Violin soloist performs

Kim Caklin

Each fall Cleveland Heights High School seniors sign up to audition for the coveted senior soloist spots in the instrumental music department (IMD) season programs. One of the honored seniors this year is Kelsey Ferguson who will be on stage playing Mendelssohn’s “Violin Concerto in E Minor” at a symphony concert on Friday, May 4.

A daughter of two music professionals, Ferguson began playing piano at age three and took up violin in fourth grade as a part of the CH-UH school district music program. She is now excited to be working with her friends and peers in the Heights High Orchestra. Ferguson has especially appreciated how the orchestra’s director, Daniel Hein, treats her as a professional, asking for collaborative input and responding to her cues as a soloist. She hopes that people will relate to the music and enjoy themselves.

Ferguson expressed gratitude to both sets of grandparents for purchasing the violin she will play on Friday and to her “trio mates and coach for just being great!” The piano trio she refers to will be one of several chamber groups playing a pre-concert program at 6:30 p.m. in the Heights High Social Room.

The joint performance by the Symphonic Winds and Orchestra will follow at 7:30 in the auditorium. In addition to the Mendelssohn piece, the program will feature Maurice Ravel’s “Pavane pour une infante défunte” and Camille Saint-Saëns’s “Danse Bacchanales” from “Samson et Dalila.”

Kelsey Ferguson performs on May 4 at Heights High Auditorium.

“The IMD is awesome. It’s such a strong community, and I’m going to miss it a lot,” said Ferguson, as she looks ahead to completing a double major in music performance and a yet-to-be-determined subject at DePaul University.

Ferguson was inspired by the “sparkle” of the Mendelssohn violin concerto years ago, but was initially advised that it was too difficult for her to master. Nonetheless, she wanted to push herself, and described what followed as the hardest, longest work she has ever undertaken. “It has brought me pretty far,” she says, “and it’s been an understatement.”

Kim Caklin is a Cleveland Heights resident, the parent of children in the CH-UH schools, a preschool teacher and an assistant in the high school instrumental music department.

FREE $300,000 due at closing. The vote was 6-2-1, with Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg and Susan Fuchs Mizrachi School.

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CH-UH presents Plan C to community

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District presented a third iteration of its facilities master plan to the public on April 18. Plan C, the “Community Plan,” responds to concerns raised about the previous options (Plans A and B). Plan C maintains all three middle school sites and adds an elementary school (Boulevard); however, it still calls for the closing of three elementary schools—Fairfax, Noble and Gearity.

“We heard loud and clear that the community did not like the big buildings contained in the previous plans and the loss of neighborhood schools,” said Eric Conklin, CH-UH Board of Education member. “I think Plan C addresses those concerns.”

In his statement to the more than 200 people gathered for the April 18 presentation, Superintendent Doug Heuer painted a bleak picture of the district’s future if a comprehensive facilities plan is not adopted. “If we do nothing to address our deteriorating school facilities,” he said, “we will be forced to spend at least $40 million on critical repairs that will continue to mount. That money will not update our schools, or allow us to avoid costly repairs just down the road.”

Fielding Naar, architectural consultants, presented details of Plan C.

• Noble, Gearity and Fairfax elementary schools would close. The district has nine potential partners who may be interested in repurposing the buildings. Future uses could include youth activities, technical education, and a senior center.

• The Gearity site would be used for swing space—temporary buildings to accommodate students displaced during construction.

• Four primary schools (grades preK-3) would be located at the current Roxboro, Canterbury, Oxford and Boulevard elementary school sites. Boulevard would be demolished and rebuilt, beginning summer 2015. Construction would begin at the other three buildings in 2016. They will retain their current footprints. Mechanical and electrical systems would be replaced, and interiors remodeled for flexible learning spaces.

• Three intermediate schools (grades 4-8) would be located on the existing middle school sites: Wiley, Monticello and Roxboro. The historic cores of Roxboro and Monticello would be preserved, additions would be demolished, and new space added. Interiors would be reconfigured for flexible learning spaces. Grades 4, 5 and 6 would be physically separated from grades 7 and 8. Wiley would be remodeled within its current footprint. Construction at Roxboro and Wiley would start in summer 2013, followed by Monticello in 2015.

• Cleveland Heights High School (grades 9-12) would remain at its existing site. The building’s historic core, football stadium and swimming pool would be preserved and renovated, post-1925 additions demolished, and new space added. The interior would be reconfigured for flexible learning spaces. Construction would begin in 2018—the last phase of the project—and possibly would be funded by a separate bond issue. Operational savings realized from the consolidation of primary and intermediate schools, estimated at $5.5 million annually, would help fund the high school.

Although school sites were added, the $389 million projected cost of Plan C is less than that of the two previous plans, which were each estimated in excess of $200 million. This was achieved by the cost-saving Plan C.

Bob Downey, long time CH city manager, resigns

Deanna Bremer Fisher

City Manager Bob Downey announced his retirement last month after learning that his contract would not be renewed.

The city manager is hired by council to supervise day-to-day operations, and serve as director of public safety.

Downey served as city manager from 1987-2012 and as assistant city manager from 1970-87. Prior to that, he was the personnel and budget manager for the City of Fairfield, Ohio.

Mayor Ed Case announced Downey’s resignation at the April 16 city council meeting. “Bob Downey did a great job for our community during these many years,” he said. “We thank him for his commitment and dedication. Cleveland Heights City Council wishes concluded on page 11

CUH to acquire Fuchs Mizrachi property

Kim Sergio Inglis

On April 16, University Heights City Council voted to approve, on second reading, a purchase agreement with The Leonard and Susan Fuchs Mizrachi School. The purchase price of $600,000 will be paid on a three-year schedule, with $150,000 due at closing. The vote was 6 to 1, with Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld said, on April 27, that she expected to sign the contract “in a week or so.”

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FutureHeights informs, educates and advocates via Observer

Highlights from Observer blogs
Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

A moment with . . . Antonio Pompa-Baldi
Born and raised in Foggia, Italy, Antonio Pompa-Baldi first came to the U.S. in 1999 to participate in the Cleveland International Piano Competition, in which he won first prize. Shortly thereafter he and his wife, Italian pianist Emanuela Friscioni, decided to make Cleveland Heights their home.

What is a typical day for you, how does your day unfold?
What is a typical day for you, how does your day unfold? When I am not traveling, I usually get up around 6:30 and wake my daughter Eleanor. The whole family has breakfast and then I take her to school. After that, I head to CIM.

What are your favorite aspects of living in the Heights?
There is a lot of culture here, many people being artists or patrons of the arts. I also love being so close to CIM and University Circle.

—Tiffany Laufer

On the persistence of dandelions
I have turned into one of those gardeners—the kind who pours through early-arriving plant catalogs to get through the long winter months when hands-on gardening is impossible. (Houseplants are no substitute, and seem to require a different kind of green thumb than I possess.)

This year’s warm and extended early spring gave me fleeting hope that I could get a jump on spring clean up and weeding, but a new job and other obligations kept me from spending more than a day or two in the yard. I was almost—almost—happy when cold weather returned, putting a hold on some spring’s progress, and the inevitable weeds that come with that first hint of warm weather.

—Kim Sergio Inglis
Opinion: An open letter to the CH-UH City School District on bullying

Matthew MacDonald

Being a kid in today's society makes my own childhood look primitive. Grade school children can be seen bawling about cell phones before and after school. Video games and video game systems were once the status symbol of a family that was well off. Instead of the world being right outside your door, it's now available in any part of your house as long as the Wi-Fi signal is strong enough.

If there is one constant that hasn't changed from my childhood to that of my children, it's bullying.

When I was growing up, getting bullied by someone was treated like a right of passage. You either let the bully continue demoralizing you on a regular basis, or you took matters into your own hands. That was as far as things went. People didn't die back then as a result of bullying.

When my family and I first moved to Cleveland Heights, I was very impressed with the school board's "no tolerance" stance when it came to bullying. It didn't take long for me to see how unwilling the school board is to follow up its words with decisive action.

Last year, my oldest daughter started having problems with some of her classmates. She was a student at Canterbury Elementary. Things got to the point where she would call home two to three times a week pretending to be sick, just because there was no end to the bullying.

This year, my wife and I enrolled her in Boulevard Elementary. We figured a change would be good for our daughter and we couldn't pass up the convenience—it's right at the end of our street. For all of the crowing that the school board has done, things have only gotten worse for our daughter.

Recently, I received a phone call from my daughter's teacher informing me that she was the victim of extortion by one of her classmates. On a weekly basis, my daughter would have to pay money to this classmate. If she didn't pay, she would get beaten up. Amazingly, this classmate was also doing this to boys in their grade as well.

Was this classmate made an example of the school district's "no tolerance" stance?

The classmate received a suspension, nothing more. The only thing that this classmate's suspension showed was that you can still act like a bully and get away with it.

Recently, I made a point of standing with my daughter in line one morning while we waited for the bell to ring. This same classmate was still bullying my daughter—while I was next to her! That following afternoon when I went to pick up my daughter, other classmates told her they were going to follow her home and jump her. Again, while I was standing right next to her!

These kids today never grew up without a computer. They never had to make a phone call on a land line. Most of them can't imagine a world without cable television or streaming Netflix. They feel that they are entitled, and this sense of entitlement has led them to believe that they are owed the world in spite of having to respect their elders.

School board members, it's time for you to wake up. Redefine your bullying policies. Instead of "no tolerance" adopt a "zero tolerance" attitude and start expelling kids who are bullying other kids.

How else do you expect to truly make a difference in the lives of those whom you have promised to educate?

Matthew MacDonald is a freelance writer based in Cleveland Heights.

Waiting to see what happens to Millikin

To the Editor,

I am writing about the Millikin property, which remains an open issue. As the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school board has its facilities evaluation to deal with declining population, and is promising to close more neighborhood buildings, taxpayers are wondering if Fairfax, Gecarity, and Noble neighborhoods will suffer the same drop in property values with the abandonment of those buildings, incuring the crime, trouble and disregard for upkeep that Millikin residents have had to put up with. Yet the facilities plan indeed calls for closing these buildings while asking for a levy to foot the bill.

The school board may have been negligent in the past with the property, but now has a unique opportunity to build trust with its constituency. Mosdos Ohr Hatorah, a private Orthodox day school, has made a fair market offer to purchase the property, repair it, and reinvest in the neighborhood. Yet so far, the board has not acted by putting it up for public sale, and is apparently delaying on the appraisal. It does so at the peril to its own plans.

Mosdos is but one element in the district ready and willing to work with the school board. If Millikin can be saved and retain its tradition and value by continuing to educate our district's children, the board would be signaling that it indeed cares about the values of all its residents. As recent letters signed by pastors of all faiths, and recent comments by former Cleveland Heights City Council Member Nancy Dietrich demonstrate, the entire district is watching and waiting to see if the board will grab this opportunity now.

Susan Efroymonov
Cleveland Heights

Board of Ed should consider a Plan D

“I don’t get a second chance to do this,” said Kal Zucker, CH-UH school board member, at the April 20 work session, where master facilities Plan C was presented to the board of education (BOE). The BOE acknowledged that residents are voicing opinions on what they are willing to support. I believe the BOE grasps the gravity of the situation and understands the need for a broad-based community support before a final plan is placed on the ballot.

I commend the BOE for questioning the position that only two options exist: Do nothing and continue to let the district bleed, or implement Plan C, a bold, large-scale plan that many in the community perceive as divisive and expensive.

Plan C clearly pits one community against the other, and we need to find a plan that brings us together. Save Our School—University Heights has been very vocal on three key issues:

• We believe we need to keep a public elementary school in UH or our community will be unattractive for families. This will decrease property values and the entire district will lose revenue over time.
• The BOE offices need to remain in UH or our city will suffer a severe and unanticipated decline in revenue. If one city decays, both will feel the impact.
• The plan needs to be fiscally responsible so our collective community can afford it.

We need a plan that addresses many of our needs, but is less radical and more cost effective than what is currently on the table.

To use an analogy: everyone wants to drive a Mercedes-Benz, and no one wants to drive a Yugo. People review what is reasonable, affordable and meets their needs, so they choose a Honda, a Ford or a Chevy.

In a district where three out of every five children live in poverty, it is irresponsible to consider only options at either end of the spectrum of “do nothing” or “do everything we’ll ever want.” We need to make sure the plan will actually lead to improved educational outcomes. Our children and our community deserve nothing less.

Our BOE members have the opportunity to be heroes by addressing our concerns and providing a cost-effective plan. I am encouraged that on May 14 both city governments and the BOE will meet. It’s long past time these entities work together for the good of their constituents.

I sincerely hope the BOE is listening.

Jodi Sourini
Member, Save Our School—University Heights

FUCHS MIZRAHI continued from page 1

cording to Ken Fisher, law director, the last steps (including title search) are in process, and should be completed soon. After that, the mayor will sign the contract.

Mayor Infeld said, “I am very happy that the city will own the last large remaining green space in University Heights. Although my preference is to use the property as a public park, I will appoint a citizens committee to make recommendations about the use of the property.” Asked about next steps, Infeld said, “I anticipate that the citizens committee will begin meeting in May, and likely will make recommendations to the city council later in the summer.”

At a March 12 town hall meeting, most in attendance expressed support for purchasing the property to create Saybrook Park. A show of hands indicated 40 in favor of the park, and 3 not in favor. Infeld explained that the purchase would be funded with a portion of the $3.1 million revenue surplus generated by the city in 2011, and carried over into 2012.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer.

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Is this the future of Cleveland?

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

MARCH 19, 2012
All council members were present.

Fair Housing Month
The city approved a resolution in which the city joins with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other communities nationwide in observing Fair Housing Month, and reaffirms the city’s 47-year commitment to open housing.

Cain Park schedule
Council Member Phyllis Evans reminded residents to watch for updates to the Cain Park summer schedule, as new performers are being added to the lineup.

CDBG funds
Council authorized the programming of additional Community Development Block Grant funds that have been awarded to the city, which received about $250,000 above the anticipated amount. The use of the funds must be approved by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The resolution covers $126,497 for street resurfacing and $40,000 for waterline repairs. The distribution of the remaining funds will be determined later.

Recycling equipment
Council authorized acceptance of a grant of $3,650 from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District for the purchase of recycling equipment, including eight 38-gallon recycling cans and ten ClearStream recycling bins with 200 bags. The recycling cans will be utilized at outdoor community events at Cain Park, Forest Hill Park, and other city properties to encourage recycling of cans and bottles at such events. The ClearStream bins will be distributed by the city for block parties and other similar events, also to encourage recycling.

3942 Delmore Road
Council authorized the sale of the city-owned single-family property at 3942 Delmore Road, which has been rehabilitated with federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds. The sale price is $70,000, with an award to the buyer of $5,000 in down payment assistance. This is the tenth house to be renovated and sold under the NSP. Proceeds from the sale go back into the program to address problems with vacant homes in the city.

1481 Rydalmount Road
Council approved a resolution declaring the property at 1481 Rydalmount Road to be a nuisance and authorizing abatement of the nuisance.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

APRIL 2, 2012
All council members were present.

Bids and contracts
City Manager Robert Downey requested and was granted authority to receive bids for the city’s 2012 road resurfacing program. Downey reported that contracts had been awarded to Erie Materials for the purchase of sand ($4,000), Arms Tracking for the purchase of gravel ($28,000), Bridgeport America for water and sewer billing services ($120,384), and Snively Excavating for the Denison pool demolition ($131,000).

Yard waste
Council Member Bonnie Caplan reminded residents that yard waste and debris must be placed in paper bags. Mounds of loose leaves will not be cleared by the city.

Monticello Boulevard environmental assessment
Council approved support for the grant application of Gleneoe Continuation Holdings to the Cuyahoga County Brownfield Redevelopment Fund Community Assessment Initiative. The grant will fund an environmental assessment of the commercial property at 3930–3938 Monticello Blvd. The company projects that 150 full-time jobs will result from the developing this property.

Sustainable development
Information about last week’s public hearing on the Sustainable Development Practices/Green Zoning Initiative is available for review on the city’s website.

Police cruiser purchase
Council authorized the purchase of police cruisers from the police department from Greve Chrysler Jeep Dodge. The purchase will be made through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program. The cost of nine Dodge Charger police cruisers, plus accessories, is not to exceed $225,000.

Nuisance properties
Council declared three abandoned properties to be nuisances and authorized abatement: 3643 Grovewood Road, 3421 Stilley Road, and 3527 Wardridge Drive.

Millikin School building
Council Member Jason Stein read a letter from the Heights Interfaith Council regarding the Millikin School building, encouraging the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school administration and board to “move forward in a prompt, open, and transparent manner to provide a solution that will maintain this community asset.”

Cain Park fundraiser
Council Member Phyllis Evans encouraged residents to support Cain Park by buying a brick paver. Prospective donors should call 216-791-5149.

Paul Gurgol
Council Member Evans offered a special tribute and accolades to the family and friends of stage director Paul Gurgol, who passed away recently. Gurgol was artistic director of Killope Stage and also directed productions at Cain Park, the Beck Center, and Opera Cleveland.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers’ written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlotte Moore and Maryann Smina. To receive email postings of full reports, send an email to mbrown9515@gmail.com or post through Google groups us

CH meetings now on YouTube
The City of Cleveland Heights is now posting video of council meetings and public hearings on its own YouTube channel. Go to www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandHeightsOH to view video of recent council meetings. Subscribe to receive notices of new postings.

City of Cleveland Heights revamps website
Cleveland Heights’s website, www.clevelandheights.com, has a fresh, new look and has been reorganized to help residents, prospective visitors, tourists and businesses find the information they need. This comprehensive website also includes additional sites for Cain Park, the Police Department, and Parks and Recreation. In addition, online registration for recreation programs will be available with the next season of classes.
Cedar Lee District debuts QR code, mobile site

By the end of May, visitors to the Cedar Lee district should begin to notice Quick Response (QR) codes displayed in shop windows. Those who scan the square barcodes with their phones will be directed to a new mobile site that aims to inform passersby about local events and perhaps help them choose their next destination, according to Kelley Robinson, director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District (SID).

“We’re finding a lot of people are creatures of habit and come to the district but will often go to the same places,” Robinson said, noting that while most people recognize the Cedar Lee Theatre, non-Eastsiders who visit might not know where to find Anatokia Café, for example. The primary purpose of the new QR code and mobile site is to encourage visitors to check out businesses they don’t usually frequent. A convenient directory and map feature will help make navigating the district easy, Robinson said.

When scanned with a smartphone’s camera, a QR code directs the user to a mobile website or app. The use of these visual links has skyrocketed recently, according to Robinson, who pointed out that many local newspaper ads now contain QR codes. They are used to promote products, distribute coupons, aid in the search for missing children, and are even being etched into gravestones to give people a way to digitally revisit memories of the departed. The technology is being used in Northeast Ohio for community building, and nearby districts, including Tremont and University Circle, are using mobile marketing, Robinson said.

“Having already established a social media presence, Cedar Lee making a mobile site was a natural next step,” she said.

Available for iOS, Android and Blackberry platforms by late May, the new mobile site will provide a listing of local companies, feature different merchants every few weeks with a “Business Spotlight,” and link to the Cedar Lee Facebook and Twitter pages.

Window clings imprinted with the QR code image are being distributed to every Cedar Lee business. Participants will also receive business cards featuring the QR code to distribute to their customers.

In addition to engaging loyal shoppers, attracting newcomers is another goal. “Most people with smart phones rely on the ability to access information immediately. This will play a pivotal role in keeping them engaged in our district,” Robinson said. “We’ve got a 10-minute proximity to University Circle and its institutions, and it would be ideal to capture more of that population and bring them to our district.”

According to the Pew Research Center, 46 percent of American adults owned smart phones in February 2011, and their use is growing, with adoption levels at 60 percent or more for college graduates; people with annual incomes of $75,000; and 18- to 35-year-olds. In June 2011, around 6.2 percent of the total US mobile audience—14 million mobile users—scanned at least one QR code, according to the researcher ComScore.

When it comes to QR codes, there are pros and cons, said Declan Sinnott, owner of Ireland Inc. and vice president of the SID board. “Of course, you want people to come in to your business, but having it on the window is also for people walking by my business who see it, and may want to go to a movie theater,” he explained. “If they scan the code, then they have that site on their phone so they can pull it up anytime. It’s making everything more convenient.”

Keeping content fresh will be a challenge, but with more than 100 businesses in the Cedar Lee district, “there’s always something happening,” Sinnott said. “Individual businesses will be able to update it, to feature drink specials, or events that are happening on a given night.”

The development of the code and site, by locally-owned UrbanMatrix Tech, cost around $24 each for the more than 100 businesses included in the directory, but Robinson said the Cedar Lee SID is paying that bill. Merchants can pay to update their menus, service listings and event details. Once they have had about a year to try it out, they can renew their participation.

“It will allow us to effectively use our limited resources to maximize the marketing opportunity for the district as a whole, reinforce our branding effort and engage the mobile consumer,” Robinson said. “It’s going to encourage consumers to continue to support independent local businesses, and strong commercial districts add stability to a community.”

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

MARCH 19, 2012
Councilman Philip Erkel was excused.

2012 water main replacement
Council approved advertisement for bids for the 2012 Water Main Replacement project. The City of Cleveland has agreed to replace the water mains for two streets, Lansdale and Westwood roads, in their entirety. Cleveland pays the cost for digging the pavement above the water lines, replacing the lines, and repaving that portion of the street. University Heights administers the project and thus advertises for contractor bids.

2012 budget
Council approved finalizing the city’s budget for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2012. Councilman Sims was concerned with leaving the repaving of Lansdale Road to a great process, but Joe Carr, city engineer, suggested that if the city can find money in its budget, potential funders would not be interested in providing grant money. Sims was assured that although this is a final budget, it could be amended over the course of the year if grant funding cannot be obtained and city funds become available.

Lansdale Road
Council authorized application for Com- munity Development Block Grant funding for Lansdale Road Streetscape Improvement. Council will be partially repaved in the process of replacing water mains but grant funding is needed to pave the other side of the street. The grant application is for the maximum amount of $150,000 and will also allow for traffi- cal calming measures, as Lansdale has become too fast through.

House repair notices
Homes between Washington and Miramar boulevards needing exterior repairs will receive letters. Building Director David Murne said these letters are in the public record and contractors will obtain the information and after their services to homeowners. This is legal. Financial assistance is available. People should contact the building department or call 211 (First Call for Help) for financial assistance.

LWV observer: Wendy Deening
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012
All council members were present.

Proposed park on Saybrook Road
Resident Sheila Hubman raised concerns about the proposed park on Saybrook Road, noting many unanswered questions about the existing building, secu- rity plans, lighting, hours and resources. Respond- ing to Hubman, Mayor Susan Infeld mentioned that if council approves land acquisition for the proposed park, the city would draw from a $4 million surplus for the purchase and demolition of the building (with a possible grant to help). There is no money in the budget to staff a community center or build or renovate a building. After acquisition, a committee would be appointed to study the site and make specific uses. Hubman made an ordinance authorizing a purchase agreement with The Leonard and Susan Funds Maschino School (the Saybrook property) receive an interest on first reading. Payment of the $600,000 purchase price would be on a three-month schedule, with $300,000 paid in the first year.

Schools facilities plans
The mayor attended a Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools facilities meeting and was dismayed to learn that the proposed plan included closing Gearity School, and the four remaining elementary schools would all be in Cleveland Heights. Councilwoman Faradee noted that one of those is Canterbury, which is one street from University Heights and enrolls 190 UH students. Currently, 170 UH stu- dents are at Gearity. Council had an extended discussion about the detrimental effects this plan would have on University Heights, especially the Gearity neighborhood. School Board President Karen Gorman Jones has suggested a meeting with the UH council after the community meeting at Heights High on April 18. Council dis- counted that this had not been offered. The mayor proposed a University Heights town meeting with school board members on April 11, knowing that more than 100 passionate residents support the proposed plan. Council will discuss a draft resolution at the April 16 council meeting.

LWV observer: Patricia Solcomen

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

See disclaimer on page 4.
Introducing Biblio Radio to the Heights

Jim Perkins

Cleveland Heights and University Heights, meet Biblio Radio, the new voice of your community library. Biblio Radio is a weekly segment on WJCU 88.7 FM and a podcast on www.wjcu.org and www.heightslibrary.org that informs Heights residents about events sponsored by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

There is something for listeners of every age on Biblio Radio. Past segments covered topics such as balancing a personal budget, home repair classes for adults, movie scripting and blogging classes for teens, a Dr. Seuss birthday party and sign language classes for kids. Future segments will cover everything from book clubs to art study groups.

Biblio Radio is a partnership between WJCU and the Heights Libraries. Each week, a WJCU producer meets with Sheryl Banks, marketing and community relations manager for Heights Libraries, and Andrea Register, marketing assistant and occasional Biblio Radio co-host. Together, they decide which library events to bring to the attention of WJCU listeners.

“We have incredibly talented librarians, so one of the best aspects of Biblio Radio is that we give them a chance to speak directly to the community about their programs,” said Banks.

“The partnership between the library and WJCU gives us the opportunity to promote two great Heights organizations at the same time,” said Register.

Heights Libraries and WJCU wanted to establish a voice outside of library walls, and reach Heights residents in a new way. Biblio Radio aims to be that voice, by sharing librarians’ insights, and encouraging listeners to participate in library events and programs.

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Jim Perkins is WJCU station manager, Biblio Radio creator/producer, and a communications management graduate student at John Carroll University.

‘Raise the Roof’ to celebrate 40 years of Home Repair Resource Center

Rebecca Stager

For four decades, the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has worked hand in hand with residents to keep the houses of Cleveland Heights in good repair, amounting to more than $4 million in home improvements, and benefiting both individual homeowners and their neighbors.

To celebrate this milestone, HRRC invites the public to “Raise the Roof: Celebrate 40 Years of HRRC.” This informal benefit party will be held on June 17, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., at Heights Grill on Lee Road. The celebration will recognize the organization’s history and impact, acknowledging key partners, and look ahead to HRRC’s next decades.

Led by Nancy Dietrich and Andrea Morris, a committee of HRRC’s supporters is planning the celebration. Tickets for the event are $40 per person, and space is limited. A house-themed auction will add to the evening’s festivities.

“HRRC has really made a difference in this community,” observed Kathryn Lad, HRRC board president.

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Cleveland Heights’s 2012 Preservation Month events

Kara Hamley O’Donnell

May is National Preservation Month and this year’s theme is “Discovering America’s Hidden Gems.” Here in Cleveland Heights, one month isn’t enough to celebrate all of the city’s hidden gems, so this year we’re stretching it a bit—starting in early May and continuing into July.

Preservation Month 2012 will feature seven free events co-sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, Cleveland Heights Historical Society, Heights Libraries, Future-Highs, Heights Bicycle Coalition and Home Repair Resource Center. Space is limited and preregistration is required for all events. See specific event for registration details. For additional information, contact Kara Hamley O’Donnell at 216-320-1885 or kodonnell@chvths.com.

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.–noon.

Eastside Kickers U9 Boys win Blast Cup

Playing in Series A, the premier division, of the Blast Cup in Columbus, the Eastside Kickers U9 Boys took home the gold with a 4-to-2 victory over Project 24 academy on April 15. The Blast Cup draws the best teams from throughout the United States, and the finals were played at a pounding tempo, and all 12 players were needed to win the first-ever Blast Cup for the team, which has won 42 games since last fall.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park clean up May 5

Joanne Campbell

Volunteers are needed for spring clean-up day at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., rain or shine. Help clean up the park, garden and make repairs. Tools, gloves, snacks, beverages and guidance will be provided.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park is the playground at the former Coventry Elementary School in Cleveland Heights. It was built in 1993 using funds raised and donated by area residents. Coventry P.E.A.C.E., the volunteer organization, cares for the park, hosts a twice annual clean-up and maintenance event.

A general meeting will take place at the park at 2 p.m., following the cleanup. For more information, call 216-832-4505 or e-mail erick.kauffman@sbglobal.net, or visit the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Coventry-P.E.A.C.E.

Joanne Campbell has helped maintain the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park since 1993.

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May is Bike Month in Cleveland Heights
Deidre McPherson

For the third year in a row, Cleveland Heights City Council has declared May Bike Month. Each year, the array of Bike Month activities in our city and region has grown.

The heart of Bike Month is Bike-to-Work Week, May 14–18. Highlights include, Bike-to-Work Day and the annual Ride of Silence to honor those killed while riding their bicycles.

Ride of Silence participants assemble at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, at the Whole Foods Market in University Heights. The ride starts at 6 p.m., and progresses through Cleveland Heights to the Adelbert Road entrance of University Hospitals, where bicyclists meet with others from Cleveland for a ceremony.

During morning rush hours on Bike-to-Work Day, 6:30–9:30 a.m., Friday, May 18, the Heights Bicycle Coalition, with the support of Phoenix Coffee and others, will provide a coffee station at the intersection of Edgewood and Overlook roads. Bicycle commuters are invited to stop for free coffee and edible items.

Edgewood Road, between Cleveland Heights and University Circle, is one of the busiest bicycle routes in Northeast Ohio, with hundreds of bicyclists using this roadway everyday.

Other bicycling events will occur throughout Bike Month:

• On Thursday, May 3, at 7 p.m., the Heights Bicycle Coalition holds its first annual meeting since gaining 501(c)3 status from the IRS earlier this year. The meeting is at the Lee Road Library and includes the election of officers and board members, a progress report, a talk by newly appointed Bike Cleveland executive, Jacob VanSickle, and opportunities to get involved.

• On Wednesday, May 9, schools are invited to participate in the inaugural national Bike-to-School Day.

• On Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.–noon, the Heights Bicycle Coalition and the Cleveland Heights Historical Society collaborate on a free Biking Tour of Historic Districts. Meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. Brief lectures describe architectural features and styles to look for in the ride's historic districts and sites. Pre-registration by calling the Cleveland Heights Planning Department, 216-991-4858. (Rain date is Saturday, May 26.)

• On Friday, May 25, Fairfax Elementary School will present a Bike Rodeo to train students in safe bicycling. Fairfax is also home to a weekly after-school bicycle club from mid-April through May. These pilot programs are anticipated to spread to other schools in the future.

Bike Cleveland also lists many Bike Month events in Cleveland and the region on its website, http://bikecleveland.org.

Deidre McPherson serves on the education and encouragement committee of the Heights Bicycle Coalition.

Getting geared up

Heights Bicycle Coalition
With gasoline prices near $4 a gallon, using a bicycle for transportation is more attractive than ever. In addition to the economic advantage, cycling is a great way to exercise while also doing errands or commuting to work.

In city traffic, cycling can be almost as fast as driving a car. The average new-to-cycling woman can ride one mile in 6–7 minutes, which means she can cover 10–12 miles in an hour. More experienced cyclists can ride at 15–18 mph.

For all cyclists, developing road riding skills is more important to safety and enjoyment than any piece of safety equipment. The Ohio City Bike Coop offers bicycling classes that teach the skills needed to operate a bike confidently on the road. Bicyclists are required by Ohio law to follow most of the same laws as other vehicles, and they also have most of the same rights. It is important to ride predictably, use hand signals to communicate turns, and obey stop signs and red lights.

Motorists also have responsibilities while sharing the road with non-motorized riders. Ohio law requires cars to pass bicycles at “a safe distance.” The Ohio Bicycle Federation suggests that a safe distance is at least three feet.

The Heights Bicycle Coalition encourages cycling as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation. For more information or to get involved, visit our website www.bikeintheheights.org or find us on Facebook.

Another resource for local rides and cycling activities is Bike Cleveland, www.bikecleveland.org.

The Heights Bicycle Coalition was formed in the spring of 2010 and works to encourage citizens to ride bicycles for fun, fitness and transportation.

Chinese Summer Camp
Confucius Institute
Chinese Summer Camp for 7th–12th Grade Students
July 16–20, 2012 at UA-Lakewood

• Presented by The University of Akron Confucius Institute

• Learn Chinese language, art, history, calligraphy and more.

• Friday Field Trip to Cleveland’s Asia Town

Dates: July 16–20, 2012 • Time: 9am to 4pm
Location: UA-Lakewood • 14725 Detroit Ave Lakewood
Cost: $160 per student • Registration Deadline: May 31, 2012
Application form available at: https://lakewood.uakron.edu/

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Citizen action is something to celebrate

Sue Kaeser

In 1966, Painesville residents Diana and Ted Woodbridge started their search for a home closer to the city. As they looked for housing in Cleveland's eastern suburbs, the white couple was steered away from a neighborhood that had recently started to integrate—a distressing artifact of the days of legally sanctioned racial segregation. The experience began a life-changing journey that, five years later, produced a powerful resource for justice that endures today: Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC).

In 1968, after moving to the predominantly white Oxford neighborhood of Cleveland Heights, Diana Woodbridge became a checker for the Suburban Citizens for Open Housing. When she learned that an African-American woman seeking to rent an apartment was rejected by the landlord, Woodbridge posed as a prospective tenant for the same unit and was offered a lease.

“It was blatant discrimination,” she recalled.

Woodbridge's commitment to justice and inclusion developed further when she participated in the Church and Society Committee at Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian. The committee studied race and reconciliation one year, and the next year focused on social change and fair housing. The group felt compelled to act.

Woodbridge knew exactly what she wanted to do: make Cleveland Heights—a community that was just beginning to include African-American homeowners—a model integrated community. She had passion, conscience, vision, and a trusted group of colleagues with whom she shared determination to make a difference.

“We were lucky,” remembered Woodbridge. “Members of our group had the expertise for creating a nonprofit. In September of 1971, Charlie Ault helped us incorporate as Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation. We had a vision for our community. We wanted to make a difference. We settled on something we knew was critical to a stable, diverse, welcoming community: keeping the houses in good repair.” Woodbridge eventually became the executive director of the new nonprofit and held the job for 35 years.

Forty years ago, the church-based group began to evolve and build a supportive board separate from the church. Today it operates as HRRC, and through an enduring presence made possible by an inspiring and critical mission, effective programs, and the financial support and energy of community members, it has empowered homeowners to invest more than $4 million in their homes—touching nearly every street in Cleveland Heights.

This combination of zeal, empowerment and a group of caring citizens with a common purpose is a recipe for successful citizen activism, the building block of a just society and a strong community.

Since then, many other citizen-led and supported nonprofits have been established to enrich community life. HRRC was followed by the Heights Community Congress, Heights Parent Center, Reaching Heights, Heights Arts, Future Heights, Open Doors, Heights Youth Club. This year Lake Erie Ink and the Heights Bicycle Coalition joined the ranks of locally focused nonprofits, and more will follow as needs change and new generations of activists step forward to shape our city.

This year HRRC, Heights Community Congress, FutureHeights and the Heights Parent Center will achieve significant milestones. These programs built stronger ties and deeper commitments among our residents. They built community, which is the strongest resource there is for stability.

As we celebrate this great history and tradition, I hope it will renew our sense of responsibility to one another, and inspire a new and diverse generation of community leaders to come forward to pursue their vision for our community and society through collective citizen activism.

Sue Kaeser is former director of Reaching Heights and a board member of the Home Repair Resource Center. She has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1979.

Fairfax School Young Authors Conference needs volunteers

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Students at Fairfax Elementary School will spend the month of May writing, revising, illustrating and binding their own works of fiction. The first annual Young Authors Conference will center on the theme Journeys, as students create individual tales of trips to places real or imagined.

Volunteers are needed for many different tasks:

• Helping the students bind their books in art class during the weeks of April 30–May 4 and May 7–11.

• Guiding pairs of students through peer conferences during the revision and editing stage, May 14–18. Volunteers will receive a brief training for this.

• Taping the students’ final drafts. This can be done at home, on your own computer on your own time, between May 22–29.

• Donating old wallpaper samples for the book covers.

Contact Krissy Dietrich Gallagher at kcdg@live.com or 216-397-6587 to volunteer, or for more information.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of Heights schools, and a former Coventry schoolteacher. She currently sits on the Board of Directors of Family Connections, while raising her two sons and working on her memoir. She blogs at http://krissygallagher.wordpress.com.

Get ahead with a Saturday MBA.

Now, working professionals can earn an MBA in just two years. Classes meet every other Saturday using a hybrid in-class and distance-learning format.

Attend our information session to learn more:

The University of Akron Lakewood
Thursday, May 24, 6-7:30 p.m.
216-221-1141
lakewood.uakron.edu

We’re located in the historic Bailey Bldg. at Detroit and Warren roads in Lakewood, Ohio. Our main entrance is to the south of the building just off of the parking lot.

Visit mba.uakron.edu to learn more about the Saturday MBA program.
Cleveland Foodbank benefit outreach program simplifies application process

Jamie Sullivan

The Cleveland Foodbank understands that times are tough and money is tight for many in Northeast Ohio. To help, the Foodbank started a new benefit outreach program to make the application process quick and easy for more than 20 programs, including SNAP (food stamps), IVF, child support, child care vouchers, WIC, medical coverage, and other assistance programs.

The Foodbank’s team of benefit counselors can assist people with the application process by phone, and outreach counselors can help people apply in person. Those who are not currently receiving SNAP can call the Foodbank to determine eligibility, find helpful resources in the community, and apply for assistance—all in one phone call.

Lauren Thomas is the outreach worker for Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Contact her by phone at 216-200-3041, or by email at lthomas@clevelandfoodbank.org.

Assistance is available for seniors, families, full- and part-time workers, the unemployed—anyone 18 years of age or older who is struggling to make ends meet. Eligibility is based on monthly income and expenses, including medical, rent and utilities. Anyone making less than $1,200 per month may be eligible for assistance. This food assistance is not a charity program; it is an entitlement program and is given to anyone who qualifies. If you have never used assistance programs before and have questions, call 216-738-2067. For more information, visit www.clevelandfoodbank.org.

Jamie Sullivan is program manager for the Cleveland Foodbank’s benefit outreach program.

Recycling batteries in University Heights

Penny Adkins

As a conscientious recycler, you may have been dropping off batteries at the University Heights Recycling Center. Until March of this year, however, batteries were not recycled; they were thrown out.

As a result of the efforts of one concerned resident, the City of University Heights now recycles all types of batteries, through a program paid for by The Big Green Box—the only company in Ohio that recycles batteries.

UH residents may have noticed several new blue receptacles at the paper/cycling truck at the UH Recycling Center behind city hall and the fire station. One is marked for batteries. Others are marked for glass, plastic, metallic material, paper, cell phone and related accessories.

Alkaline batteries should be placed in bags so that they can be easily handled. Auto batteries can be placed next to the battery container at the Cedar Fairmount SID, 50 Fairmount East.

“Because we are a city manager form of government, the importance of Bob’s contributions cannot be understated,” said Council Member Dennis Wilcox.

“We have real challenges. The city is what it is today because of Bob’s presence,” he said.

Bob built a strong team at city hall. He managed the city budget through the recession, and developed more than 300 new housing units in the city.”

Kelley noted that there has been more than $400 million in new development in the city in the last 12 years, including the Coventry streetscape, the redevelopment of Severance Town Center, numerous road projects and the construction of the Cleveland Heights Community Center. “Downey managed a budget of more than $40 million and effectively managed a staff of more than 400,” he added.

Susanna Nierman O’Neil, appointed interim city manager at the April 16 meeting, said, “The evolution of our community and our residents. We were led to do what we felt was the best for our departments. He had an open-door policy: You didn’t have to get on a calendar or make an appointment. As a result, there were many on a line of people wanting to see him—senior staff—who brainstormed about ideas as they were waiting.”

John Gibbon, city law director, praised him well in his future endeavors.

“Because we are a city manager form of government, the importance of Bob’s contributions cannot be understated,” said Council Member Dennis Wilcox.

“He is one of the reasons why the city is what it is today,” Wilcox attributed Downey’s tenure, at least in part, to his management skills. “The city has remained integrally connected to its vibrant,” he said.

Council Member Bonnie Caplan praised Downey’s professionalism. “He served the community with intelligence, hard work, vision and caring. His home is here, and he was ready to be accessible. He had an intimate knowledge of the Cedar Fairmount area. We enjoyed working with him and will miss his cooperation.”

CH City Council intends to do a national search to fill the position.

“Cleveland Heights is a unique and vital first-ring suburb,” said Mayor Kelley. “Our community’s commitment to diversity and to innovation is well known. We will be looking for a talented, experienced administrator who will embrace our city and our residents.”

Kelley added, “I am not going to rush this process. We want to get the best person in place to lead our city. I am confident in the abilities of Susanna and the rest of our staff to continue the city’s work.”

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

Thunder Run to be held in Forest Hill Park

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Forest Hill Thunder Run 2012 will take place at 8 a.m., on Saturday, July 21 in Forest Hill Park. This year’s 5k run will benefit FutureHeights, a nonprofit that promotes a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights through innovative, idealistic civic engagement.

The event benefits a different Heights-based nonprofit every year. Organizers Jim Roosa and Jed Kools began the run in 2009, the inaugural event took place on July 18, 2009 and drew 60 registrants from throughout Northeast Ohio. Proceeds were donated to the Heights Emergency Center. In 2010, the event drew even more participants and proceeds were donated to Reaching Heights. After a hiatus in 2011, the event is back.

“The run has brought well-deserved attention to beautiful Forest Hill Park, which straddles the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland,” said Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

Jamie Sullivan

As a conscientious recycler, you may have been dropping off batteries at the University Heights Recycling Center. Until March of this year, however, batteries were not recycled; they were thrown out.

As a result of the efforts of one concerned resident, the City of University Heights now recycles all types of batteries, through a program paid for by The Big Green Box—the only company in Ohio that recycles batteries. UH residents may have noticed several new blue receptacles at the paper/cycling truck at the UH Recycling Center behind city hall and the fire station. One is marked for batteries. Others are marked for glass, plastic, metallic material, paper, cell phone and related accessories.

Alkaline batteries should be placed in bags so that they can be easily handled. Auto batteries can be placed next to the battery container at the Cedar Fairmount SID, 50 Fairmount East. (Phone (602) 781)8998

For more information about the City’s recycling program, visit chuhfacilitiesmasterplan.wordpress.com.

Cleveland Heights Observer May 1, 2012 11 www.heightsobserver.org

It’s true. Good food tastes better!

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

Recycling batteries in University Heights

Penny Adkins

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Jamie Sullivan

The Cleveland Foodbank understands that times are tough and money is tight for many in Northeast Ohio. To help, the Foodbank started a new benefit outreach program to make the application process quick and easy for more than 20 programs, including SNAP (food stamps), IVF, child support, child care vouchers, WIC, medical coverage, and other assistance programs.

The Foodbank’s team of benefit counselors can assist people with the application process by phone, and outreach counselors can help people apply in person. Those who are not currently receiving SNAP can call the Foodbank to determine eligibility, find helpful resources in the community, and apply for assistance—all in one phone call.

Lauren Thomas is the outreach worker for Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Contact her by phone at 216-200-3041, or by email at lthomas@clevelandfoodbank.org.

Assistance is available for seniors, families, full- and part-time workers, the unemployed—anyone 18 years of age or older who is struggling to make ends meet. Eligibility is based on monthly income and expenses, including medical, rent and utilities. Anyone making less than $1,200 per month may be eligible for assistance. This food assistance is not a charity program; it is an entitlement program and is given to anyone who qualifies. If you have never used assistance programs before and have questions, call 216-738-2067. For more information, visit www.clevelandfoodbank.org.

Jamie Sullivan is program manager for the Cleveland Foodbank’s benefit outreach program.
Local preschoolers give back

Kirsten Radivoyevitch

People are never too young to make a difference in the lives of others. Learning the value of giving back is an important part of the curriculum at St. Paul’s Cooperative Preschool.

St. Paul’s has a long tradition of community outreach and support. The preschool’s latest project let children take on responsibility while experiencing the excitement and satisfaction of helping animals. The children partnered with the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center, a refuge for animals that are not able to survive in their natural habitat.

After learning about the various animals at the center, the preschoolers voted to adopt Coil, a black rat snake. Coil has been imprinted, meaning that he has grown too accustomed to human interaction to live in the wild.

Coil was the guest of honor at the school’s pancake breakfast. The children introduced St. Paul’s preschool families to their newly adopted snake, Coil.

A representative from the Clinton Wildlife Center introduces St. Paul’s preschool families to their newly adopted snake, Coil.

with a broad range of experiences, incorporating principles that create a foundation for civic responsibility and empathy,” said Gina Gillombardo, a school parent. “I love that they recognize the importance of building strong citizens of the future.”

Kirsten Radivoyevitch is an early childhood educator and mother of four.

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What’s going on at your library?

Visit www.heightslibrary.org for the complete calendar, and to register for selected events.

**Coventry Village Library**
1925 Coventry Road, 216-231-5400

**Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m.**

**Noble Neighborhood Library**
13800 Noble Road, 216-207-5665

**Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m.**
Pajamas in the PLA Room. Come for books, music, rhymes, puppets and toys.

This evening storytime will focus on the learning stations in the PLA Room. For ages 3–6.

**University Heights Library**
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

**Wednesday, May 16, 12:30 p.m.**
The Senior Spot: Sensational Strawberries. Strawberry season starts this month. Learn all about this delicious local treat.

**Thursday, May 24, 7 p.m.**
National Backyard Games Day. Learn and play new games at the library. Then go teach them to your friends. For grades K–5.

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**Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board**

**March 19, 2012**
Carole Carter was absent.

**Liquor permit for Dobama Theatre**
Representatives of Dobama asked for the board’s approval of Dobama’s application for a liquor permit. Dobama is seeking a non-profit liquor permit to sell beer and wine when the theatre is open for performances and fundraisers. All consumption of liquor will be inside Dobama’s premises and not in the lobby area that it shares with the library. Regarding board concerns on liability, Dobama’s representative noted that the theatre carries its own insurance, and Library Director Nancy Levin said that an informal discussion with the library’s carrier indicated that there would be no issues. The board tabled a resolution to approve the application subject to further checking with the library’s insurance carrier.

**2012 budget**
The completed 2012 budget was presented to the board. While the collection budget remains the same as that of 2011, a larger share will go to ebooks and downloadable material. Building and repair fund expenditures will include the build-out of the old gym space, and the library will seek other funding to aid this project.

**Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center**
To fill space in Activity Center
Director Laura met with Studio Techne architects to plan a timeline for construction of the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center in the unused space in the Activity Center building. When completed, the library has applied for a $400,000 matching grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Grant funding would be used for enhancement of the Computer Gallery, the creation of a small business/nonprofit incubation space, and the relocation of Cleveland State’s Montie Ahuja College of Business, Small Business Development Center to this space.

**Safety concern at Noble**
A customer raised a concern over safety at the Noble Neighborhood Library. Two young males, who were hidden by shrubbery behind the library where there is a board-on-board fence, accosted and cursed at him. The board asked the police to trim the shrubbery to the height of the lower shrubs around the main library building. Board President Esther Moss said that the situation would be addressed and he would be contacted about the resolution. Director Levin indicated that there had been an incident report from Noble.

**Time Warner charges for Internet connections**
Prior to this year, the library was able to connect its buildings to Internet service at no charge through the contract the City of Cleveland Heights had with Time Warner. Due to a suit by AT&T against Time Warner, Time Warner no longer has to offer this service at no charge. In discussion with Clevnet, the library will now move its Internet hub from the school district’s Delisle Building to the Lee Road Library. The board approved a five-year contract with Time Warner for $26,364 annually, which will provide a two-stand fiber connection from the hub to each of the three branches.

**Board chooses NODIS for survey**
The board chose NODIS for surveying Library Services. Grant funding would be used for enhancement of the Computer Gallery, the creation of a small business/nonprofit incubation space, and the relocation of Cleveland State’s Montie Ahuja College of Business, Small Business Development Center to this space.

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**Stuffed animals run amok at the Library**

What happens when stuffed animals go loose in a library overnight? Heights Libraries found out on Saturday, April 14, at the Stuffed Animal Discovery at the Lee Road branch. After a special storytime, kids picked up their stuffed friends goodbye, leaving them alone in the library for a fun-filled night of mayhem and mischief. On Sunday, kids picked up their friends, along with a photo booklet revealing what had happened overnight while no one was watching.

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**Scott Haigh**
Real Estate Services
20430 Almar Drive, Shaker Heights
Local students participate in science fair at CSU

Jenn Prater

The din coming from the Cleveland State University Recreation Center in mid-March was not the usual speaking of athletic shoes on the polished wood floor. Instead, the gym was abuzz with 600 students in grades 7–12 from more than 100 public, private and parochial schools in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties. They were there to showcase their work at the 97th annual Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF).

Presented by Cleveland State University, Cleveland Clinic and Great Lakes Science Center, NEOSEF provides an opportunity for students to discuss their work with local experts. Science fairs are not just about winning scholarships (though those are motivating). Students who participate in these fairs develop skills in research and problem solving, as well as in oral and written communication.

Cathy Dhalio, president of NEOSEF, assistant dean of undergraduate studies, instructor of biology at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Heights resident, believes a good science project starts with a good question, which leads to investigations with measurable results. This year’s students asked important questions, some with broad implications. As they consider the scientific process, questions evolve into a premise that can be tested. NEOSEF selects students to represent the region at the next levels of competition. This year, NEOSEF is sending four grand-prize winners, from grades 9 through 12, to the INTELL International Science and Engineering Fair, where they will compete with 1,700 students from more than 45 million in scholarships and prizes.

Representing Beaumont School were Danielle Dejak, Katie Hanks, Maria Iannit, Jane Kim, Erika Klek, Gabriela Leskur, Anna Libertin, Grace Mascha, Leat Perez, Marija Rowane, Allison Siragusa and Johanna Tomsick. Several Cleveland Heights middle school students competed as well, including Isabel Catanazzo, Ethan Hynds, Abigail Christine Kopp, Samah Malikieh, Rachel Nowak, Grace Rossi, Anna Zarembs and Matthew Zarembs, all from the Communion of Saints.

NEOSEF is a nonprofit volunteer organization, established in 1955, whose goal is to inspire young people in science and engineering by participating in competition. Many local businesses and organizations make the competition possible. These include Adcom Communications, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland State University, Dominion, FirstEnergy and Great Lakes Science Center, Gund Foundation, John Carroll University, Lubrizol Foundation, the Plain Dealer, PolyOne Corporation, Rockwell Automation and the Sherwin-Williams Company.

Jenn Prater, a resident of Cleveland Heights and graduate of Cleveland State University, works as a research editor for a local bank.

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Heights High basketball player Jasmine, Antonio, and Alexandra Harper were standout players this year. The girls varsity team was league champion, the boys received the #1 seed in the district tournament and reached the semifinals, and the girls freshman team played a strong season.

Their coaches say the three sibling post players have solid game fundamentals and leadership skills. Their success in basketball is paired with success in the classroom—they each have GPAs higher than 3.0.

The Harper family’s dedication to basketball and school started with parents James and Elaine, both educators and athletes. While attending college, James played football and Elaine basketball. Elaine also played professional basketball in Greece. In addition to basketball, the Harper girls play volleyball and run track, and Antonio plays football and runs track. They all swim, play soccer and tennis, and were trained in traditional Greek dance.

“Our family focus has always been on both academics and athletics,” James said. “We tell them that success in both will bring them more opportunities.”

James and Elaine said they started their family during March Madness—Jasmine was born on March 17, with the broadcast of the first tournament game of 1994 as the soundtrack.

By the time Jasmine was five, James was coaching her youth basketball team at Hillcrest Y and later their church team at Sts. Constantine and Helen.

The teams quickly added Antonio and Alex. Elaine coached from the sidelines, equipped with a video camera and Ga- torana.

This has been a special year for the family, Elaine said. “Watching the games and seeing our kids grow and succeed has been fantastic,” she said. “Heights High has been great for all of us.”

The Harper family includes Elaine, Jasmine, Antonio, Alex and James (L-R). The family focuses both on academics and athletics.

Jasmine, now a senior, was captain of the girls varsity team and led the Lady Tigers to an LEL championship. Coach Kim Hanson depended on Jasmine to score and help others during practice. “She is a gamer. When we faced our toughest opponents, she put the team on her shoulders,” Hanson said. Jasmine plans to study pre-med in college this fall and play basketball.

Antonio, a junior, was a starter on the boys varsity team. “Antonio understands his role. He plays hard and I can always depend on him to get the job done,” said Coach Andy Sutrell. “And even more important, he is a great young man.” Antonio is in the interactive media program and wants to study video communications in college.

Alex played on the freshman team. “Alex has been very generous in her leadership and she has made a real difference on the team,” said Coach Karen Battie. “We are looking for her to add even more next year.”

All three kids expressed gratitude for their parents’ support. “I have a good understanding of the game because of my dad,” Jasmine said.

“He also stressed that we need to step up to be team leaders,” Alex added. Antonio explained: “Dad had us play hard, in hot gears, the girls playing against boys; we all played against older players, and we watched video—all of that paid off.”

This year the Harper family celebrated Jasmine’s eighteenth birthday and March Madness in Columbus, watching six games. The Harper family is not defined by basketball, but it is a strong force that unites them.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison at Heights High.
Senior Citizen Happenings for May

May 17: Sonya Callahan, community services associate for LifeBanc, the nonprofit organ and tissue recovery organization for Northeast Ohio, tells why transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine.

May 24: Lynn Zimmerman, head of the English department at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, celebrates the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens’s birth with a scholar’s analysis of his novels, Great Expectations, Bleak House, and Hard Times.

May 31: Jeffrey Brack, memorial advisor, and Katherine Goss, executive director of the Lakeview Foundation, will discuss Lakeview Cemetery, which shelters and honors the remains of many whose lives may have touched our own.

Facts about hospice care

Hospice care provides support for terminally ill people and their families. There are several misconceptions about hospice, due to misunderstandings about what hospice is and a common reluctance to think about end-of-life realities. Clearing up these misunderstandings can help families better decide if, how, and when to incorporate hospice into the care plan for a loved one.

Hospice care consists of a team of doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, pharmacists, social workers, spiritual counselors, companionship volunteers and bereavement specialists. The patient’s family, caregivers and physician are also members of the team. The purpose of hospice is to help patients spend their last days in as much physical and mental comfort as possible. Hospice is not a specific place. Rather, it is a service that can be provided anywhere that the patient calls home—a house, apartment, assisted-living community, skilled nursing facility, hospital or any other location.

Anyone who is terminally ill can receive hospice care, and he or she does not have to be bedridden. Hospice costs are covered by Medicare and private insurance. The Medicare hospice benefit never expires, so the care can be continued for as long as the patient needs it. The benefit also covers the patient’s medication and medical equipment.

Many people view entering hospice as giving up. Michele Oblak of Senior Independence Hospice offers a different view: “The patient is not giving up when they enter hospice care. Rather, they are taking control. They decide what assistance they would like to have and when.”

Senior Independence Hospice recently assisted a Cleveland Heights woman whose terminally ill father was in a nursing home. They helped move him to the daughter’s house, and got him the medication and equipment he needed. He was able to die in the comfort of a family environment. “The purpose of hospice is to maintain the patient’s quality of life for as long as possible,” said Oblak.

Laurie Henrichsen of Hospice of the Western Reserve agrees. “Many people don’t realize that hospice care can actually help prolong life, if it is started early,” she said. “It also reduces a lot of stress on the family.”

In order to receive the greatest benefit from hospice care, it should be started as soon as the patient is eligible, rather than waiting until the last few weeks of life. Not all hospice care providers are alike, so Henrichsen recommends beginning a search early and evaluating the differences. “Ask for recommendations from family, friends and your doctor,” she said. “Find out your end-of-life wishes in writing while you are still able to do so. This way your family will know how you prefer to spend your final days.”

Contact Senior Independence Hospice at 440-993-1216, and Hospice of the Western Reserve at 800-707-8922.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through www.LovingHandsGroup.com. She may be reached at 216-408-5578.
Prohibition-era Chicago was overrun by murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery. "Chicago," the dark musical, tells the tale of two merry murderers in the Cook County jail—Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly. Set in a 1920s speakeasy, Chicago presents the satiric nature of the original libretto, highlighting the sinister nature of the original libretto, and promising a good time for all who catch the show.

The cost includes 30 talented students in 7th through 12th grade, many from Cleveland Heights and University Heights, and professional musicians playing the rousing score. Lead cast members include: Sophie Madosky (Velma Kelly), Katie Wilkinson (Roxie Hart), Ian Kallay (Fred Casely), Matthew Hart, Kaleigh Wilkinson (Roxie Hart), Ian Kallay (Fred Casely), Ma-

State Farm Insurance, Sirrah Transpor-
tation, Lustrous Designs, Zagara’s Marke-
time, System 4, and Justin Hor-
ton—admission to this year’s Roxboro Arts Festival has been reduced to $2 per child. Adults are admitted free of charge. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

For more information, e-mail rockefellers@rochester.com.

Lance Godard is the parent of two Roxboro students. He has lived in Cleveland Heights for more than 15 years.

The 30th annual Roxboro Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Roxboro Elementary School, 2405 Roxboro Road in Cleve-
land Heights.

Hosted by the Roxboro Elementary PTA, this year’s festival is expected to bring together more than 400 people from across the Heights community to celebrate the arts, our schools, and our children. It promises to be a fun-
filled afternoon for children of all ages, with hands-on arts and crafts activities, games, music, dancing, and food from a variety of local restaurants and cafes, including Mr. Brisket, Mitchell’s Ice Cream, Guy’s Pizza and more.

There will be also an arts and crafts sale featuring the work of local artists, and a plant sale hosted by the Roxboro Middle School.

Among this year’s attractions are an installation by renowned "Leggo guy" Ar-
thur Guigic, the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, and a variety of live entertainment, including local guitarists Eric Fair and the Heights High Jazz Ensemble.

Thanks to the generous donations of this year’s sponsors—RoxArts, the Cleveland Center for Eating Disorders, the CH-UH Public Library, Stan Harris

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Heights Youth Theatre presents ‘Chicago’

Lance Godard

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Lance Godard is the parent of two Roxboro students. He has lived in Cleveland Heights for more than 15 years.
Richard Kogan gives lecture and recital on Mozart

Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Schumann, Leonard Bernstein, and most recently George Gershwin, have been featured in programs over the last 10 years. Kogan is a practicing psychotherapist as well as musician. His appeal to analysts is his recognition of the impact of early childhood development and life events on the emerging personalities and music of artists.

The benefit lecture/recital will take place in the Mixon Hall of CIM. The two-story wall behind the stage is a huge glass window, enabling the audience to watch the evening progress to darkness while Kogan performs at the piano. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m., without intermission, followed by a dessert reception. Tickets are $75 per person. Guests who purchase tickets at the Patron level of $125 will have their names listed in the program. Tickets are available from the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center at 216-229-1595.

Richard Lightbody is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and chair of the education committee of Cleveland Psychoanalytic Center.

Registration open for Heights Summer Music Camp

Susie Keaser

Reaching Heights is looking for instrumental music students who want to spend a week playing great music.

Enrollment is now open for the Heights Summer Music Camp, which will be held from June 18–23 at Wiley Middle School. Reaching Heights started the camp in partnership with the CH-UH City School District in 2005, as an affordable opportunity to energize and develop 10 to 15-year-old musicians, and increase summer opportunities for youth.

The week-long program serves fifth through eighth graders who have participated in their school instrumental music program for at least two years, or have had a year of private lessons. Experienced fourth graders may participate by teacher recommendation. Campers must be residents of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district.

Daniel Heim, Heights High instrumental music director, is the music director and conductor for the camp. More than 25 music educators and professionals, along with college and high school musicians, provide expert instruction and mentoring to campers. A finale concert on June 23 will showcase camper progress.

The deadline for applications is May 15. Space is limited to 65 musicians. A placement audition for all new campers is scheduled for May 10. Financial assistance is available, to ensure that all motivated music students are able to participate.

The serious but relaxed setting is both motivating and fun. Campers play music from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., with breaks for lunch, recitals, crafts and recreation. The daily schedule of orchestra rehearsals and sectional practice, chamber groups, and music theory builds skills and confidence. Campers also explore a variety of musical traditions through vocal, guitar and jazz workshops.

Applications are available online at www.reachingheights.org or by calling 216-371-9201.

Susie Keaser is former director of Reaching Heights and a board member of the Home Repair Resource Center. She has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1979.

Summer with Heights Arts

Peggy Spathe

Heights Arts offers rich opportunities to observe and make art at Heights Arts Gallery and around town. For complete information visit www.heightsarts.org.

Create: Workshops for teens and adults include silk painting with Susan Skove, mosaic with Susan Gallagher, yarn bombing with Carol Hummel, and writing with Cindy Washabaugh. Catherine Butler and Trisha Kenny offer popular kids classes.

Look: During May, The Small Show exhibits small works by significant artists. Works include painting, photography, fiber, and sculpture by Amber Anderson, Susan Danko, Emily Felderman, Renee Harris, Lynn O’Brien and Campbell Paxton.

Listen: Stay tuned for free concerts by local bands this summer, in the Cedar Lee minipark. Attend our popular chamber music concerts at the Dunham Tavern. The summer concert will be “Americana”: music by Gershwin, Schoenberg, and Terry Riley’s “Half-Wolf Dances Mad in the Moonlight,” performed by Jung Oh, soprano, and members of the Cleveland Orchestra.

For reservations call 216-371-3457.

You may find yourself wordsmithing with Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate Cavana Fairwalker, who will set up his Pop-Up Poetry booth at various summer events.

Peggy Spathe is the executive director of Heights Arts.

Western Reserve Chorale June 3 concert

Joanne Poderis

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) will present a concert on June 3 at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1300 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights. Celebrating its 20th season, WRC is a nonprofit group comprising both amateur and professional singers.

The mission of the chorale is to present free, high-quality performances of choral music. In keeping with this mission, this program will feature choral settings of psalms, poetry and prose celebrating themes of love, life, death, faith, nature and the joy of music. Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Randall Thompson, Jean Berger, Alice Parker and Robert Shaw, Maurice Duruflé, Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck and other composers will be represented in this potpourri of classical choral music.

WRC is supported by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. For further information about this free concert, call 216-791-0061 or visit www.westernreservechorale.org.

Joanne Poderis, a longtime Cleveland Heights resident, is the executive director and accompanist for the Western Reserve Chorale.

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New sandwich shop opens in Heights Rockefeller Building

Chris Hanson

Barlé Soup & Sandwich is a new restaurant in the northern end of Cleveland Heights. Pronounced barlé, the new spot takes its name from owner Jim Barlé, and offers homemade soups, sandwiches made with artisan breads, vegan dishes and more. After months of painstaking restoration and planning, Barlé Soup & Sandwich officially opened on April 1.

Opening day—albeit busy—went as planned. Erin Petre, general manager, said, “We had between 100 and 120 customers come in.” In a play on the name Barlé, the restaurant will feature a variation on barley soup each day, as well as a daily vegan soup.

Coffee and tea at Barlé Soup & Sandwich are complimentary with the purchase of a meal. While co owns the bar, a dollar donation is suggested, to benefit a nonprofit organization. The current beneficiary is Facing History and Ourselves—a group that encourages education as the key to combating bigotry and nurturing democracy.

Barlé has spent the last few months working diligently to renovate the space which Barlé Soup & Sandwich now occupies, on the Lee Boulevard side of the Rockefeller building. It is adorned with antique furniture, a working grandfather clock, church pews, and items from local schools of long ago. It even has a Thomas the Tank Engine table for children. The restored old-world feel of the room is balanced by a contemporary look, with red and tin ceiling colored paint on the walls, and new tables and chairs.

Barlé provided a tour of the new restaurant, and pointed proudly to many of the restoration’s details. “All of the hardware on the doors is original. The maple hardwood flooring is original, too. You can see where the staples were; where we had to remove those and the glue that had covered it for so long.” Barlé Soup & Sandwich will feature an Artist of the Month, whose work will be displayed throughout the restaurant, and available for purchase.

The first featured artist was Joann Broadbooks, a retired teacher from Heights High. She used to be my teacher,” Barlé said with excitement. He hopes to eventually have a jazz band play monthly for each new artist.

The restaurant is currently open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., but Barlé and Petre hope to be busy enough to warrant extending the hours. “We’re going to see how we do with one shift, and then we’ll look at adding on another,” said Petre.

Barlé said of the location, “It was important to me to open here because there aren’t a whole lot of options [near Mayfield and Lee roads]. There is the pizza place across the street, but you can only eat so much pizza for lunch.”

Near the restaurant’s entrance, Barlé stopped to point to an antique coat rack, stocked full of umbrellas of various colors and sizes. “People can take them as they need them,” said Barlé. “We just hope they come back.”

Chris Hanson is a senior in the Urban Studies program at Cleveland State University, a consultant at www.urbanascwows.com, and an intern at FutureHeights.

Tradition and innovation at Pizzazz

Richard Stewart

When David Spiccia told his family he planned to branch out from the family restaurant business and open a second, much larger location, no one considered it a wise move. Twenty years later, Pizzazz On the Circle is one of the most popular restaurants in the Heights.

“My family thought I was crazy going from a 50 seater to a restaurant that seats 200 plus,” said Spiccia. “My parents had the place in Mayfield and I wanted to expand, so I put together an investment package, went out and got some investors, and we got it done.”

Pizzazz, located in University Heights just across from John Carroll University, features “time-honored” Italian cuisine, derived from recipes created by Spiccia’s parents, John and Marie, more than 30 years ago when they opened the original Pizzazz in Mayfield Village. Spiccia and his wife of 27 years, Chris, operate their restaurant together, keeping the family tradition alive. Having spent 38 years in the restaurant business, Spiccia has come to understand what works and what doesn’t.

“Word of mouth has been our success. Our mission has always been to put out quality products at an affordable price,” said Spiccia. “The big thing in the restaurant industry is, if you make it through the first two years, you’re supposed to make it. I keep asking myself, is it done yet? Success hasn’t always come easily for Spiccia. He opened a third Pizzazz location in Solon 10 years ago, but it became a money trap and eventually failed. The experience was a setback in an otherwise successful restaurant career. “I ended up having to sell my home, to sustain my family, including his wife, and three children, through that rough period. “Thank God this place was always strong,” said Spiccia. “I put my nose to the grindstone, paid my bills and now I’m back where I was. The bills are gone.”

Positive changes are afoot at Pizzazz. The month of May will see a reworked menu featuring new items, such as tacos, expanded salad selections, at least one new pasta dish and an array of craft beers. Chris Spiccia attributes much of the restaurant’s success to his wife’s ability to make adjustments when necessary, and said, “David always likes to change things, and add new dishes. He’s very imaginative and forward thinking.”

An intensely loyal customer following has been another key to Pizzazz’s success and longevity. Joe Bubin, seated at the bar enjoying lunch on a Monday afternoon, attested to that. “It’s my east side kitchen because I eat out seven days a week,” Bubin said. “We have a house salad dressing, in my opinion, is the best I’ve ever had.”

Richard Stewart is owner of DigItroom Media and a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

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Remodeled Motorcars Toyota now services all makes

Chris Hanson

The Motorcars family keeps growing, but not with the addition of new personnel or relatives. Instead, Motorcars is growing physically, as its business footprint continues to expand. A year and a half ago, the environmentally friendly Rainforest Car Wash was added to the many services and luxuries offered by the business. This year, Motorcars Toyota completed a remodeling of its service facility, as well as the exterior of the building.

Marc Giles, general manager of Motorcars Toyota said, “Our service department has been growing so rapidly that we were doing our customers a disservice by making them wait as long as a week at times in order to schedule a service appointment. So, we added six express service bays, along with an enclosed four-lane garage for service reception.”

The construction of the new service center took just seven months, aided by a mild winter. With new express service bays installed, loyal Motorcars customers can enter and exit the service department without being subjected to the harsh weather conditions that are common in Cleveland.

Motorcars Toyota now has the ability to service all makes and models, including domestic vehicles. By stocking parts for all vehicle makes, Motorcars has most parts on hand when needed. Giles and company have had a lot of Ford and GM customers recently, much to their surprise and delight. They expect the trend to continue.

Lying up to higher expectations, Motorcars didn’t just stop with the addition of a new service facility. “One of the nicest new features is our new customer waiting lounge. It features a stone fireplace, a quiet seating area, a TV area, four workstations, and a café. We have all new furniture, and it makes waiting for your car much more enjoyable,” Giles said.

What’s next for the Motorcars family? Well, something that would make one drool—a drive-through coffee and donut shop. Giles says that there isn’t one in that neighborhood of the Heights and they are looking forward to opening it soon.

In addition, Motorcars would like the new “all makes and models” service department to operate seven days a week. “We want our customers to be able to have their automotive needs addressed regardless of the day or time,” said Giles. “We all have busy schedules, and servicing your car should not get in the way of [the customer’s] daily routine.”

Chris Hanson is a senior in the urban studies program at Cleveland State University, and an intern at FutureHeights.
Silhouette artist Clay Rice returns to Sunbeam

Janet Nelson

Silhouette artistry has been in Clay Rice’s family for more than 80 years. After learning the technique from his South Carolina grandfather, Carew, Rice traveled throughout the world creating more than 900,000 of these classic black paper portraits.

On Friday, May 18, he returns to Sunbeam—a Shop for Children, at 3469 Fairmount Blvd., after a three-year hiatus.

In a matter of minutes, Rice produces an heirloom-quality portrait that a family will treasure forever. People of all ages are fascinated by Rice’s skill and speed.

Sunbeam is Cleveland’s oldest children’s store and a mainstay of the Fairmount/8th Street retail district for more than 60 years. Proceeds from the Clay Rice event help support Sunbeam’s Vocational Guidance Services, a program to help people with physical or mental disabilities.

Severance Town Center is ready for challenges to perception and reinvention

Chris Hanson

Severance Town Center has received attention recently as the current home of the Walmart that will be moving to the Oakwood Commons development in South Euclid. For those living or working near the center, this increased attention can present a challenge if people begin to think that the departure of a major tenant represents a turning point in how the center will be maintained.

Howard Thompson, economic development director for the City of Cleveland Heights, noted, “Many people have been taking shots at Severance and voicing their opinions online and in editorials. I can say one thing and that is we know that the owners of the center are working to meet the challenge and possible opportunity for future development at Severance Town Center.”

George Witherspoon, a nearby resident, recently expressed concern about the condition of the elevator area next to the theater. “I sometimes walk around the complex. One thing that is extremely disturbing is the condition of the elevator, which were corrected immediately,” he said.

Witherspoon noted how quickly Severance’s staff addressed his concern. “I did see them working on that area today, and I noticed they were sweeping it yesterday as I passed,” he said.

“Severance Town Center has reestablished the considerable amount of attention that it is receiving to reinvent and reestablish itself once again as the benchmark of retail mixed-use development,” said Thompson.

Severance was Ohio’s first indoor shopping center when it was developed in the 1960s. It has been remodeled several times, including its transformation to a power center—a term used by International Council of Shopping Centers to describe a retail center dominated by more than 75–90 percent large anchor stores—in the 1990s.

Goodyear returns to the Heights

Chris Hanson

Although you may have developed the habit of zigzagging around potholes along Taylor and Mayfield roads to avoid damage to your car, you need not defer vehicle maintenance any longer. There is a new, so-new neighbor in town that can help keep your car in good repair.

On April 21, Goodyear Auto Service Center opened a new location at 3571 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights.

It was a day of fun, food and prizes in celebration of the grand opening, as David Hinds, the store manager, welcomed new customers. As cars came in for servicing, people learned of the exceptional customer service that was imported along with the new crew. “Customer service is what we’re known for,” Hinds said. “I really brought my best guys up from Akron, and we’re all extremely friendly. We like to have fun with our customers.”

When asked about the services offered, assistant manager Mike Wiggins said, “We are able to do everything from oil changes to tire changes, brake jobs to exhaust. Basically anything outside of replacing the engine or transmission. Everyone here is an ASE-certified technician.”

Other services and amenities offered by the new Goodyear include overnight drop-off, Wi-Fi in the waiting room, online appointment scheduling, shuttle or vehicle pickup, tire air pressure check and fill, fluids check and top-off (both free with any service), and a children’s play area.

The opening of this service center has some history behind it. Hinds explained, “Goodyear hasn’t been in this market for 20-25 years. Back then, they sold most of the locations to Conrad’s or Enger Auto Service. Enger closed, and Goodyear bought the location. This is Goodyear’s first attempt to get back into the market in more than two decades. This is also Cleveland’s only location that is both owned and operated by Goodyear.”

Hinds hopes to make an impression in the Heights, and looks forward to providing great service. He has confidence in his service manager, Craig Stephens. “Don’t be afraid to contact him for anything you need,” said Hinds. To schedule an appointment online, go to www.goodyear.com or call 216-582-7680.

Chris Hanson is a senior in the urban studies program at Cleveland State University and an intern at FutureHeights.
Realtor Chris Hallum hosts unique open house

Keller Williams realtor Chris Hallum hosted a unique open house on April 18 at 2772 Stratford Road in Cleveland Heights. This open house provided not only an opportunity for visitors to tour the home, but also a chance to meet neighbors and local business owners.

Adam Fleischer, owner of the Wine Spot on nearby Lee Road, poured wine for tasting as he answered questions about the community. The team Hallum works with consists of six realtors and one assistant. Five of them were present at the open house. With roots in Cleveland Heights, they support Hallum’s idea to engage with the community, and know how involved Cleveland Heights residents are. "Working with Fleischer, Hallum got the idea to exhibit art by CIA students at his next open house. Also present at the open house was Mike Reilly, the contractor and painter who worked on the house, answering questions about the home repairs and improvements he made. Conversation flowed freely among visitors, realtors and business owners attending the open house event.

Hallum believes collaboration with local businesses to showcase their wares and services to potential buyers will create win-win situations. Buyers will have a chance to see what is available to them if they decide to move to the Heights, and Heights merchants will have a chance to market their businesses in a new way.

Hannah Baldwin is the administrative assistant for FutureHeights and a resident of Cleveland Heights.

‘Taste of the Heights’ to be held June 14

Rebecca Storey

The Heights Youth Club (HYC) will hold its fourth annual Taste of the Heights fundraiser on Thursday, June 14 from 6-9 p.m., at its club facility at 2065 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. The event will feature food donated by more than 20 local restaurants, a raffle, billiards tournament, and music by the band Hubb’s Groove. Proceeds will benefit HYC.

Area restaurants continue to rally behind the club by providing food for this event, where the number of attendees has typically topped 200 people. “The Heights community has always been very supportive of both the club and the event. HYC encourages people to view the event as a relaxing evening out with friends and neighbors,” said Susan Oakes, event chair.

Unlike many “taste” of events, attendees pay only a flat admission price to sample food from all the participating restaurants. “You can literally taste food from all over Greater Heights area without leaving the building,” co-chair Angela Karges pointed out. Restaurants from the Cedar Lee, Coventry, Cedar Fairmount, and Cedar Taylor neighborhoods will be represented, along with eateries from Cedar Center, Fairmount Circle and Shaker Square.

Admission is $50 in advance and $60 at the door. For tickets and more information go to www.heightsyouthclub.org or contact Kimberly Morgan at 216-253-1639.

The Heights Youth Club partners with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland to offer programs that foster academic success, character and citizenship, healthy lifestyles, creativity, and cultural appreciation for children ages 6 to 18.

Rebecca Storey serves on the board of directors of the Heights Youth Club. A Cleveland Heights native, she currently works for Progressive Insurance.
A new place to gather has arrived on Lee Road. The long-anticipated Bottle-House Brewery opened Tuesday, May 1, and owners Brian Bencheck and Dave Schubert invite all to celebrate and see what this microbrewery and "brew-on-premise" facility offers.

Bencheck and Schubert wanted to create a place close to home, to brew good beer. The brewery is family-friendly, with a laid-back atmosphere. There is a gathering area for conversation, light music and entertainment. Local groups are encouraged to come and use the space. (Why not host a book club meeting there, and enjoy fresh-brewed beer while discussing the month’s selection?) The owners hope Bottle-House will bring a little of what Tremont and Ohio City offer: good brews, creativity and conversation with friends.

All the hard work and carefully-planned design that Bencheck and Schubert undertook in creating the brewery has been worth it, the owners said, adding that "the city has been helpful in making the process smooth and progressive." Bencheck and Schubert brought an artistic mindset and the desire to use sustainable materials in creating the interior space. Beneath the floors, they found steel plates that they used to create the bar and counters in the tasting area. The backdrop for the stage comes from an old fence, and the tables are rustic and handmade from various found items. Bencheck, a former glassblower, hung one of his chandeliers near the bar. The small stage will accommodate acoustic music performances, soloists, stand-up performances and a movie screen. The dark red walls with old pictures imprinted on them enhance the rustic interior furnishings.

In addition to freshly brewed beer, Bottle-House offers whiskey tastings, as well as a small line of wines from the Wine Spot down the street. Pierogies from Perla Homemade Delights are available Tuesday through Saturday. On Friday, May 4, Porch will perform, and Bottle-House’s manager, Harry Bacharach, will take the stage on Saturday, May 5.

Brew-on-premise will begin in July. To learn more about scheduling a date to brew your own beer—selected from Bottle-House’s recipe collection—visit www.thebottlehousebrewingcompany.com, and sign up for e-mail notices.

Hannah Baldwin is the administrative assistant for FutureHeights and a resident of Cleveland Heights.

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