Cleveland Heights installs solar bus shelters

The new Mayfield Road solar bus shelters at Coventry Road and at Warrentsville 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 $160,000 Federal Transportation Administration grant for 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 designs, 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 programmable 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.

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

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, and more. Participants are encouraged to blog about their experiences and conclusions.

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.

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
The Observer makes no political endorsements

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 next 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@thecommunity.org. 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.
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 local community center and they could continue to offer arts and specialized classes, such as Mandarin language.

• They visited a live volcano at Massaya National Park.

• In one village, they saw a herd of bulls and goats coming down the mountainside, right beside the outdoor classroom.

• 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 Masaya National Park.

• In one village, they saw a herd of bulls and goats coming 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 Sheffer 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

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 athletics. 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 wife 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 $6.00 per month per $100,000 of home value, but the cost to the schools if it does not pass is immeasurable.

Jon Benedikt is a Cleveland Heights resident and a member of Citizens for Heights Schools.
Matthew MacDonald

Where are your kids?

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.
University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Councilman Frank Consolo was absent.

McDonald’s

Dedication of the buildings on the new McDon-

ald’s site will begin this month and is expected
to take two weeks.

New police chief

Stever Hammitt, 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 (dispatch-

ers) and the International Association of Fire

Fighters Local 974. The contract with the latter

includes a three-year wage freeze, with wages

negotiated 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 stadium

for varsity sports, club sports and intramurals to

extend use of stadium lights for

changes: extending use of stadium lights for

for an extension to 1 1 p.m.

Turner reported that “spillover” light is at or

below the lighting standards set in 2002, due
to growth in trees. From the sidewalk, field

lights make a negligible contribution to light levels

compared to stadium lights. 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 portal abate-

ment and collection of the balance of the special

assessment for the year 2012 on certain parcels

at University Square. The special assessment is

for $299,000, to meet the debt service on four of

developer Ireland’s parcels. Argus, the administrator

for the Port Authority, issued bonds for the develop-

ment, 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 street

lights (at $.75 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

grocery, trees, and other outdoor maintenance for

which residents were cited and did not complete.

Police technology support

Council authorized a 48-month software licenses

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 reserves or creates five-year agreements.
The city will accept bids from a number of banks, includ-
ing some not involved now, to act as depositories.

City policy is to “spread the wealth,” but with no

requirement to use one bank. Council also autho-

rized depositories for fixed and passive funds.

LWV observer: Patricia Solomon.
Plunks, planks 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 ballot 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 campaign platform we want for University Heights residents from all areas of our city. I came up with a few action plans. Consider these planks 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?
- $85,000 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 questions 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 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.
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 assessment normally valued at $50 for only $20. In addition, if a caller mentions HRRC, the nonprofit will receive a donation of $5 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.188.

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.dom.html.com.

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 morality and human rights, and individual freedom of religion,” said minister Rev. Colen Bossen.

The society celebrated its diamond anniversary on Sept. 17.

First, 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 1837. 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 1913, Unity Church united with All Souls Universalist Church (later changing its name to First Unitarian Church of Cleveland). During the next 20 years, this fertile merger produced a congregation 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.

Eastside Kickers shine at Fun in the Sun Tournament

Jim Bren

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. 17 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 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 12 minutes into the game, a handful of Twinsburg parents came up to me and said, “Can you believe this game?”

“All the teams were there and it was a really fun game!”

“A great game! 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?”

For those of you who deal with kids and expect too much, the girls have definitely done some amazing things.”
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, resurfacing the north side of the building, and reroofing the masonry.

“We will also replace the front door and stone stairs, concrete walks and landscaping,” said Levin, “and, while 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).

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road

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 writes 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 book, 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 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 [Covington 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).

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

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road
Hamphire Road apartment parking
Council authorized an agreement with SP Hamphire LLC, the owner of an apartment building located at 2798 Hamphire Road, for the creation of five parking spaces to be located partially on SP Hamphire’s land and partially on city-owned land known as City Lot #2.

Cleveland Heights 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 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
2. Cleveland Heights
3. South Euclid

Higher Education Access
Higher education institutions within five miles; extra points for greater significance.
1. Cleveland Heights
2. North Shaker Heights
3. South Euclid

Quality Dining
Top-100 local restaurants (www.wherebhoodeal.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
2. Ohio City
3. 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
3. 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 ($5,068)
3. Euclid ($5,152)
16. Solon ($9,308)
17. Beachwood ($9,776)
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 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 bit 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.

Greg Dunley is a member of the Heights Observer editorial advisory committee.

View the complete report of this study at www.heightsobserver.org.
Volunteers needed to work with kids in the public schools

Go Public! Great Schools Are Everyone’s Business needs volunteers to help with various projects aimed to assist the CH-UH schools. Go Public! is a grassroots movement working to build stronger ties between our community and the public schools.

Volunteer help is needed in physical education classes at Fairfax Elementary School, on Wednesdays or Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m. Volunteers should have some experience working with young children, playing games and leading activities.

To learn more, contact Joan Spoerl at 216-371-5753 or joanspoerl@sbcglobal.net.

Lake Erie Ink seeks volunteers

Do you enjoy working with youth? Do you have a story to share, a skill to teach, a subject you know a lot about? Make a difference in a young person’s life by volunteering with Lake Erie Ink.

Our Volunteers:
• Connect one-on-one with school age students
• Provide academic support and tutoring
• Encourage youth to use writing as a tool for self-expression
• Act as role models and mentors for youth in our community
• Have fun!

Lake Erie Ink serves school age youth in the Greater Cleveland community by providing academic support and opportunities for creative expression. Volunteer opportunities are available for:
• After-school homework help Monday–Thursday, 3-5 p.m.
• Evening and weekend creative writing workshops
• In-school writing support
• Assistance with publications
• Orientation and ongoing volunteer training is provided.

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 one hour. Call 216-320-1423 or hbaldwin@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 kindergarteners 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.”

“As tests and assessments increase, more and more children are falling behind,” Heuer said.

“His 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. He spoke of the many challenges 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 had been located solely at Garity 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 need. “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.
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, 235 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 $25/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.

Tame’ Annie Huff, an 81-year-old retired UPS worker and a member since 1996. A former swimmer and tennis player, she could not 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 aerobic exercise, but joint pain prevents 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, and loss.

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The vacant lot at Lee and Meadowbrook roads was the site of an unusual fund-raiser 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 friend-raising 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.
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 C lassic, 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 Healthy Lifestyles 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 raffles;
• Complimentary fitness center memberships for raffles;
• Cash donations and sponsorships;
• Recordkeeping 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 216-544-1241, mceonthego2@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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COMMUNITY NEWS

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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 city.

The project and challenge is the brain child of Colin Beaver, 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 a 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 Mendez, a fourth grade teacher at Geary 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 Lassy Wrench, Jeff Coryell for Council, and Good Cents.

To register to participate in the event, go to www.sustainableheightswork.blogspot.com. For more information about the project, visit www.yomagazine.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.
Parenting Q & A
Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Family Connections for the last 27 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 barrett@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 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 over-tired 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 kindergartners 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 Boonyapataro
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 23-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 had found 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 do different things 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 robotics, 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 the kids’ minds and, at the same time, satisfy the National Standards TEAMs (Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics & Science), while developing team-building skills.

Tongchan Boonyapataro is a program manager of Funutation Tekademy LLC, a technology school for kids that offers extracurricular programs, such as animation, video game design and robotics.
Heights High senior named semifinalist in National Merit Scholarship Program

Jacalyn Elfvin
Cleveland Heights High School senior Madeline Polly has been recognized as a semifinalist in the first round of the 77th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. “Maddy is an exceptional student, and we are extremely proud that she has earned this recognition,” said Joseph Nehra, 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.

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
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-swinging 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 students need. This “blended” instruction model is self-paced 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 the location, the schedule is flexibility—aimed at providing what the students need to focus and learn. This “blended” instruction model is self-paced and individualized, but also directed by a teacher.

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I was drawn to the high expectations for student learning that is the laudable aspiration of the legislation. Too many students fall desperately short of achieving at their capacity. The old 20 percent proficiency 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 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 Kaesser 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.
Change brought The Wine Spot to CH

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 1957, it became Seitz-Agin Hardware. For 68 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 a majority of his time on the road, Fleischer now plans to share his passion for wine and microbrews.

“When 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; and an inviting atmosphere with televisions and comfortable furniture, perfect for holding tastings and social 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 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 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

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 Kelsey 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 216-201-5735.

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

Questions and Responses:
1. The Most Important Thing: We must continue to build the community’s trust in our schools.
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.

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 candidate responses.
• Candidates were informed that their responses would be printed in their own words, which have 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.

Published as a public service by the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area Heights Chapter in cooperation 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.
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.

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BIOPHICAL INFORMATION:
Education: Bachelor of Arts, 1974, Ohio State University
Juris Doctor, 1977, Case Western Reserve University
Occupation: Attorney; Cleveland Heights City Law Director

Questions and Responses:
1. The most important thing: A client’s confidence in their attorney is essential. I will bring this confidence and expertise to the Heights City Council.
2. Regionalism: Regionalism and collaboration are key to solving many of our city’s challenges. We need to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
3. What measures can be taken to alleviate the effects of foreclosures and the current housing market in your city? We need to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
4. Please discuss your stance on the CH-UH school levy. I am a strong supporter of CH-UH schools and will work to ensure their success.
5. What can you do as a council member to encourage confidence in your community and its future? I will work to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
6. Considering recent state cuts to local government, what are some creative ways to increase revenue? I will work to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.

KEBA SYLLA
3262 E. Overlook Road 44118
Age: 32

BIOPHICAL INFORMATION:
Education: Ph.D in Public Administration/Public Affairs, MA in Criminal Justice Studies
Occupation: UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, University Circle Inc.
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. We must work to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
2. Regionalism: The trend toward regionalism and collaboration affects our city. We must encourage businesses to work together to solve our city’s problems.
3. What measures can be taken to alleviate the effects of foreclosures and the current housing market in your city? We must work to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
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JEFF CORYELL
316 Clarendon Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118
Age: 55
CoryellForCouncil@gmail.com

BIOPHICAL INFORMATION:
Education: Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude, Carleton College; Jura Doctor, New York University; Master of Fine Arts, Northumbria 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 Treasurer, Cleveland Heights Democrats; Central and Executive Committee Member, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.

Questions and Responses:
1. The most important thing: We must focus on creating jobs and increasing economic growth throughout all city neighborhoods. We must encourage businesses to work together to solve our city’s problems.
2. Regionalism: Regionalism and collaboration are key to solving many of our city’s challenges. We need to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
3. What measures can be taken to alleviate the effects of foreclosures and the current housing market in your city? We must work to build upon the recent success we’ve had (Salt Dome/University Heights & Cuyahoga County to maximize service cost reduction opportunities, and promote the benefits of regionalism and collaboration among our neighbors.
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Heights Observer October 4, 2011

MARY DUNBAR
2880 Fairfax Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118
Age: 69
mary@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 experiences; Former Chairman of the Board, National Inventor 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

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 pool the way for regional collaboration by jointly identifying best practices, acquiring comparable 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.

JASON STEIN
5510 Severn Rd. Cleveland Hts. 44118
Age: 34
stein4council@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:
Education: Cleveland Heights High School – 1995. Sigal 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.


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.

A. DEANNE BUCHANAN
3881 Easton Road Cleveland Heights 44118
Age: 64
adiebusch_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 D. Celeste for 2 years. Vice Chair of the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals for 6 years. Judge, Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, 10 years.

Community: Founding member, Board of Directors of the Karen E. Mumford Cancer Foundation. Former Supervisor, 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 comply to the standards of the Cleveland Heights community. The Judge must also impose appropriate penalties when the standards are not maintained.
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. What can be done to alleviate the effects of foreclosures and the current housing market in your city?
3. How do you plan your stance on the CU-IH school levy.
4. What should University Heights plan for the future in terms of economic and business development?
5. How can University Heights maintain a positive relationship with John Carroll University?

CONOR A. MCLAUGHLIN
2606 Edgerton Road, University Heights, OH 44118 | Age: 29

BILOGICAL 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, 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 Brothers (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 allocate resources to improving the City’s infrastructure and equipment, particularly the streets. Finally, I will solicit and analyze plans to revitalize 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, University Heights, OH 44118 | Age: 33

BILOGICAL INFORMATION:
Occupation: Partner – Walter & Haverfield
Qualifications: 5 years on City Council
Community: St. Ignatius High School Alumni Association. Cleveland Bar Association, JR’s Global

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? If the answer is yes, 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 by 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 D. BENNETT
3761 Hillbrook Road University Hts. OH 44118
Age: 68
stevenb@yahoo.com

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 in 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 responsibly 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 unique sense of 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.

PAMELA CAMERON
2711 Jackson Blvd. University Hts. 44118
Age: 54
apcameron4uh@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:
Education: Univ of Akron - Arts Arts - Sociology '88; Cleve State Univ - Bachelor of Arts - Sociology '90
Occupation: Martin Taylor Human Services System - Community Psychiatric Support Team caseworker (Adult Mental Health)
Qualifications: I have eighteen years of public service (county-wide) as child welfare at Gayouanga 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: 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 diversity 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 surfacing program. As a result of the combined communities bargaining power, the project will save each city over $300,000.
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 SB 5 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 part in the following ways: 1. May affect collective bargaining rights, salary schedules and compensation, union procedures, and procedures for settling contract disputes. 2. Judges are subject to impeachment proceedings in the Ohio General Assembly 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 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 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...
The COSE Small Business Conference is a two-day, first-class event packed with 50+ educational workshops, national keynote speakers, hands-on learning labs, a B2B tradeshow and major networking opportunities. Join both your Local Chamber and COSE and attend for free! Get details at cose.org/affiliate.
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 Kervinl (July), Zenzi Pellergue (Kate), Carolina Manfred (Pepper), Senna Perelman (Tessie), Zenzi Pelligre (Kate), Carolina Manfred (Duffy), Emily Kenville (July), and Sydney Fieseler (Annie).

The Heights Youth Theatre presents ‘Annie’

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

Theatrical performances are at the Wiley Middle School Auditorium, 2181 Miramar Blvd., University Heights:
- Friday, Oct. 14 and 21 at 7 p.m.;
- Saturday, Oct. 15, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.;
- 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.heightsyoutheatre.org.

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 artistic director of the Moritz Chamber Orchestra.

Eugenia Strauss is executive director of CityMusic Cleveland Chamber 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.
Renowned male soprano sings with Apollo’s Fire

Margi Griebling-Haigh

Soprano Michael Maniaci
delight the curious, adventurous and fortunat e Northeast Ohio audiences. Well-known baroque instrumentalists 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.apollosfire.org for other concert locations.

Margi Griebling-Haigh is a box office and marketing assistant for Apollo’s Fire, member of Cleveland Composers Guild, freelance oboist, member of Heights Arts, and co-founder of the Night Vision poetry group, on the Heights Arts board and active in Heights Writes.

Uninvited Guest

by Bunny Brailin

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 her 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 Brailin 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.

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 unexplained weakness, and was rushed to the hospital. 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.

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“The most difficult thing about a friend’s illness is, at first, knowing what to say.” —Meredith Holmes

Heights Writes

Poem for October 2011

In an exceptional one-woman show, UNN MAXWELL embodies the extraordinary life of this 12th century German nun, healer and composer. Accompanying herself on authentic medieval instruments, she performs seven of Hildegard’s original songs, and transports us to the turbulent times of the Crusades.

9:30 a.m. FINDING HILDEGARD (talk)
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP

2:00 p.m. HILDEGARD & THE LIVING LIGHT (performance)

Margi Griebling-Haigh

Real Estate Services

Howard Hannah

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Ensemble Theatre opens with ‘Waiting for Lefty’

Martin Cosentino


“‘Waiting for Lefty’ is truly an American masterpiece,” says director Celeste Cosentino. “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 216-241-5806, ext. 160 today!

Martin Cosentino is managing director of Ensemble Theatre.
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