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 Volume 4
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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Published by **FutureHeights**

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2011 Local Election Voters' Guide pp.17-22

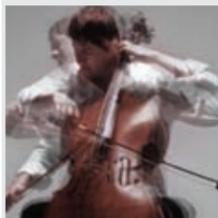
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Cleveland Heights installs solar bus shelters

Richard Wong

The new Mayfield Road solar bus shelters at Coventry Road and at Warrensville Center Road are the first of their kind in the region. The shelters are a creative project involving RTA, the City of Cleveland Heights and a company called Solar Impact. Through the efforts of Mayor Ed Kelley, the city received a \$100,000 Federal Transportation Administration grant through RTA. Those funds paid for the design, fabrication and installation of the two prototype bus shelters.

The city worked intensively with Earl Lee, Solar Impact designer, to create a shelter with outstanding form and function. Lee's conversations with RTA shelter users resulted in various improvements to the original design, such as extra bench length (some of the shelter remains benchless for wheelchair access) and side panels of frosted glass. The frosted finish reflects some of the summer sun's heat without affecting the shelter's bright, light look.

Solar panels provide power to pro-



Cleveland Heights City Council dedicated the solar bus shelter at Coventry and Mayfield roads Sept. 22.

grammable colored LED lights until a motion detector turns on interior lighting for occupants' comfort. Battery capacity is sufficient to power additional accessories, such as a real-time display, which RTA hopes to introduce in the future.

The solar bus shelters, along with the solar panels at the Cedar Lee parking garage, Cumberland parking lot's bio-retention basins, the Cleveland

Heights Community Center's energy saving light retrofits, the Camiros Zoning Code amendments, and the installation of sharrows, are actions that the City of Cleveland Heights hopes will encourage others to work to be more sustainable, too.

Richard Wong is the director of planning and development for the City of Cleveland Heights.

SHN No Impact Week challenges residents

Max Embrescia

Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents have an opportunity to work towards a more sustainable and greener future. In October, the Sustainable Heights Network (SHN) will host No Impact Week, a carbon cleanse challenge. Participants will receive a daily e-mail, giving them instructions on the week's challenges, which will feature eight core components of sustainable living. Local organizations will hold special events in conjunction with the day's theme. Participants are invited to blog on the *Heights Observer's* blog site, blogs.heightsobserver.org.

The first annual CH-UH No Impact Week will take place Oct. 16-23. Each day will cover a different area of urban sustainability, such as consumption, trash, transportation, food, energy,

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Prototype Observer study ranks most livable neighborhoods: Heights area comes out on top

Greg Donley

One can hardly open a magazine or visit the Internet these days without encountering community rankings. Locally, *Cleveland Magazine* publishes a popular and highly publicized annual ranking of suburbs according to criteria and methodology chosen by its editorial staff. Every year, observers note that the report favors outlying suburbs, while discounting the criteria that are most important to people who choose to live in older communities, such as Cleveland Heights and other inner-ring suburbs. The problem with any effort to rank communities is that it will include making judgments that some disagree with.

{Utilizing publicly available data, Cleveland Heights resident, Greg Donley, with encouragement from the *Heights Observer*, has created a new ranking of area neighborhoods. Donley developed a methodology that he believes is more objective in turning data into a series of rankings, and one that considers factors that are important to urban and inner-suburban residents. The results will doubtless come as a surprise to many people.}

In this prototype study, the *Observer* rated 18 representative neighborhoods in Greater Cleveland for all-around livability using 10 criteria. The neighborhoods are ranked 1-18 in each category. The overall winner is the neighborhood with the lowest cumulative number of points.

For the prototype, University Heights, which shares the 44118 zip code with Cleveland Heights, is not broken out separately. If it were, University Heights would likely score between Cleveland Heights and South Euclid, as it is located between them and has comparable housing costs.

An abbreviated summary is printed here. The complete report, with full rankings for each category and details about methodology and sources, is available as a PDF document online at www.heightsobserver.org.

Walkability Index

www.walkscore.com walkability score.

1. Ohio City
2. Lakewood
3. Cleveland Heights

Cultural Access

Museums, galleries, music venues, and movie theaters within five miles; extra points for greater significance.

1. Cleveland Heights
2. Shaker Heights
3. Ohio City

Public School Effectiveness

To correct for the race gap in test scores, our measure compares the test-passage rate for black students in each district to black students in the other districts. It does the same for white students, in order to understand school effectiveness independent of race. Then, because students in poverty score 10-15 percent lower than average on a nationwide

continued on page 9

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Deliver to addressee or current resident

Heights Observer offers citizen journalism workshops

Deanna Bremer Fisher

To help people feel empowered to report neighborhood events and contribute to the community conversation, the *Heights Observer* is offering several workshops this fall. Workshops are free and open to the public. Space is limited. Residents may reserve a place in a workshop by sending an e-mail to info@futureheights.org or calling 216-320-1423.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Lee Road Library: *You, too, can write the news*, basic reporting and writing for community journalists, with Bob

Rosenbaum.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 9-10:30 a.m., at University Heights Library: *You, too, can write the news*, basic reporting and writing for community journalists, with Bob Rosenbaum.

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Lee Road Library: *Video reporting for community journalists*, with Richard Stewart, journalist and owner of Digi-zoom Media.

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

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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The Observer makes no political endorsements



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

The *Heights Observer* is published by FutureHeights, a community-building organization with 501(c)3 status, which means that the IRS recognizes it as not-for-profit/tax-exempt. As such, neither FutureHeights nor the *Observer* are permitted to endorse any individuals running for public office.

I mention it now because, with municipal elections coming early next month, this is the time when many civic-minded people and groups choose to express their opinions about candidates. The *Observer*, in its role as a forum for sharing information about the community, welcomes the opportunity to publish those opinions.

But we want to emphasize that any opinions you may read in this

newspaper or on its websites reflect the views of the individual authors, not the organization.

It is important to repeat this from time to time because two years ago—during an election in which many local offices were contested—the *Observer* screwed up. At the time, we published a letter from a local group, Step It Up, that made candidate endorsements. The problem was that a few of the people involved with Step It Up were also involved with FutureHeights and, by extension, the *Observer*.

In some circles—mainly among the candidates who were not endorsed—I'm told that the letter was perceived as an effort by FutureHeights to skirt the legal restriction on endorsements. That is not how we meant it. The letter was submitted to the *Observer*, where it was treated the same as any other—published on the opinion page over the names of its authors.

In retrospect, however, it should have received some special treatment to

avoid giving the appearance that the *Observer* and FutureHeights were choosing sides. We regretted that, and are trying to ensure that it will not happen again.

If you see any political endorsements or recommendations in the *Observer* between now and the election, they reflect only the opinions of the authors, not FutureHeights or the newspaper. Here is the *Observer's* only editorial position on the elections: We hope you will educate yourself about the candidates and issues, and then vote on Nov. 8.

To express your opinion privately, e-mail Bob Rosenbaum at bob@therosenbaums.net. To express your opinion as a letter to the editor, register at the Observer Member Center (<http://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.

Excerpts from recent posts at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Do Something

Some of us have lived long enough to recognize when the deceptive process of stagnation has set in. Far too often, it is assumed that lack of progress hibernates benignly until when comes—when the economy gets better, when incomes are up, when it looks like things will turn around—but stagnation is malignant. It reproduces and expands to break down the spirit of a neighborhood. Pretty soon a Great Place to Live becomes a decent place to reside. Good grows into fair and fair erodes into unsustainable. The negative PR campaign begins as soon as the first patch of blight begins and the way we reference our own community is lauded about as corrosively as acid. Just as the first down-tick is measured, the white flag is raised and the latest Great Place to Live is surrendered to a campaign of neglect, self-fulfilling prophesy and divestment. We lay down our once Great Place to Live at the feet of those who don't deserve it, then turn

tail and whine about how all the Great Places to Live are falling away, when the truth of the matter is, it is us who have fallen away.

—Andrea Davis

How 9/11 Brought Me to a More Local Life

I was stranded in Chicago for two days before I located a rental car to drive home. It wasn't rough duty; I had a corporate American Express card, and there was no business to be done. But I spent the time feeling isolated and insulted at being separated from everything that had meaning to me. I felt, perhaps for the first time, that a life of corporate travel was, for me, a life of futility. While I was a gold-card patron of soulless hotel chains, airlines, restaurants and rental car companies, I was a visitor in my own community.

—Bob Rosenbaum

Locavesting means putting our money where we live

Just prior to my annual summer vacation, I came upon *Locavesting: the Revolution in Local Investing and How to Profit from It*, a new book by Amy Cortese that explains the barriers that small businesses face in getting funded, the regulations that prevent the vast majority of Americans from investing in them, and some ways in which community-minded investors can put their money where they live.

Finance is not my forte, yet I see it as a primary challenge for our community. How can we enable regular folks to invest in the place that they are already invested in by virtue of the fact that they own homes, their primary asset, in the community? And, what could the Heights be if residents invested a small portion, say two to five percent, of their nest egg into the local economy? I have to believe it would make a big difference.

—Deanna Bremer Fisher

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Heights schools deserve a new levy

Jon Benedict

The Cleveland Heights–University Heights City School District has shown continual improvement in recent years, and current plans show promise to dramatically boost student achievement in the coming years.

Before those plans can produce results, our community first has to pass Issue 6, or our schools will face very tough times ahead. In the past four years, the district has cut more than \$7 million in spending, and if Issue 6 fails on Nov. 8, it will face another \$7 million in cuts that will impact the quality of education. With almost \$4 million in additional state cuts scheduled in the next two years, every dollar counts.

Thus far, the CH-UH schools have been careful to avoid making cuts that would significantly affect the students in the classroom. Teachers, administrators, and all employees agreed to a two-year pay freeze to avoid faculty layoffs and protect the quality of the education provided in the schools. The last levy was stretched to four years—even longer than expected—in order to try to avoid making more cuts.

However, it seems that now those additional cuts would be unavoidable. If the levy does not pass, the district will be forced to cut spending in areas crucial to our children's education—dozens of teachers will be laid off, technology initiatives will be thwarted, and busing to and from school will be drastically reduced. In addition, student resources, such as school counselors and social workers, would be cut.

With this levy, the schools could ensure that all children are at or above their respective reading levels by third grade; they could continue to provide specialized classes, such as Mandarin Chinese, so that students can be competitive in the future business world; and they could continue to offer arts and after school programs, including athle-

tics. The levy would also ensure that classrooms do not become overcrowded and that the student-to-teacher ratio remains low so that students receive the most individualized and rewarding education possible.

CH-UH is a unique district in which administrators are focused on providing the best education and resources possible to their students, regardless of background or prior educational experience. CH-UH employs many different programs to ensure students' success, including programs helping students facing poverty, advanced programs for gifted students, and special programs for students with disabilities. The ability to provide these programs is all contingent on continued funding, which is why supporting this levy is so important.

The Heights schools have a reputation for excellence; they have been nationally recognized for the strong education that the district provides to its students. The levy would enable schools to continue operating and improving, and provide students with new and innovative technology and opportunities so that they can learn to be competitive and competent leaders in the future.

Passing the levy will enable CH-UH schools to continue to provide the best education possible, which is important not just for the students in school, but also for the community as a whole. Without a strong school system, property values decrease, community ties weaken, and families will overlook the Heights area when contemplating a move. This levy is important to everyone. This is also the smallest operating levy in more than 20 years—only \$6.9 mills. The cost to taxpayers if the levy passes is only about \$17 more per month per \$100,000 of home value, but the cost to the schools if it does not pass is immeasurable.

Jon Benedict is a Cleveland Heights resident and a member of Citizens for Heights Schools.



COURTESY HEIGHTS YOUTH CLUB

Heights Youth Club members traveled to Nicaragua this summer on an immersion trip with International Partners in Mission. Among those pictured are Molly, translator for the group; Roscoe Morgan, the club director; and members Olivia, Jeremy, Anastasia, Natalie and Alysia.

Heights Youth Club says 'Thank you!'

To the Editor:

In June, five members of the Heights Youth Club and the club director, Roscoe Morgan, spent seven days immersed in the local communities and cultures of Managua, Nicaragua. The youths participated in an immersion project facilitated by International Partners in Mission (IPM). IPM works across borders of faith and culture on behalf of children, women, and youth to create partnerships that build justice, peace, and hope.

The young travelers shared their experiences with the Heights Youth Club Board of Directors at the board's September meeting. They told exciting stories about life in Nicaragua:

- They learned to cook local dishes at the Center for Education and the Promotion of Holistic Health (CEPROSI).
- They helped build gardens at the local elementary school.

- They learned about the political history of Nicaragua, the Sandinistas, and the importance of fair trade.
- They visited a live volcano at Massaya National Park.
- In one village, they saw a herd of bulls and goats come charging down the mountainside, right beside the outdoor classroom.

Roscoe Morgan, director of HYC, said that the trip was a great learning opportunity.

The travelers would like to publically thank the Sheffler family, the Heights Youth Club Board of Directors, and the Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland for sponsoring the learning opportunity of a lifetime.

Thanks for all your help in making the summer of 2011 great!
Gracias,

Anastasia, Alysia, Jeremy, Olivia, Natalie and Roscoe



Jeff Coryell

FOR CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

"I am running to bring fresh energy and vision to City Council. I am committed to regionalism, sustainability, public safety, excellence in public education, citizen engagement, arts and culture, and revitalizing our neighborhoods and retail districts. Working together, we can create a bright future for the community we love." – Jeff Coryell

Endorsements Include:

- State Senator Shirley Smith
- State Representative Barbara Boyd
- State Representative Mike Foley
- County Councilman Julian Rogers
- County Councilman Dale Miller
- Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans
- City Councilwoman Bonnie Caplan
- Univ. Hts. Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg
- School Board President Eric Coble
- School Board Vice Pres. Ron Register
- School Board Member Nancy Pepler
- School Board Member Karen Jones
- Cuyahoga County Democratic Party
- Cleveland Heights Democrats
- Cleveland Stonewall Democrats
- North Shore AFL/CIO
- NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio
- Jewish Voters Association
- Harriet Applegate
- Russell Z. Baron
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- Judith Botwin
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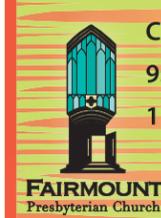
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Where are your kids?

Matthew MacDonald

I have been a Cleveland Heights resident for a little more than a year and a half. It will officially be two years this November. Prior to this, my family and I were “west siders” for all of our lives.

We relocated to Cleveland Heights because it was relatively close to where my wife was working at the time. It was also the same place that we had daydreamed about living in when we were dating.

We moved here despite what all of our friends told us about Cleveland’s demonized East Side, and despite the fact that, logistically speaking, there is no “fast” way to get to anywhere over here. You always have to take a main road and a handful of side streets to get to where you need to be. We made the best of it. We adjusted. We overcame.

For various reasons, I consider the summer of 2011 our first official summer as east siders, as residents of Cleveland Heights. Coincidentally, the youths who live in my neighborhood decided to make this their summer—the summer of hassling strangers to the point that the Cleveland Heights City Council retaliated by sending out a mass mailing informing residents about what has been going on and the revised curfew laws that resulted. This was also the summer of burglarizing people’s homes.

On my street alone, at least five homes have been broken into while the owners have been in them. To hear my neighbors talk, you would think that it is the same group of kids one would see walking up and down our street at any given time of day. I would, too, for that

matter.

I’d like to share something with you that I learned about the youth culture in this city: The parents of these youths have no idea where they are or what they are doing.

I understand that some families have it harder than most. When it comes to raising a life that you have brought into this world, it’s not about circumstance. It’s not about how many parents are in the house. It’s not about the kids not having anything productive to do. It’s about a choice.

As a parent, you can choose to raise your child as best you can, regardless of circumstance or adversity. You can teach your child right from wrong. You can teach him to help others. What happens after that is up to the child in question, but at least you will know that you have tried to raise him as best as you can.

On the opposite side of this, you can continually make excuses for why things are the way they are. You can never do anything to better yourself or your family, and as a result your child will follow your sad example. While this may yield mixed results, I know that in the end you will get the same thing: a person or a group of people who have suffered from a lack of structure, who think that everyone owes them something. Every night, they will go to sleep, mad at the world for no reason and they will feel like this for a very long time.

Parenting is about a choice. You choose to be a good parent to your child. Or you choose to let the child be a parent to him or herself.

Matthew MacDonald is a freelance writer and Cleveland Heights resident.

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Councilman Frank Consolo was absent.

McDonald's

Demolition of the buildings on the new McDonald's site will begin this month and is expected to take two weeks.

New police chief

Steven Hammett, former deputy chief in Shaker Heights, was sworn in as the new University Heights police chief. Many well-wishers from Shaker Heights were in the audience.

Police and fire fighter contracts

Council authorized contracts between the city and the Ohio Patrolmen's Association (dispatchers) and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 974. The contract with the latter imposes a three-year wage freeze, with wages open to negotiation in year three.

John Carroll University's stadium

The planning commission reviewed council's Sept. 23, 2002 approval of the use of John Carroll University's (JCU) Don Shula Stadium. The commission recommended the following changes: extending use of stadium lights for varsity sports, club sports and intramurals to 10:30 p.m. seven days a week; a 75-foot candle lighting and the sound system would be allowed for varsity sports and non-JCU athletic events until 10:30 p.m., with advance notice to the city; for club sports, practices and intramurals, the public

address system would not be allowed, and a maximum use of 30-foot light candles is recommended. Council approved these recommendations on Aug. 25 with a 4 to 1 vote, but asked the city engineer to determine whether the university had complied with the original specifications set when the stadium opened in 2002.

Dora Pruce, JCU's director of government and community relations, referred to the assessment conducted by Paul Turner, an electrical engineer engaged by City Engineer Joe Ciuni. She stated that sound will be directed at the field rather than the stands, and reiterated JCU's original request for an extension to 11 p.m.

Turner reported that "spillover" light is at or below the lighting standards set in 2002, due largely to tree growth. From the sidewalk, field lights made a negligible contribution to light levels compared to streetlights. The goal in 2002 was to make spillover at the property line as close to zero as possible. Upon questioning, he acknowledged that this assessment's difference from the 2002 measurement could be up to 20 percent.

Council members had many questions and concerns and a number of residents presented complaints. [More details on this discussion are available in the online write-up of this report at www.heightsobserver.org]

Councilman Murphy moved that the issue be tabled, and that council hear from representatives of the lighting and sound equipment providers at the next meeting, centering on whether the current system is the best, and the cost ramifications for JCU

to make changes.

Maria Alfaro-Lopez, JCU's general counsel, expressed frustration that no action would be taken on a request that was submitted in May.

Council passed 4 to 2 the motion to postpone and arrange for presentations.

Special assessment for 2012

Council approved, on emergency, the partial abatement and collection of the balance of the special assessment for the year 2012 on certain parcels at University Square. The special assessment is for \$209,000, to meet the debt service on four of developer Inland's parcels. Argus, the administrator for the Port Authority, issued bonds for the development, but can't meet the debt service on the bonds because reduced property values have affected real estate tax collection. The assessment will also pay the Port Authority fee.

Assessments levied

Council approved special assessments for streetlights (at \$.70 per front foot) and tree maintenance and a supplementary assessment for sewer funds.

Assessment for nuisance removal

Council approved levying a special assessment for providing city services in the removal of nuisance conditions at various locations in the city, such as grass, trees, and other outdoor maintenance for which residents were cited and did not complete.

Police technology support

Council authorized a 48-month software license agreement with TAC Computer Inc. for safety system support for the police department and also



approved a lease with TAC Computer Inc. for a computer server in the police department. The 36-month lease includes significant cost savings of \$700 per month, as the city already owns mobiles, which are not included in the lease.

Bank depositories

Council authorized depositories for active funds and renews or creates five-year agreements. The city will accept bids from a number of banks, including some not involved now, to act as depositories. City policy is to "spread the wealth," but with no requirement to use all who bid. Council also authorized depositories for interim and inactive funds.

LWV observer: Patricia Solomon.

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 "lww-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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Mary Dunbar

Cleveland Heights City Council



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WHAT PEOPLE WHO KNOW SAY:

"Mary Dunbar's energy, dig-right-in approach, business savvy and enthusiasm for new ideas will make her a vibrant addition to City Council."

—Nancy Dietrich, former City Council member

"Mary Dunbar is well-informed, listens, thinks creatively to solve problems and helps put ideas into action. Her support for citizen engagement will strengthen our city."

—Joan Spoerl, founder, Go Public! Great Schools Are Everybody's Business

"Mary Dunbar leads by building on our strengths. She's already brought us a new historic district and a bicycle coalition and wants to do much more. Council needs her energy and commitment."

—Lee Chilcote, former City Council member

WHAT MARY DUNBAR SAYS:

"I am passionate about keeping Cleveland Heights the place to be for diverse families of all ages who love living here as much as I do. We can do much more to capitalize on our opportunities. I am committed to realizing our full potential by attracting new homeowners and businesses, improving city services, collaborating with our schools, increasing sustainability and livability, and engaging citizens."

Learn more and get involved at www.marydunbar.com.

The City Council election is nonpartisan. Council members serve at large.
Paid for by Dunbar for Cleveland Heights City Council, Bonnie Baker, Treasurer
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Plunks, plunks and Otto Von Bismarck



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

Will you plunk on Election Day? The instruction on the election ballot will read “For Member of Council-at-Large (Vote for not more than four).” Not more than four? That means you have options—you may vote for none, one, two, three or four candidates.

The bullet tactical-voting strategy, or “plunking,” as University Heights politicians call it, is when a voter casts a ballot for just one candidate, despite having the option to vote for more than one. By plunking, a voter helps his or her preferred candidate while withholding votes from potential rivals.

Special interest politicians in University Heights suggest plunking to get a candidate elected. It works if enough people plunk for the same candidate.

Baseball fans may do it for their all-star dream team. Major shareholders do it to ensure that a specific person is elected to the board. Withholding votes? If you have a candidate you want to win, plunking may just do it.

Two candidates are running their own independent races for a seat on the University Heights City Council. They are Al August and Steven Bennett. Each has his own position on the issues.

Two groups are also running. Groups, by definition, have common

views and may be expected to vote in unison. The first group includes two council incumbents—Kevin Patrick Murphy and Steven Sims—who are joined by Daniel Hanna and Conor McLaughlin. The second group comprises Pamela Cameron, Tom Cozzens and Adele Zucker. The names of all nine candidates will appear individually on the ballot. You may vote for up to four on the list.

According to the voting instructions, you may plunk. Will you? While a dream team for council may be just that, we should demand specific action plans from each candidate.

Politicians tell me that people vote for familiar names and the feel-good promises they make. One candidate even justified an impossible campaign promise by quoting a remark made by Otto Von Bismarck in 1867: “Politics is the art of the possible.”

Some candidates suggest that it is OK to say, agree, or do things against their better judgement—in order to get elected. These “end-justifies-the-means” candidates argue that once elected, they will do the right thing.

After years of covering city council, and talking with thousands of University Heights residents from all areas of our city, I came up with a few action plans. Consider these plunks in a campaign platform we want for University Heights.

When a candidate comes to your door asking for your support, find out

where he or she really stands on the issues, especially when you hear vague political rhetoric. Here are some questions to ask:

Fire Department Will you assure UH residents that our Silsby Road fire station will not be downsized or eliminated without taxpayer meetings?

Backyard garbage pick-up Will you post the results of the \$10,000 garbage study on the city’s website for an informed conversation with residents on the fate of backyard pick-up?

Capital budget Will you create and fund one, however small?

\$83,000 worth of dormant studies Will you agree to review and resolve the aging studies in a public forum before you commission new ones?

Committee meeting minutes Will you agree to write your own?

Council committee meetings Will you schedule regular meetings at the start of the year and invite public participation?

Town hall meetings Will you and the mayor agree to hold semi-annual meetings for question-and-answer opportunities for residents?

9.87 percent pay raise Will you vote to rescind the council raises received over the past four years, as allowed by charter?

Office hours Will you agree to hold regularly scheduled hours at least once a month for walk-in meetings with residents?

Transparency Will you agree to post council and committee agendas and minutes on the city’s website in a timely manner?

Committee reformation Will you consider reforming committees to make them more relevant for our times? Suggestions include community development; economic development; technology in government; public safety; housing and building; finance; regionalism and collaborations.

Promotion of the city Will you agree to implement a marketing program to promote University Heights to prospective home buyers (a proposal I have requested for years)?

CH-UH schools What will you do about the 300-pound canary—the school system—that both council and the administration say is not within their purview? It, coupled with a high tax rate, is the single biggest reason young families give for moving away. What single concrete idea do you have, as a community leader, to address this?

From my meetings with you in July and August, many of you already know my answers. Together, we will do our best to help our elected officials stay on track. I look forward to your e-mails.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, founder of Noah’s Landing, LLC, and a longtime resident of University Heights.

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Council of Smaller Enterprises

Energy audit program saves money, benefits CH nonprofit

Becky Stager

Individual homeowners and the Cleveland Heights nonprofit Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will benefit from a new program developed by Dominion East Ohio.

Using Dominion's Home Performance with Energy Star Program, homeowners who are Dominion residential gas customers can qualify for a deep discount on the cost of an energy audit, receiving a three- to four-hour energy assessment—normally a \$500 value—for only \$50. In addition, if a caller mentions HRRC, the

nonprofit will receive a donation of \$35 from GoodCents, the company providing the audits. For HRRC to benefit, the call to schedule an audit must be made by Nov. 15. Contact Katie Schade at 800-653-3445, ext. 1885.

During the home energy assessment, a BPI-certified auditor from GoodCents will perform an array of tests, including a furnace inspection, combustion analysis on appliances, a blower door test to indicate air leaks in the home, and infrared camera images. The audit will also include free home improvements, such as caulking,

weatherstripping, door sweeps, duct sealing, water aerators and a low-flow showerhead.

At the conclusion of the audit, the homeowner will receive a comprehensive set of recommendations, identifying and prioritizing measures to make the home more comfortable and energy-efficient. If the homeowner makes any suggested improvements using pre-qualified contractors, he or she can receive a rebate of up to \$1,250. A GoodCents auditor will return and check the quality of the work. Details are available at www.deohpwes.com.

Sustainable Heights Network will host an old house energy audit event during No Impact Week, Oct. 16–23. An auditor from GoodCents and a Cleveland Heights homeowner will describe a typical energy audit and present the results. Interested residents can sign up to learn more at www.sustainableheights-network.net.

Becky Stager has been the home repair education coordinator at HRRC since 1989. Visit Home Repair Resource Center's website, www.hrhc-ch.org, or call 216-381-6100 for more information.

Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland celebrates 60th anniversary

Linda Coulter

"On its 60th anniversary, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland (UUSC) congregation continues its commitment to lifelong search for truth, enduring values, advancement of sound personal and community morals, and individual freedom of religion," said minister Rev. Colin Bossen.

The society celebrated its diamond anniversary on Sept. 17.

From its home in Cleveland Heights's Coventry Village neighborhood, UUSC claims a distinguished religious heritage. The New England Unitarians came to the Cleveland area in 1836, banding together to incorporate as Unity Church in 1867. By the early 1900s, the congregation was able to build a classic stone church at the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 82nd Street.

In 1932, Unity Church joined with All Souls Universalist Church (later changing its name to First Unitarian Church of Cleveland). During the next 20 years, this fertile merger produced East Shore Unitarian Church, West Shore Unitarian Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland.

Defying "white flight," UUSC charter members felt morally responsible to maintain their Unitarian presence in Cleveland's inner city. Staying

on East 82nd Street, they incorporated as Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland. During those decisive, divisive years, the dedicated small congregation remained an active urban presence, gaining a respected "liberal activist" community profile for its opposition to the Vietnam War, and its support of civil rights, women's rights and the early environmental movement.

The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* described UUSC as "the first integrated congregation in Cleveland." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was scheduled to speak there on April 21, 1968, just 17 days before his assassination.

In early 1969, the congregation transferred church ownership, with a portion of its endowment, to the Cleveland Black Unitarian Universalist Caucus, retaining rights for the congregation to use the building as needed. In 1971, the congregation voted to relocate to its present 2728 Lancashire Road address, buying the former Marmaroshier Shul synagogue.

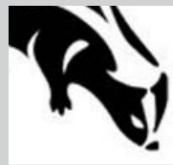
In 1997, the congregation voted to officially become a "welcoming congregation," with commitment to more inclusiveness of bisexual, gay, lesbian and/or transgender persons (BGLT). UUSC, still active in the struggle for BGLT rights in Ohio, continues to affirm this commitment, and is a part of a coalition that worked to create domestic

partnership registries in Cleveland and Cleveland Heights.

Rev. Bossen, a committed social activist, was called by the society in 2007 as its first-full time minister in more than 35 years. Earlier UUSC ministers

were Jesse Cavileer, Emerson Schwenk, Denis Kuby, Farley Wheelwright, Chris Bailey and Peggy Clason.

Linda Coulter is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland.



**BUG OF THE MONTH
SKUNKS**

Barry Zucker

OK, OK, skunks aren't bugs, but they do bug a lot of people, and some folk mistakenly use pesticides—in the form of mothballs—to deter them. Skunks are not all bad, however. Let's accentuate the positive: skunks hunt rodents and also live on insects. They like grasshoppers, grubs and potato beetles. New York State even passed a law protecting skunks because these furry critters were helping the hop growers by eating hop grubs.

Believe it or not, skunk spray was once thought to be good for asthma. Nocturnal and nomadic, skunks rarely stay in one place, except when they're raising their young. A three-foot-high wire mesh fence, buried six inches in the ground, usually will keep skunks

off your property. To avoid attracting skunks, never leave out pet food and keep garbage in sturdy, closed containers.

If skunks have taken up residence under your house, seal the opening when they leave at night to forage. Avoid doing this from May to August—there may be babies in there. If so, try using bright lights and loud music to make it uncomfortable for them. Once they are gone, seal the opening.

Never try trapping skunks. Mothballs do not deter skunks, and are highly toxic to pets and people, especially small children. If your dog gets "skunked," give your pet a tomato juice bath, which may mask the smell. (See *Tiny Game Hunting* for more ideas).

For virtually every pest problem—indoors or outdoors—there is a safe, effective and nontoxic solution. For more information, visit www.beyondpesticidesohio.org.

Barry Zucker is executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio.

Eastside Kickers shine at Fun in the Sun Tournament

Jim Breen

The Hudson Fun in the Sun Tournament, hosted by the Northern Ohio Girls Soccer League Aug. 19–20, featured nearly 100 top-flight girls travel soccer teams from Madison to Wooster, Mansfield to Norwalk and Sandusky, and all parts in between.

The Eastside Kickers finished in second place in the top division for U10 (under 10) girls, and parents and coaches are proud of the girls for their commitment to the sport.

Resounding wins over Norwalk and Hudson on Aug. 19 guaranteed a trip to the finals. As they played exceptionally strong teams from Mansfield and Twinsburg on Aug. 20, the goals were not as frequent but their heart was evident.

The girls played Twinsburg, a team that beat them by about 11-0 last fall, so



Ali Breen lined up another steal against Hudson at the tournament on Aug. 19.

for them to come as close as they did (0-1) against the same team was a testament to the girls and the coaching.

It was as good a U10 girls travel game as one will ever see. About 10 to 15 minutes into the game, a handful of Twinsburg parents came up to me and said, "Can you believe this game?" "Have you ever seen anything like it?" "You guys have a really amazing team that is really fun to watch!"

They asked where we were from and if we had ever played before. When I mentioned last year's game, they said, "Are you kidding me? This is the same team? Wow, what your team has done is amazing."

Jim Breen is the father of Ali Breen, an Eastside Kickers player. A longtime Heights resident, he owns a commercial real estate firm that specializes in green buildings.

Library holds fourth annual photography contest

Sheryl Banks

Heights Library is hosting its fourth annual photography contest, sponsored by Cedar Center Motophoto. Participants can come to any of the Heights libraries to drop off submissions, which will be accepted now through Oct. 14.

To tie in with this year's theme, "Focus on the World," contestants are encouraged to submit up to three photos of anywhere in the world, whether in their backyards or more exotic locales. Submissions can be color or black-and-white, and the photos must be 8 x 10" or smaller. Each submission must be mounted onto white 8.5 x 11" sturdy matte board, and the entrant must attach a completed entry form to the back of the board.

Complete instructions and submission forms are available at the Heights

Libraries website, www.heightslibrary.org/page/photocontest, or at any of the Heights libraries.

Beginning Oct. 31, finalists will be displayed in a traveling exhibit at each library so that the public can vote for its favorites.

Five prizes will be awarded to the best overall color or black-and-white photographs, and winners can redeem their prizes at the Cedar Center Motophoto. The first prize is a one-year membership to ClubMoto, one portrait session, one 10 x 13" portrait, 50 free 4 x 6" prints from digital media, a 30-page 8.5 x 11" photo book, an 11 x 14" archival photograph of the winning photo and a 50-page notepad featuring the winning photo. Winners will be announced Dec. 5.

In addition, all participants are welcome to stop by the Cedar Center



"Blue Jays" by Anita Merriam, the Heights Library Annual Photography Contest 2010 first-place winner.

Motophoto for 50 percent discounts on prints and a \$2 mounting fee per image.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Heights Libraries.

Noble Neighborhood Library gets a face-lift

Sheryl Banks

Now that the interior of the Noble Neighborhood Library has been spiffed up, it's time for a face-lift. In September, Heights Libraries began the exterior phase of Noble's renovation. This phase should be completed by Nov. 15, but that date may change depending on the fall weather.

"It's about time for Noble's exterior

to match its beautiful, renovated interior," said Nancy Levin, Heights Library director.

The renovation will include power washing the exterior, replacing and painting wood around windows, installing a sump pump system in the basement, roofing on the north side of the building, and tuck-pointing the masonry.

"We will also replace the front door and stone stairs, concrete walks and

some landscaping," said Levin, "and will remove the brick walls on the Noble Road sidewalk, re-grade the slope and install landscaping."

From roughly Oct. 7 through November, the front doors will be demolished and replaced. During this time, services at Noble will be restricted—no public computers will be available and all services, including circulation, will take place on the lower level.

"Noble Neighborhood patrons may wish to use the other three libraries in the system [Coventry Village, Lee Road, and University Heights] during this phase," said Levin, "but we will do everything we can to keep serving our Noble customers while this much-needed, short-term renovation takes place."

For updates about the project, check the Heights Library website (www.heightslibrary.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/heightslibrary).

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Heights Libraries.



Noble Neighborhood Library, 2800 Noble Road.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.

Cedar-Coventry Author Series: Emily Mitchell discusses her book, The Last Summer of the World, a fictionalized biography of photographer Edward Steichen.

Monday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Deaf Gathering: A social hour open to all who are interested in learning more about deaf culture. An interpreter will be provided.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Art Study Group at CMA: View a selection of materials related to Impressionism, followed by a tour of CMA's Impressionist galleries. (This program takes place at the Ingalls Library at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Registration required.)

Friday, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Masquerade! Teens, wear your best masks, capes and costumes to this Halloween party.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Great Books: Second Treatise on Civil Government by John Locke.

Thursdays, Oct. 6 & 20, 6:30 p.m.

Noble Knitting Circle. Bring a current project, or come to learn how to knit or crochet.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m.

Rock Your Preschoolers: Enhancing Early Literacy through Music. (Registration required.)

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 6 p.m.

Adaptations: From Short Story to Big Screen. Discussion of plot development, character portrayal, and other elements involved in turning a story into a feature film.

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 12:30 p.m.

The Senior Spot: Tech Day. Explore Hulu, an online video service offering free viewings of network TV shows.

Heights Libraries to showcase local authors this fall

Sheryl Banks

Among the first things you will notice when looking around the Coventry Village Library are the expressive posters promoting local authors. Over the past three years, Pat Gray, Coventry branch manager, has been cultivating the Cedar-Coventry Author Series, along with partners Jane Kessler of Appletree Books and Suzanne DeGaetano of Mac's Backs. The series serves as a platform for both new and established authors to showcase their current work and broaden their fan base.

"We look for someone who just came out with a new book, who would be of interest, who lives locally or writes about the area," said Gray.

This year's series kicked off with Northeast Ohio resident Mary Doria Russell on Sept. 7. Russell's talk attracted a standing-room-only crowd in the library. "We ran out of books and

had to create a waiting list!" said Gray. The series will continue with first-time novelist and CSU English professor Emily Mitchell on Oct. 5, discussing *The Last Summer of the World*, her fictionalized biography of photographer Edward Steichen.

Wrapping up the fall schedule on Nov. 2 is Catherine Gildiner, who will discuss her funny, poignant memoirs, *Too Close to the Falls* and *After the Falls*. Gildiner attended Ohio University and briefly lived in Cleveland Heights when she was a young woman.

In addition to the Cedar-Coventry Author Series, Heights Libraries will host three other local author events in October. At each, books will be available for purchase, and signing by the author.

On Oct. 5, "tween" and children's author Tricia Springstubb, a Cleveland Heights resident, will appear at the Lee Road Library, to talk about her new middle-grade novel, *Mo Wren, Lost and*

Found, the sequel to *What Happened on Fox Street*.

On Oct. 6, at the University Heights Library, local reiki master and teacher Alice Langholt will discuss her new book *Practical Reiki*. Langholt will also demonstrate reiki.

Back at the Coventry Village Library, on Oct. 20, Paul J. Bauer and Mark Dawidziak will introduce attendees to the subject of their new biography, *Jim Tully: American Writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler*. Dawidziak is the television critic at the *Plain Dealer*, and Bauer is a rare book dealer in Kent, Ohio.

"We have a great lineup," said Gray, "and, all these events are free."

All events begin at 7 p.m. and registration is required. Go to www.heightslibrary.org to register.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Heights Libraries.

**Advertise in the
Heights Observer
216-320-1423**

Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

AUGUST 15, 2011

Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans, Bonita W. Caplan, and Kenneth Montlack were absent.

Adaptive reuse legislation

Council approved amendments to the zoning code to enable the regulation of adaptive reuse of existing institutional and other non-residential buildings in residential districts. Based on the premise that adaptive reuse of vacant non-residential buildings in residential neighborhoods is ecologically sound and can benefit the community, the legislation allows the buildings to be converted to a broad range of uses. An added clause, which incorporated feedback from the public and the city's planning commission, states that any adaptive reuse must be "compatible with the residential nature of the neighborhoods, with strict controls to avoid negative impact upon neighboring properties."

Hampshire Road apartment parking

Council authorized an agreement with SP Hampshire LLC, the owner of an apartment building located at 2749 Hampshire Road, for the creation of five parking spaces to be located partially on SP Hampshire's land and partially on city-owned land known as City Lot #3.

City to hire lobbying firm

A resolution, presented on first reading only, would authorize an agreement with G2G Consulting LLC for economic development and lobbying services for the city and its business

districts. Proposals from two leading consulting firms were reviewed before the city chose G2G to help with:

- Developing a coordinated government affairs strategy to foster growth in the Cedar/Fairmount, Cedar/Lee, Cedar/Taylor, Coventry, and Mayfield/Warrensville business districts;
- Building relationships with decision-makers;
- Identifying government resources for infrastructure improvements, redevelopment, brown-field cleanup, crime prevention, and business growth;
- Prioritizing and pursuing opportunities with the highest return on investment; and
- Working with government to attract businesses.

Total compensation for the 12-month agreement would not exceed \$75,000. Council Member Dennis Wilcox noted that federal and state cutbacks on local funding necessitate a more creative search for funding sources.

LWV observer: Katherine Solender.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Mayor Edward J. Kelley was absent.

Eagle Scout project recognized

A proclamation signed by Mayor Kelley and all council members recognized David Schellenberg, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Schellenberg described his Eagle Scout project, which was the refurbishment of two miles of nature trails in Forest Hill Park.

Repeal of gun laws

Council repealed city ordinances "Prohibition of

Deadly Weapons in Parks" and "Regulations of Firearms" in order to comply with current state law.

Cedar Road resurfacing

Council authorizes application to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency ("NOACA") for federal funding for the repair and resurfacing of Cedar Road from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Taylor Road. This is an early step in a project that will not come to fruition for a couple of years. The construction costs are eligible for federal funding to a maximum of 80 percent, with the balance of at least 20 percent being paid for from local roadway improvement funds, with no real estate assessment.

Cedar-Lee streetscape improvements

Council authorized joining with the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District (SID) in applying to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for federal funding for streetscape improvements for the Cedar-Lee business district. Council Member Dennis Wilcox commented that SIDs, in which the property owners tax themselves to fund improvements, are important to the city's business development efforts. There is an opportunity to leverage federal funding to cover most of the costs of the Cedar Lee SID project.

Council hires lobbying firm

Council authorized an agreement with G2G Consulting LLC for lobbying services to promote local interests at the state and federal levels and to seek sources of funding for economic development projects and infrastructure improvements. The cost of the



12-month contract will not exceed \$75,000.

Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District

Council approved legislation relating to the city's participation in the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District (AED). Fifteen other suburbs and the City of Cleveland are also participating in the creation of a Solar Special SID. The city's pilot project is a lighted sign at the entrance to the city on Monticello Boulevard.

New target area for NSP

Council approved an 18-month agreement with Cuyahoga County on behalf of the Ohio Department of Development for federal funding in the amount of \$250,000 through Phase III of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and establishing a new Priority Target Area within Block One of Census Tract 1407.1, which includes the streets Whitethorn, Oak and Sycamore. Council also approved extending the expedited property purchase provisions that applied to the initial four target areas to Phase III of the NSP and the new target area. The NSP addresses the problem of vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties in the city. Four target areas were established in 2009, and the city has renovated 12 homes and demolished 20.

LWV observers: Katherine Solender and Kirsten Karakul.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

STUDY continued from page 1

basis, we apply a poverty correction factor derived from the percentage of disadvantaged students in a district as reported on the state report cards.

- 1 Solon
- 2 Orange
- 3 Beachwood

Private School Options

One point for every private elementary and/or secondary school within five miles.

1. Shaker Heights
1. Cleveland Heights
3. South Euclid

Higher Education Access

Higher education institutions within five miles; extra points for greater significance.

1. Cleveland Heights
2. Shaker Heights
3. South Euclid

Quality Dining

Top-100 local restaurants (www.wheretobelocalseat.com) within five miles, one point for each.

1. Ohio City
2. Cleveland Heights
3. Shaker Heights

Commuting/Transportation Options

One point each for: auto time to downtown under 20 minutes; auto time to University Circle under 20 minutes; walk to rapid transit line under 20 minutes; bicycle to downtown under 40 minutes; bicycle to University Circle under 40 minutes; walk to downtown under 60 minutes; walk to University Circle under 60 minutes.

1. Cleveland Heights
1. Ohio City
1. Shaker Heights

Park and Countryside Access

One point each for: auto time to countryside under 20 minutes; bicycle to

countryside under 30 minutes; number of public parks within five miles. Lake proximity counts as countryside.

1. South Euclid
2. Rocky River
2. Westlake

Safety

Neighborhood Scout crime index.

1. Westlake
2. Mayfield Heights
3. Strongsville

Annual Cost for Median Home

The Annual Cost for Median Home (ACMH) is the annual cost of a 30-year mortgage at 5 percent interest on the median home value in the community, assuming 20 percent down. Annual property tax is added to that. The ACMH is the out-of-pocket cost per year (after down payment) to own the median house.

1. North Collinwood (\$6,516)
2. Maple Heights (\$7,068)
3. Euclid (\$7,632)
16. Solon (\$19,008)
17. Beachwood (\$19,776)
18. Orange (\$21,720)

Overall:

Cleveland Heights rises to the top overall because it has the best physical proximity to many amenities, and it remains close to its competition on all the other metrics.

For those who want many of the same advantages for a bit less money, try South Euclid [or University Heights]. If you're willing to pay considerably more and give up some walking-distance access, Shaker Heights is right there. The Cleveland neighborhoods of Ohio City and North Collinwood compete very well and cost a lot less, but take a hit on schools. Lakewood would be right up there with the leaders if it were closer to cultural and educational

centers. The far-out suburbs are indeed far out—out of contention if one wants a livable neighborhood as defined by these metrics. Comments and suggestions welcome at www.heightsobserver.org.

1. Cleveland Heights (35)
2. South Euclid (48)
3. Shaker Heights (53)
4. Ohio City (66)
5. North Collinwood (74)
6. Lakewood (76)
7. Beachwood (84)
8. Maple Heights (90)
9. Rocky River (96)
10. Mayfield Heights (101)

11. Orange (102)
12. Warrensville Heights (110)
13. Parma (117)
14. Euclid (118)
14. Westlake (122)
16. Solon (124)
17. Strongsville (132)
18. Medina (152)

Greg Donley is a member of the Heights Observer's editorial advisory committee.

View the complete report of this study at www.heightsobserver.org.



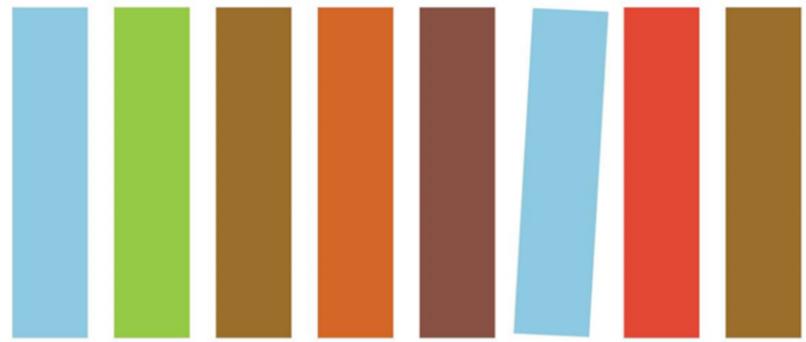
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To learn more about this program, or to sign up to volunteer, visit www.lakeerieink.org or e-mail arosenbluth@lakeerieink.org.

Heights Observer seeks distribution volunteers

Help distribute the *Heights Observer* print edition to area businesses and organizations each month. Most routes take only one hour. Call 216-320-1423 or haldwin@futureheights.org.

Heights schools superintendent explains new initiatives at FutureHeights forum

Deanna Bremer Fisher

"The best places to live in America have great public schools," said Douglas Heuer, superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. "There's a symbiotic relationship between the two."

Heuer addressed a crowd of community members at a FutureHeights speaker series event on Sept. 13.

He spoke of the many challenges Heights schools face in striving to create great schools "Tests that kindergartners take at the beginning of the year show that 60 percent of Heights students entering kindergarten are not ready. They don't have the basic building blocks needed to begin reading," said Heuer. "This correlates with 61.2 percent of Heights school children who are eligible for free and reduced cost lunch."

"Heights schools make tremendous strides with these kids," Heuer said. "By the time they are tested in the third grade, 70 percent of students are reading at grade level. The bad news is, however, that 30 percent are still behind, and if students aren't caught up by then, they will likely not be able to do so without expensive interventions."

The solution, according to Heuer, is to strive for 100 percent of children reading at grade level by third grade. Heuer spoke about two initiatives Heights schools are undertaking to reach this goal: expanding the preschool programs and performance grouping for reading. This year, the district has expanded its preschool program, which



The FutureHeights speaker series featured Superintendent for CH-UH Schools Douglas Heuer.

had been located solely at Gearity Elementary School, to Noble Elementary School. "Noble preschool already has a waiting list," said Heuer.

Also new this year, are reading performance groups for first, second and third graders. The district has reallocated resources to bring in extra reading teachers to work with smaller groups of students, who are grouped based on their reading instruction needs. "Every test is essentially a reading test," said Heuer. "If you can't read and understand the problem, you won't be able to do the math."

To learn more about Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools, visit www.chuh.org.

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

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COURTESY, JUDSON

A swim class at Judson Park, part of its health and wellness program.

A well-kept secret: Judson community wellness program helps members stay fit

Jessica Schreiber

Here's a little-known fact: Judson Park, a residential retirement facility, offers a fitness program open to the public.

Currently, 125 community members, ranging in age from 50 to over 80, participate during the week. Classes include water aerobics, power walking and arthritis exercise in the pool, strength training, pilates, yoga, and a balance clinic on land. No contract is required. There is an enrollment fee of \$60, and members pay \$55/month for unlimited access to classes, the pool and exercise room.

Testimonials from individuals who participate suggest that the Judson Health and Wellness Program offers a veritable fountain of youth.

Take Annie Huff, an 81-year-old retired UPS worker and a member since 1996. A former swimmer and tennis player, she could no longer participate in sports due to stiffness and knee problems. "Without Judson," she said, "I don't think I'd be walking."

"Judson got me walking again," claimed Jean Sacatash, 82, a retired special education teacher who recalls how attendants at Judson helped her get into the hot tub and start exercising again after back surgery.

85-year-old Louise Keating, a retired physician, began the wellness program after her second hip replacement. Advised to do water exercises, she added strength training to improve her stamina, balance, and ability to lift heavy objects. Keating credits improved muscle control and balance with preventing slips from turning into falls.

Blanche Valancy, 63, a retired pediatric social worker, has had spinal fusion and knee replacement surgeries. In addition to the tremendous health

benefits, Valancy enjoys hanging out in the hot tub after classes, and sharing stories with friends who show emotional resilience in the face of surgery, illness and loss.

Retired librarian Kay Coss has been a member for 10 years. "I've become stronger than I ever was before. I have defined muscles I can see for the first time in my life!"

65-year-old artist Amie Albeit likes the intimate setting and camaraderie. "Participants are smart, thoughtful, funny and welcoming." Albeit needed aerobic exercise, but joint pain prevented her from doing land activity. Water aerobics works well for her. "Nothing hurts in the water," she said.

Although decidedly a minority, men also participate. Barry Brown, 74, a retired businessman, has been a member for three years and finds it helps his back problems.

Most members have participated in other programs, but find Judson meets their needs. They talk about the stability (most people who join stay with the program), the professionalism of the staff, and the supportive friendships that develop.

"The instructors are brilliant, well trained and supportive," said Valancy. "They keep it fresh and inspiring."

A community wellness program that produces so many inspirational stories ought not to remain a secret.

Judson Health and Wellness Program is located on the 7th floor of Judson Park at 2181 Ambleside Dr., Cleveland. For information contact Tom Snyder at 216-791-1293 or tsnyder@judsonsmartliving.org.

Jessica Schreiber, a Cleveland Heights resident, has been a member of Judson Health and Wellness Program for five years.

Impromptu picnic lunch benefits Reaching Heights

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The vacant lot at Lee and Meadowbrook roads was the site of an unusual fundraiser on Sept. 13. Reaching Heights, a nonprofit that supports Heights public schools, was the latest beneficiary of Marigold Catering's Renegade Lunch Project, a fundraiser that combines a delicious multi-course meal with a bit of street theater.

Lisa Hunt, a program associate at Reaching Heights, also works with Marigold Catering. She brought the two organizations together and organized the back-to-school themed lunch, complete with vintage lunch boxes borrowed from Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun.

"We've been doing this every month

for the last two years," said Joan Rosenthal, owner of Marigold Catering and a Cleveland Heights resident, "It's our way of giving back to the community. We choose a smaller, grass roots charity that needs some publicity and a high-traffic area to make a statement." Past beneficiaries have included the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, the Aids Task Force and the Cleveland Foodbank.

"The event was a lot of fun, and we met both our fundraising and friendraising goals," said Patrick Mullen, executive director of Reaching Heights. The event raised more than \$1,800 for the organization.

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



PHOTO BY LISA HUNT

Joan Rosenthal, owner of Marigold Catering (in the foreground), looks on as guests enjoy tomato bisque and grilled brie.

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SHN continued from page 1

water, and giving back to the community. SHN invites residents to register for the event online and plan how they can participate in the week's challenges. The goal is for the community to see how effective and valuable a reduction in our carbon footprint can be to our cities.

The project and challenge is the brain child of Colin Beaven, a writer living in New York, who decided that his family would experience one full year of zero-waste living. The results of that experiment led to his writing of the book *No Impact Man*, which demonstrates the cost of modern conveniences and questions what people really need in their daily lives.

The film, "No Impact Man," will be shown at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13, at the University Heights Library, 13866 Cedar Road.

The Sustainable Heights Network hopes to register 1,000 people in the

Heights to participate. Local educators and businesses are encouraged to register their classes and coworkers. Joe Mendes, a fourth grade teacher at Gearity Elementary School, is leading by example and plans to register his students to participate in the project.

SHN seeks community-wide involvement and awareness in promoting sustainable cities. The event is co-sponsored by FutureHeights, Heights Libraries, the Lusty Wrench, Jeff Coryell for Council, and Good Cents.

To register to participate in the event, go to www.sustainableheightsnetwork.blogspot.com. For more information about the project, visit www.yesmagazine.org/planet/join-yes-for-no-impact-week-september-2011.

Maxwell Embrescia is a nonprofit administration student at Cleveland State University and an intern at FutureHeights.

Leading Ladies and PTA host wellness challenge

Sabrina Humphries

Childhood and teenage obesity is on the rise throughout the nation. Developing healthy lifestyles is an initiative promoted by both the national Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and First Lady Michelle Obama. In an effort to support that initiative, Leading Ladies Inc., the empowerment club at Cleveland Heights High School, will collaborate with the local PTA to bring the 4th annual Healthy Lifestyles Wellness Challenge to the community.

Last year's target audience comprised students in grades 6-12 and their families. With support from Reaching Heights, the Cleveland Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, and University Hospitals, students and their families received healthy lifestyle information and participated in karate demonstrations, Wii fitness challenges, cooking demonstrations, ballroom dancing and more.

This year Leading Ladies has expanded its target audience to include all students in kindergarten through grade 12 and their families. The goal for this year's Healthy Lifestyles Wellness Challenge is to utilize community resources in an engaging and interactive atmosphere, to ensure that parents and students become informed consumers and make healthful nutritional and activity choices.

Leading Ladies is asking for help

from the community. The following is a list of the items and services the organization needs to make this year's wellness challenge a success:

- Healthy foods and bottled water for sampling;
- Exercise cycles, bicycles, weights, pedometers, jump ropes, exercise DVDs, grocery store gift cards and fruit baskets for door prizes and raffle;
- Complimentary fitness center memberships for raffle;
- Cash donations and sponsorships;
- Record keeping items, such as calculators, bank record books, pencils and printing services for brochures;
- Health professional volunteers to staff interactive/informational booths.

This year's Healthy Lifestyles Wellness Challenge will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Heights High.

The African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," applies to the wellness challenge, and community residents are a vital part of this "village." Individual and group support will be greatly appreciated. Interested parties should contact Sabrina Humphries at 216-269-0160, sabrinahumphries@yahoo.com or Melissa Walls at 216-544-1242, melonthego2@yahoo.com.

Sabrina Humphries has been a teacher for more than 30 years. She is the founder and director of Leading Ladies.

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Questions if time permits.

Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

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Parenting Q & A

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Family Connections 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 for Barrett, e-mail her at ebarrett@heightsparentcenter.org.



Q. My son just started kindergarten and all of a sudden I feel like I am living with a toddler again. He was so excited for the school year to begin. Over the summer, we had a few play dates with future classmates and participated in several kindergarten-like activities, hoping to ensure the transition would go well. At first it was great. Now, a few weeks into the school year, he has reverted back to many behaviors that I thought he had outgrown. Temper tantrums have resumed, he wakes up in the middle of the night, and he is often grumpy. I am worried he doesn't like school, and I dread the next 12 years. What can I do to help

him adjust?

A. Kindergarten is a big deal for many kids. In the excitement of the first few days, adrenaline and a sense of adventure carried him along. By now, your son has experienced several weeks filled with days and hours of listening, cooperating, concentrating and sharing. Essentially, he is exhausted. The good news is this is not an indicator of whether or not your child will be successful in school or enjoy school in the future. It is just a matter of readjusting and regrouping a bit. Here are a few ideas on how to do that:

- First, slow down. Don't ask much of your son when he gets home from school. Have a snack ready, then find activities that don't require him to take turns or wait. Let him play quietly, read to him or even let him watch a short video. Be OK with him just "vegging out."
- Lower your expectations around anything not school related. If you've signed him up for soccer or piano lessons, consider whether those activities may ask too much of him right now. If you normally require him to do a few chores around the house, ease up on those demands until you see him coping better.
- Try to eliminate the need for him to make decisions, because you might find that there is no "right" decision. Although kindergarteners, like toddlers, have the desire to control their world, his ability to handle decisions will be diminished. Try going back to simple strategies such as offering limited choices—"I have a snack ready for you; would you like milk or juice to drink with it?"
- Find noncompetitive ways for him to release pent-up energy, and get exercise and fresh air. A few minutes on the playground after school, or a walk around the block at home will allow him to shift gears and feel refreshed.
- Move his bedtime up. When a child starts school, his sleep needs increase with the demands of his busy day. If you are putting him to bed at his regular bedtime, you might actually be missing his "sleep window." An overtired child has more difficulty falling asleep than a well-rested one. Also, be sure to eliminate overstimulating activities after dinner, including video games, TV and computer use. Those "screen time" activities stimulate the brain in ways that make falling asleep difficult.

It is common for kids of all ages to need an adjustment period after school begins, and kindergarteners need it even more. Be patient. Before long you'll see your child bloom into one ready to take on his next new adventure.

Heights Youth Club members learn NASA tech

Tongchan Boonyapatano

Cleveland Heights kids aged 9 to 15 attended a one-week Funutation technology lab at the Heights Youth Club (HYC), and learned to build robots, construct roller coasters and design video games.

The Funutation lab was held in August as part of the Summer of Innovation program, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to improve the skills and enhance the engagement of American students in response to the country's need for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Jackalyn Fehrenbach, assistant director of HYC, said, "This class sparked a lot of interest in science and technology among kids." Olivia Morgan, a 15-year-old attending a computer camp for the first time, said it was "awesome." During the weeklong program, Morgan and other attendees learned the mechanics of a roller coaster, and constructed a miniature coaster from scratch. The kids also gained hands-on experience with robots, with supervision from instructors.

Eric Adeyemon, 12, remarked that he has had a keen interest in computer programming since he was nine, and always asked himself, "How did they make the

games?" At the camp, he became more familiar with the design and implementation of 3-D computer games. Adeyemon said he was surprised to learn that he could write code in a different and easier way than he had learned before, and exclaimed, "You can make computers make different sounds simply by typing different codes!" Adeyemon wants to be a doctor when he grows up, but said that maybe he would create computer games in his spare time.

According to Fehrenbach, the Funutation technology program supports the club's education and career development initiative, improving educational proficiency using practical applications, and preparing children for future success through the use of technology. She anticipates that HYC will offer similar programs in the future.

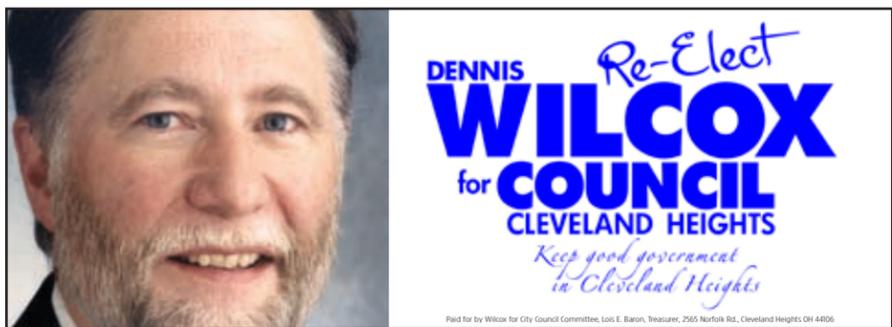
The technology classes were operated by Funutation Tekademy LLC, an Ohio-based company offering technology programs such as robotronix, roller coaster construction, scratch game design, and stop motion animation for children aged 7 to 17. Ted Jordan, Funutation STEM program manager, said that the company's primary goal is to provide students with an opportunity to learn technology skills that would empower and prepare them for the path they choose. Classes challenge



A camper creates her own video game.

the kids' minds and, at the same time, satisfy the National Standards TEAMS (Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics & Science), while developing team-building skills.

Tongchan Boonyapatano is a program manager of Funutation Tekademy LLC, a technology school for kids that offers extracurricular programs, such as animation, video game design and robotronix.



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Heights High senior named semifinalist in National Merit Scholarship Program

Jacalyn Elfvin

Cleveland Heights High School senior Madeline Pollis has been recognized as a semifinalist in the first round of the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. “Maddy is an exceptional student, and we are extremely proud that she has earned this recognition,” said Joseph Nohra, Mosaic principal. “This level of achievement is exactly what we have come to expect from Heights students, who every year demonstrate their excellence by placing high on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.” National Merit Scholarship semifinalists have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,300 awards worth \$34 million that will be offered next spring.



Madeline Pollis

COURTESY CHURCH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Deborah S. Delisle Options Center at the corner of Taylor and Superior roads is designed to give students an alternative to Heights High. “Our goal is to reach students who have not achieved their greatest success in a traditional setting and help them graduate,” said Brian Williams, building coordinator. “The students here can succeed in school, and we think we can offer the right environment and structure to make that happen.”

The key to both the building and the schedule is flexibility—aimed at providing what the students need to focus and learn.

Four classrooms, the school office, and the “Sky Room”—a bright, multi-purpose room—are grouped together on the second floor. Each classroom is staffed by a subject-area teacher, but after an initial daily check in, students can choose the classroom that best suits their needs for that day.

The work space is geared to student needs. The classrooms feature a combination of small and large work tables. Some include more traditional school desks, but with foot-swing bars that invite movement. A few of the desks are high, designed for standing.

Most of the student work is done on laptops, through Aventa, an online program that meets Ohio education standards. Teachers can monitor student progress and provide individual and small-group instruction based on what

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

More stories online at www.heightsobserver.org

New Delisle Center provides an alternative learning environment

Joy Henderson



JOY HENDERSON

Michael Nicoletti, Courtney Wallace-Miller and Isaiah Flowers (L-R) attend the Deborah S. Delisle Options Complex. Nicoletti and Wallace-Miller, both taking chemistry, were discussing coursework. Flowers was working on a geology unit.

students need. This “blended” instruction model is self-passed and individualized, but also directed by a teacher.

Half of the 80 students attend school in the morning and half in the afternoon. This leaves time for independent work, jobs and family obligations.

“We believe that a new and different environment will help students get back on the right track and do what we know they can do,” Williams said. During a recent visit, the classrooms were very quiet, with students working independently or conferring quietly over their laptops with other students or teachers.

For three students, the first few weeks of school have been exciting and motivating.

Courtney Wallace-Miller likes completing class work online. “It is just easier for me to find information online than in a textbook,” she said. Her government class was researching the attributes of the various American colonies, and she found the web-based

information easy to access.

Michael Nicoletti was not sure about the school at first, but after just a few weeks, says he really likes it. “I like that I can work at my own pace,” he said. “The videos that explain things are a good way for me to learn.” He also noted that the staff members are very helpful and said they “act like parents.”

Isaiah Flowers likes the location, and said, “It is a cool building. It is quiet and that makes it easier for me to concentrate.” Flowers was working on a physical science unit (his favorite subject) and said it was a “huge advantage for me to be able to review the sections I need.” He also said he feels that the staff is very nonjudgmental and supportive.

This alternative high school experience offers a flexible and personal education, helping students develop the skills they will need to graduate and pursue additional education.

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

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No Child Left Behind disaster: when aspirations and reality collide



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

"All children will be proficient in reading and math by 2014."

This is the inspiring goal that drives No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the 2002 federal law designed to ignite success in public education by making teachers accountable for student learning. The law mandates yearly tests to measure whether schools are meeting their obligation to reach this goal, and expects that each year a larger share of students will prove their proficiency. Failure to meet the yearly improvement in test scores prompts punitive consequences for educators and schools.

I was drawn to the high expectations for student learning that is the lynchpin of the legislation. Too many students fall desperately short of achieving at their capacity. The old 20th-century expectation that only about 20 percent of students achieve at high levels has no place in the 21st-century global economy. The law promised to take our nation's guarantee of universal access to public education to a higher level.

It is easy to embrace a policy that makes such a grand promise. But the aspiration blinded me, and many lawmakers, to the reality that the goal cannot be realized on the prescribed timeline.

I am grateful to Diane Ravitch for articulating the problem so clearly in *The Life and Death of the Great American School System*:

"The goal set by Congress of 100 percent proficiency by 2014 is an aspiration; it is akin to a declaration of belief. Yes, we do believe that all children can learn and should learn. But as a goal, it is utterly out of reach. . . . Such a goal has never been reached by any state or nation." (Ravitch 2010, p. 103)

Because I am a true believer in the capacity of children to learn, it was difficult to accept this straightforward dose of reality and common sense. It is possible to believe in children and recognize that it is ridiculous to mandate that everyone succeed. Human beings are not all the same when it comes to learning, and schools are not all the same

when it comes to resources to support that learning, not to mention family support, poverty, and other variables that affect student achievement.

It is cynical and harmful to build a punitive system on a weak foundation, but that is what we have. It is time to abandon this law before it does more damage.

Despite the law's laudable aspirations, schools and children will pay dearly for failing to reach its unrealistic goals. Ravitch explains that schools will be closed, teachers and principals will lose their jobs, and some public schools will be privatized. All because they were not able to achieve the impossible.

The clock is ticking. Who knows why 2014 was chosen as the magic moment when all children would achieve, but schools only have three years to make sure 100 percent of their children achieve, or suffer the consequences. Many will not make it, especially in the current climate of funding cuts, low morale, and rising rates of child poverty. Schools that fall short will be labeled failures. This will be especially troubling for schools that are making headway with the hardest-to-reach students.

This ill-conceived policy will further unravel our belief in public schools as valuable institutions worthy of our support. As more schools fall short, our belief in children and their capacity to learn, and in educators as professionals, will be extinguished. It will destroy hope.

Who benefits from a system that classifies many public schools as failing? It certainly will not be the children who were supposed to benefit from the high expectations of this law. Ravitch makes a convincing case that the law is part of a privatization agenda.

The best way to embrace a national commitment to educate all children is to reject NCLB. An accountability system built on an unattainable goal is simply wrong. It has already done enough damage. It will only make the future of public education more vulnerable. That does not bode well for our children or our future.

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.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

All board members were present.

Books-A-Go-Go

Superintendent Douglas Heuer recognized this new summer program, created in partnership with the Interfaith Council. The theme was to maintain a strong relationship between the schools and families, especially when schools were not in session. Every Thursday evening last summer, elementary schools were open to students and their families for dinner and various education activities, including reading. Kelly Stukus, coordinator of literacy, reported that Books-A-Go-Go was a resounding success, with a total of 2,075 student and parent visits, 1,875 books checked out, 1,667 meals served, and more than 70 volunteers.

Leaders in Training

Superintendent Heuer recognized the success of another new program, Leaders in Training (LiT). Cindy Schmidt, a district social worker and LiT coordinator, reported that 35 students, ages 13 to 18, participated in the six-month program, which included a library internship and a leadership camp with the Institute for Creative Leadership in University Circle.

State report card

Although adequate yearly progress targets were not met, improvement occurred. Roxboro Elementary School achieved an Excellent With Distinction score, Wiley Middle School went from Academic Watch to Effective in two years, and although Monticello Middle School remained on Academic Watch, it did receive the additional value-added measure.

Pathways to Choice

Joseph Micheller, director of special programs and compliance, summarized the new educational theme, Pathways to Choice. The schools are being realigned with one of three pathways: Creativity, Discovery, or Society, with each building having a designated pathway. Within the high school, the small schools will be aligned. Each pathway addresses three intellectual capabilities: 1) critical thinking and problem-solving, 2) communication and collaboration, and 3) creativity and innovation. Although the core curriculum will be the same, the instructional approach will differ among the paths. Each student and family can select any school, and students will be able to change paths and schools. Implementation of the realignment and instruction will be staggered, and every school will have migrated to its pathway by 2016.

High school student council

Kristen Kelly, the high school student council advisor, and Leandra Taylor, student council president, presented changes in the student council structure designed to achieve a higher quality of student leaders by improving leadership, providing a greater student voice, and providing more civic involvement. Both presenters attended the Star Leaders National Student Conference in St. Louis, which they said was invaluable in developing ideas for improvement.

LWV observer: Cassandra Talerico-Kaplin.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

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Change brought The Wine Spot to CH

Jim Perkins

Since the early 1920s, 2271 Lee Road has been an important location to the Cleveland Heights community. Originally, it was home to Bruder's Dairy, which provided milk and dairy products to residents during war time. In 1955, it became Seitz-Agin Hardware. For 56 years, Seitz-Agin literally helped build Cleveland Heights. Now, 2271 Lee Road is opening its doors once again as The Wine Spot.

The Wine Spot is the brainchild of Adam Fleischer, a Cleveland Heights resident born and raised in the community. After a career in healthcare information technology, where he spent the majority of his time on the road, Fleischer now plans to share his passion for wine and microbrews.

"The Wine Spot seems like a perfect fit for the community. At the moment, there are no wine stores in the area. Cleveland Heights residents are currently driving out of the city for their wine, or settling for the limited selections at the grocery stores," said Fleischer.

When Fleischer first visited the empty storefront at 2271 Lee Road, he could envision the walls filled with wines from Argentina, Spain, Portugal, France and Australia; coolers full of microbrew beers; a private tasting room for business presentations and social events; and an inviting atmosphere with televisions and comfortable furniture, perfect for holding tastings and social



Susan and Adam Fleischer

events. The Wine Spot will have all of these things, and more.

Fleischer realized that his landlord, Bill Mitchell, owner of Mitchell's Fine Chocolates, shares his vision and love of Cleveland Heights. The two instantly saw the potential in a partnership and in The Wine Spot.

Fleischer sees the large parking lot behind the store as an asset. It is convenient and will facilitate home delivery service, he said.

"This location makes it easy for The Wine Spot to be an active part of the community," said Fleischer.

Construction has commenced on The Wine Spot, and the interior looks more like a wine store everyday. Fleischer is doing his best to preserve the 100-year history of the building, while at the same time creating a fun and inviting atmosphere.

Among Fleischer's goals for the business are providing an international selection of wines, educating customers on all aspects of wine, offering wines at reasonable prices, providing samples to the adventurous shopper, and offering tastings that allow for local networking and partnerships with other Heights merchants. Fleischer plans to open by mid November—just in time for the holidays.

Jim Perkins, a Heights Observer intern, is earning a master's degree in communication management at John Carroll University.

Small business development center opens at CH City Hall



Pictured are Cleveland Heights Council Members Jason Stein and Cheryl Stephens; Mayor Edward Kelley; Dean Robert Scherer; Berinthia LeVine, vice president of university advancement and executive director of CSU Foundation, Inc.; and Cleveland Heights Council Members Phyllis Evans, Dennis Wilcox, Bonita Caplan and Kenneth Montlack.

Howard Thompson

On Sept. 12, the City of Cleveland Heights and Cleveland State University's Monte Ahuja College of Business announced a partnership for the establishment of a Small Business Development

Center to be located at Cleveland Heights City Hall. The center's mission is to advance economic development activities for small-to-medium sized businesses by providing them with management and technical assistance, face-to-face consulting, financial projections and information on how to obtain bank financing.

The center is led by Jim Kraft, director, and has support from two graduate students who are employed through the Monte Ahuja College of Business. CSU Dean Robert Scherer, Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward Kelley and Cleveland Heights City Council praised the center's exceptional record of working with 80 clients to date and encouraged small businesses in the region to call if they need assistance.

The center is supported by the Small Business Administration and the Ohio Department of Development. For more information, call Jim Kraft at 216-291-5723.

Howard Thompson is economic development director for the City of Cleveland Heights.

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Non-Partisan Voter Information for the Voters of Cleveland Heights and University Heights



View video of the Oct. 4 candidates night and complete candidate responses at www.heightsobserver.org/read/news-/voters-guide or on cable channels 20 and 22.

ELECTION DAY
November 8, 2011
POLLS ARE OPEN
6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term: 4 years Salary: \$ 0 Elect: 2
CANDIDATES: ERIC COBLE NANCY PEPPLER

Questions for Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board:

1. Describe the most important thing the board must address to improve the CH-UH schools and how you as a board member will try to accomplish it.
2. As fewer funds become available to the schools due to state cutbacks and local economic conditions, what are some innovative ways to balance the district's budget?
3. How do you see our current CH-UH school facilities supporting 21st-century learning?
4. How can the district communicate an accurate view of our schools to the community?
5. What are your thoughts on current practices employed by the district to improve student performance?

Answers to questions 3, 4 and 5 are available online at www.heightsobserver.org.

ERIC COBLE

3011 Edgehill Road, Cleveland Heights 44118
Age: 43
e_coble@chuh.org
Children: 2
Schools: Heights High

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: BA from Fort Lewis College, MFA from Ohio University
Occupation: Playwright
Qualifications: Served on CH-UH School Board since 2007, Taught classes in area schools since 1993.
Community: Interact Cleveland Homeless Stand-Down. Coventry Park Clean-Up. Loaves and Fishes Program, Antioch Baptist Church.



QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. **The Most Important Thing:** We must continue to build the community's trust in our schools. The district is moving in the right direction – test scores are up, enrollment is up, we continue to win state and national awards, we've cut over \$6 million from the budget in four years, stretched a three-year levy into four years, and are asking for the smallest levy in over 20 years – but we still have work to do and it takes time to change negative perceptions. Continuing to improve what happens in the classroom and how that is communicated is one of my chief missions.
2. **The Budget:** Our Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer are charged with continuing to find ways to cut our expenses without harming our students' education. This has resulted in over 6 million dollars saved over the past four years. The recent agreement by all our teachers and administrators to a two-year pay freeze, and the creative re-use of the Coventry building to serve the community are two successful examples. We must continue to find more of these solutions.

NANCY PEPPLER

2942 Edgehill Road Cleveland Heights 44118
Age: 49
peppler@roadrunner.com
Children: 2
Schools: Roxboro Middle

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: BA and MSSA, CWRU
Occupation: VP, External Relations, Beech Brook
Qualifications: Served on CH-UH School Board since 2007. I have worked with, and on behalf of children, youth and families since for 25 years.
Community: Coventry P.E.A.C.E., participation on Transition Team Committee for Cuyahoga County Government.



QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. **The Most Important Thing:** We must continue to improve the performance of our schools and strengthen the community connection to our schools. As a Board, we need to maintain support for the administration in developing building-level accountability for school performance. We have made strides; test scores are up, enrollment is up, and changes to the school schedules (such as block scheduling) have already begun to show a positive impact. As a Board member, I will work to strengthen support of our schools through improving communications and connections with the community and will support policies and budgets that improve school performance.
2. **The Budget:** We have proactively cut over \$6 million from the budget in the past four years. Due to these cuts, we delayed a levy request to 2011, when it was originally planned for 2010. This will be the smallest levy request in over 20 years. Our administration negotiated with our unions for all of our staff to receive a two-year pay freeze. These efforts may not be 'innovative', but they were necessary and effective.

Attention Voters in New Caledonia School District

EAST CLEVELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term: 4 years Salary: 1 Elect: 3
CANDIDATES: Gloria L. Avery-Prease, Uma H. R. Keenon, Patricia A. Blochiowiak, Abdul Shaheed Jabbaar, David Dewey, Edward E. Walton, SR.

The material contained in this publication was assembled in the following manner:

- Questions were selected by members of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area – CH-UH and addressed to the candidates. Word limits were placed on candidates responses.
 - Candidates were informed that their responses would be printed in their own words, which has in fact been done, and that each would be solely responsible for the contents of the replies.
 - For publication, the order of presentation of the candidates is alphabetical with the first candidate chosen by lot and succeeding candidates in continuing alphabetical order.
- The League of Women Voters neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate quoted and does not and cannot assume responsibility for the contents of the candidates' reply or his/her motivation in making the same.**
- We DO NOT and HAVE NOT endorsed any candidates for any offices**

*Published as a public service by the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area Heights Chapter in conjunction with FutureHeights
For the voters of Cleveland Heights and University Heights*

'The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is a multi-issue organization whose mission is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.'



FutureHeights

Candidates Night

CH/UH Community Candidates Forum

Plan to attend the **Community Candidates Forum** to hear what candidates for Cleveland Heights City Council, University Heights City Council, and Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education have to say—and plan to do—for our community.

Thursday, October 6

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cleveland Heights Community Center
1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights

Gain insight and make an informed choice on election day, Tuesday, November 8.

The Forum is sponsored by the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area and FutureHeights.

Neither the League of Women Voters nor FutureHeights endorse candidates. The forum will be strictly non-partisan. No campaign literature will be permitted in the forum room. A table will be available in the hallway for literature.

Term: 4 years

Salary: Council: \$9,270, Mayor: \$11,840

Elect: 3

CANDIDATES: JEFF CORYELL, MARY DUNBAR, PHYLLIS EVANS, MICHAEL J. GAYNIER, KEBA SYLLA, DENNIS R. WILCOX

Questions for Cleveland Heights City Council:

1. Describe the most important thing your city government must address to improve life in Cleveland Heights and how you will get it done.
2. How do you see the trend toward regionalism and collaboration affecting your city? Please give specific examples.
3. What measures can be taken to alleviate the effects of foreclosures and the current housing market in your city?
4. Please discuss your stance on the CH-UH school levy.
5. What can you do as a council member to encourage confidence in your community and its future?
6. Considering recent state cuts to local government, what are some creative ways to increase revenue?

Answers to questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 are available online at www.heightsobserver.org.

MIKE GAYNIER

2933 Berkshire Rd. Cleveland Hts. 44118

Age: 58

realgainforclevelandheights@gmail.com
www.realgainforclevelandheights.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: The University of Michigan, BGS 1982

Occupation: Senior Consultant, creativechange.biz. I work primarily with non-profit clients on cultural competence, leadership coaching, performance management, communication and executive coaching.

Qualifications: 25 years in leadership roles, helping organizations prosper, developing people and solving problems.

Community: Home Repair Resource Center of Cleveland Heights, Trustee and Board Chair 2008-2011. American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland, Disaster Action Team Leader 2007-2011. ACLU of Cleveland Leadership Council 2008-2011.



QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: We must improve all of our unique, pedestrian friendly business districts, which enhance and improve the vitality and economic health of their surrounding neighborhoods and our city, to grow our tax base. To do so we must fill the gaps in our business districts, define specific goals and action plans for targeted development that includes all stakeholders (merchants, customers, residents and property owners), promote local business and surrounding neighborhoods on our new city website, reach out to current business owners to ascertain their long and short term needs and provide concierge style service for all businesses working with city departments.

2. Regionalism: We need to build upon the recent success we've had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Rubbish Compacting/Lyndhurst), and aggressively pursue partnerships with neighboring communities and Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of collaboration. Cuyahoga County's new, unified Economic Development Fund is an excellent opportunity for regional cooperation to produce fiscally sound economic development and growth. Cleveland Heights must become the leading proponent of collaboration among our east side neighbors.

KEBA SYLLA

3262 E. Overlook Road 44118

Age: 48

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Ph.D. in Public Administration/Urban AFFAIRS, MA in Criminal Justice Studies

Occupation: UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Qualifications: Member of CAC (Citizens advisory Committee (2006). Vice Chair of Financial committee

Community: Teacher at Upward bound program



QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: We must put together a plan that fosters the creation of jobs that increase economic growth throughout all city neighborhoods. Create an incentive for new technology companies that can bring new jobs, foster training and broaden our revenues through business taxes. This can alleviate the burden of taxes from our citizens. In addition, this economic growth must come from a reform of our zoning code. This city must understand that the mindset of 19th century economic development cannot be used today. We must encourage big business and companies to come here to invest

2. Regionalism: The trend toward regionalism and collaboration affects our city. For example, for the last five years, Cleveland Heights has collaborated with neighboring cities such as East Cleveland concerning snow removal and police collaboration regarding crimes. Regarding Regionalism, we are partners with the county and other cities such as Cleveland concerning water and its distribution as well as the sewer issues. This trend will continue due to the economic downturn but also because of the shrinking population

DENNIS R. WILCOX

2524 Berkshire Rd. Cleveland Heights 44106

Age: 59

dennis@wilcoxforcouncil.com
wilcoxforcouncil.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Juris Doctor, 1977, Case Western Reserve University. Bachelor of Arts, 1974, Ohio State University

Occupation: Attorney. Climaco, Wilcox, Peca, Tarantino & Garofoli Co., L.P.A.

Qualifications: Current member of City Council and Chair of Planning & Development Committee. Past chair of Finance Committee. Law practice for 34 years in government/public finance.

Community: Member of Heights Arts, Reaching Heights, Family Connections, Heights Community Congress, Future Heights; sponsor of Youth Baseball and Soccer; CH-UH Schools Lay Finance and Facilities Committee.



QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: Many issues are the result of the recession, housing crisis and cutbacks in state funding. While we fight to balance our budget and deliver excellent city services, we must also focus on behavior problems in our neighborhoods and business districts to keep them safe, quiet, and walkable. We are focusing and increasing resources of housing and community relations staff, and police to deal with these problems, sharing information and working with neighborhood groups. We are also communicating better with our citizens and neighborhood groups. We are also communicating better with our citizens and utilizing new tools such as nuisance ordinances and curfew laws to deal with the problems.

2. Regionalism: It can be a very positive trend if we are proactive. We are collaborating: with our schools to turn the former Coventry School into an Arts/Innovation Center to create jobs; with University Circle Inc. in housing and business development and to solve transportation issues; by joining Regional Income Tax Agency to save up to \$500,000 in income tax collection costs; and with Cleveland State on the new small business development center at City Hall.

JEFF CORYELL

3316 Clarendon Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118

Age: 55

CoryellForCouncil@gmail.com
www.CoryellForCouncil.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude, Carleton College; Juris Doctor, New York University; Master of Fine Arts, Northwestern University

Occupation: Artist/small business owner

Qualifications: Assistant U.S. Attorney; Assistant Attorney General; Adjunct Professor at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, and Youngstown State University; New Media Director for U.S. Senate Campaign.

Community: President, Secretary and Trustee, Cleveland Heights Democrats. Central and Executive Committee Member, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.



QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: Our city must combat population decline and grow our tax base by attracting and retaining new residents and businesses, particularly engaged younger residents and high tech and creative enterprises. I will help modernize and improve the marketing of our tremendous assets as a place to live and do business; strengthen our ties with CWRU and University Circle to spur community development; work with our school officials to help improve our public schools and publicize our progress; facilitate establishing a business incubator; and help create a Cleveland Heights Arts District to promote our arts and culture community.

2. Regionalism: Regional collaboration is already helping Cleveland Heights provide excellent services at lower cost, as with shared police and fire dispatch, joining the Regional Income Tax Agency, and joint bidding on road resurfacing supplies. More regional planning and collaboration is urgently needed. To best serve our residents, our city should assume a leadership role in this process by seeking research grants, developing proposals, consulting with the county and nonprofit organizations, and initiating talks with other municipalities.

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MARY DUNBAR

2880 Fairfax Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118
 Age: 69
 mary@marydunbar.com
 www.marydunbar.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Smith College, B.A., English Literature. Stanford University, M.A., Mass Communication

Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University, MBA, Finance and General Management

Occupation: Community service

Qualifications: Expertise in finance, communications, marketing and ethics; Highly successful, results-oriented business and volunteer experience; Former Chairman of the Board, National Investor Relations Institute.

Community: President, Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition, 2010- Author, Historic District application, 2010- Member, Cuyahoga County Transition Team's Code of Ethics Workgroup, 2010-11

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: We must strengthen the tax base so as to be able to pay for excellent schools and city services, such as well maintained roads. We can do this by attracting new homeowners and businesses while retaining those already here. Maintaining and improving housing is key, but we must also market our advantages effectively and upgrade business areas. In addition to filling our vacant, foreclosed homes, retail and office spaces, our city can surely reduce costs through regional collaboration and productivity improvements. We should aim to become recognized for sustainable practices, civility and safety, and innovative civic improvements.

2. Regionalism: The trend toward regionalism and collaboration can enable Cleveland Heights to reduce the cost of government services, thus helping taxpayers get more for less. Local governments should pave the way for regional collaboration by jointly identifying best practices, acquiring compatible equipment and systems, and standardizing operations. This in turn could allow more efficient, large-scale garbage collection (even as we work to reduce the waste stream) and perhaps police and fire services, for example.



Unexpired term until December 31, 2013

Elect: 1

JASON S. STEIN

3510 Severn Rd. Cleveland Hts. 44118
 Age: 34
 stein4council@gmail.com
 www.votejasonstein.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Cleveland Heights High School – 1995. Siegal College - BA

Occupation: Group Supervisor, O.D.A.R.

Qualifications: I was raised in Cleveland Heights and am the product of our CH-UH Public School system. I have been a community activist and served on various boards and committees.

Community: Cleveland Heights City Council Member June 2011 – present. CH-UH Library Board Trustee, 2010- June 2011 Citizens Advisory Committee 2008- June 2011. CH-UH School Facilities Advisory Committee 2010 – July 2011

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: In my opinion, the most important function that City Government serves is to implement policies that create the type of City that residents are proud to call home. Cleveland Heights is composed of a diverse, informed and active citizenry. As a current Councilman, I do my best to make time to meet with and listen to the concerns and ideas of individuals and groups of Cleveland Heights residents. By listening to the people of Cleveland Heights, I feel that I am better able to construct policies that will make Cleveland Heights better.

2. Regionalism: Regionalism is the present and future of Cleveland Heights and the region as a whole. For example, I have advocated joining the Regional Income Tax Agency, jointly bidding streets, collaborating with University Heights on sharing a salt dome and garbage disposal and there is more to come. Regionalism is about working together to improve the quality and efficiency of City services.



There are 18 candidates for 9 judge slots see www.judge4yourself.com for evaluations.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT

Term: 6 years

Elect: 1

CANDIDATES: A. DEANNE BUCHANAN

Questions for Cleveland Heights Municipal Judge:

1. What is the role of the municipal judge in upholding the laws of this community?
2. What is the responsibility of the municipal judge in helping the city maintain our housing stock

Answers to questions 3, 4 and 5 are available online at www.heightsobserver.org.

PHYLLIS EVANS

13623 Antisdale Ave., Cleveland Hts. 44118 Age: 30 with 36 years experience
 hon_evans4council@yahoo.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Central State University; B.S. Biology

Occupation: Certified Technologist in Microbiology

Qualifications: LEADERSHIP ACADEMY-Cleveland State University College of Urban Affairs. Served on Council since 1993. Currently chair: Community Relations and Recreation Committee. Vice chair: Planning & Development Committee

Community: Black Women's Political Action Committee. Cleveland Heights Democratic Club. Cuyahoga County Precinct Person and member of Executive Committee

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: Insuring that our city has excellent public services is extremely important. We must continue to be creative and continue to look for strategies which will help fund the various projects. I plan to reach out to the community so I can be prepared to understand and initiate necessary research to determine the feasibility of an idea that may be of merit to our city. Most often it is not necessary to reinvent the wheel but one must be open so that suggestions can be understood.

2. Regionalism: Our council /senior staff have worked with other cities/ their staff to determine what projects can be done together. Often it is necessary to collaborate with the state/county to improve various streets and infrastructure. We initiated the joint effort with the fire departments. We've worked with the CH-UH school district so that we can offer pool opportunities to our residents. Salt storage and solid waste transfer/disposal services have been worked out with University Heights.



A. DEANE BUCHANAN

3381 Seaton Road Cleveland Heights 44118
 Age: 64
 adeanebuch_1985@yahoo.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY: BA, POLITICS 1968. CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL. JURIS DOCTORATE, 1973

Occupation: JUDGE, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT. ELECTED 1st November 2001, 2nd November 2005

Qualifications: Attorney, practiced law for 28 years. Legal counsel to Democratic Governor Richard F. Celeste for 2 years. Vice Chr. of the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals for 6 years. Judge, Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, 10 years. 7 years, Board member, 1 year as Chairman, Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board.

Community: Founding member, Board of Directors of the Karen E. Mumford Cancer Foundation. Former President, Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Assn.

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

Role: The Municipal Judge must assure that all criminal, traffic and housing violations are adjudicated promptly and with due regard to the rights of the persons accused. To do so fairly, impartially and to impose appropriate penalties when required on each case.

Housing Stock: The Municipal Judge must enforce the State laws and Municipal Ordinances as they pertain to Housing and building code standards in a manner that encourages homeowners, business owners and landlords to provide safe, secure and attractive structures that comport to the standards of the Cleveland Heights community. The Judge must also impose appropriate penalties when the standards are not maintained.



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Term: 4 years

Salary: \$8,900 (Vice-Mayor \$500 additional)

Elect: 4

CANDIDATES: ALBERT AUGUST, STEVEN D. BENNETT, PAMELA T. CAMERON, THOMAS COZZENS, DANIEL P. HANNA, CONOR A. MCLAUGHLIN, KEVIN PATRICK MURPHY, STEVEN SIMS, ADELE ZUCKER

Questions for University Heights City Council:

1. Describe the most important thing your city government must address to improve life in University Heights and how you will get it done.
2. How do you see the trend toward regionalism and collaboration affecting your city? Please give specific examples.
3. What measures can be taken to alleviate the effects of foreclosures and the current housing market in your city?
4. Please discuss your stance on the CH-UH school levy.
5. How should University Heights plan for the future in terms of economic and business development?
6. How can University Heights maintain a positive relationship with John Carroll University?

Answers to questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 are available online at www.heightsobserver.org.

CONOR A. MCLAUGHLIN

2616 Edgerton Road, University Heights, OH 44118 Age: 29

mclaughlinforcouncil@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law

B.S. (Finance) Miami University

Occupation: Attorney

Qualifications: As an attorney, I have experience analyzing complex issues, advocating for particular positions, and negotiating, collaborating, and compromising with other stakeholders. I also am educated in finance, economics, and political science.

Community: Member, Program Committee, West Side Catholic Center (since 2009)

Member, Big Buddies (2004-2007) (affiliated with Big Brothers, Big Sisters)

Participant in Cleveland Legal Aid Pro Bono Project (2008-2010)

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: The City must have a clear focus on the future, making improvements for the long term. Specifically, I will look to build municipal partnerships, finding ways to collaborate on services and be more efficient with tax dollars. I also will look to find efficiencies in the budget in order to rededicate resources to improving the City's infrastructure and equipment, particularly the streets. Finally, I will solicit and analyze plans to revive the main gateways to the City, broadening the tax base and making the City more attractive to outsiders.

2. Regionalism: The trend toward collaboration can, and should, have a very positive effect on University Heights. For example, merging fire services with Shaker Heights could provide significant budget savings while maintaining or actually improving response times and effectiveness. We have had success sharing dispatch services with several of our neighbors and should continue finding ways to share services in order to lower costs.



KEVIN PATRICK MURPHY

2304 Loyola Road 44118 Age: 33
kevinpatrickmurphy33@yahoo.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: B.A. – Miami University, 2000. J.D. – CWRU School of Law, 2000

Occupation: Partner – Walter & Haverfield

Qualifications: 5 years on City Council

Community: St. Ignatius High School Alumni Association. Cleveland Bar Association, 3R's Volunteer

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: City leaders in University Heights must ask two important questions: 1. Does University Heights need to provide all of the services it currently offers? The answer is, in most (but not all) cases, YES. 2. Does University Heights need to perform all of the services it currently offers? The answer is, in many cases, NO. Cuyahoga County is making \$100 million available to local municipalities to foster municipal collaboration. University Heights must utilize the county's vast resources and begin work on collaborative efforts immediately.

2. Regionalism: University Heights is 1.9 square miles and provides the same core city functions as the City of Cleveland, which, by way of comparison, is 82.4 square miles - over 40 times its size. University Heights is looking at very limited operating budgets in 2012 and beyond. Inter-jurisdictional collaboration is not a trend, it is an economic reality that must be implemented immediately in order for our City to afford necessary upgrades to buildings, infrastructure, facilities and equipment.



STEVEN SIMS

2508 Dysart Road 44118

Age: 57

ssims06@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: University of Pennsylvania, BBA, Ohio University

Occupation: Director, Office of Business Development, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

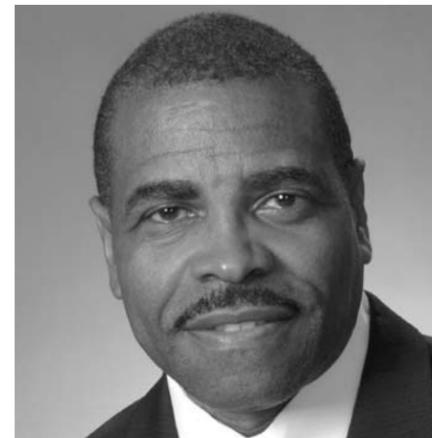
Qualifications: 15 years of public sector experience in Community and Economic Development, and Housing Finance working with the suburban communities of Cuyahoga County. Strong private sector background in Public Finance and Accounting.

Community: Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority – Chairman, Audit Committee; Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council - Governor Appointee; Greater Cleveland Partnership – Supplier Diversity Committee, University Heights - City Council member/Chairman, Finance Committee; 100 Black Men of Cleveland - Vice Chairman.

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: The City must address its financial condition and avoid deficit spending at time when its general fund balance provides little cushion to fall back on. The City revenue base is not expected to increase measurably anytime soon, and managing growth in expenditures while addressing infrastructure improvement and capital investment needs remain a clear challenge. I will continue my efforts to enhance the attractiveness of the City as a place to live by supporting strategies to increase property values, and managing expenses by controlling personnel costs, identifying savings in contracted services, and achieving a better priority between operating and capital expenditures.

2. Regionalism: Trends toward regionalism and collaboration will determine whether the City prospers or declines. As such, the City must more judiciously consider and pursue opportunities to collaborate with surrounding communities to share services and achieve savings related to delivering city services; with the expressed purpose of ensuring University Heights remains a community of choice because of its reputation for meeting the needs of residents, being safe and friendly, and a place where homes appreciate in value.



ADELE H. ZUCKER

2461 Claver Rd. - Univ. Hts. 44118

Age: 79

dmavens@sbcglobal.net

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Lancaster High School 1950. Ohio University – Athens 1954 BSJ

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: Served 26 years in U.H. Council (1983 – 2009) Last 9 years as Vice Mayor

Community: Greater Cleveland Suburban Council; Citizens Facility Committee of CH-UH Schools; Volunteer Editor for Heights Observer; Precinct Committee Person for Precinct H in U.H.; Member Democratic Executive Committee

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: The City government will need to address in the coming months and years the infrastructure and how they are going to keep it in good condition. That means keeping city streets and sewers have to be maintained. If the residents are happy with the way their city looks and the services they receive, they will remain in University Heights and bring their children up here. The next area to be considered is to bring new businesses into the city which will increase the tax base. With increased dollars from more employees being hired, other taxes will not need to be increased.

2. Regionalism: University Heights already does a great deal collaborating with surrounding cities. They work with Cleveland Heights on procurement of auto parts and fuel working through a company headed by David Akers which saves the city money and both our Police and Fire Departments work cooperatively to keep resident safe to name just two. Regionalism is still in its infant stage and most cities are wary because they fear they might lose control of their destiny.



ONCE YOU APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, YOU CAN NO LONGER VOTE AT YOUR POLLING PLACE.

Absentee Ballot Information

WANT TO VOTE BY MAIL?
This year you must apply in writing in order to have your absentee ballot mailed to you.
How do you apply for a ballot?

Fill out Form 11-A or supply the following information in writing: Name, signature, date signed, address, date of birth, ID (driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number). State which election you want and that you are a qualified voter. Form 11-A is available in local libraries. Mail your request to the CUYA-HOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. Once you apply for an absentee ballot, you may not vote in your local polling place. Absentee voting begins 35 days prior to an election and ends one day before the election. (Exceptions: emergency hospitalizations).

AL AUGUST

2163 Barrington Road,
University Heights 44118
Age: 45
August@AugustInNovember.com
web: www.alaugust.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: 1990 Attended Hocking College for an Associate's Degree in Natural Resources. 1993 Attended ESI for Computerized Office Procedures certification. 1995 Attended Hocking College for an Associate's Degree in Ranger Services & Logging Certification

Occupation: Painter, Web Designer

Qualifications: Over 25 years in University Heights of excellent personal customer service.

Community: Volunteer work: Cleveland Clinic Mellen Center, Teddy Bear Run, Medwish, designed website for previous city council candidate, designed 2011 UH Memorial Day Parade program.

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: I will take better measures to improve the city's appeal for economic development. Businesses seek to find the most suitable locations and University Heights, with the right city council, has great potential to properly expose our city and its diversities which in turn will draw the interest for new businesses and create jobs. The increased tax base from new commerce will be essential to maintain our current taxes and to help ensure our Police, Fire and Building Departments be provided with all necessary equipment and manpower to perform their duties as safe and efficiently as possible.

2. Regionalism: With the state budget cuts affecting all Ohio cities, further steps towards regionalism and collaboration is essential for the future success of University Heights. Buying power can be significantly increased when our cities join to purchase goods and supplies. For example, University Heights, Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights recently sought joint bids for the annual street resurfacing program. As a result of the combined communities bargaining power, the project will save each city over \$300,000.



THOMAS A. COZZENS

2334 S. Belvoir Blvd. 44118
Age: 69
t.cozzens@csuohio.edu

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Master's Degree in Public Administration CSU Levin College of Urban Affairs

Occupation: Retired from CSU

Qualifications: 10 yrs as Director of the Unger International Ctr. For Local Government Leadership

Community: 12 + years on U.H. Board of Zoning Appeals

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: Retaining vital & viable services in an ever deteriorating economy with continuing reductions in support from state & federal levels of government.

2. Regionalism: Regionalism & collaboration are essential to the future of U.H. Current examples are the COG formed by five municipalities' police departments & the merger discussions between UH & Shaker Hts. Fire Departments. These collaborations should continue & expand.



STEVEN D. BENNETT

3761 Hillbrook Road University Hts. OH
44118
Age: 68
sdblue@sbcglobal.net

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: BA Mathematics, University of Michigan. MBA, Kent State University

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: 14 years Council Experience. President & Executive Board Member of the Northeast Ohio City Council Association. 20 years of Management experience in transportation/distribution.

10 years as corporate level Safety Director

Community: Citizen volunteer on County Transition Workforce Groups in Economic Development & boards and Commissions. Chairman of University Hts City Beautiful Commission

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: City government not only must maintain vigilant, sound fiscal management of current sources of revenue but actively seek and obtain alternate sources long and short range from grants, city/private funding partnerships, collaborative performance of city services with other cities. and others. Council must work with the mayor providing fiscally responsible legislation that will enable the mayor to actively seek new sources of revenue and for citizen advisory groups whose members will have the expertise to assist the city in this matter.

2. Regionalism: The key to the success of consolidated services will be the responsiveness of management to comments and complaints from the residents of each city and the quality of the oversight of the council of governments to whom that management reports. This trend need not give up the uniqueness of each city. University Heights will still be early Americana city with colonial homes, a Memorial Day Parade, and home of John Carroll University.



DANIEL P. HANNA

2408 Lalemant 44118
Age: 31
Danhanna6@hotmail.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: B.A. Communication, Cleveland State University

Occupation: Account Executive, Cleveland Indians Baseball Co

Qualifications: Focused on Organizational Communication at Cleveland State University, professional experience in negotiation, mediation and deal making

Community: Active member at the Church of the Gesu; St. Ignatius Alumni Council, Chair of Alumni Golf Outing; Volunteer, Cleveland Indians Charities

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: The city needs to develop a master plan that will guide the decisions the city makes in the next 10 years. I am committed to bringing together all the stakeholders in our community to get their input and support for the plan. Through public and private partnerships we can leverage our community assets; our businesses, institutions, schools, churches, synagogues and residents to improve the life of our residents.

2. Regionalism: The most recent State and Federal budgets have reduced funding for local municipalities. Municipalities like University Heights with a limited commercial tax base will have to look to share services, equipment and best practices to be able to maintain quality services to our residents. The other alternatives are to further increase taxes on our residents and business owners or cut services.



PAMELA CAMERON

2171 Jackson Blvd. University Hts. 44118
Age: 54
apamcameron4uh@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Education: Univ of Akron - Assoc Arts - Sociology '88; Cleve State Univ - Bachelor of Arts - Sociology '90

Occupation: Murtis Taylor Human Services System - Community Psychiatric Support Team caseworker (Adult Mental Health)

Qualifications: I have eighteen years of public service (county-wide) in child welfare at Cuyahoga County Children Family Services.

Community: I have three years of volunteer experience with the Wiley MS PTA, last year serving as an officer - Recording Secretary.

QUESTIONS and RESPONSES:

1. The most important thing: The most important thing the city must do is to reconnect and reengage the citizens in the process of public service. Our citizens are talented and our resources are many, yet in recent years we have struggled with our identity as a small town. Our public welfare is dependent upon our ability to be relevant to our citizens and the satellite constituents connected to us. We must acknowledge the abilities of our citizens and ask directly for their aid and service to the city.

2. Regionalism: Generally, I believe in collaborative relationships with nearby cities for consumer services; such as recreational activities with S Euclid - Lyndhurst, and collaboration with safety forces in Shaker Heights (not every city needs SWAT teams.) However, regionalism doesn't justify merging with a larger city or contracting out a popular city service (backyard refuse collection). This is a feature serving as a marketing and branding opportunity for the city. Save it.



VOTER ELIGIBILITY

BE A CITIZEN

BE 18 YEARS OF AGE

HAVE 30 DAY STATE RESIDENCY

NOT BE INCARCERATED

BE LEGALLY COMPETENT and

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED.

IF YOU ARE DENIED

PERMISSION TO VOTE AT

YOUR POLLING PLACE,

REQUEST A PROVISIONAL BALLOT

IN ORDER TO VOTE.

ISSUES

STATE ISSUE 1

ISSUE 1: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

TO CHANGE THE AGE AT WHICH A PERSON MAY NOT BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO A JUDICIAL OFFICE AND TO ELIMINATE COURTS OF CONCILIATION AND THE SUPREME COURT COMMISSION

(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)

To amend Section 6 and repeal Sections 19 and 22 of Article IV of the Ohio Constitution

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the election.

League of Women Voters Explanation of Issue 1: Currently a candidate for judge is not eligible to run or be appointed if the candidate will be 70 years old or older when assuming the office. The proposed change would prohibit a candidate for judge from being elected or appointed if that candidate exceeds the age of 75 years. This would allow a judge to assume office at age 75 and serve out a six year term, meaning that a judge could potentially serve until age 81. Currently Ohio is one of 20 states with an age of retirement of 70 years. Eighteen states have no age limit. Four have a retirement age of 72, seven have a retirement age of 75, and one has a retirement age of 90. The amendment would eliminate the Supreme Court Commission (established in 1875) and Courts of Conciliation (established in 1851). Neither has ever been utilized.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. In 2011 people live longer and are mentally sound longer than was the case in 1968, when the current age limit was adopted. 2. Experienced, knowledgeable judges should be permitted to run for office. Voters should determine if a candidate for judge is able to serve. 3. If a judge is unable to perform judicial duties because of age or any other reason, the Ohio Supreme Court can discipline or remove the judge. In addition, judges are subject to impeachment proceedings in the Ohio General Assembly.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Having a higher age limit effectively creates a more entrenched judiciary. 2. The current system works and there is no compelling reason to change it. 3. Extending the retirement age will burden the courts with some judges whose best years are behind them.

STATE ISSUE 2

ISSUE 2: REFERENDUM ON LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO GOVERNMENT UNION CONTRACTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND POLICIES

(A referendum on Am. Sub. SB 5)

A YES vote means approval of SB 5.

A NO vote means disapproval of SB 5.

A majority YES vote is required for SB5 to become effective.

If approved, the provisions of SB 5 will take effect immediately after the election.

League of Women Voters Explanation of Issue 2: Approval of SB 5 changes laws concerning public employees, in particular teachers, firefighters and police. Major changes affect collective bargaining rights, salary schedules and compensation, layoff procedures, and leave. For example, approval would: prohibit public employees from striking; eliminate binding arbitration as a way to settle contract disputes for safety forces; require performance-based pay for teachers; provide a minimum that public employees must pay for pensions and health insurance; allow the governing body (public employer) to impose its own last offer to settle a contract dispute.

Proponents of SB 5 argue that:

1. Schools and local governments need to reduce costs to balance their budgets. They must have the right to reject unaffordable government employment contracts. 2. Government employees should pay a larger portion of the cost of health insurance and retirement plans in an amount closer to that paid by private sector employees. 3. Seniority-based layoffs for teachers often force the best teachers to be laid off first.

Opponents of SB 5 argue that:

1. Public employees should have rights to protect themselves in the workplace. For example, police and firefighters should be able to negotiate for critical safety equipment. Nurses should be able to demand reasonable staffing levels in hospitals. 2. The budget shouldn't be balanced by requiring additional sacrifices by Ohio's public employees who have already made over \$350 million in concessions. Corporations should give up their tax breaks. 3. Teachers, nurses and firefighters did not cause Ohio's budget problems.

Websites

In support of SB 5: Building A Better Ohio <http://betterohio.org/>

In opposition to SB 5: We Are Ohio <http://weareohio.com>

STATE ISSUE 3

ISSUE 3: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

To add a new Section 21 to Article I of the Ohio Constitution

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after the election.

League of Women Voters Explanation of Issue 3: The amendment would add a section to Ohio's Bill of Rights exempting Ohioans from the requirement that individuals purchase a minimum amount of health insurance coverage (individual mandate). The requirement is found in The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), a federal law passed March 19, 2010. The amendment would also apply to any similar federal, state or local law requiring participation in health insurance or a health care system. It would not apply to any law or rule in effect as of

March 19, 2010. This would include health insurance coverage such as Medicare, Medicaid, workers' compensation, Social Security Disability, veterans' programs as of that date. Generally, a state law, or a state constitutional provision, cannot overrule a federal law. The PPACA is currently being challenged in federal court as violating federal law. The provision exempting Ohioans from PPACA would likely have little or no effect on that challenge. However, if passed, the amendment could have a direct impact on any Ohio law (state or local) with an effective date after March 19, 2010. Ohioans would be exempted from any requirement imposed by the Ohio legislature, or by any of Ohio's counties or cities, which would require individuals to purchase health insurance. It is unclear how far that might extend and what the impact would be on such issues as workers' compensation, Medicaid, or health services operated by the state such as clinics at state universities.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The freedom from being forced to purchase government-defined private health insurance is a fundamental right that should be embodied in the Ohio Bill of Rights. 2. Government must be prohibited from passing laws requiring purchase of health insurance coverage. 3. Ohioans should be able to vote on whether they want to be covered by government-defined health insurance.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Without required participation the entirety of the PPACA might be declared to be unconstitutional. Some consequences would be that insurance companies could continue to exclude people, including children, with preexisting medical conditions from getting health insurance coverage, and continue to impose annual and lifetime caps on health care coverage. 2. Exempting Ohioans from requirements of a federal law violates the U.S. Constitution and should be struck down by the Courts. 3. Changes the Ohio legislature has made to health insurance coverage since March 19, 2010 as well as future changes would be invalid. This would include needed changes to Medicaid, workers' compensation, and student health insurance.

Websites

In support of the proposed amendment: Ohioans for Healthcare Freedom www.ohioansforhealth-carefreedom.org/

In opposition to the proposed amendment: Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage <http://ohioconsumersforhealth.org/>

LOCAL ISSUE 6

ISSUE 6: SCHOOL LEVY – CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

An additional tax for the benefit of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District for the purpose of current expenses, at a rate not exceeding 6.9 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 69 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2011, first due in calendar year 2012.

YES

NO

History: The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District put a 7.2-mill levy on the 2007 ballot, which passed. That money was supposed to last three years, but the district stretched it to four. The district says that 6.9-mills is the lowest levy amount it has requested in about 30 years.

Argument For: If the levy doesn't pass, the district would be forced to cut at least \$7 million from the budget. This levy would keep the CHUH schools operating at their current levels, and prevent layoffs. The district has already cut \$6 million from the budget, and teachers, administrators and staff have agreed to forgo cost-of-living pay increases for two years. The proposed 6.9-mill levy is less than what the lay finance committee recommended, which was 7.2 mills.

Argument Against: The 6.9-mill levy will increase taxes by \$211 for every \$100,000 in property valuation. Opponents say the district's budget shortfalls shouldn't be carried by residents.

LIKE THE PRINTED VERSION OF THE GUIDE ?

Voters Guide IN PRINT needs your support

The League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area - Heights Chapter is able to provide an online Voters' Guide for our local elections with little or no expense. However, many voters like to have hard copy, which does require significant printing and design costs. For past local elections we have benefited from foundation support and a successful fundraiser done a number of years ago by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights League of Women Voters. These resources, however, are diminishing. We will attempt to raise more money for continue production of a local printed Voters' Guide and you can help now with your donation. The next local elections, which occur in odd numbered years, will be in 2013, but this is not too soon to begin raising money.

To support the continued production of a printed Voters' Guide for Cleveland Heights-University Heights send your tax-deductible donation payable to "LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, Inc." to LWV Cuyahoga Area Education Fund, 50 Public Square #938, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.



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Heights Youth Theatre presents 'Annie'

Mary Patton

Leapin' lizards! The timeless tale of Little Orphan Annie is back, giving a whole new generation the chance to experience this classic musical about never giving up hope. Boasting one of Broadway's most memorable scores, including "It's the Hard-Knock Life," "Easy Street," "N.Y.C." and the ever-optimistic "Tomorrow," Annie is a delightful theatrical experience for the entire family.

The cast includes 60 talented students in grades 1 through 12, many from Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Professional musicians play the rousing score. Lead cast members include: Sydney Fieseler (Annie), Emma Drake (Duffy), Emily Kenville (July), Zenzi Pelligree (Kate), Carolina Manfredi (Pepper), Senna Perelman (Tessie), Emily Finkenthal (Molly), Sean Cahill (Daddy Warbucks), Sophia Madorsky (Grace), Lauryn Hobbs (Lily) and Abbey Fox (Miss Hannigan).

"Annie" will be presented at the Wiley Middle School Auditorium, 2181 Miramar Blvd., University Heights: Friday, Oct. 14, 21 and 28 at 7 p.m.;



Heights Youth Theatre performers practice their roles in the upcoming production of "Annie."

Saturday, Oct. 15, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$9 general admission, \$8 seniors and children under 6. Box office opens 45 minutes before each show, cash or checks only. For more details, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

Mary Patton of University Heights is a public relations consultant and Heights Youth Theatre advisory board member.

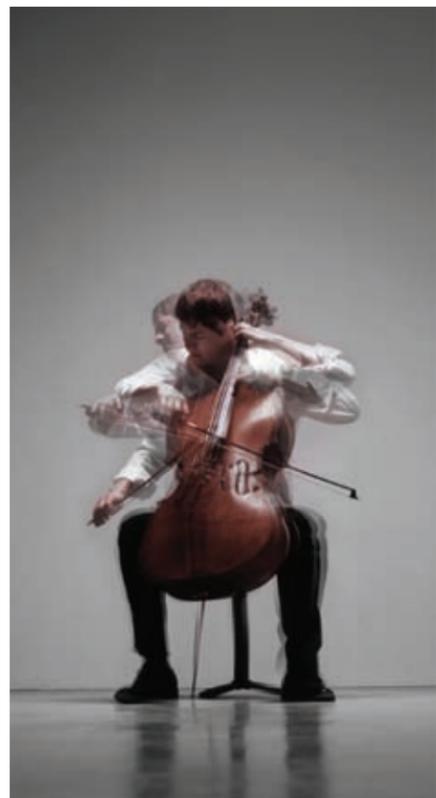
CityMusic Cleveland's 2011-12 season begins

Eugenia Strauss

CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra has been called "a potent force on the artistic scene in Northeast Ohio" by Donald Rosenberg in *Symphony Magazine*. "CityMusic Cleveland is unique," wrote Rosenberg. It is an orchestra of exceptional quality, with internationally distinguished artistic leadership, and outstanding professional musicians. As always CityMusic is unorthodox, innovative, and successful as reflected in their new upcoming season, introducing audiences to superb soloists, conductors and great works of beloved composers making the programs accessible in beautiful, gemlike, churches in and around Cleveland drawing some 20,000 people each season."

The opening concert of CityMusic's 2011-12 season will begin with guest conductor, Ryan McAdams, the first-ever recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Emerging Conductor Award. He is the music director of the prestigious New York Youth Symphony, whose former music directors include Leonard Slatkin, David Alan Miller and Miguel Harth-Bedoya. This is McAdams' Cleveland debut.

Cellist Jan Vogler, also in his Cleveland debut, will be the soloist. He is the general director of the Dresden Musikfestspiele and founder and ar-



Jan Vogler is the soloist for CityMusic's opening concert.

tistic director of the Moritz Chamber Music Festival. A prolific and multi-award recording artist, Vogler has won awards for his recording with the New York Philharmonic, and for his critically acclaimed recording performing Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1, and Jimi Hendrix's "Machine Gun" with The Knights Orchestra.

CityMusic's program includes: Beethoven's "Leonore" Overture, No. 3, Ligeti's Romanian Concerto for Orchestra, and Dvorak's Cello Concerto, No. 104. CityMusic's concerts provide access to vibrant orchestral music, intermission receptions for audience members and musicians.

No tickets are required; concerts are free.

The Cleveland Heights performance is Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd. Visit www.citymusic-cleveland.org for other concert locations.

Eugenia Strauss is executive director of CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra.



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Sunday Karaoke 10 pm
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2260 Lee Road 216.321.6001

Renowned male soprano sings with Apollo's Fire

Margi Griebing-Haigh

Soul singer Marvin Gaye did it; R&B superstar Michael Jackson did it; disco Bee Gees heartthrob Barry Gibb did it; pop phenomenon Prince did it; rocker Robert Plant did it. They have all flung their voices into canary heaven at moments of musical passion.

The seemingly unnatural sound of men singing up in soprano territory is nothing new, as those attending the upcoming Apollo's Fire concert, "Love and Rage," will hear. Cleveland's baroque orchestra will present a program of arias by Vivaldi and Handel, who pulled out all the stops when writing for male soprano singers—those "rock stars" of the 18th century. Groupies of the era went so far as to wear medallions bearing the portraits of their favorites, similar to the pins and tee shirts worn by fans of rock stars today.

At the beginning of the 17th century, young men who had undergone surgery to preserve their prepubescent voices sang exclusively in religious choirs, where the presence of women was forbidden, but they soon started singing in musical dramas. Their brilliance, and their unusual degree of expression, flexibility and purity resulted in a musical form known as "Opera Seria," created especially for these *castrati* in the 18th century to show off their vocal acrobatics.

Apollo's Fire welcomes special guest Michael Maniaci to star in these performances. Luckily for him and for listeners around the world, Maniaci's larynx never developed during puberty, making him that rarest among the rare—a man whose vocal range is from C to shining C, in the treble clef! Called "one of the greatest singers of his generation" by the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, Maniaci will



Soprano Michael Maniaci

delight the curious, adventurous and fortunate Northeast Ohio audiences. Well-known baroque instrumental soloists violinist Olivier Brault and cellist René Schiffer will round out the Apollo's Fire concerts, led by founder and director, Jeannette Sorrell, whose work is becoming world renowned.

Tickets are available by phone at 800-314-2535 or online at www.apollofire.org. Pre-concert talks begin one hour before each concert.

Cleveland Heights performances are Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14 and 15,

8 p.m.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. Visit www.apollofire.org for other concert locations.

Margi Griebing-Haigh is a box office and marketing assistant for Apollo's Fire, member of Cleveland Composers Guild, freelance oboist, composer, and artist living in Cleveland Heights.

HeightsWrites

Poem for October 2011

The most difficult thing about a friend's illness is, at first, knowing what to say.

—Meredith Holmes

Uninvited Guest

by Bunny Breslin

Hey! I hear my friend's voice from behind the pillar. She walks slowly a new limp leaning her body left with each step. We hug, follow the server to a back corner. One month before, the walk was steady, the talk easy, and lunch at Yours Truly peppered with puns, the latest about kids vacation, work. Now, breast lump scan, treatment plan, a vocabulary for fluency in cancer sits with us at our table. My throat catches before I talk. So what looks good? Above the menu I see clear eyes and her gray-rooted hair. Why color now? We laugh that her kids want to shave the Cleveland Indians mascot onto the back of her head. Our salads, savory and beautiful, let us enjoy the hours we sit together. I offer my arm, and she holds on to step down the curb. It's the time when summer lazyslips into autumn, when the sun sits a little lower, when I begin my poem.

Bunny Breslin is a Cleveland poet, member of the Night Vision poetry group, on the Heights Arts board and active in Heights Writes.

Service makes the difference at Appletree Books

Jim Perkins

Not many Cleveland Heights residents can say they have lived in the community since World War II, and not many Cleveland Heights merchants can say they have been in business for two decades. Jane Kessler, owner of Appletree Books, can say both of these things.

Kessler was a professor at Case Western Reserve for 39 years. After retiring from her teaching career, Kessler decided she was not through with the working world. In 1990, she bought Appletree Books. Now, after 21 years as owner, and at 90 years of age, Kessler is still serving the reading community of Cleveland Heights.

Her transition from professor to business owner was not as calculated as most business acquisitions. Kessler said she chose to purchase Appletree Books because it was there, and because she could afford it. From the moment Kessler purchased Appletree Books, she was faced with several dilemmas: how to determine the future of her bookstore, compete with large bookstore chains, and stay in business.



Jane Kessler at Appletree Books.

Kessler did not know how to solve any of these problems at the time, but she did recognize the importance of something every other bookstore was ignoring—service. Kessler soon extended store hours into the evening and opened the store on Sundays. Service would be Appletree Books's calling from then on.

"While most bookstores were getting bigger, I just held my breath and did my best to serve the community," said Kessler.

Recently, Kessler got some unex-

continued on page 26



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Ensemble Theatre opens with 'Waiting for Lefty'

APPLETREE continued from page 25

Martin Cosentino

An impending labor vote, a depressed economy, unemployment, war, freedom ... America. No, it's not October 2011; it's October 1935. Ensemble Theatre opens its 32nd consecutive season, "Play Your Part!" with American master Clifford Odets's 1935 call-to-action "Waiting for Lefty."

"Waiting for Lefty" is truly an Ensemble play in every sense of the word," said artistic director Celeste Cosentino. Now in her second year at the helm of the Cleveland Heights-based professional theater, Cosentino was the driving force behind its move back to the Heights after eight years in residence at the Cleveland Play House. Ensemble's new performance space is in



the former Coventry School building at 2843 Washington Blvd. "We are excited to be in our new space and are all set to welcome Heights residents back to Ensemble this season," said Cosentino. "It feels good to be back."

"There is not a person in this crowd in whom I do not find a part of myself," commented Odets, after the 1935 premiere of "Waiting for Lefty." The plot centers on a group of unionized taxi drivers waiting to hear from their leader, Lefty Costello, about whether or not to vote. The play presents eight vignettes along the way, sketching the socio-economic climate of the Depression era in the struggle of the workers to bring humanity to their workplace, and to keep love and hope alive in difficult times.

"Odets's words have taken on a prophetic existence," said Ian Hinz, Ensemble's director of operations and

director of the play. "I remember checking the copyright date to make sure I was reading a play that was written in 1935."

"Waiting for Lefty" opens Oct. 7 and runs through Oct. 30. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students. Student rush tickets are \$1 for all CH-UH students with a valid ID, and \$5 for all other students under 21. Rush tickets are released five minutes prior to curtain, pending availability. Free parking is available in the Washington Blvd. lot adjacent to the theatre building. A reception will follow the opening night performance. Purchase tickets in advance at www.ensemble-theatre.org or 216-321-2930.

Martin Cosentino is managing director of Ensemble Theatre.

pected help. Large chain stores, like Borders and some Barnes and Noble locations, began to close, and Appletree lost some competitors.

Today, Kessler is doing all she can to serve the community, while competing with online stores like Amazon.com. She is "constantly" in touch with publishers, purchased computers to facilitate communication with them, and orders books as often as four times a week.

Appletree Books also does something that most large bookstore chains do not, Kessler explained. "Appletree Books goes into the community. We hold outside events at local restaurants, we go to libraries, we go to city clubs, and we go to book signings," said Kessler.

Kessler believes 50 percent of her sales come from off-site selling, and that her dedication to serving the community all over the city keeps her around. In the near future, you can find Appletree Books offering books for sale at the Cedar-Coventry Author Series. (Visit the Coventry Village Library events calendar at www.heightslibrary.org, for a list of dates and featured authors.)

Appletree Books is located at 12419 Cedar Road. Kessler encourages book lovers to come to her store not only for books, but to start a conversation.

While the purchase of Appletree Books may have been somewhat accidental, the service that has kept Kessler in business for more than 20 years has been anything but chance.

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



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