 Heights Libraries earns top rating from Library Journal

Sheryl Banks

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library system has once again received the highest possible rating in the Library Journal 2011 Index of Public Library Service. The five-star rating is given to the top U.S. libraries each year.

Height Libraries has earned five stars in three out of the four years that Library Journal has published the ratings, starting in 2008. Libraries are categorized by yearly expenditure and rated on four criteria: circulation, visits, program attendance, and Internet terminal use. Height Libraries circulation rated 31.6 per capita in its service area, meaning that 33.6 items were circulated for every resident in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights area. In 2010, the last year Height Libraries received the five-star rating. Library visits are up since 2009, with 19.4 in 2011 compared to 17.0 in 2009. Library program attendance went from 0.3 in 2009 to 0.8 in 2011.

“This just shows us what we’ve known all along—more and more people in our community are using the library,” said Nancy Levin, Height Libraries director. “We are always busy, and I don’t see that trend reversing anytime soon. Our community depends on us more than ever for everything from free entertainment with books and DVDs and fun programs, to more crucial things like access to the Internet and free computer service.”

Levin credits the high rating to the hard work of the library staff and board members, saying they have “stepped up their game” even after cuts in state funding to the library, that began in 2009. Height Libraries wasn’t the only Northeast Ohio public library system to earn top honors. Cleveland Public Library, Lakewood Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library, and Cuyahoga County Public Library’s Parma branch all received a five-star rating.

“Residents of Northeast Ohio are truly lucky to have such incredible libraries at their fingertips,” said Levin.

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

Cuyahoga Arts and Culture announces 2012 Project Support Grants

Amy Keri-Jong

At its Nov. 14 board meeting, the trustees of Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC) approved 88 grants, totaling $1,529,164 for the 2012 Project Support (PS) cycle. The awards include traditional PSI grants and the new PSII, a small grant program that provides awards of up to $5,000.

Cleveland Heights-based organizations received $137,526 in grants. Among the larger organizations receiving PSI grants was the City of Cleveland Heights, which was awarded $28,700 for the Cain Park Arts Festival. Ensemble Theatre of Cleveland received $19,255. CityMusic Cleveland received $18,000, and Open Doors received $21,813.

Martin Cosentino, managing director of Ensemble Theatre said, “This is the third grant we are receiving from CAC and we are ecstatic about it. This will help fund two plays, running in the third grant we are receiving from CAC and we are ecstatic about it. This will help fund two plays, running in

Willimon, which deals with Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, and “A Song for Coretta,” by Pearl Cleage, which honors the life of Coretta Scott King. We expect these plays to draw a diverse audience.

Among the smaller organizations receiving a maximum of $5,000 under the CAC’s PSII grants program were FutureHeights, which received $4,933 to develop walking tours of Cleveland Heights using the Cleveland Historical mobile phone app; Facing History and Ourselves, which received $4,733; the Coventry Village Special Improvement District, which received $4,600 for the Coventry Village Arts Festival; Council Gardens, which received $4,676; and the River Valley Ringers, which received $4,508.

Project Support 2012 received the largest number of applications in CAC’s history. A total of 131 organizations submitted intent-to-apply materials, of which 118 of were eligible. This is up more than 45 percent from 2011.

Increased outreach and the new, small grants program (PSII) led to an increase in participation, and 36 percent of all organizations were first-time applicants to CAC. Sari Feldman, president of the CAC board of trustees, said, “We are extremely pleased with the results of the new PS II program. CAC has been able to expand its reach in to the community and provide more opportunities for arts and cultural organizations. Knowing that almost half of the applications came from the PS II pool lets us know that this program is a valuable addition to the process.”

Since 2007, CAC has invested nearly $67 million in 150 local arts and cultural organizations. In 2009, CAC grants generated nearly $580,000 in matching funds.

Disputes over resurfacing of Taylor Road continue

Maddie Baggett

Almost a year after it was supposed to begin, the Taylor Road resurfacing project remains a contentious matter for some Taylor Road residents.

On Nov. 17, officials from Cleveland Heights and representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided details about the project and answered questions from a crowd of about 20 residents at city hall.

Robert Downey, city manager for Cleveland Heights, discussed the history of the design plan, which began in 2002. The city initially envisioned grass medians, benches and specialized lighting, but plans were altered when the project—at an estimated cost of $7 million—failed to gain financing.

Because Taylor Road is not a city street, funding for its repair must come from both federal and state government. The city has only $1.5 million annually to repair its roads, and so could not afford the desired features on its own.

Taylor Road, from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Bayshore Road, will be repaved. Damaged curbs will be repaired and drains will be upgraded. The road will also be reduced from seven lanes to five between Euclid Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road.

Although many issues arose at the meeting, the biggest concerns between city council and residents were money and safety, respectively.

During the meeting, many residents expressed disappointment that the space that will be removed from the lanes will be allocated to the east side, where Severance Town Center is located. Many residents maintained that

continued on page 9
Almost every day, someone mentions to me how much be or he or she appreciates the Heights Observer as a positive force in the Heights community.

On the days when that doesn’t happen, someone is sure to contact me about an idea they’d like the Observer to pursue on behalf of the community.

For those who like what the Observer does, I remind them that it is operated by FutureHeights, a non-profit organization dedicated to citizen engagement in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

While the Observer generates most of its own operating funding through advertising sales, it still requires support from FutureHeights.

This month, FutureHeights is conducting its annual fund drive in the third consecutive year of an extremely difficult fund-raising environment.

You can help the Observer to continue its work by making a tax-deductible contribution to FutureHeights. I’ve already made mine and hope you’ll consider doing so as well. Here’s a link where you can contribute securely online: http://futureheights.org/donate.

For those who have a story or agenda for the Observer to pursue, I always explain that the Observer is different from other media, which carefully manage the content they produce.

In any given month, approximately 75 people are directly involved in the Observer project. But there’s a core group of perhaps 25 who are involved every month—editing articles, selling ads, updating the website, laying out the newspaper and then distributing it. Almost all of us are volunteers, myself included.

I encourage people to think of the Observer as a public soapbox. That core group of people, who continually give their time and effort, is in essence, working to assure the soapbox is available for anyone who wants to use it—and that’s about as all we have to do.

The other people who contribute articles and opinion pieces are using the soapbox. Some use it to announce community events; others use it to vent frustration; still others use it to interpret the results of journalistic reporting.

Bob Rosenbaum
Bravo Cleveland Heights!

Tiffany Laufer

Bravo to a new bike lane! Bravo to a safer North Park Boulevard! Bravo to one lane of traffic?

Yes, I think it’s grand that North Park Boulevard is now officially one lane of traffic. It was a wise choice and one that should be applauded. Instead of an autobahn roadway we now have a normal road. I am a dog owner and we love the Doan Creek park area that runs all along North Park and up through the Heights. Each and every day I walk the Doan Creek Park and I see runners, bikers, cyclists on their way to work, and other dog walkers. I see these improvements as helping to protect each and every one of us and even the people driving cars as well.

Having bike lanes has numerous benefits; the most defined result is a reduced risk of crashes between cars and bikes. Interesting to note that studies have shown bike lanes are safer for cyclists. Bike lanes encourage cyclists to obey stop signs and streetlights and to avoid wrong-way riding. And a final point is that bike lanes have been proven to help define road space and the flow of traffic.

Before the lanes were defined there was the propensity for car drivers to drive closer to the edge and try to get four across. Bravo Cleveland Heights for helping to keep all your citizens safe (and promote green energy along the way!). Now, all we need is a trash can on that curved and narrowed near Roxboro Middle School a portion of the trail was only 2 feet from the road. In running or walking a dog, or even trying to use the road with your bike, you were perilously close to racing traffic. Even though there were no defining lane markers, it became a raceway where cars would drive closer to the edge and try to get four across.

Bravo Cleveland Heights for helping to keep all your citizens safe (and promote green energy along the way!). Now, all we need is a trash can on that stretch to help cope with the litter and glass that is discarded there.

Tiffany Laufer is a filmmaker and the creative director for the Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra.

Citizens for Oakwood thank supporters and look to the future

Carla Rautenberg

The voters of South Euclid have spoken. Although deeply disappointed, we are grateful to the thousands of people who supported the “No on 96” campaign. First Interstate did everything it could to prevent this vote from taking place, and outspent us by three or four to one. That was to be expected.

We want to thank first and foremost the 3,451 South Euclid voters who supported protecting the precious Oakwood land against the assault of big box development. We also salute all of our supporters, our legal team, including the CWRU Law School Kramer Law Clinic students and faculty, and the Ohio Supreme Court for giving the voters of South Euclid the right to vote on their community’s future.

Oakwood is on land situated at the meeting point of South Euclid, University Heights and Cleveland Heights. If ever there was a regional issue, this was it. Citizens asked repeatedly for a regional discussion.

The governments in those cities never held this discussion; it seems that regionalism only exists as an abstract notion in the minds of the officials in our part of the county. This simply means that as citizens, we will have to continue to educate our elected officials.

We look forward to working constructively with all area residents who support sustainable land use planning to create a vibrant, healthy, resilient region and a bright future for our community.

Citizens for Oakwood
7790 Bainbridge Road,
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
216-694-8704
www.facebook.com/citizensforoakwood
www.citizensforoakwood.com

Carla Rautenberg is a volunteer with Citizens for Oakwood.

ELECTION continued from page 1

Cleveland Heights Council Member Jason Stein, who ran unopposed for an unexpired term, was elected with 8,650 votes.

In the University Heights City Council election, Adele Zucker, former vice mayor, was the top vote getter, with 1,752 votes. Newcomer Pamela Cameron was elected, with 1,602 votes. Several candidates were within one-half percent of each other: Tom Cozzens, with 1,354 votes; Steven Sims, with 1,331; Kevin Patrick Murph, with 1,309; Conor McLaughlin, with 1,288, and Stephen Bennett, with 1,265. An automatic recount is necessary to determine the final two seats on council.

In other races, Nancy Peppler and Eric Coblle ran unopposed for Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education and were reelected. Judge Deane Buchanan, who ran unopposed for Cleveland Heights Municipal Judge, was also reelected.

To see election results for all of Cuyahoga County, visit www.cuyahogavote.org.

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

CHRISTMAS TREES
Youth Ministry Christmas Tree Fund Raiser
November 20th—December 22nd
Sunday 1:00 pm—5:00 pm
Monday—Thursday — 2:00 pm — 6:30 pm
Friday 12:00 pm — 7:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am — 6:30 pm

Enjoy Your Holiday Shopping at Our Christmas Store Where Items are $5.00 or less!

Frasier Fir premium grade Heavy Density 6ft-9 ft. $55
White Pine Heavy Density 7ft-8 ft. $30
Scotch Pine premium grade Heavy Density 7ft-8 ft. $30
Black Hill Spruce Heavy Density 7ft-8ft $30

First Baptist Church Parking Lot * 3630 Fairmount Blvd.
$5.00 Delivery fee for Shaker * S. Euclid * Cleve/ Univ., Hts.
$10.00 for all other areas

Citizens for Oakwood thank supporters and look to the future
Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 17, 2011
All council members were present.

CDBG application for 2012
Council authorized the submission of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement application for the year beginning Jan. 1, 2012. This will be the 38th year of the program. The city anticipates an allocation of $1,200,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and will supplement that amount with $25,000 from its current year contingency fund to support CDBG programs and projects.

North Park Boulevard and Derbyshire Road repairs
Council approved an agreement with Ronyak Paving Inc. for completion of road repairs on portions of North Park Boulevard and Derbyshire Road. The repairs on North Park extend from 2811 North Park Blvd. to North Woodland Road, including the intersection of Coventry Road and North Park Blvd… and from Roxboro Road to Belfield Avenue. The Derbyshire Road repairs extend from Kenilworth Road to Overseas Road. Compensation for these repairs will be $179,238.42.

Bicycle Network Study
Repairs extend from Kenilworth Road to Overseas Road and North Park Blvd., and from Roxboro Road to Belfield Avenue. The Derbyshire Road repairs extend from Kenilworth Road to Overseas Road. Compensation for these repairs will be $179,238.42.

Council approved an agreement with Michael Baker Jr. Inc. for a Bicycle Network Study that will focus on improving bicycle travel between Cleveland Heights and University Circle. A $40,000 grant received from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will cover the costs of the $40,000 grant received from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency. A $40,000 grant received from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, will cover the costs of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency along with a $40,000 grant received from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.

HOME consortium
Council approved a resolution supporting the application of Heights Dental Group to the Cuyahoga County Executive to receive funding, at a maximum of $16,156, for Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program administrative costs. The consortium, which includes the county, and the cities of Cleveland Heights, Lakewood, Euclid, and Parma, will pursue federal funding for housing activities.

Holidays Dental Group on Lee Road
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LWV observer: Katherine Solender.

NOVEMBER 7, 2011
All council members were present.

Resident satisfied with city action
A Yorkshire Road resident expressed the gratitude to the members of council, the police department and city staff to respond to a complaint she had been expressing to the city for over one year. She described the satisfactory outcome and the subsequent resolution and selected highlights of public meetings and earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.neighborhood.org.

Cedar Lee streetscape improvement
 Cromwell’s Home Improvement Inc. will pay the balance.

Cedar Lee SID will pay $50,000 and the city will pay the balance.

Anti-poaching economic development
Council approved an agreement between the county and the city for the purpose of establishing a Business Attraction and Anti-Poaching Protocol as drafted by the First Suburbs Consortium. The goal is to express the commitment of the participating communities not to solicit the relocation of businesses that have not previously considered moving from their current location to another participating community.

Update on Yorkshire Road incidents
Referring to incidents in the vicinity of Yorkshire Road and Cottage Grove Avenue that were discussed at length at council’s Oct. 3 meeting, Mayor Edward Kelley noted that the problem continues to exist. In previous years, a business in exploring a possible move, the protocol will establish procedures to balance the interests of the business’s home community and other participating communities.

LWV observer: Katherine Solender.

Pave your Christmas Tree at Bremer on the Heights

Buy your Christmas Tree at Bremer on the Heights and Save 30% on ornaments and 20% on Greens, Roping & Wreaths

Order Your Custom Green Arrangements & Wreaths Now!

Cleveland Heights Observer December 1, 2011
4
www.heightsobserver.org
University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 17, 2011

Councilors Frank Consolo and Kevin Patrick Murphy were excused.

Combining fire services
Mayor Susan Infeld announced that a study is being conducted to look at the possibility of combining fire services for several communities.

Senior transportation
Council authorized the mayor to enter into a six-month contract with Senior Transportation to provide transportation services to senior and disabled residents of University Heights.

Refuse collection scooter
Council approved the purchase of a new refuse collection scooter from Bobstrick Tractor Sales at a cost not to exceed $14,200. Scooter #206 is being used for spare parts. Funding for the scooter will come from $10,000 budgeted in the sanitation fund for new equipment plus other categories that are under budget for the year.

Tree service
Council approved a contract with Tree Service Now Inc. to trim trees along Bushnell Road for $6,750, and for other locations at an addition cost of $6,950. Other tree-trimming projects are less than $3,000 and do not require council authorization. Tree services in neighboring communities are available to help in emergencies.

Fenwick Road
Council authorized the city engineer to request bids for replacement of Fenwick Road between the railroad and township road.

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Real estate tax break for senior and disabled homeowners

Anita Kazarian

Senior baby boomers and disabled homeowners can save on their real estate tax bill, thanks in part to former Ohio Democratic governors, John Gilligan and Ted Strickland.

John Gilligan, father of Ohio’s state income tax, needed money to balance the budget. In order to get his state income tax legislation passed, deals were made. One of these was a reduction in property taxes for some people. It is known as the homestead exemption or tax break for seniors.

The homestead exemption worked by exempting a certain amount of the tax value of the property. Strict income tests were applied to determine who qualified, and the exemption required reaplying every year.

Thanks to Ted Strickland, the income test was eliminated in 2007. He realized many seniors were ineligible, because of they earned too much. He proposed making the homestead exemption for all seniors 65 and older to qualify.

He proposed making the homestead exemption for all seniors 65 and older to qualify, because of they earned too much. In 1971, he realized many seniors were ineligible and the exemption required reaplying every year.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

December community events

Dec. 2-18  “The Seafarer” by Conor McPherson  Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Rd.
Dec. 3  7:30 p.m. A celebration of classical and holiday music with the Ohio Philharmonic Orchestra  First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd.
Dec. 5  6 p.m. A Night of Laughs and Luck for Milestones Autism Organization  Pickwick and Frolic, 2035 East 4th St.
Dec. 7  7:30 p.m. City Music Cleveland Holiday Program with Joan Kwon, violin  Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd.
Dec. 9  6:30 p.m. Cleveland Heights Holiday Hop led by Mayor Ed Kelley  Cedar Lee Business District
Dec. 10  4 p.m., St. Lucia Program  Forest Hill Church Presbyterian, 3031 Monticello Blvd.

8 p.m., Apollo’s Fire’s Sacrum mysterium: A Celtic Christmas  First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd.
Dec. 11  2 p.m., Journey to Bethlehem  Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Rd.
7 p.m., Western Reserve Chorale performs John Rutter’s “Gloria”  Grace Lutheran Church, 1301 Cedar Road
8 p.m.—1 a.m., Holiday Toy Drive and Charity Event  Grog Shop, 2785 Euclid Heights Blvd.
Dec. 12  FutureHeights Meet, Eat and Great  Anatolia Cafe (bring flyer below)
Dec. 17  8 p.m., Apollo’s Fire’s Sacrum mysterium: A Celtic Christmas  First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd.
Dec. 18  1 p.m., Sunday After Service Forum: David Beach of Green City Blue Lake  Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, 2728 Lancashire Rd.

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CovenantWeb.org - 216-421-0482 11200 Euclid Avenue • East of Severance Hall Worship 10am - Sunday School & Child Care Free Parking at the Church and Ford Road Garage

Veteran honors the fallen
Max Embrescia

On Veteran’s Day, some spend the holiday relaxing, while others mark the day by honoring the people who fought for this nation. Cleveland Heights resident Al Oberst is one of those who puts his heart and soul into honoring this country’s fallen heroes.

Oberst is a veteran. He has assumed the responsibility for restoring the World War I memorial plaques along North Park Boulevard. The memorial, known as Liberty Row, is a nine-mile string of white oaks that runs from Gordon Park, in Cleveland, to Warrensville Center Road, in Shaker Heights. The first oaks—each shading a bronze plaque engraved with the name of a soldier who died in World War I—were planted in 1918. Over the years, many of the oaks perished and the plaques deteriorated or were vandalized.

(Learn more at www.chhistory.org/Places.php?PlacesContent=LibertyRow)

For 40 years, Oberst has worked to restore the plaques. He researches each soldier’s family in hopes of finding descendents. Last year, the City of Cleveland Heights donated new trees to shade three restored plaques. Oberst hopes to fully restore all of the more than 800 plaques.

On Nov. 8, Oberst placed a restored plaque in honor of Leo Kramer on the corner North Park Boulevard and Woodmere Drive. He hopes that the City of Cleveland Heights will plant another tree to shade the plaque.

“It is important to remember those who have fallen, and those who are still fighting for our freedom,” said Oberst. “The most important thing is to remember the vets.”

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

Meet • Eat • Greet
Support FutureHeights as you enjoy an elegant evening of food and drinks

Monday, December 12th starting at 4:00 pm.

Receive 25% off all Bottles of Wine

Present this Flyer to your Bartender or Server and 15% of food proceeds will go to benefit FutureHeights*

The UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Blue Christmas and Solstice Service Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelit Service Saturday, December 24, 7 p.m.

All Are Welcome!
Covenant Web Cleveland Heights, OH 216-932-1898 www.uuohio.org
Go Public! holds toy drive for schools
Lisa Manzari

Kids cannot learn if they don't know how to play, and they cannot learn to play without the right toys. That is why Go Public! Great Schools Are Everybody’s Business is holding a toy and learning materials drive for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights elementary school community from Dec. 5-18.

“The right type of play helps children think, create and solve problems,” said Joan Spoerl, early childhood educator and founder of Go Public! “We want this drive to help put the right type of toys and learning materials in children’s homes to support learning,” she added.

Go Public! has developed a list of specific toys and materials for children ages 3 to 12. The list includes both new and gently used toys and games, from old reliable checkers and blocks to more contemporary toys and learning materials, such as those sold at Playmatters, a local independent toy store in Shaker Square. The list of preferred toys and games is available on the Go Public! website at www.gopublicccirclehub.org.

Michael Ziegenhagen, owner of Playmatters, will donate a play table to the new Heights Observer December 1, 2011.

Home Repair Resource Center will

• At winter’s end, reopen interior valves
• Develop a plan for next summer’s
• Add copper sulfate to basement floor
• Check and regrout tile in all bath and
• Repair any interior wall damage; touch
• Change furnace filters monthly;
• Fix something, and then something new
• When the weather is frightful, do interior repairs

Here are a few interior maintenance projects that can be completed during winter:

• Shut off interior valves supplying outdoor water pipes to prevent them from freezing. By December, this should already be done; if not, set down the paper and do it now;
• Change furnace filters monthly;
• Repair any interior wall damage; touch up or repaint as needed;
• Check and regroove tile in all bath and kitchen areas, as needed, and apply a silicone sealant;
• Add copper sulfate to basement floor drains and downspout drains to control tree roots in the main sewer;
• Develop a plan for next summer’s home improvement (the perennial honey-do list);
• At winter’s end, reopen interior valves supplying outdoor water pipes.

Home Repair Resource Center will offer electrical and plumbing workshops for Cleveland Heights residents January through March. The classes are designed for the novice to the accomplished. Visit www.ohiohistoric.org to see a yearly home maintenance schedule and a list of classes and upcoming events, or stop by the center for more information about home repairs.

Allison Urbaneck is the financial programs director for the Home Repair Resource Center and enjoys working one-on-one with residents to solve their home repair dilemmas.

While deed restrictions governing the development were already in place, the Van Sweringsen embraced them, promising buyers a carefully planned community.

Tree-lined streets followed the lay of the land, rather than a more conventional grid plan and led to a wide central boulevard. Generous provision for churches, schools and other amenities—including streetcar service—completed the formula. The first house was built in 1906. About two-thirds date from 1910 to 1930, and nearly all were built before 1950. Architecturally, the development features a range of styles, including Shingle, Colonial, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, Spanish Revival, French Renaissance, Revival, Bungalow and Craftsman, with many examples of work by leading early 20th century Cleveland architects.

Shaker Farm became a model for the Van Sweringsen’s later development, Shaker Heights. The proposed district includes a portion of the Fairmount Boulevard Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1974.

The other nominated Ohio properties are Mount Vernon Historic District in Knox County; South Newbury Union Church in Knox County; South Newbury Union Church, (Youngstown) in Mahoning County.

The board’s recommendations were made on Nov. 4. Nominations for each of the properties will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register, who directs the program for the U.S. Department of the Interior. If the Keeper agrees that the properties meet the criteria for listing, they will be added to the National Register. The Keeper’s decision is expected in about 90 days.

When the weather is frightful, do interior repairs
Allison Urbaneck

Owning a home is a never-ending cycle. Fix something, and then something new breaks; fix that and then something else goes. Home Repair Resource Center recommends following a yearly home maintenance schedule to help keep a home in good repair.

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Allison Urbaneck

Owning a home is a never-ending cycle. Fix something, and then something new breaks; fix that and then something else goes. Home Repair Resource Center recommends following a yearly home maintenance schedule to help keep a home in good repair.

Here are a few interior maintenance projects that can be completed during winter:

- Shut off interior valves supplying outdoor water pipes to prevent them from freezing. By December, this should already be done; if not, set down the paper and do it now;
- Change furnace filters monthly;
- Repair any interior wall damage; touch up or repaint as needed;
- Check and regroove tile in all bath and kitchen areas, as needed, and apply a silicone sealant;
- Add copper sulfate to basement floor drains and downspout drains to control tree roots in the main sewer;
- Develop a plan for next summer’s home improvement (the perennial honey-do list);
- At winter’s end, reopen interior valves supplying outdoor water pipes.

Home Repair Resource Center will offer electrical and plumbing workshops for Cleveland Heights residents January through March. The classes are designed for the novice to the accomplished. Visit www.ohiohistoric.org to see a yearly home maintenance schedule and a list of classes and upcoming events, or stop by the center for more information about home repairs.

Allison Urbaneck is the financial programs coordinator at Home Repair Resource Center and enjoys working one-on-one with residents to solve their home repair dilemmas.
Poster campaign celebrates Tiger Pride

Lisa Manzari

When it comes to young people, it often seems the bad news travels fast, while good news seldom travels beyond home or school. A neighbor’s daughter could be a merit scholar or captain of the basketball team, and one might never know it. One grassroots organization, Go Public! Great Schools are Everybody’s Business, thinks it’s time to spread the pride—Tiger Pride, that is.

Go Public!, in collaboration with Heights High, is celebrating the vast array of extraordinary students in our district by highlighting 20 stellar students, one face at a time, with a poster campaign in community storefronts. Forty local Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses, including Appletree Books, Bialy’s Bagels and Zagara’s, will display posters depicting the achievements of CH-UH students who exemplify excellence in the school and community. Featured on the posters are athletes, artists, academics and an Argentinean exchange student, each inspiring plenty of pride.

Professional photographer David Perelman-Hall donated his time and talent to photograph the students for the posters. “The students were all so accepting and warm, and the photos show them as the incredible kids they truly are. Each and every one—beautiful, warm, shining. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do the shoot,” Perelman-Hall said. Students from Georgio Sabino’s Heights High photography class assisted Perelman-Hall in the shoot.

“We hope that this is just the first phase of the Tiger Pride poster project,” said Joan Spoorl, founder of Go Public! “We had so many extraordinary students to choose from, we’d love to photograph more in the future. It’s truly a testament to each of these students and those just like them throughout our CH-UH district.”

Go Public! Great School’s are Everybody’s Business is working to foster stronger ties between the community and the CH-UH schools. For information on upcoming meetings, events and how to get involved, go to www.gopublicch-uh.org.

Lisa Manzari is communication manager for Go Public! Great Schools are Everybody’s Business.

Free programs for seniors at local libraries

Katherine Bulava

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library offers several free programs to help area seniors stay active and informed. Senior Spot, held every Wednesday at the University Heights Library, offers a variety of classes. Upcoming topics include the “University Circle Arts District” and “New Year Traditions around the World.” Senior Spot also offers a book discussion group, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Whole Foods Market.

A new book discussion group, begun in September, meets at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center on the first Thursday of each month. CH-UH librarians drop off copies of each month’s selection at the center two weeks prior to the meeting and then lead the discussions.

The University Heights Library hosts an informative lecture series for seniors on Thursday afternoons, sponsored by the University Heights Senior Adult Network. Lectures are presented on a broad range of subjects, including nature conservation, public television, and local government. The schedule for December is located on page 5 of this issue of Observer.

Other classes of interest to seniors include “Getting Started with Medicare,” on Feb. 21 at the Coventry Village Library; “Knitting Night,” every other Tuesday at Lee Road Library; Noble Knitting Circle, every other Thursday at the Noble Neighborhood Library; and several introductory computer classes at Lee Road Library.

In addition to offering discussion groups and classes, the library also tries to provide easier access to reading for seniors. The Lee Road Library placed its large-print book section near the parking lot entrance, making the books more accessible.

The library’s adult outreach offers home delivery for seniors who cannot get to the library. Seniors can call the library to order books, which are then delivered by UPS free of charge. The service also delivers books on the third Wednesday of each month to Musicians Towers, Severance Tower, Judson Park, and The Homewood Residence at Rockefeller Gardens.

For more information on programs for seniors, call the Lee Road Library at 216-932-3600.

Judith Eugene, a native of Cleveland Heights, provides enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or jude@LovingHandsGroup.com.

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Lake Erie Ink open house sparks kids’ creativity

Brenna Lisowski

Poems, plays, stories and essays filled the air—a long with fun, games and great food provided by area businesses—at Lake Erie Ink’s (LEI) Open House on Oct. 30.

The open house featured readings and performances of original works by the young writers who participate in LEI’s programs. In addition, anyone who sat down and wrote a haiku earned a place in line for a free airbrush tattoo, so kids produced some clever pieces and lined up to get “inked.”

The brainchild of writing educators and Heights parents Cynthia Larsen and Amy Rosenbluth, LEI is located in the Coventry School building. It is a nonprofit organization founded on the belief that “creative writing is not only for youth who already love writing, but also for youth who have something to say and too often feel that nobody is listening.”

At LEI, they’re definitely listening. LEI offers many writing programs for kids of all ages after-school writing workshops and homework help for grades four through eight, evening and weekend workshops with different themes, monthly teen cafes, poetry slams, and more. Programs feature not only poetry and plays, but also comics, graphic arts and nonfiction forms, such as journalism and blogging. Whatever a child’s interests, LEI can provide him or her with opportunities and outlets to explore them. The programs are available to the very low cost to participants.

For more information on upcoming programs, or to become involved in donating or volunteering, contact LEI at 216-320-4757 or visit www.lakeerieink.org.

Brenna Lisowski has lived in the Heights since 2007. She is the proud mother of two Ravensemi Elementary School students.

New generation inspired by Freeway Fighters

Dave Harris

On Oct. 26, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes held an open house to welcome the “little ladies in tennis shoes”—a group of determined citizens who, 40 years ago, helped stop a freeway that would have carved through the Shaker Lakes. Now, these “Freeway Fighters” are the main characters in a new book, The Legacy of Clark Freeway Fighters, that captures their stories through interviews conducted by students from the Intergenerational School.

The book features photographs of the parklands, reflections written by the students themselves, a dedication by Shaker Heights Mayor Earl M. Leiken, and essays by sustainability expert David Beach and the cofounders of the Intergenerational School, Peter and Carly Whitehouse.

The Intergenerational School is a nationally recognized K-8 public charter school in Cleveland. The school believes in individualized, lifelong learning in a multigenerational setting. Many of the Freeway Fighters are members of the Judson Smart Living Retirement Community, who took the time to meet with the students and share their amazing stories of courage and determination.

Proceeds from book sales benefit the school in developing community service partnerships. Learn more by calling 330-339-8760.

Dave Harris received his master of science degree in social administration from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. His project Tie-a-Life unites generations through technology.
Bullying policy need clarifications on victimization, Student interaction and student services, medication policies.

Students

Students Policies were reviewed in four areas: 1) the instruction program for students who are in the military, homeless, or nonresident; 2) school choice options required as part of the No Child Left Behind Act; 3) excused absences, and 4) medication policies.

Student interaction and student services

Bullying policy need clarifications on victimization and cyberbullying. Healthy dating and dating education policies were discussed. The student website needs revision.

Financial issues

Policies are needed regarding charging students for materials they take with them. How to resolve student financial obligations to the district needs review. Currently, debts must be paid before graduation. Other policies discussed include the need for appropriate spending plans, budget manager approval of project budgets, and detailed travel expense requests and reports.

Computers and technology and information technology (IT)

Computers are district property to be used for business purposes. Personal use places a burden on the district’s e-mail system. Other privacy policies discussed were network access for staff and employees, open access for the new tech schools, and open access for students and for teachers. A policy on student computer repair (currently outsourced) is needed to bring down costs. Other policies to be reviewed concern smartphones, software purchase decisions, and the need for computer use by elementary students (Pods are an option). Policy changes in school work due on snow days if the work assigned is to be done on a computer may be tested in a new project.

Public records

Policy development concerning transcript fees needs consideration, and policy concerning information management and security breaches needs clarification.

Food services

The board also examined policies regarding food safety, nutritional standards (there is no staff dietitian), and wellness promotion through physical education, standards, nutrition, obesity awareness, and nutritious breakfast foods. Sale of foods through school-related organizations, such as the PTA, is also a concern.

Other policies

Policies may be added by improving or extending other policies: • Grounds and property policies, including clarification of smoking policies on board-owned properties especially when property is rented to others. • School calendar. Practices related to devotional exercises and religious music within the schools. • Safety issues concerning law enforcement and security, and revisions to the suspension policy.

LWV observer: Jillian Houser.

November 1, 2011

All board members were present.

Self-contained gifted program

Boulevard parent Sonya Queen Tabor praised the new self-contained gifted program and the STEM program at Boulevard Elementary School. Roxboro Elementary School parent Marla Spencer, whose daughter had been home-schooled, reported that her daughter is thriving in the new self-contained gifted program at Roxboro.

Model UN

The board approved 30 Heights High students attending the Model U. N. in Columbus Dec. 11-13.

Jump rope for heart and hoops

The board approved a grant application to the AAHPERD Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for $1,379.92 for equipment to measure physical activity (AAHPERD is the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.)

2011 Minority Student Achievement Network

Five Heights High students who attended the 2011 Minority Student Achievement Network conference, along with advisors Mr. Aiden and Mrs. Washington, thanked the school board for enabling them to attend. Their goal is to develop and implement plans to improve the work ethic in the CHUH schools by encouraging others to stay in advanced placement and honors programs, mentoring and tutoring elementary and middle school students, discussing issues faced by minority students, and meeting with teachers new to the district.

Race to the Top (RQT)

Kevin Burrell reported that 23 teachers from the district are in the Teacher Leader program, which is in partnership with John Carroll University. At a statewide conference in Columbus, it was reported that RQT is showing positive results.

Sports successes

Board members offered kudos to our football team with a Lake Erie League record of 9-0, and the girls’ and boys’ soccer teams for making it to district play-offs.

LWV observer: Nancy Dietrich.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

Heights senior soars in engineering internship

Joy Henderson

Last summer, Heights High senior Cameron Herring worked two internships, giving him a view of natural history research and the engineering side of First Energy electric company. While he enjoyed helping in the research labs at the Natural History Museum, his first love is engineering.

Herring is enrolled in the engineering technology program, and instructor Yvonne Schiffer suggested that he apply to the Future Connections summer internship.

“I really liked seeing how the engineers evaluate each problem,” said Herring. “And it was great to see what it takes to be an engineer at First Energy.”

He spent time with the external affairs manager and learned about the big and small problems that need to be solved every day. He also spent time learning from several engineers who design substations for corporate clients, and accompanied others on pole checks where engineers remotely check the operations of each electric pole.

One of Herring’s interests is in computer-aided design (CAD). Last year, as a junior, he created the drawings for the program’s entry into a robotics competition. “Cam is very good at the CAD programs and helped our team win several trophies last year,” said Schiffer.

Herring said that he now sees how important and marketable those CAD skills are in the engineering world.

“The internship confirmed my interest in engineering and I know that this class gave me an edge in getting to measure physical activity (AAHPERD is the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.)

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**Bicycle skills are part of physical education curriculum**

Joy Henderson

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights elementary physical education teachers are partnering with the Cleveland Heights bicycle police officers and the Heights Bicycle Coalition to teach bicycle skills to elementary students. On Nov 8, CH-UH professional development day, PE teachers Fiona Conner Kuntz and Alice Stratton arranged for Ohio City Bicycle Co-op instructor Jim Sheehan to train PE teachers to teach students basic bike skills and safety.

“We want all of our students to get at least 60 minutes of exercise each day,” Conner-Kuntz said. “Bicycling is one way children can get exercise.”

Jim Sheehan is the executive director of the Ohio City Bike Co-op and is certified by the League of American Bicyclists to teach bicycling skills. Attending the course were five elementary PE teachers, four Cleveland Heights bicycle officers and three Heights Bicycle Coalition members. “Our goal here is to give you the knowledge to teach students the skills that they need to correctly use their bicycles,” Sheehan said.

The adult students in the class participated in the same activities that the young students will experience this spring in the bike rodeos at Fairfax and Garity elementary schools. Instruction included helmet and bike fittings, a mechanical check and bike laws. The cycling portion took place on a closed course in the Garity parking lot. It included starting, stopping, quick stop, left and right turns, looking back while riding, and slalom. Sheehan stressed that for young children driveways are areas that need extra vigilance and should be treated as intersections.

The four CH bicycle officers were recently trained by the International Mountain Bike Police Association and will assist the teachers with the bike rodeos. The officers are Roger Gibson, Brandon Reichard, Larry Rieck and Scott Sedlock.

In the spring of 2012, students at Fairfax and Garity will learn bike skills and then have another option for getting their 60 minutes of exercise each day.

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

**Girls on the Run emphasizes positive life choices at Roxboro**

This fall, Roxboro Elementary School offered a new after-school activity. Girls on the Run, a 10-week program that trains girls to run a 5K while increasing their self-esteem and teaching them to make positive choices in life. It was offered to girls in the fifth grade. The girls were coached by Roxboro Elementary School teachers Holly Daruino, Monica Rogers, Jen Steus and Karen Wilmth.

The Cleveland Heights bicycle officers (l-r) Scott Sedlock, Roger Gibson, supervisor of the Day Traffic Bureau Quintero Mack (center), Brandon Reichard and Larry Rieck.
Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library
Library Board
Meeting highlights
October 17, 2011

Sheryl Banks
Kimberlee DeNero-Ackroyd is the new deputy director for Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. DeNero-Ackroyd started her new position on Nov. 14, and said of her job, “People from other parts of Ohio are always amazed by Heights Libraries’ collections, program offerings and services. This is a truly special library system, and I’m happy to be a part of it.”

DeNero-Ackroyd has worked in the library field for 20 years, and brings a wide range of experience to her new position. Most recently, she was library manager at the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library. Prior to that, she worked in the adult services department of the Shaker Heights Public Library, and before that worked at Heights Libraries as a substitute librarian in 2002.

DeNero-Ackroyd has worked for six public library systems in Ohio, as well as the Austin Public Library in Texas and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library in North Carolina. She has been a law librarian; an account manager for Ingram Library Services, a collection development firm; an adult librarian; and a youth services assistant. She has also worked in circulation.

Kimberlee DeNero-Ackroyd, the new deputy director for Heights Libraries.

Noble Libraries hires new deputy director
Sheryl Banks
Kimberlee DeNero-Ackroyd is the new deputy director for Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Sheryl Banks
The mission of Heights Libraries is simple—opening doors, opening minds. Now, by developing an exciting partnership with the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), the library will not only be opening doors, but will also show people how to refurbish them.

Founded in 1971, HRRC has provided innovative programs to address the housing maintenance and repair challenges of Cleveland Heights homeowners, particularly those of low to moderate income. These programs include financial assistance, education, and skills training, as well as a library full of helpful materials.

HRRC’s library, formerly housed at the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library, is accessible only at our Noble location. HRRC executive director. “With the help of the Heights Library, the resources can be more easily reached and we will have longer hours.”

HRRC will have a staff member at the Lee Road Library on a regular basis, in addition to the library’s regular adult service staff headed by Chuck Collins. “We’ve been cataloging [HRRC’s] collection in preparation for the change,” said Collins. “One thing we’re doing is creating a page on our website where people can print HRRC’s instructional handouts. These handouts include everything from &sectory to negotiating a contractor schedule.”

The project is expected to be completed in January 2012. HRRC will continue to offer regular classes on homebuyer education to CH-UH residents and plans to expand to other communities in the near future. To find out more, go to www.heightslibrary.org, or pick up a copy of “Check Us Out!” at a neighborhood library branch.

Noble Library exterior renovations
Damage to the Noble Neighborhood Library occurred when flashing wasn’t installed before a recent rain. Repairs to plaster and other damage will be made at no cost to the library.

Security issues
Security Supervisor B. Loggins reported that an alleged guardian will be at the Noble Neighborhood Library until closing. There are seven guards, including one woman. Responding to Board Member James Roosa’s question, Loggins noted that the teens and tweens were the patrons presenting the most problems, but added that these were not the policebringing kids.

The kids present in the library in the morning may be truant, but Director Nancy Levin explained that under the Library Bill of Rights, staff does not report students as truant unless they cause problems. Loggins added that a large number of kids in this community are home schooled. Board Member James Peach sympathized with staff who are sometimes used as babysitters. However, Director Levin replied that she would rather have these kids in the library than on the streets.

Public Service Report highlights
• Brian Swegert of the Cleveland Institute of Arts offered a free program of Delacroix Eucalyptus at each building during a preschool storytime.
• Social service planning is planned for summer lunch attendees and found that it attracted a number of new families.
• Z’s Herbal Teas was offered by Zahir Sutarwala, adult services assistant, to give attendees a chance to explore and taste a variety of herbal teas.

Henry Drake made a guest appearance offering his Shadow Puppet Theater to 35 children and their parents. Noble’s PLAYroom averages 40 visitors daily and hosts 6-8 daycare visits per week.

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

In addition to her work experience, DeNero-Ackroyd brings her love for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community to the position. “I’ve been a member of Cleveland Heights for ten years, and I love living here,” she said. “That gives me a great understanding of the diversity of our community and the wide-ranging needs of our citizens. I’ll essentially be working in my own backyard—our patrons are my neighbors, and I’m looking forward to helping our staff bring them great service.”

Mary Loggins is currently serving a two-year appointment on the Public Library Association’s 2012 Conference Programming Committee. She earned a bachelor of arts in English from The Ohio State University and received her master of library and information science from The University of Texas at Austin in 1995.

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

Home repair section gets a boost with new partnership
Sheryl Banks
The mission of Heights Libraries is simple—opening doors, opening minds. Now, by developing an exciting partnership with the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), the library will not only be opening doors, but will also...
**Parenting Q & A**

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Family Connections for the last 15 years, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. The same issues impact many parents. If you have questions for Barrett, e-mail her at ebarrett@familyconnections.org.

**Q.** My next door neighbors’ 7-year-old drives me crazy. He has every toy and gadget imaginable. He doesn’t ever want to share; and when we have given him birthday gifts, instead of thanking us, he criticizes them (“I already have that,” “that isn’t the one I wanted”). I am worried that our son, who is three, will pick up on this. How can we raise a gracious and thankful child instead of an ungrateful boorish one?

**A.** With many of the gift-giving holidays right around the corner, it is the perfect time of year to be thinking about this. Although developing a sense of appreciation and thankfulness takes time and maturity, it is never too early to encourage behaviors that will help to develop some of those characteristics in your child. Here are a few ideas:

- **Model “thankful” behavior yourself.** Thank people around you for even the simplest things, such as holding open a door for you or helping to clear the dinner table.
- **Express thankfulness to your child.** “Thank you for picking up your toys.” Even young children like the way it feels to be appreciated.
- **Prompt thankful language from your child.** Although children younger than three don’t fully understand the concept of gratitude, it is important to encourage them to say “please” and “thank you.” Children can develop the habit early, and as they mature they will be more likely to express it sincerely.
- **Include them in the process of writing thank-you notes, no matter their age.** For babies and toddlers try taking a picture of the child with the gift to send to the gift-giver. A preschooler can draw a picture or dictate a note of thanks to you. An older child can write at least part of the note. Have them help address, stamp and seal the envelope and then drop it in the mailbox.
- **Create family rituals that demonstrate thankfulness.** Once a week begin dinner time by going around the table and saying what each family member is grateful for.
- **Give back to the community.** Find a local organization to donate to or to volunteer. Collect hats and mittens in the winter or offer to feed the animals at a local shelter. Talk to your child about how some people have less and encourage them to help. “Some children don’t have mittens so we can give them some to keep them warm.”
- **Read books together about being thankful.** Books are a great way to introduce the concept of gratitude when children either get everything they want or can’t focus on the importance of a gift. Encourage friends and family to limit the gifts they give your child. Try asking them to make a donation to a local charity or community nonprofit in your child’s honor or suggest they go in together on just a few gifts instead.

**Swimmers rake leaves for senior citizens**

Joy Henderson

The Heights High swim team spent the morning of Nov. 5 raking leaves for Cleveland Heights senior citizens. For the last several years, the team has worked on the project with Amy Jenkins, supervisor of the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging, who identifies residents in need of help. Samantha Espenschiel, Juliana Soreo and Madison Androsko participated in the project this year.

“It felt great to help,” Androsko said. “We know it is hard for some older people to do all that raking.” One grateful resident left cookies, beverages, and a note that read, “To all you lovely young people: the bit of goodies are all for you.”

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

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January 8

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rufflingmontessori.net

For information about Ruffling’s Montessori curriculum for toddler through 8th grade & to tour our LEED-certified school, please contact Nithi Subhas, Director of Admissions, at nithi@rufflingmontessori.net.

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**Heights High swim team members (l-r) Samantha Espenschiel, Juliana Soreo and Madison Androsko.**
2011 Holiday Gift Guide

The Heights Observer wants to help you think outside the box. You can find something for everyone on your list at the many independent merchants in the Heights. Most will wrap or ship your items. Here are some of our favorites (see more at www.heightsobserver.org):

### The Foodie

Ruhlman’s Twenty: 20 Techniques, 100 Recipes. A Cook’s Manifesto by Michael Ruhlman, lavishly illustrated with photographs by Donna Turner Ruhlman. ($40, Mac’s Backs)

French Macaron Box. ($7 for four macarons; $13.00 for eight, Luna Bakery Café)

The Deck. 52 cards, each representing a local, independently owned restaurant. Each card gives a $10 discount off a food purchase of $30 or more. Good through Dec. 30, 2012. ($29.95, www.clevelandindependents.com)

Ruhlman’s Set of “Sparker” Wooden Spoons ($20, http://shop.ruhlman.com/)

Chocolate-covered Pretzels. Light, dark or both. ($13.00 for ½ lb., $25.95 for 1 lb., Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates)

Do-It-Yourselfer

The Best DIY Guide to Life. Making Your Way Through Every Day by Bust Magazine founders is a greatest hits of DIY and craft projects from this quirky, feminist, contemporary culture, feminism and art history. ($30, Mac’s Backs)

### Decor

Paper Garden: An Artist Begins Her Life’s Work at Age 72 by Molly Peacock. In 1772 at the age of 72, Mary G. F. Delany began creating intricate paper flower collages from bits of colored paper. Poet Molly Peacock’s biography is a hybrid rumination on Delany’s life, society in the 18th century, contemporary culture, feminism and art history. ($30, Mac’s Backs)

Swarovski Crystal Cross Necklace. ($27.50, Simply Charming)

Mommy and Kids Yoga Class. ($12 gift certificate, Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki)

DAD

Quintana’s Signature Barber Shave. ($35 for 40 minutes, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

 Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President by Candice Millard. President James A. Garfield was assassinated months after his election in 1880. Millard focuses on the botched medical treatment Garfield received and fascinating side stories. ($28.95, Mac’s Backs)

Alpaca Striped Scarf. ($38, Revive Fair Trade)

Thread of Hope Towel Sets. ($26, Revive Fair Trade)

Anita's Barber & Dream Spa)

Quintana's Couples Restoration Package. A 50-minute relaxation massage for a couple simultaneously, followed by 20 minutes in the private suite as you unwind. ($160, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa)

### Services

Life-enriching Classes and Activities for senior adults in their homes. ($60 gift certificate for any service, The Loving Hands Group)

Heating System Check-up. ($104, Verne & Ellsworth Heating System)

### SENIORS

Interior Decorating Made Easy class. ($60, Judith Eugene Designs)

Creative You Journal Making Kit ($16, Ten Thousand Villages)

### Pet Lover

Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend, by Shaker Heights native Susan Orlean, is a biography of Hollywood’s famous canine and a terrific social history about the role of dogs in our culture. ($26.99, Mac’s Backs)

Eleven half-day romps for the pooch: ($140, Dogtopia)

Dog Bakery. Yummy, crunchy, and creamy good- ies, made from human-grade ingredients. Sold by the piece. ($0.50–$2.50 each, Coventry Cuts)

Cat Eye Pillow. ($18, Ten Thousand Villages)

Animal Tape Measures. ($8, Ten Thousand Villages)

### SPORTS ENTHUSIAST

Six mat classes, five pilates classes or five gyro- tonic classes. ($80, $155 and $190 respectively, Legrand Motion)

Iyengar Yoga. Support your friends and family in their healthy New Year’s resolutions. (A gift certifi- cate, Green Tara Yoga & Healing Arts)

Fleece-lined Earflap Hats. ($24–$32, Revive Fair Trade)

COLLEGE STUDENT

Steampup T-Shirt (a pig on an airship) by Robin Latkovich, accompanied by Steampunk! An An- thology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories edited by Kelly Link and Gavin Grant. ($22.99, Mac’s Backs)

Pocket Sling. Easily fits a laptop, folders and books. ($34, Revive Fair Trade)

Follow Your Heart Leather Cuff. ($20, Revive Fair Trade)

MOM

Hot Stone Massage. ($75 for 50 minutes, Quin- tana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

Paper Garden: An Artist Begins Her Life’s Work at 72 by Molly Peacock. In 1772 at the age of 72, Mary G. F. Delany began creating intricate paper flower collages from bits of colored paper. Poet Molly Peacock’s biography is a hybrid rumination on Delany’s life, society in the 18th century, contemporary culture, feminism and art history. ($30, Mac’s Backs)

Swarovski Crystal Cross Necklace. ($27.50, Simply Charming)

Mommy and Kids Yoga Class. ($12 gift certificate, Loving Hands Yoga & Reiki)

DAD

Quintana’s Signature Barber Shave. ($35 for 40 minutes, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

### TEENS

Juice Box Laundry Bag. ($28, Ten Thousand Villages)

Lucy Lu Charm Necklaces. ($18, Simply Charming)

Alpaca ‘Texting’ Glitten. ($24–$56, Revive Fair Trade)

Leather Desk Cover. ($16, Revive Fair Trade)

### KIDS

Mommy Dolls. ($15–$18, Simply Charming)

Give a Hoot Bank or Bear Bank. ($13.95, Revive Fair Trade)

One Love Onesie. ($26, Revive Fair Trade)

### FRIEND

Shelton Manure. ($35, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

### SIGNIFICANT OTHER

Quintana’s Couples Restoration Package. A 50- minute relaxation massage for a couple simultane- ously, followed by 20 minutes in the private suite as you unwind. ($160, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

Jewelry. Michael Romanik, a Creative Workforce member, has a wide variety of jewelry to suit any taste. ($26, Revive Fair Trade)

### NEIGHBOR

Cleveland Cinemas Gift Card. Purchase a $50 gift card by Dec. 8 and receive one free movie ticket. ($25 gift card and receive one FREE movie ticket [Cleveland Cinemas])

Door Mats with fun sayings. ($19, Simply Charming)

### For details call Melissa at (216) 791-3211 or visit www.judsonsmartliving.org.
Fellow, is one of several local artists whose work is featured at the Holiday Store. ($20–$300, Heights Arts Holiday Store)

Organic Knit Turning Leaf Pullover. ($88, Revive Fair Trade)

I Love You Puzzle. ($24, Ten Thousand Villages)

**ECO-CONSCIOUS**

European Four-Layer Facial. ($90.00, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

Graystone Rain Barrel. This 65-gallon rain barrel is easy to use, saves water and money, and the reversible lid can be used as a planter. ($149.99, Bremec Garden Center)

Upcycled ‘Can Do’ Jewelry Collection. Includes pull-tab cuff, necklace and belt. ($16.95, $26 and $22, Revive Fair Trade)

Relaxed Bottle Tray. ($20, Ten Thousand Villages)

Newspaper Clock. ($28, Ten Thousand Villages)

**UNDER $25**

When Parents Text So Much Said... So Little Understood, a compendium of hilarious texts by parents (and grandparents). ($10.95, Mac’s Backs)

Believe or Joy Inspirational Books. ($12.95, Simply Charming)

Hand-Painted Earrings. ($18, Revive Fair Trade)

Peruvian Turquoise Ring. ($16, Ten Thousand Villages)

**$10 AND UNDER**

Refashioned Ring made of vintage buttons. ($4.50, Simply Charming)

Classic Candy. Great stocking stuffers for young and old. (Big Fun)

Temple Spice Incense. Ten long-burning sticks of a unique scent. ($4.95, City Buddha)

Cleveland Mugs. ($10 each, Big Fun)

Ikat Notepad. ($6, Revive Fair Trade)

Cinnamon Bark Box. ($10, Ten Thousand Villages)

Pocket-Pour Essential Oils. Great stocking stuffers. ($10 each, Abstract-A Hair Salon)

**FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS IT ALL**

Cleveland Inside Outside: A Thirty Year Journey by Jennie Jones, a must-have book of stunning and extraordinary photographs of Cleveland. ($49.95, Mac’s Backs)

Seitz-Agin T-shirts, give a memento of a former Heights favorite. ($20, Heights Arts Holiday Store)

Subscription to the Funny Times, one-year (12 issues) of cartoons, essays and stories by both Pulitzer Prize-winning legends and rising stars in the worlds of topical political humor and social satire. ($25, the Funny Times)

Objects Of Desire. One-of-a-kind items for the home and office. (All price ranges, Paul Hamlin Interiors)

More gift ideas online at www.heightsobserver.org

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HiBa joins national holiday campaign to support local shopping

Philip Hewitt

The Heights Independent Business Alliance (HiBa) has joined an unprecedented national effort to encourage residents and businesses to buy from local independent merchants for the holiday season.

Called “Shift Your Shopping,” the campaign represents more than 38,000 locally-owned and independent businesses across the United States and Canada, and offers a simple way to boost the local economy and preserve and create jobs in the Heights.

“We’re asking consumers to shift their holiday shopping to where it matters most: their friends and neighbors at locally-owned businesses,” said Megan Johnson, interim director of HiBa. “The money spent on items, such as food, cards, gifts, and flowers, over this season will have a considerable impact on our community with a simple shift toward considering local stores and restaurants first.”

Americans spend about $700 per shopper between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, according to the National Retail Federation. Numerous studies show that if those dollars are shifted to locally-owned, independent businesses, they’ll generate far more economic benefit in local communities than money spent at local chain outlets or businesses outside the community.

Shift Your Shopping encourages residents to take job creation and economic concerns into their own hands by exercising their power to strengthen their local economies.

For example, a 2008 study of Kent County Michigan by Civic Economics Consultancy projected that shifting just 10 percent of the county’s per capita spending from chains to locally-owned independent businesses would create “almost $140 million in new economic activity and 1,600 new jobs for the region.”

Annual surveys over the last four years show places that “go local” do better. For example, last year, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance gathered data from nearly 2,800 independent businesses. That data revealed independent businesses in communities executing long-term “buy local and independent” campaigns averaged year-over-year sales growth of 5.6 percent — more than double the 2.3 percent reported by independent businesses in areas lacking such campaigns.

All of those campaigns operated with support from the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA) and/or Business Alliance for Local Livelihood Economies (BALLE).

Shift Your Shopping combines the efforts of AMIBA and BALLE with more than 150 local business alliances comprising of over 38,000 local businesses.

“Beyond the economic impacts, Shift Your Shopping is also about celebrating the uniqueness of your community,” said Jennifer Rockne, AMIBA director. “By shifting the focus of holiday shopping to locally-owned, independent businesses, we can strengthen our communities and economy, create more jobs and — equally important — we can enjoy more relaxed and rewarding experiences doing holiday shopping.”

Visit www.shophiba.org to learn more about the Heights Independent Business Alliance, become a member, and help spread the word.

Philip Hewitt graduated from John Carroll University and is an intern with the Heights Independent Business Alliance.

Peggy J. Van Buskirk

For a long time, Dana Clark dreamed of opening a small cafe with diverse offerings. He shared his ideas with Karen (his wife of 22 years), and with his mother Carolyn, and his brother Dwayne. Finally, his mom said, “You are going to make yourself coo-coo with this.” That was it—KooKoo’s Cafe.

The Clark family came together with the finances required to open the business, and they began to search for a location—a storefront in a nice area that had a need for KooKoo’s Cafe. It was almost two years before they found 2579 Noble Road (near the intersection of Noble Road and Monticello Boulevard). The neighborhood had no coffee shop where people could drop in. KooKoo’s fills that void. It is a good place for kids to stop in after school and do their homework.

KooKoo’s Cafe opened at the end of August. Since then, neighbors and passersby have discovered it as a good place to get a sub sandwich, like the Big Kahuna (smoked turkey, roast beef, and Genoa salami). Dana talks about the science of the sandwich—the order in which ingredients are put together to get the most taste. A lot of thinking has gone into the gourmet subs, including beef, chicken, and Reuben. Customers can even build their own. New menu items coming soon include soups, hot chocolate and rice bowls.

Mom, wife, husband, brother, and friends have invested in KooKoo’s, and their enthusiasm is strong. “The best part is seeing people enjoy our creations,” said Karen Clark. Day manager Regina Phoeson and night manager Charles Marbuary offer a friendly greeting and make guests feel at home. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
Western Reserve Chorale celebrates 20th anniversary season

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) will kick off its 20th anniversary season with a performance of John Rutter’s “Gloria” with brass and organ, as well as seasonal selections by Handel, Laudoridson, Whitacre and others on Sunday, Dec. 11 at Grace Lutheran Church, 1301 Cedar Road.

The chorale was formed in 1992 by a handful of people, including the current executive director and accompanist Joanne Poderis and conductor John Roberts, to present quality programs of classical choral repertoire free to the public. WRC has grown from a group of 40 to the current 70 singers.

WRC will feature three guest conductors this season. Mario M. Clopton is the director for the 20th annual holiday concert in December. A young conductor from Solon, Ohio, Clopton holds a bachelor of music degree with honors from Capitol University and is completing a masters degree in choral conducting at California State University. Los Angeles. Clopton is a vocal music teacher in the CH-UH schools, where he directs four choirs. As an active baritone performer, Clopton has performed lead roles in productions of “Così fan Tutte,” “The Magic Flute,” “The Mikado” and “Iolanthe.”

WRC’s second concert, to be held at the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist in Cleveland in March, will be conducted by Michael Seredick, a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus since 1974, and its assistant director from 1984–90.

The 20th Anniversary Celebratory concert on June 3 will honor founding director John Roberts, charter board members and present members who sang in the first concert in December of 1992. It will be conducted by David Gilson. For information, visit www.westernreservechorale.org or call 216-791-0061.

Susan Marshall is a longtime resident of the Heights. She sings second soprano with the chorale and serves as the group’s treasurer.

Dobama Theatre presents ‘The Seafarer’ by Conor McPherson

Jewel Mouthrop

Dobama Theatre announces the third show of its 2nd season—the Cleveland premiere of “The Seafarer” by Conor McPherson, which runs from Dec. 2–18.

“The Seafarer” takes place in the home of two aging bachelor brothers. One man is blind and on a bender; the other is unemployed and on the wagon. On Christmas Eve, they hold an all-night, liquor-soaked poker game with some friends. The arrival of a mysterious stranger drives the action of the game to the highest stakes imaginable. The play, a Tony award winner, is a tale of the sea, Ireland and redemption.

Playwright Conor McPherson was born in Ireland in 1971. He attended the Dublin’s University College, where he began to write and direct. His plays, many of which have won prestigious awards, include “The Weir” (winner of an Olivier Award), “Shining City” (Tony Award nomination for Best Play), and “St. Nicholas” (currently playing at Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights).

Director Scott Miller served as the director of the theatre arts program at Cleveland School of the Arts and artistic director of The Children’s Theater of Charlotte, in North Carolina. He is also the founding artistic director of The Orange Summer Shakespeare Festival, a theater program for urban teenagers in New Jersey. Miller directed “Dead Man’s Cell Phone” for Dobama Theatre last season, and “Bunnica” for The Cleveland Play House. He has also worked as an actor appearing in Off-Broadway and regional theater productions, and locally in "I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda" for Dobama. Regular ticket prices range from $10 for students and preview performances to $26 for regular admission Friday and Saturday nights ($21 Thursdays and Sundays), with discounts for seniors. RUSH tickets for patrons 21 and younger are $5, when available, and may be purchased no earlier than five minutes before curtain time.

To order tickets, call the Dobama box office at 216-932-3396 or visit www.dobama.org.

Jewel Mouthrop, a resident of Cleveland Heights, is a member of editorial advisory committee for the Heights Observer.
Domenico Boyagian conducts Ohio Philharmonic holiday concert

Tiffany Lafer

The surroundings of the coffee shop faded away as Domenico Boyagian considered the answer to my question. “My dad, Garbo Boyagian, is my hero. He sang on the stages of the biggest opera houses in the world—the Met, the Wienes Staatsoper, Covent Garden and La Fenice, to name a few.”

He paused for a moment to consider our surroundings, as if he were a child again in an adult world, possibly remembering a spectacular opera house in London or Rome.

“Growing up I was a spectator, sitting in on rehearsals. I would stay up late to listen in on rehearsals. I would wake up early to hear him clearly.”

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He paused for a moment to consider our surroundings, as if he were a child again in an adult world, possibly remembering a spectacular opera house in London or Rome.
The Rainforest Car Wash, in Cleveland Heights, is now open. Located on the corner of Mayfield and Middlehurst (enter from Middlehurst), this state of the art car wash is open to the public. Featuring a rain forest theme both inside and out, The Rainforest Car Wash will be the best car wash you’ve ever had.