give.
So what!
I'm in for life.
I promise . . .
I won't stop the ride.

Loren Weiss served as poet laureate of Cleveland Heights from 2006 to 2007. "Missing Person" is from his chapbook, I'd Rather Be Flying.

Remembering Loren Weiss

Engineer, businessman, golfer, aviator, poet

By Meredith Holmes

Loren Franklin Weiss, who was the poet laureate of Cleveland Heights from 2006 to 2007, died on June 15. My favorite memory of Loren is watching him, caught in a summer downpour, run all the way from the Heights Arts office next to the Cedar Lee Theatre to his car at the far edge of the parking lot. He was 80 years old at the time.

I sat on the committee that named Loren Weiss second poet laureate of Cleveland Heights. I remember reading with pleasure the poems in his application—especially "Watching Willie Work," about metal casting. I thought, this poet has had a long and full life. He writes about things I don't know about—such as molten metal, Fort McHenry, and the instrument panel of an airplane. He has the common touch. He would make a good poet laureate. And he did. Loren took great pleasure in serving Cleveland Heights and representing Heights Arts. He believed everyone had poems inside them.

Loren Weiss graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1944. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from

the University of Wisconsin, where he was a varsity golfer, in 1947. Loren was president of Pressure Castings in Euclid for 31 years. He was also an avid golfer, fisherman, aviator, and tennis player, and was president of Oakwood Country Club. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Lita Weiss, and three children.

I knew Loren Weiss only in his incarnation as a poet. Or I should say,

re-incarnation, because he told me he had written poetry as a young man, but abandoned the practice for 40 years. He began writing again after he retired. An inspiration to others who stopped painting, playing an instrument, or writing poetry, Loren demonstrated that you can begin again.

Meredith Holmes is a freelance writer, editor and longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She was Cleveland Heights's first poet laureate.

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Scrap metal sculptor constructs life from unexpected parts

Lewis Pollis

The first bird to greet those who pull into the Barons' driveway has a yellow-wheel torso and a black metal rod for its head and neck. Groups of eight horseshoes, painted yellow and black, are welded together to form skeletal wings, while red fan blades form elegant tail feathers.

Behind this first bird, another, bigger creature stands at attention. A pair of thin black legs supports a body of fire-engine-red scrap metal. Tilting its head—a former floor scrubber with a furnace damper crest and a lawn mower piston for a nose—toward the drive, it engages the visitor with its large yellow eyes, injecting a sense of life into an inanimate object that had never aspired to anything more than cleaning kitchen tiles.

The last line of defense, before the side door, is none other than a life-sized, metallic Don Quixote. Seated atop his trusty steed, he looks as if he is about to ride off in search of a windmill, even though there is no brain beneath his hubcap sombrero.

"What is within any human being that suddenly triggers a desire to be creative?" Russell Baron, a prominent Cleveland-area attorney, and the man who crafted the figures out of junk and scrap metal, wonders aloud. "I don't know what it is."

Assorted pieces in a variety of mediums adorn the large house where Russell, 81, and his wife Lois, 75, have lived for 47 years. Nude sketches adorn the basement walls, a varnished white tree branch stands upright near the fireplace, and a half-dozen clay heads sit on the dining room radiator, patiently waiting for the day when they will be invited to eat at the table.

The most striking pieces, however, are the scrap-metal figures that stand around the Barons' yard. A red rectangular man, whose only protruding feature is his nose, kneels by the garage, raising his hands toward the sky and looking up through nonexistent eyes. An azure bird with yellow wings keeps watch over the flower gardens through a wide, white double monocle. The silhouette of an angel stands near the back door, surrounded by red wire wings and halo.

A running bird with wide silver wings—chrome siding from a 1950s Pontiac—is suspended for eternity in



Scrap metal artist Russell Baron stands with his first whimsical sculpture: Don Quixote and Rocinante.

mid-stride, its roller-skate feet hovering above the ground. Its head—a red bicycle seat with a cock's comb made of sparkplugs—looks skyward, as though convinced that someday it will leap from its mount and fly with its feather-and-blood brethren.

"Like anything that we decide to do, you're trying to fill an empty space in the otherwise normal routine of life," Baron said. "All of a sudden I realized, 'I gotta do something else.'"

The first medium that Baron mastered was clay, followed by stone and woodcarving. Finally, he started metalworking after learning that the Cleveland Institute of Art was offer-

ing welding classes. "Geez, I gotta try that," he recalled thinking.

The artist must have a vision when he looks at a "mass of junk," Baron said. "What do you see? What forms are down there that strike a note with you?"

This is an area in which Baron excels. Don Quixote, for example, has an old Volkswagen wheel as his torso and a milliner's mount for his head. His arms and legs are formed from rusted gutters. He wears lawn sprinklers as epaulettes, a hubcap as a sombrero, and work gloves over his gutter-strainer hands. In his

The artist must have a vision when he looks at a "mass of junk," Baron says. "What do you see? What forms are down there that strike a note with you?"

left hand, he holds a wheel-cover shield; with his right, he wields a lance made from a window awning. His horse, Rocinante, has a tomato-cage body covered in vinyl siding, with a bicycle-seat for a head and shoe trees for feet.

"Once that whole area of creativity develops, you're always looking for pieces and things," he said. "It was all there, it was just a matter of taking it and putting it together."

Nowadays, Baron is having trouble finding the motivation to make his whimsical sculptures. "One of the problems with anything is that the aging process begins to interfere," he said. In addition, Baron has found a more fulfilling hobby: tutoring at local elementary schools. "You're making an impact . . . on a little person's life," he said. "It's far more important than having a good weld on a piece of metal."

Baron still hopes to add more characters to his backyard menagerie. "The spark is still there," he said. The challenge is to "blow the spark into full flame again."

He already has plans for his next project, an insect made with an old ductwork-heating pipe for a body and sailboat setters for tail feathers. He cannot explain his ability to look at these pieces of junk and see the makings of a whimsical bug. "Maybe I should have been an entomologist," he laughed. "It's just a matter of saying, 'okay, let's do it.'"

Read more about Baron's art and life story at www.heightsobserver.org.

Lewis Pollis, a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and graduate of Cleveland Heights High, is an Observer intern and a sophomore at Brown University. Read more on his blog: WahooBlues.com.



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2011 Toyota COROLLA

2011 Honda CIVIC



Motorcars Straightforward Price Giveaway Official Contest Rules -- 1) NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Odds of winning are based on the number of entries. 2) Register to win at straightforwardprice.com. Entrants must watch a video about the benefits of purchasing from Motorcars to participate. Entrants may watch up to 20 videos for a chance at winning. Each video has a codeword that can be used to register a ticket for the drawing, and entrants may register up to 20 tickets. Claim your tickets at Motorcars Toyota showroom the night of the drawing, to be held on July 14, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. Tickets will be entered into a drawing and winner must be present to win. 3) Winner will receive his/her choice of a 2 year lease of a 2011 Honda Civic LX or 2011 Toyota Corolla. Lease includes 12,000 miles per year. No alternative prize will be awarded. The approximate retail value of the prize is \$6,000. 4) Winner must qualify for financing approval from Toyota Financial Services or American Honda Bank, be 21 years of age or older, responsible for all city, state and federal taxes, vehicle registration and titling fees and documentary services fees, and mileage fees of 0.15 per mile over 24,000 miles, and any excess wear and tear charges. No security deposit, disposition fee or option to purchase. 5) Winner is required to provide a W-9 form to Motorcars for tax purposes. 6) Employees of Motorcars and their immediate families are ineligible. 7) Winner acknowledges that Motorcars shall have the right to use winner's name, likeness and voice in promoting that he/she is the winner, in both print and broadcast. The prize winner must sign a standard release form providing Motorcars with their address and telephone number. 8) Winner expressly releases Motorcars, their affiliated companies and employees, from any and all claims, demands, damages, and/or liability of any nature whatsoever that winner has or claims to have relating to the herein contest, and without limitation, any and all known or unknown claims for damages or injuries arising out of said contest, whether founded in fact or in law. 9) Motorcars is the sole judge of all matters pertaining to this contest and reserves the right to change the rules and/or discontinue the contest at any time without notice. All decisions by Motorcars are final.