Heights businesses earn accolades from customers

Kevin Ziegler

With the final tally of votes from more than 700 ballots, FutureHeights crowned the captains of local industry at the 2011 Best of Heights Awards held Oct. 4 at Rockefeller’s Restaurant, 3509 Mayfield Road.

The awards program is in its seventh year. Votes are collected throughout the summer for each of 22 categories through the Heights Observer and at www.futureheights.org.

Top honors went to the Tavern Company, 1250 Lee Road, for Favorite Cleveland Heights Business; Whole Foods Market, 13068 Cedar Road, for Favorite University Heights Business; and Luna Bakery Café, 2482 Fairmount Blvd., for Best New Business.

Candidates for neighborhood, personal or local touch.

After spending 12 years at Lee Road neighbor, the Colony, Chris Armington bought the Tavern Company nearly two years ago, pooling together savings from family and friends to buy the restaurant.

“Our customers are our friends,” said Sarah Brewer, manager at the Tavern Company.

Cleveland Clinic recently opened its new health center in East Cleveland, named in honor of longtime public servant Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center offers a model of outpatient care that links health care with social and financial services. Tubbs Jones, congresswoman, judge and prosecutor, devoted her career to public service before her death in 2008. She was passionate about expanding health care coverage for low- and middle-income people and cosponsored many legislative initiatives to achieve that goal.

“Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a dedicated public servant who worked to improve the City of East Cleveland and Northeast Ohio,” said Toby M. Cosgrove, president and CEO of Cleveland Clinic. “She knew the importance of health care and worked to achieve improved access for the underserved.

We believe it’s important to continue to recognize her accomplishments and continue her mission of providing the right care for this community.”

The three-story, 50,000-square-foot center is located on Euclid Avenue. The center, a $55 million project, was designed to reach beyond traditional health care services and link with community resources in this location to facilitate access to medical, social and financial services for patients and their families.

The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center offers a variety of outpatient services, including primary care, specialized care for women and children, mental health services, as well as prevention, wellness and health education programs.

The new center places a strong emphasis on chronic disease management with a focus on diabetes, hypertension and kidney failure.

While Whole Foods Market is a national grocery chain with 300 stores, and has more than 200 employees in University Heights, Sarah Schoenberger, associate team leader for prepared foods, said she credited her store’s service culture to a customer service culture that is installed in each team member.

“We cater to our customer’s needs and even dietary conditions,” she said.

Local support has been so strong for Luna, which opened in June, that the restaurant in the Cedar Fairmount district is already considering expanding, exploring basement space currently used as storage below the café.

“The response in the neighborhood has been phenomenal, even better than we expected,” said chef and manager Brit Thibeault.

She said customers want fresh, local ingredients. “Everything is made in house. Our baked goods are made from scratch.

Ennee Eric Wellman, best known for his time on the airwaves at WCNP 90.3 FM, declared to the audience of more than 100 nominees and guests that the Heights area is the best place he has ever lived.

Scott Heasley

Cleveland Clinic is providing free round-trip shuttle transportation from the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Health Center for patients so they can get to appointments at Cleveland Clinic’s Main Campus, Euclid, Hillcrest and South Pointe hospitals. The shuttle runs Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Scott Heasley is a media relations manager for the Cleveland Clinic.

CH police chief says each call is important

Jodi Miles

Recent disturbances involving rowdy or violent youth have left many Cleveland Heights residents wondering how they can avoid becoming victims and how they can keep their homes and neighborhoods safe.

In a recent conversation, Jeffrey Robertson, chief of Cleveland Heights Division of Police, repeatedly emphasized two words, “Call us.” Chief Robertson clarified that ongoing investigations and/or prosecutions often mean that only certain details can be made public. A critical part of his department’s dialogue is the exchange of information that occurs as the situation unfolds.

“We need residents to communicate with us. I’m all about getting out into the community,” Robertson said. He noted that his department is trying to get closer to residents and establish a rapport through the department’s Meet the Police sessions, which occur on Thursday evenings at city hall.

Robertson is continuing the long-standing practice of having officers visit neighborhood meetings, both to discuss specific incidents of troublesome neighbors or vacant houses and to hear comments of concerned residents. In addition, Chief Robertson has created bicycle patrols, which involve officers riding bicycles through some of the city’s business districts during warm weather months.

continued on page 4

Heights Observer November 2, 2011 1
Mishandled press release causes consternation

OPENING THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

On Tuesday, Oct. 18, a press release arrived at the Heights Observer. It was sent from Hennes-Paynter Crisis Communications, a Cleveland Heights public relations firm representing First Interstate Properties.

The press release said that First Interstate—the company behind the controversial retail development—had purchased the South Euclid parcel of the former Oakwood Country Club. It included the complete purchase of the Heights portions of the property.

The release also provided background information and quotes about the developer’s plans for the property.

The release arrived minutes before the Observer’s weekly e-mail newsletter was scheduled to be distributed. An individual at the Observer made a decision to send the press release as the lead item in the newsletter. It ran essentially verbatim, under the name of Barbara Paynter, the public relations professional who had submitted it.

Because of the timing, more than 3,000 subscribers to the Observer newsletter had the information hours before anyone else. But a number of them were quick to point out that the article was one-sided, with no voice from anyone who opposes the development.

As a volunteer-run and mostly virtual entity, the Observer is vulnerable to manipulation. People heard from the believed public relations firm and developer had pulled one over on us by submitting a lopsided article as news.

That’s simply not what happened. The press release was clearly marked and submitted in good faith, using standard practices in the news business. There was no duplicity.

In deciding to publish the information, the Observer should have taken either of two actions:

• Published it verbatim or abridged, with a prominent notice that it had come from the developer or

• Used the information as the basis of a more balanced story that presented both sides of the issue.

We failed to do one and didn’t have time for the other. The error was ours, it has been discussed, and everyone involved has learned from the experience. Within two hours of receiving the first complaint, we made some minor changes to the article to reflect the fact that its author was working on behalf of the developer.

When volunteers get together to publish news, they run the risk of making mistakes like this. I think it’s important that we air them and learn from them.

On behalf of the Observer, I apologize to those who were confused by the way the information was presented, and to those who may have appeared anything less than professional during the time it took us to sort out this mistake.

To express your opinion privately, e-mail Bob Rosenbaum at bob@berenshouses.net. To express your opinion as a letter to the editor, register at the Observer membership portal (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.

Around the blog

Highlights from blogs.heightsobserver.org

Seven reasons to vote for the school levy

Strong communities have strong schools:

It doesn’t matter whether you send your children to public school or not—or whether you have children at all. When the community’s schools thrive, so does the community itself. New families move in, which helps local businesses to profit while supporting the tax base and home values.

It doesn’t even matter whether the schools are excellent, just by passing levies, our community sends the message that this is a good place for families and a stable place to make an investment in a home.

—Bob Rosenbaum

Read the rest of Bob Rosenbaum’s reasons to vote for the levy, plus a lot more from residents who participated in No Impact Week, at blogs.heightsobserver.org.
The illusive specter of decline

Mark Souther

It is easy to find "signs" of impending decline in a community. Cleveland Heights has endured population flight, growing poverty, abandoned homes and menacing youth behavior. Lacking perspective, relative newcomers, attracted by stories about a progressive, diverse, and dedicated community, may construct from these developments a simplistic declension narrative.

For longtime residents, memory poses a different problem—unconscious selectivity. Theirs may conjure a time when Cleveland Heights was flush with people—some 60,000 in 1960. In those days, virtually every dwelling was occupied. Poverty was less common and much less visible. Business districts were filled with friendly stores. Waves of suburban expansion were still washing over the Heights and just beginning to lap at Pepper Pike and Solon. Memory, whether short or clouded, makes it all too easy to plot each piece of bad news on an imagined downward curve. Yet history belies such direct conclusions.

Consider the following. About five decades ago, leaders worried (whether justified or not) that racial tensions in the Cedar Lee area might beget by block the purchase of homes by black professionals, including lawsuits and worse. Yet the Heights might follow the same tumultuous path as Langston Hughes did. No one expected that he would live until his 50s. Cleveland Heights has endured population flight, decline in a community. Cleveland Heights has for more than a half century depended on such an imagined downward curve. Yet change can occur, and that is where the threat lies.

In the late 1950s, leaders worried that the city’s more attractive suburban shopping centers would drain business from places like Cedar Lee. Southgate had just opened in Maple Heights, Heinen’s opened its parabolic space-age supermarket near the corner of Cedar and Green roads, and Severance Center was in planning. Cedar Lee remained full of businesses, but seemingly had seen better days. In response, the city argued that with the same tenuous process of resegregation as in parts of Cleveland and East Cleveland. Rather than confine change with "inevitable" decline, Heights citizens faced the problems, gradually embracing strong policing and fair-housing measures.

Cleveland Heights has more than a half century depended on engaged citizens and responsive government. Our business districts, though filled with a very different mix of establishments, remain vibrant if not trouble-free. Our housing, then seen as nearing free. Our housing, then seen as nearing free.

City of University Heights officials support Issue 6

To The Editor: Education is one of the greatest gifts we can offer our children to ensure a vibrant future. In our country, public education is the backbone of that promise to future generations.

We understand and appreciate how economically challenging these times are for our residents. But we also understand that our public schools are a critical asset to our community: its health, stability, and future.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District leaders have taken the following steps: over $86 million has already been cut from the budget; staff voted to eliminate their cost of living increases; and the last levy was prudently stretched to last for four years. This is the lowest millage that has been requested in the last two decades. The cost is about $17 per month for a $100,000 home—less than 60 cents a day.

At the same time, the innovative programs for which CH-CUH is a nationally recognized leader will continue, and our children will be prepared to contribute and lead in the global economy.

We support our schools and endorse the 6.9 mill levy. A vote for Issue 6 is a vote for our children. We urge the citizens of University Heights to vote YES for Issue 6.

Susan Infield, Mayor of University Heights
Frankie Goldberg, Vice Mayor
Steve Ballock, Councilman
Frank Konsool, Councilman
Susan Pardez, Councilwoman
Steven Sims, Councilman

Supporting new faces for CH council

To The Editor: Voters in Cleveland Heights are very fortunate to have three new highly qualified, energetic and intelligent candidates for city council in Jeff Coryell, Mary Dunbar and Mike Gaynor. Each comes with a valuable package of skills and background, as well as a vision for engaging citizens in thoughtful and creative approaches to addressing challenging issues and moving our city forward.

While I thank the incumbents for their long service to our fine city, I can’t pass up this opportunity to vote for these three fresh faces and perspectives. If all three are elected simultaneously, I believe we’ll all benefit immensely.

Joan Speer
Cleveland Heights

Advertise in the Heights Observer
www.heightsobserver.org
John Carroll University journalism students interview candidates for local elections

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Residents have one more resource for getting to know the candidates who are running in local elections this year. Students in Professor Carrie Buchanan’s journalism class at John Carroll University interviewed candidates for Cleveland Heights City Council, University Heights City Council and CH-UH School Board. The students’ stories are published on the Heights Observer website at www.heightsobserver.org.

CH City Council stories

• “Jeff Coryell seeks opportunity to give back to community” about candidate Jeff Coryell, by Maura Stewart.
• “Mary Dunbar: Is the second time the charm?” about candidate Mary Dunbar, by Alyssa Fligg.
• “Evans hopes for opportunity to remain on council,” about candidate Phyllis Evans, by Carrie Buchanan.
• “Mike Gaynier takes first crack at poli- tics,” about candidate Mike Gaynier, by Connor Glowacki.
• “Stein running unopposed to fill remainder of Tumeo’s term on CH council,” about candidate Jason Stein, by Alex Roman.
• “Sylla brings diverse international back- ground to bid for council,” about candidate Keba Sylla, by Jackie Mitchell.
• “Wilcox seeks fourth consecutive term on Cleveland Heights council,” about candidate Dennis Wilcox, by Jordan Murphy.

UH City Council stories

• “Candidate Al August proves elusive on the campaign trail,” about candidate Al August, by Andrew Ettinger.
• “Bennett seeks to return to University Heights council,” about candidate Steven Bennett, by Spencer German.
• “Cameron hopes to bring ‘new blood’ to UH council,” about candidate Pamela Cameron, by Ryllie Dunylko.
• “Cozens kicks off campaign at John Car- roll University forum,” about candidate Thomas Cozzens, by Rebecca Ferlotti.
• “Daniel Hanna: One of Cleveland’s own,” about candidate Daniel Hanna, by Alix Wolf.
• “Newcomer to the UH political scene takes a long-term view,” about candidate Conor McLaughlin, by Gina Torek.
• “Mom’s advice leads to political ca- reer,” about candidate Kevin Patrick Murphy, by Jack Duffy.
• “Sound fiscal management a priority for Sims in re-election bid,” about candidate Steven Sims, by Denise Soh.
• “Zucker seeks re-election to con- tinue serving UH community,” about candidate Adele Zucker, by Leanna Gonzalez.

CH-UH School Board stories

• “CH-UH board of education a passion for Pepper,” about candidate Nancy Pepper, by Lauren Winger.
• “Cozzens kickstarts campaign at John Carroll University forum,” about candidate Thomas Cozzens, by Rebecca Ferlotti.

For questions and comments contact Professor Buchanan at cbuchanan@jcu.edu.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive direc- tor of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

University Heights council candidates at John Carroll University forum on Oct. 24.
Legal and estate planning for senior adults

Judith Eugene

As people age, one of the most uncomfortable things to think about is planning for a time when they may no longer be able to take care of themselves or make their own legal and financial decisions.

Seniors with no plans for long-term care or estate management often rely on their families for care and assistance with complicated legal matters. While people seldom want to be a burden on their families, the percentage of senior citizens in this situation is growing. It is important to plan ahead in case these situations arise.

Planning begins with preparation of the following: a last will and testament, a living will, a legal/financial power of attorney, a health care power of attorney, a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) release and funeral preference documentation.

The court will make decisions for those who do not have these items in place and cannot speak for themselves. Preparation of these documents and can help prevent legal matters from burdening an estate from probate court proceedings.

Eldercare attorneys can also help to preserve as much life savings as possible by setting up a plan to finance long-term care, sheltering an estate from probate court and determining eligibility for Medicaid or Veterans Affairs assistance.

It is best to prepare and make these decisions early while an opinion can still be voiced. Remember to keep all legal documents, together with insurance policies and bank information, easily accessible to a family member, and review all documents at least every three years to keep them current.

To contact Todd Bartimole, call 216-464-9999. Rachel Kabb can be contacted at 216-991-5222.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges. She may be reached at 216-468-3578 or Judith@LovingHandsGroup.com.

Scrabble tournament set for Nov. 5

On Saturday, Nov. 5, Vikki and Todd Webster, of Cleveland Heights, will host the second annual Scrabble tournament to benefit the Waiting Child Fund, which works to find permanent families for children in the foster care system.

The tournament will take place at Rockefeller’s Restaurant, 3099 Mayfield Road, from 5 to 6 p.m. The $5 tax-deductible ticket price includes appetizers and drinks. Rockefeller’s will also take $10 off your group’s bill (excluding alcohol) if you would like to stay for dinner.

To participate, e-mail toddwebster1967@gmail.com or call 216-225-1764.

Annual donut party is neighborhood highlight

Not all bugs are pests

Barry Zucker

Less than one percent of insects are considered pests. Furthermore, insects have always done a better job of controlling other insects—by eating them—than people have with poisons.

The idea of manipulating insects for pest control is not new. In 1800, Charles Darwin’s grandfather suggested breeding ladybugs to control aphids. The lady in ladybug refers to the Virgin Mary. Ladybugs love to eat aphids, and “many millions were eliminated.”

The idea of using beneficial insects for garden care eventually died out. But in the 1960s, a resurgence in the interest in gardening and environmentalism brought back the idea of using beneficial insects for garden care. This time, it was used to control pests. And it was successful. Today, insects are used to control pests in many different ways, including the use of beneficial insects for garden care.

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Barry Zucker

Game Hunting by Hilary Dole Klein

For any bug problems contact Barry Zucker, executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio, at bzucker@beyondpesticidesohio.org.
Practical home repair workshops at HRRC

Rebecca Stager

This summer, Cleveland Heights homeowner Francine Barnett discovered Home Repair Resource Center’s (HRRC) workshops and was surprised to find how much helpful information they provided. After a class on sidewalk leveling, she raved, “This workshop was very practical, labor intensive and hands-on. The instructor was very knowledgeable and helpful. He was quite focused on the overall process, and on specific problems that arose.”

All Cleveland Heights residents, regardless of income, are welcome to attend HRRC workshops. Volunteer instructors teach the nuts and bolts of common projects, suggest tips for quality work, and make sure that participants get plenty of hands-on practice with the tools and techniques needed to make repairs to older homes.

The ongoing schedule of workshops can be found on HRRC’s website, www.hrrc.org. Upcoming workshop topics include window repair (11/7), taught by Bill Hoose of Hoose Restoration; installing a replacement window (11/14), taught by Jeff Dom of the Pella Window Store; drywall installation (11/21) and interior painting (11/28), both taught by Denis Mullaney of Mullaney Home Repair; and stripping paint (12/5), taught by Denis Mullaney of Mullaney Home Repair.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 19, 2011
All council members were present.

Solid waste agreement with UH
Council authorized an agreement with the City of University Heights for solid waste transfer and disposal services.

Council Member Wilcox comments on school levy
Council Member Dennis Wilcox, who serves on the school board’s levy finance committee, pointed out that the last three-year levy failed four years, school district employees had accepted a two-year pay freeze, ratings were improving, and this is the smallest levy millage requested in decades.

Crime Suppression Unit reports
Council Member Ken Montlack discussed Police Chief Jeffery Robertson’s reports from the Crime Suppression Unit, which tracks clusters of crimes, such as burglaries and robberies, both of which have declined this year. He thanked the police department and encouraged residents to call 216-321-1234 with any concerns.

LWV observer: Blanche Valancy.

OCTOBER 3, 2011
All council members were present.

Cottage Grove incident
Nearly 80 citizens were present in the council chamber to demonstrate concern about events taking place during the last several months in the vicinity of Cottage Grove Avenue and Yorkshire Road. In the most recent incident, shots were fired around 10 p.m. the night of Oct. 1. No one was injured. Chief Robertson noted that the police were pursuing strategies to address criminal behavior by minors and to target repeat offenders. Arrests had occurred and patrol cars are assigned to the area. Housing Director Rick Wagner has been working with the landlord on eviction procedures, John Glidden, law director, reported that in the next few days, the city will take the matter to the common pleas court in Cleveland.

The department has also embraced police continued from page 1

Among the 19 citizens who addressed council were the landlords of the duplex at 2037 Cottage Grove and 3070 Yorkshire. The tenant of the Yorkshire address of the duplex spoke, as well as homeowners, renters, and landlords from the surrounding residential area. Some referred to the tenants of the Cottage Grove side of the house as the “neighbors from hell” and described in detail the incidents that had occurred over the past few months. Chief Robertson promised aggressive action with the illegal activity and antisocial behavior.

Chairman Cheryl Stephens stated that the city is making efforts to be as proactive as the law allows, but will need citizen support. She thanked everyone for their telephone calls and e-mails and for their presence at the meeting.

Other council members and city staff responded as well. Council passed an emergency resolution to authorize abatement of the nuisance property. Chief Robertson promised aggressive enforcement activities.

Council opposition to state tax collections
Council passed a resolution expressing strong opposition to recent proposals that the State of Ohio’s Department of Taxation take over the collection of municipal income taxes. The resolution outlines numerous administrative difficulties presented by the prospect of state control including:

- The need to administrate of local tax collection ordinances,
- Retention of access to tax records,
- The ability of residents to receive answers to questions and resolve problems with a local, non-local bureaucratic entity,
- The impact of planned budget and staffing cuts on the state department of taxation’s ability to understand and properly perform such significant new responsibilities.

It is anticipated that the state will charge a fee higher than the Regional Income Tax Authority to collect these taxes, and given the sweeping reductions in the local government fund, municipalities can’t afford another potential loss of revenue.

LWV observers: Blanche Valancy and Katherine Solander.

POLICE continued from page 1

The department has also embraced social media with a recently created Twitter account, http://twitter.com/#!/chicotpolic, and a soon-to-be-established Facebook page.

While he emphasized that all emergency calls should be placed to 911, Chief Robertson envisions the social networking tools as a digital two-way street for residents to learn more about police announcements, initiatives and criminal activity. Heights residents will use the social media to inform the police about hot spots and other problems.

Robertson stressed that these modes of communication will be effective only if residents use them. “The most important thing is for people to call us. If you see something suspicious or someone being disruptive, call us. Trust your gut. Make the call.”

While some residents feel frustrated when they place calls about neighborhood problems and do not see an immediate solution to the problem, Chief Robertson said it is often the cumulative effect of the calls that enables him to interact with other city department to find solutions.

“For example, when we get calls about specific addresses, we are able to track the number and frequency of repeated calls and visits to the site,” he said, adding that “We coordinate with other departments, particularly our housing department. If we keep getting calls to go out to the same house or business, it can result in [that location] being designated a nuisance under city law. We log every call and use them in further enforcement activities.”

Robertson explained that a designation of public nuisance allows the city to fine the owner or resident, or the landlord of a rental property, and possibly implement other financial sanctions, such as those that can lead to the revocation of public housing certification. Chief Robertson reiterated that citizens should not feel as if they have to tolerate problem behavior. But that in order to remove it, he said, “We have to know what’s going on.”

Judi Miles is an attorney with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office and a Future-Heights board member.

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 19, 2011
All council members were present.

Congratulations to John Carroll University
Mayor Infeld congratulated John Carroll University for being ranked by U.S. News and World Report as seventh among universities in the Midwest that offer Master programs.

Antipoaching proposal
Mayor Infeld announced that an antipoaching proposal is being worked on by County Executive Ted Frost and will be distributed to council. The core of the proposal is that if a company with a payroll exceeding $500,000 moves from one community to another within the county, the previous community will continue to receive half of the former tax payments for five years.

Shula Stadium
John Carroll University (JCU) had requested a change to restrictions on the use of lights and sound systems at Shula Stadium in order to extend use of the stadium to 11 p.m. seven nights a week. Tanya Strong, Director of Media Relations and Communications at JCU, noted that this request was already a compromise from their wish for no constraints, and that what they were seeking was a way into the other Division III schools.

Volunteer groups raise money for UH city hall
Frank Krakowski, from Paladin Professional Sound, reported that the sound system settings were set or below levels specified in the original agreement. If the levels are reduced any lower, spoken language would become muddied, but music levels could be reduced to half or less for speakers facing east and west.

Mayor Infeld, at a session of Musco Lighting, reported that some upgrades to newer technology are smallable which would reduce glare, but these options are cost prohibitive. The current system meets the requirements.

Several residents come forward for public comment. One resident agreed that trees shield the lighting at street level, but norrs their bedroom on the second floor. Another resident presented a petition signed by many of his neighbors supporting the university.

Council voted to allow the stadium lights to be on at full level until 9 p.m., and at a reduced level until 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The sound system use was not extended. In addition, the university may have up to 30 special events per year at which it may use full lights and sound until 10:30 p.m.; but must notify the city before each event. Finally, the university must plant trees where there are currently gaps in order to help block the lights. Councilmembers Steve Siemens and Frank Goldberg voted against the proposal.

DHW observer: Wendy Dowling.

October 3, 2011
Councilman Kevin Patrick Murphy was excused.

Firefighter Paul Nees honored
UH firefighter Paul Nees was honored by members of the orthodox community in recognition of his actions in a fire on Milton Road in July. The Seltzer family of five was led out of the burning residence by firefighter Nees. He was injured in the blaze. Nees acknowledged their thanks, but pointed out that this was a departmental effort and the other firefighters deserve their thanks as well.

Sweepstakes donation to city
In an emergency vote, council re-established the expired temporary moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for zoning, occupancy, and/or building permit approvals for sweepstakes terminal cafes. Councilman Sims questioned why council wouldn’t put them entirely. Ken Fisher, low director, explained that it is a plan underway to give the Casino Commission statewide overview of how these establishments meet that permits would be issued by the state. If this plan is approved, a municipal bond was to be paid. The moratorium, which would extend until April 20, 2012, will cover the situation in the meantime.

Senior transportation
An ordinance, presented on first reading, would authorize the mayor to enter into a six-month contract agreement with Senior Transportation for the provision of transportation services to senior residents and disabled residents of University Heights.

Mayor Infeld explained that some residents had been taking undue advantage of the service, scheduling up to 80 trips a month in some cases. Letters have been sent to 162 clients about new restrictions proposed by the city. Live these are in place, the contract has been extended for a one-month grace period.

Zoning and planning fees
Three ordinances, presented on first reading, would amend fee schedules for the planning commission and board of zoning appeals. Mayor Infeld explained that the city is absorbing a considerable cost for projects presented to the city that may not come to fruition. Director Fisher said that typically such upfront costs for commercial projects are borne by the developer or ultimate user. Currently the city’s cost is recaptured only if the project goes forward. The ordinances provide guidelines to assure that the applicant bears these costs.

LWV Observer, Patricia C. Solomon.

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

Search disclaimer on page 2.

Volunteer groups raise money for UH city hall

Another CBC project originated this year, two volunteer groups—the City Beautiful Commission (CBC) and the Memorial Day Parade Committee—raised more than $5,000 for the city. Under the leadership of former Councilman Steve Bennett, CBC re-organized itself into a vibrant and successful volunteer group, raising a record $1,632 from its recent fundraiser.

CBC took on several new projects this year. One of these was the University Heights Library. Bennett initiated an outreach project by inviting Aurora Martinez, branch manager, to a meeting in April to explore how the commission could assist with plantings in front of the library. The Hubman family donated perennial flowers from their home garden and, together with January Johnson and Steve Bennett, planted new flowerbeds at the library entrance.

Another CBC project originated with a request from Mayor Infeld for help to improve the appearance of the city. Under the leadership of former Councilman Steve Bennett, CBC re-organized itself into a vibrant and successful volunteer group, raising a record $1,632 from its recent fundraiser.

CBC will soon submit its plans to help upgrade the appearance of the neglected property.

Another CBC highlight is the Beautiful Home Awards—24 awards in the following five categories: Carb Appeal, Best Kept Secret, Sht-A-Spell, Front Door and Eco Garden. CBC volunteers canvas neighborhoods, and nominate candidates for the honors. Any resident may nominate by calling city hall.

Bennett initiated a new e-mail voting system this year. CBC members viewed the photos of the nominated homes and submitted their choices. Janice Lindner, Karen W ooley, Aaron Canowitz, John Reebell and Bennett organized this year’s Oct. 12 awards ceremony. Look for signs on the lawns of the winning homes around town, and then see the happy homeowners marching in University Heights’s annual Memorial Day Parade in 2012.

Everyone loves a parade and a stage where local talent performed. The program book raised more than $4,000 for the city.

Local merchants were thrilled to have their ads reach thousands households.

This November, I remain thankful that I live in University Heights. Thank you to all the residents who help make this city one—a home at one time, a community of support another time.

Help keep our city beautiful Join the City Beautiful Commission.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, president of Noah’s Landing, and a longtime resident of University Heights. Contact her at ankazarian@gmail.com.
Local businesses help scholarship raise funds

Lita Gonzalez

On May 26, 2007, Officer Jason West lost his life in the line of duty. In 2008, Heights residents, together with West’s family, friends and colleagues, established the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship to honor his memory.

To help raise money, the scholarship committee is hosting its second annual Mega Raffle. Through the generosity of local businesses, the prize package is now worth more than $1,000 in gift certificates.

Tickets for the raffle are $2 and can be purchased at several locations—Dave’s Cosmic Subs, Phoenix Coffee on Lee and Coventry roads, Quintana’s Barber and Dream Spa, Restore Hair Studio, Shawn Paul Salon, and the Tavern Company—as well as from any committee member. Tickets will also be on sale at Zagg’s Market Place on Nov. 6 and 12.

The winner of the prize package will be chosen on Sunday, Nov. 20, 6–9 p.m., at a location to be announced.

The Jason D. West scholarship is a two-part, $1,000 scholarship. The first $500 is awarded to a graduating high school senior who exemplifies Officer West’s honesty, sincerity and dedication to work, and who plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. The second $500 is awarded to the recipient after he or she successfully completes the first year of college.

The first scholarship was presented to Tashay Roberts in 2008. Since then the committee has awarded $3,000 in scholarships.

For more information, go to the Officer Jason West Memorial Scholarship Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Officer-Jason-D-West-Memorial-Scholarship/157913488325636?v=wall.

Lita Gonzalez is a volunteer at Cleveland Heights High School. She founded the Parent Ambassadors To Heights (PATH) program in 2003.

Teamwork is key on and off the track

Jim Perkins

Growing up in Cleveland Heights, Chip Ramsey knew he wanted to own an auto repair shop. As he roamed the hallways of Heights High, he envisioned working on cars. What he did not know is that his career path would lead him on a 25-hour, 25-minute, and 25-second race that his career path would lead him on and off the track for all his sponsors.

Ramsey owns Washington and Lee Service; a gas station turned auto repair shop that has been a part of Cleveland Heights since 1954. Recently, Ramsey and his employees heard about ChumpCar, an endurance race lasting more than 24 hours with cars worth $300 or less. When ChumpCar came to Nelson Ledges, Ramsey knew he had to participate.

He asked local merchants, including Parnell’s Pub, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa, the Grog Shop, the Tavern Company, Montgomery Landscaping, and Cleveland Power Sports, to sponsor the Washington and Lee team.

Ramsey selected a Nissan Sentra; built a roll cage for safety, added a decal for all his sponsors, picked a team of seven drivers, and headed down to Nelson Ledges for the race, which began on Oct. 8.

Ramsey was the first driver and made it through his shift relatively unscathed. The next driver was Declan Synnott, owner of Parnell’s Pub. During his shift, the car lost third and fourth gears. Kathy Simkoff, owner of the Grog Shop, found a transmission and the car was back on the track within four hours.

Ramsey’s car crashed twice, but still finished 35 out of 87. “There were a total of six rollovers when previously the track had not encountered a single roll over,” said Ramsey, who claimed that the ChumpCar race was one of the best experiences of his life and one more reason he is passionate about cars. He was delighted with the teamwork his employees and sponsors showed.

“Teamwork is what Washington and Lee Service and Cleveland Heights are all about. None of this would have been possible without my employees and Cleveland Heights merchants that support one another,” said Ramsey.

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

Advent Festival
Saturday, December 3
9 am - 1 pm

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Meeting highlights

S E P T E M B E R 1 9, 2011
Board Member James Fosch was absent.

The LIT summer program
The leader in Training Program (LIT) is a summer collaboration among the library, the schools, and Open Doors with the work component at the library. The program included volunteer projects at the Providence House Crisis Nursery and Kick It, a national boys’ kickball program raising money for cancer research. Cindy Schmidt, school social worker, introduced the students and gave a talk with dolls.

Dobama Theatre begins third season
Dianne Boduszczek, Dobama’s managing director, talked about this 20th season, the third in the library’s Activity Center. Dobama is a professional theater hiring union actors. Ticket sales cover 35 percent of the budget and the remaining amount comes from grants such as those from the Ohio Arts Council, Cleveland Foundation, and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Ticket sales the first season were $111,000 and $100,000 in the second season.

Personal changes
Forty-four people applied for the young adult associate position, which was filled with a new hire, Nicole Watson, who has seven years experience at the New York Public Library and is currently earning a library degree.

Six of the 18 applicants for the deputy director position were interviewed. Two finalists will continue interviewing, and the final appointment will be presented to the board at the October meeting.

Kornelia Bogdanowicz, the new children’s services librarian, will begin work Oct. 3.

New security camera aids police
The new security camera covering the front porch of the Lee Road Library helped identify a purse thief on the first day it was operational. The library called the police, and the camera footage aided their investigation.

Sheryl Banks

One position will be for a five-year term, and the other a seven-year term. Any resident of Cleveland Heights or University Heights is eligible to apply.

Applications are available at the Lee Road Library, 2354 Lee Road, and at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 2105 Miramar Blvd. Application must be returned to the library administrative office or the Office of the Superintendent no later than noon on Monday, Nov. 21.

For additional information, contact the library at 216-932-3600 ext. 200.

Audrey Cole

Friends of the library sponsor scholarship
Sheryl Banks

Friends of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is continuing its tradition of offering library education scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2012 spring semester. The scholarships provide funds to be used for tuition or books in any ALA-accredited graduate program in library science.

Eligible applicants include any person living in Cleveland Heights or University Heights for at least one year prior to application, or any employee of Heights librarians who has been employed for at least one year prior to application.

Applications will be accepted between Nov. 1 and Dec. 1. Recipients will be selected and announced by Dec. 15, with funding available in January 2012. Completed submissions packets are reviewed by a scholarship committee consisting of representatives from Kent State University, the Heights Libraries, and the Friends.

Submissions must include a scholar- ship application, a complete and official college transcript, and three letters of recommendation.

Applications and additional information can be downloaded from the library’s website at www.heightslibrary.org or the Friends website at http://friends.ofheightstibrary.org/oneplace.htm. Completed applications should be returned to Heather Howiler, Friends of Heights Libraries, Scholarship Committee, 2354 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.
It has been nearly a half-century since John F. Farinacci directed instrumental music programs at Cleveland Heights High School. Yet many who played in his bands and orchestras from 1949 until 1964 still celebrate this dynamic teacher and tough, but fair, taskmaster who demanded excellence from his musicians—and got it.

On Nov. 12, at 7 p.m., in the Dina Rees Evans Auditorium of Heights High, many “Farinacci-era” students will again make music together. They have been invited to join current Heights High musicians in their fall concert, under the direction of Brett Baker and Dan Heim, directors of the instrumental music department.

A highlight of the evening is expected to be John Phillip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever,” complete with flag, piccolos and brass—just as the concert band performed it during the Farinacci era. Tickets will be available at the door. Ticket sales from the event will benefit the school’s instrumental music program.

According to the organizers, the reunion of Farinacci’s former students is dedicated to the memory of the teacher “who spread the art and love of music wherever he went with fire, with deep understanding, and with an unabashed passion for teaching others how to make music so...he lives on in all of us.” The alumni are also establishing the John F. Farinacci Award—a scholarship for music lessons, for example—to a deserving freshman or sophomore in the instrumental music department.

During his 16 years at the helm of the Heights instrumental music program, Farinacci conducted concert bands and orchestras that consistently received superior ratings for their performances in Music Education Association contests on both the state and national levels. During school breaks in the spring, John Farinacci took his music groups on tours to cities across the country. The orchestra even played at Severance Hall.

Farinacci’s mentorship meant the most to those who became professional musicians and teachers, often emulating what they had learned from him.

“Being a professional classical musician, I now appreciate John Farinacci’s constant striving for perfection,” said Alan Schacke, a 1963 graduate. “John Farinacci was a mentor to me. He’d swear at me in Italian, tell me to practice some more, swear at me some more, and ‘wink’ every once in a while when I managed to make it through a solo passage,” recalled Mary Ellen McEwan Slone, (January, 1960). “But most of all, he was a kind, amazing man.”

“I’m still learning from Mr. Farinacci—remembering some things, relearning others, and reinterpreting things that I didn’t get quite right the first time,” said Dick Rose (1959), who, along with Margaret Walker (1960), spearheaded the musical tribute and weekend-long reunion of Farinacci musicians.

He lit his [students’] fires, honed their intelligence and encouraged them to explore new avenues of knowledge,” said Dr. Albert Abramovitz, former superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Some recall that what they gained from meeting the expectations of a demanding director was far greater than just an appreciation for good music.

“Under Mr. Farinacci, I learned there would be inevitable ups and downs, and I had better be prepared to accept and deal with them,” said Dennis Shere (January, 1959), who played in the concert band until his senior year, when he decided his future was in journalism, not music.

“John Farinacci helped shape my character far beyond music as he helped us mature into adults,” added Nevaire Serajian Rich (1960).

The weekend tribute to John Farinacci, who also served as a Heights High administrator and died in 2005, will include a reunion dinner and reception. Alice Farinacci, his widow, and four of their five children and their families are expected to participate in the celebration’s tribute.

The organizers have been planning the event for more than two years. They set out to contact the more than 1,000 students who had played in the concert and marching bands, and symphonic orchestras during the Farinacci era. Attendees are coming from across the country.

For more information, contact Dick Rose (1959) at rrose@rose-vintage-instruments.com or at 614-861-3312.

Margaret Walker was born and raised in Heights. A 1960 graduate of Heights High, she is cochair of the Farinacci reunion planning committee.

Margaret Walker
Heights Height presents ‘The Sound of Music’

Joy Henderson

More than 600 Heights students will perform in “The Sound of Music,” Heights High’s musical production taking place on Nov. 3, 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.

The production includes 200 high school vocal music students, 75 instrumental students in the pit orchestra, 30 stage crew members, and 150 middle school and 250 elementary school students in the chorus. The show features two casts, each performing two shows. Tickets are $6 and $10. Call 216-320-3105 to order.

Seven of the lead performers talked about the show and their characters. They found the 1959 Rogers and Hammerstein musical to be relevant and were touched by the story.

Meckaela Glenn (Sister Berthe) said she was intrigued by the character because “this nun is sassy, but she is also ‘married to God,’ so it’s a challenging role.”

Geoffrey Golden (Max) said, “Like Max, I can be a crazy choir director.” Golden is the student director for a few choirs, and identifies with Max’s passion and energy for choral music.

Midori Marsh (Maria) enjoys portraying Maria’s free spirit, especially in the song “I Have Confidence.” Like Maria, Marsh said, “I don’t know where I will end up, but I am finding my way.”

Abby Osgood (Sister Berthe) said, “I loved this character because she is sassy, like I am.” The story is very important to her, she added. “My grandmother escaped from the Nazis and some of our family members were killed in the Holocaust.”

Madeline Polli enjoys interpreting Maria in her own way. She identified with Maria’s “awkward and annoying ways,” and said, “Like Maria, I have my singing to help me get through life.”

Jasmine Price (Elsa) portrays a cold, catty and sometimes devious character. “She is not at all like me, so it was fun and different portraying someone with that kind of attitude,” Price said.

Alex Welsey (Max), said, “I identified with Max’s vision to make a concert happen, and his ability to talk and talk. My Max is a bit of a 1920s radio guy.”

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

National Merit and Achievement Scholarship programs recognize Heights High seniors

Angee Shaker

Three Cleveland Heights High School seniors have been named semifinalists in the first round of the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program and 48th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program. The National Merit semifinalist is Madeline Pollis. The National Achievement Scholarship semifinalists are Geoffrey Golden and Abria Marshall.

“In addition to the usual academic and social challenges of high school, Heights students also have the pressure of living up to our community’s high expectations. Well, these students have met and surpassed those expectations, and we couldn’t be more proud of them,” Superintendent Douglas Heuer said.

Four seniors have been named National Merit Commended Students and National Achievement Outstanding Participants. National Merit Commended Students are Anna Claspy and Erik Thiem. Rachelle Adognravi and Brittaney Byers are National Achievement Outstanding Participants.

The semifinalists have earned the right to compete to become National Merit and National Achievement Finalists and scholarship winners. Merit Scholarship semifinalists have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,300 awards worth $34 million. Achievement Scholarship semifinalists are eligible for 800 awards worth over $2.4 million.

Angee Shaker is director of communications for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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Upward Basketball begins third season in January

Rhonda Dorfman

Imagine a kids’ basketball league where every child gets to play in every game, every child is welcomed regardless of his or her skill level, and every child learns not only great basketball skills but also important life values. That league will again be a reality at Church of the Saviour on Lee Road when a third season of Upward Basketball begins on Jan. 21.

Last year, more than 125 children participated in Upward Basketball at Church of the Saviour. Designed for boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade, Upward is the world’s largest Christian sports program for kids. It was created with a vision to provide the best sports experience possible for every child.

Upward is a unique league where players always have guaranteed play time. “Parents will watch their kids get practice, exercise, have fun and make friends, and learn what’s great about basketball,” said Lauren Lanphear, the league’s director. The first games will be played on Jan. 21, and the season will conclude with an awards celebration on March 18.

Skill assessments will take place on Dec. 5, 6, and 10 for the sole purpose of fairly balancing the teams. No previous basketball experience is required, and every child is welcomed regardless of his or her skill level, and every child learns not only great basketball skills but also important life values.

Proceeds from the Dan Zanes concert will fund NAA-NEO’s 2013 Helping Hand program, which provides financial assistance to Northeast Ohio families raising a child or children with autism. NAA-NEO has awarded more than 150 grants to Northeast Ohio families raising children or dependents with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Berkovich is a sophomore in the Intermediate Ice Dancing with partner Micah Jaffe. Last year, Berkovich and Jaffe finished fifth in Juvenile Ice Dancing at the U.S. Skating Regional Championships, will compete at the U.S. Figure Skating Midwest Sectionals in November.

Pavilion Skating Club member to compete in U.S. Skating Midwest Sectionals

Catherine Butler

Pavilion Skating Club (PSC) member Kimmie Berkovich, who took fourth place at the U.S. Figure Skating Regional Championships, will compete at the U.S. Figure Skating Midwest Sectionals in November.

Berkovich competed in Novice Ladies Freestyle. It was her first year at the novice level. There were a total of 40 girls organized into three qualifying-round groups, representing seven states. In the qualifying round, Berkovich skated her long program and placed first.

PSC had three skaters in the Novice Ladies Final Round: Berkovich, Lexi Berkovich, Celia Smith and Catherine Butler. The top four places are reserved and are required, and every child is welcomed. Upward was designed to teach basketball skills and to bring out the winner in every child.

“The world’s greatest basketball,” said Lauren Lanphear, the league’s director. The first games will be played on Jan. 21, and the season will conclude with an awards celebration on March 18.

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Proceeds from the Dan Zanes concert will fund NAA-NEO’s 2013 Helping Hand program, which provides financial assistance to Northeast Ohio families raising a child or children with autism. NAA-NEO has awarded more than 150 grants to Northeast Ohio families raising children or dependents with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Berkovich has been working with coach Molly German since March 2006. It has enabled her to grow as a person and has given her to continue lessons.

After taking a summer off, Berkovich returned, joined the Pavilion Skating Club, and has been training ever since. While she skated in the Junior Club for a couple of years, she always preferred to train with the older kids. Berkovich has been working with coach Molly German since March 2006. It has been a successful partnership that has enabled her to grow as a person and has given her to continue lessons.

After taking a summer off, Berkovich returned, joined the Pavilion Skating Club, and has been training ever since. While she skated in the Junior Club for a couple of years, she always preferred to train with the older kids. Berkovich has been working with coach Molly German since March 2006. It has been a successful partnership that has enabled her to grow as a person and has given her to continue lessons.

Catherine Butler is a Cleveland Heights jewelry artist who also figures skate and is a member of the Pavilion Skating Club.
Heights Arts Holiday Store opens Nov. 4

Peggy Spaulth

Nine years ago, a group of arts lovers volunteered to clean up a vacant Lee Road storefront to create a temporary pop-up gallery during the holiday season. Local artists came out of the woodwork to offer their work for sale, and the community flocked to the space to purchase local handmade art. A gallery was born.

Those original arts lovers were early founders of the fledgling nonprofit community arts organization Heights Arts, which has rented the 1,500-square-foot storefront, strategically located a few steps from the Cedar Lee Theatre, since that first holiday display closed. This summer, Heights Arts made another leap and tore down a wall to enlarge the gallery into the adjacent storefront abutting the Cedar Lee minipark. The expanded space includes a classroom where local artists teach workshops and classes for people of all ages. The organization also was able to move its upstairs office to the gallery level so that the gallery can be open more hours. The space enables Heights Arts to present arts and crafts year-round, as well as feature six exhibitions annually.

This month, Heights Arts celebrates the tenth annual Holiday Store in the newly expanded gallery at 2175 Lee Road. More than 75 artists, whose work is selected by a committee, are represented in the gallery during the holiday season. Each artist takes at least one shift in the volunteer-run gallery, so shoppers can meet them in person.

Shopping at Heights Arts sustains our rich artistic community year-round. Whether artists are internationally known or most famous for being seen often at Phoenix Coffee, they are essential assets to the neighborhood and the region.

The Heights Arts Holiday Store opens with a public reception Friday, Nov. 4, 6–9 p.m., and runs through Dec. 30. Visit www.heightsarts.org or call 216-371-3457 for hours and more information.

‘Tigers Be Still’ opens at Dobama Theatre

Jewel Moulthrop

Dobama Theatre announces the second production of its 42nd season—the Cleveland premiere of “Tigers Be Still” by Kim Rosenstock. “Tigers” will play from Oct. 21 to Nov. 13.

Rosenstock’s play is about Sherry Wickman, a young woman who expects her life to fall into place after she earns her boss won’t leave his gun at home, her alcoholic sister has taken up residence on the couch, and a tiger has escaped from the local zoo. Critically acclaimed after its 2010 New York premiere, “Tigers Be Still” is a quirky and deliciously dark comedy.

Peggy Spaulth is the founding executive director of Heights Arts. Both her workplace and home are filled with art by regional artists.

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