Residents gather for Save Our School meeting

On May 22, a dozen residents of University Heights and Cleveland Heights rallied at the Save Our School (SOS) meeting at University Heights City Hall. The group voiced its discontent with the CH-UH City School District, insisting that University Heights should have a public elementary school. Plan C recommends closing three out of seven elementary schools in the CH-UH district. Gearty Professional Development School, the only public elementary school in University Heights, would close under Plan C.

SOS formed after the school district presented Plan C to the public. The group’s goals are to convince school board members that Plan C is not the best option for the district, and to encourage residents to vote against Plan C if it appears on the November ballot.

“It is very, very important for a city to have an elementary school within its boundaries,” Christy Dolan, a University Heights parent, said.

At the meeting, attendees expressed concerns about Plan C. Many worry that eliminating the city’s only public elementary school will decrease property values and discourage families from moving to University Heights. Group members believe these changes could have detrimental effects on the city’s future. “I really am concerned about the health of the community,” said Susan Infeld, University Heights mayor.

Many said that they are pleased with the vision of their children receive at Gearty, and pointed out that the school’s enrollment has increased in recent years. They noted that University Heights has one-fourth of the school district’s overall population and should contain one of the four elementary schools within its borders. Objecions to Plan C were not solely focused on Gearty. Others expressed concern that the facilities plan will increase taxes. Some noted that new school facilities built in other districts, including East Cleveland, Lakewood and Warren, did not improve the economies in those cities.

“People in Cleveland Heights also realize that this is a problem for University Heights and its residents,” Infeld said. Many Cleveland Heights residents want to construct the high school into two segments, with the high school and middle school phase of opening in 2014. Many have said that they are wholeheartedly behind the construction of the high school.

Kim Sergio Ingls

At the May 24 special meeting of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board, three new variations to school facilities master Plan C were presented by Stephen Shergalis, director of business services for the district.

Each of the three new options—Plan C-1, Plan C-2 and Plan C-3—divides Plan C into two segments, with the high school slated as the first stage of the project.

In Plan C-1, presented to the public on April 18, construction on the high school is put forth as the last phase of the project, to begin in 2018, and proceed by work (a mix of new construction and renovation) on three intermediate schools and four elementary schools. Plan C calls for the closure of Gearty Professional Development School. The total budget projection is $206.2 million, with a proposed 2012 bond issue of 6.83 mills. In Plan C-2, Segment 1 includes the high school, which would be financed by a bond issue in 2012. Segment 2 includes the three intermediate schools and the four primary schools, which would be financed by a bond issue in 2013. The total budget projection is $234.6 million, with a proposed bond issue of 9.96 mills in 2012 and 5.83 in 2019. In Plan C-3, Projects would be segment as in option C-1, but the plan also includes a fifth PK-3 primary building in UH at the Gearty site. The total budget projection is $330.7 million, with a proposed bond issue of 12.46 mills in 2012 and 6.6 in 2019. In Plan C-3, Projects would be segment as in option C-1, but the plan also includes the Dogwood building purchase at the Gearty site. The total budget projection is $330.7 million, with a proposed bond issue of 12.46 mills in 2012 and 6.6 in 2019.

CH-UH board weighs Plan C variations

Kim Sergio Ingls

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Children of the May 14 joint meeting of the school board and CH and UH city council hold signs advocating for the sale of Millikan to Mosdos Ohr Hatorah.

Kim Sergio Ingls

Following the Cleveland Heights-Univer-

sity Heights School Board meeting on May 15, the district made this statement: “After coming out of executive session, the board announced during their work session Tuesday night [May 15] that they would like district administration to initiate negotiations with Mosdos Ohr Hatorah for a long term lease of Millikin.”

Alan Rapoport, an attorney repre-

senting Mosdos Ohr Hatorah, the private Jewish school that wants to purchase the Millikin property, said on May 15, “I can confirm that we are ac-

tively talking with school board lawyers about leasing. Mosdos wants to use the building as a school, and will consider any alternatives that will bring about that result. We’re trying to move fast. Mosdos is in a hurry, and my sense is that the board may be in a hurry.”

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Letter to the Editor

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VNA hospice program

To the Editor:

It was enlightening to see an article about hospice in your wonderful publication. This letter is to broaden the readership’s understanding of the hospice process. The well-respected Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) has an innovative program called “special care” which cares for individuals who qualify for hospice but aren’t yet ready to take that step. The special care nurse offers information which helps the family weigh the pros and cons of treatment, to help the family make an informed choice. Taking the step into special care allows the family time to adjust while the patient still receives ongoing treatment.

I’ve observed families paralyzed with guilt when they know life-prolonging treatments are no longer appropriate. I applaud VNA for making this program accessible to families who are struggling to make a compassionate choice. For more info, call 216-931-1400.

Laurel Hopwood, registered nurse
Cleveland Heights

Alexander’s success at Monticello

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my appreciation for everything that Monticello has done for my son, Alexander Buffington, a seventh grader at Monticello, who has been on the honor roll all year. He has autism and was in Amber Hawes’ classroom last year and is with her again this year.

Amber Hawes is an amazing teacher who discovered that Alexander has ability in math. She worked very hard with him in sixth grade, and moved him into the transmath class with Genevieve McDougall, who made sure he was welcome in the class. Thanks to everyone’s efforts, and Alexander’s hard work, he was doing A work in the seventh grade transmath class, another amazing thing happened: Alexander was ahead of the class. His teacher, Stacey Friedman, set a new goal for him and Alexander transitioned to regular seventh-grade math during the second quarter. Sarah Cusick, Alexander’s current math teacher, and Hawes tutored him twice a week, after school, to help him catch up to the seventh-grade math curriculum. It’s working well so far, with Alexander maintaining an A+ grade.

At one point, we met with Amber Hawes, Brian Sharosky (principal of Monticello), and others to discuss Alexander’s reading comprehension skills. Sharosky had some good ideas to help Alexander’s reading comprehension. Please with Alexander’s achievements, Sharosky has given him more mainstream possibilities. As a result, his placement next year will be very different. Alexander will be in mainstream math, science and social studies, with some extra supports. He will also continue to receive help in reading and writing to help him reach grade level.

One last thing, at the beginning of the year, Alexander was the victim of a bullying incident. Thanks to the prompt actions of Jennifer Colvin, guidance counselor, and Amber Hawes, there have been no recurrences.

Something else about Alexander; he is an active participant in Special Olympics roller skating and ice skating. He does freelance in both and has won gold medals in both events at the state level. To see video clips of Alexander skating, go to www.youtube.com and look for the “gailbuf” channel.

Gail Buffington
Cleveland Heights

One picture is worth 1,000 words

Cats and birds

To the Editor:

The bird feeders are out and the birds are everywhere. Yesterday on our step was a dead one, killed no doubt by a neighbor’s cat, doing what comes naturally. I urge everyone to please keep their cats indoors until July so these little birds can have a nesting season during early spring and summer.

Samuel A. Ngro, M.D.
Cleveland Heights

Strawberry Festival

Noble Road Presbyterian Church’s annual Strawberry Festival will be held June 8, from 6-9 p.m. Relax and socialize with friends and neighbors, and enjoy strawberries, ice cream, shortcakes and more. Outdoor lawn seating, weather permitting. Donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. The church is located at 2780 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights.

Cats and birds
Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

APRIL 16, 2012

All council members were present.

City manager resigns

Council accepted the resignation of City Manager Robert C. Downey, authorized the mayor to execute an agreement regarding the terms of his separation, and appointed Susanna Niemann O’Neil as interim manager. The city will provide a total payment to Downey of $75,000 in lieu of pay for any accrued sick or vacation time or severance pay.

Both council members and senior staff gave tributes and thanks to Downey, who was not present, for his service to the city. They praised his professionalism, hard work, integrity, ability to build teamwork, and leadership in both good times and hard times. Mayor Edward Kelley also thanked O’Neil for stepping in and pledged a national search, using a search firm, for the permanent city manager.

HCC—40 years old

Mayor Kelley presented a proclamation in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Heights Community Congress (HCC).

Constitutional amendment

Several residents spoke supporting a campaign to pass a 28th amendment to the United States Constitution, designed to counter the impact of the Citizens United decision of the U.S. Supreme Constitution, which paved the way for unlimited political contributions. Further information regarding this amendment can be found at cindysobserver.org.

National Preservation Month

Council declared May 2012 National Preservation Month, supporting historic preservation as a tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character while enhancing livability. Seven free events co-sponsored by the city, the landmark commission, the historical society, the library, FutureHeights, Heights Bicycle Coalition, and the Home Repair Resource Center will take place throughout May, June and July.

CDBG funds for 2012

Council authorized the reprogrammation and reallocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the programming of additional funds awarded to the city. These changes were possible because CDBG funds were cut less drastically than anticipated and new funds were provided.

City manager resigns

Kelley also thanked O’Neil for stepping in and being a great city manager.

APRIL 9, 2012

All council members were present.

Vice manager appointment

Susanna Niemann O’Neil, acting city manager, announced the appointment of John Gibbon as vice city manager.

Loan to Burgers-N-Beer

Council authorized a loan contract with BN8 CF, LLC under the city’s commercial revolving loan program to assist with the establishment of a Burgers-N-Beer restaurant at 1854 Coventry Road. The $60,000 will be made at an interest rate of 3 percent, with a seven-year repayment schedule after a one-year deferral. The restaurant is expected to create 11 new full-time jobs and 10 part-time jobs. Because the loan is to be made with CDBG funds, there is a requirement that at least 51 percent of the jobs (full-time equivalent) be dedicated for low-to-moderate income persons.

863 Nelaview Road

Council authorized the sale of the city-owned property at 863 Nelaview Road, which was rehabilitated with federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds. The property will be sold for $56,000 with $5,000 in down payment assistance to the buyer. The city received $2 million through NSP. Local governments can use NSP funds to buy abandoned, vacant and foreclosed homes, repair them, and then sell them. This is the 11th of 12 houses the city is renovating through NSP.

Cedar-Lee camera surveillance

Council approved legislation enabling the installment of surveillance cameras in the Cedar Lee business district for crime deterrence and safety purposes. A lease agreement with The Illuminating Company for the use of the company’s utility poles for attachments such as video cameras or other items includes a fee of $35.85 per pole, per year, increasing four percent annually. It is necessary for the Illuminating Company to relocate any of its wires or equipment to accommodate the city’s camera installation, the city will reimburse the company for those costs. The cost of a contract with ESI Companies Inc. for the purchase and installation of a SkyCup surveillance camera system with remote video monitoring and recording systems is not to exceed $76,000.

Denison Pool

The demolition of Denison Pool will soon be complete and the city will move forward with its plans for the site.

Enjoy the best of both worlds

Choose life at Judson Park

Living at Judson Park, you will have easy access to all the cultural advantages of University Circle, plus the conveniences and charm of the Heights. It’s the best of both worlds! Enjoy a flexible lifestyle that includes an award-winning health and wellness program. Engage with young people through a well-regarded, curriculum-based intergenerational program. Declare your independence today from all the chores, taxes and expenses of your home. Visit Judson Park today! Call (216) 791-2004 or visit www.judsonsmartliving.org.

Judson

Judson Manor  Judson Park  South Franklin Circle  Smart Living™ at Home

Parking spaces as well as nearby showe, and locker facilities for cyclists. Each community garden can contain one bee hive, as long as members approve. Disapproving community garden members, or residents living within 300 feet of the garden, have an opportunity to complain to the zoning administrator.

Both Wilcox and Bonnie Caplan, council member, noted that the zoning codes took substantial planning and will influence the future of Cleveland Heights. “A city should lead by example, and this is one way we can lead,” Wilcox said. “I think we will be looking at the city to be more sustainable in the future.”

Caplan said the zoning laws were a result of the community’s commitment to sustainability. “I congratulate the community and the staff for putting this all together because I think it is a wonderful thing that we’re doing,” she said.

See the full zoning code on www.clevelandheights.com.

Simone Jasper is a senior at Beaumont School. She is a staff writer for the Beaumont Voice student newspaper and an intern for the Heights Observer.
University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights
APRIL 16, 2012
All council members were present.

Fuchs Miachki School property
Responding to a reader’s question regarding the decision to close the former Fuchs Miachki School, Mayor Susan Infeld said the county land bank estimated $200,000, including asbestos abatement. A bond issue would pay the costs. The building might be maintained for a community center. Council authorized a purchase agreement with The Leonard and Susan Fuchs Miachki School. Vice Mayor Franck Goldenberg abstained.

The funds being used are surplus revenue from 2011. The mayor commented that the park is a legacy and that this is the last piece of large open land in the community. Residents who wish to serve on the park committee should contact city hall.

Julian Rogers to represent UH
Julian Rogers, county councilman, was scheduled to provide an update on county governance but postponed his comments due to the lengthy agenda. Due to redistricted wards, Rogers will represent University Heights as of January 2013.

He noted that he attended Gravity Elementary School and gave his personal phone number to all present if they wanted to contact him.

Recreation fee changes
Council amended the rules and regulations for the operation of recreational facilities. Councilwoman Pamela Cornelison, chair of the recreation committee, supported the recreation staff’s recommendation of changing the fee schedule. Most significant was the increased cost of a family pass by 454. Rates were last changed in 2007, and the recreation department had had difficulty covering its costs.

James Zupka, CPA
Council amended the appointment of James Zupka, CPA, to conduct the annual city audit. Councilman Steven Sims and Philip Eitel voted no. The state auditor chose this firm to conduct the audit. Sims claims that the city has had a prior negative history with this firm, but both Finance Director Larry Heiser and Interim Finance Director Anthony LaFon have positive impressions of Zupka. Concerns may be expressed to the state auditor, but the city does not have a choice in this appointment.

LW observer: Wendy Dauney.

May 7, 2012
All council members were present.

Service director
Mayor Infeld has received 33 resumes for the position of service director and will interview eight.

Deputy chief
James Williams was sworn in as the new deputy chief of police.

Technology Advisory Commission
Council approved the name of the Cable TV & Internet Commission to the Technology Advisory Commission. Sue Pardee, chair of the Civic Information Committee, said that the duties and responsibilities have expanded to recommend general policies relating to the operation and use of technological tools and services.

Nominating petitions
Council changed the deadline for filing nominating petitions with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections from 60 to 90 days. The board of elections director recommended this to conform with other political subdivisions.

Women and minority businesses
Councilman Steven Sims asked about getting primary contracts to low women and minority businesses for subcontracts. Joseph Ciac, city engineer, said that larger cities usually have mandates, but not smaller municipalities. He said it was possible to include language in requests for proposals encouraging such firms, but it would not affect their rating.

Heights Observer...
On the road again

LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Riding a bicycle for transportation, fitness, and fun requires a few pieces of equipment: a well-running bicycle, a lock, a basket or bag to carry purchases, and perhaps a helmet. However, the most important piece of equipment a cyclist needs is the skill and confidence to operate a bicycle safely and predictably in traffic.

If you are new to cycling or returning after many years of car-focused transportation, please consider how you will develop the skill and confidence needed to really enjoy cycling.

Joining small group rides offers opportunities for new riders to develop cycling skills. But enrolling in bicycle driver’s classes at the Ohio City Bicycle Coop (OCBC), 840 Columbus Road, Cleveland is the best way to learn and practice cycling skills.

OCBC’s three-hour Intro to Traffic Skills class includes skills needed to operate a bike in traffic. The Traffic Skills 101 class is longer but still easy and includes instruction on changing a flat. Find out more about the OCBC at www.ohiocyclists.org, or call 216-867-2667.

For a list of local bike rides and clubs, see the Bike Cleveland website at 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.

Cain Park neighbors gain momentum

Kelli Fontenot

Since its inception late last year, the Cain Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) has focused on making a difference in the community.

Peter Titas, CPNA executive committee member, said that one of CPNA’s main objectives is to bring residents from Hyde Park Avenue, Superior Park Drive, Superior Road and South Compton together to build a stronger community and increase foot traffic in Cain Park.

“Our goal is to reduce crime by having a greater presence in the neighborhood park,” Titas said. “If there are people using the park, crime is less likely to occur. At least, that’s our logic. The police and city have been great. They’ve installed call boxes, increased the number of bike patrols, and listened to our concerns. But if we want crime to go down, we need to be an active part of the solution.”

Michael Kinsella, another executive committee member, was robbed at gunpoint in the park two years ago. “It was pretty traumatic,” he said. “Everyone heard about the incident, but a lot of people didn’t know it was someone on our street. I think if that happened again today, we’d all rally together and be able to help that person. It’s that fear and isolation that we’re trying to overcome.”

Kerri Whitehouse, also a member of the executive committee, said safety is one of the group’s top priorities and is one of six committees established by CPNA. The other committees focus on park improvements, communications, event planning, housing concerns and welcoming dogs to the park.

Whitehouse will head the dog project. “We’d like to be able to get rules in Cain Park changed so that people can walk dogs in the park,” she said. “I’m a long-time dog owner and it’s always mystified me that a progressive area like Cleveland Heights doesn’t allow dogs in parks.” Plans for introducing dogs are still in the early stages, but Whitehouse noted that the city has been supportive and receptive to them.

During the past two months, CPNA organized a park cleanup and its first community picnic. According to Kinsella, the group is working to bring other benefits to the park, such as concerts, a summer neighborhood block party, sledding days and movie nights.

“We’ve seen considerable improvement in safety, cleanliness and morale, all in a very short time,” Kinsella said. “We’ve all been recharged and re-minded of why we chose to live in the neighborhood in the first place. The interest and momentum is just building. At every meeting, we’ve had more attendance; we had about 40 people at our last meeting.”

Kinsella said that Jason Stein, Cleveland Heights City Council member, represents CPNA at council meetings, and has already helped to increase the group’s visibility and strength.

More details are available at www.facebook.com/groups/CainParkNA/. Meetings are open to the public, and take place at Cleveland Heights City Hall on the third Thursday of every month, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Happy Hour! Monday through Saturday 4 p.m. to Close
$5 Appetizers $2.50 Domestic Beers
$5 Wines $1.50 Imports $5 Cocktails

Bring in this ad and get 15% off your food bill.

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www.heightobserver.org

Heights Observer June 1, 2012

6
All that hot yoga at Bikram Yoga in Shaker Heights certainly helped prepare Kevin Goodman for the scorching heat he encountered during the Boston Marathon. As temperatures soared above the mid-80s, the humidity climbed well beyond a comfortable level, Goodman focused on the task at hand. He wanted to finish the race, not only for himself, but also in honor of those battling leukemia or lymphoma, and to thank the many donors who had pledged their support to him.

Goodman, 49, and a resident of University Heights, raised more than $10,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. His TNT team, with which he trained for the April 16 marathon, raised more than $1 million. Because the team dramatically surpassed the collective minimum of donations, 90 percent of the total funds raised will directly benefit blood cancer research and support programs. On June 21 in Boston, Goodman will be honored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with the John Engdahl Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of individuals who have raised more than $10,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Back home in University Heights, Goodman, a Heights High alumnus, maintains a six-day training routine that includes running, hot yoga and personal training sessions. Seemingly tireless, Goodman appears to gain energy from his many personal races. His next event will be the Greater Cleveland Triathlon on Aug. 5.

For more information and a registration form, call 216-371-5252. Families must present a completed form (including medical records, per ACA guidelines) and register in person on Monday, June 25, between 8:30 and 9 a.m.

Donald King is pastor of Hope Lutheran Church.
Sustainable Home Practices in Cleveland Heights

The Kious’s straw bale house on Cedar Road is the location for the SHN event on June 5.

Chris Hanson

On Tuesday, June 5, the Sustainable Heights Network (SHN) and the City of Cleveland Heights will sponsor “Zoned for Green! Opportunities for Sustainable Home Practices in Cleveland Heights.” From 5:30 to 7 p.m., attendees will learn how changes to the zoning code have practical applications to their homes. The event will be held at 2354 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights, at the home of Jan and Gus Kious.

Karen Knittel, Cleveland Heights city planner, will speak about the new sustainable zoning code amendment. “The sustainable zoning code provides our residents with the framework to incorporate sustainable practices into their daily lives through projects that are completed at their homes—including gardening, laundry, energy reduction and creation, permeable driveways, and the way we travel around town,” Knittel said. “I am excited about the opportunity to talk about the sustainable zoning code amendment, and especially to discuss how this amendment provides our residents with opportunities to enhance their lives and how it assists in maintaining Cleveland Heights as a viable and desirable community.”

Organizers will set aside time during the event for residents to meet and network with one another. Neighbors will be able to share local resources, and brainstorm additional ways to make the Heights even more sustainable.

Attendees will tour the Kious’s straw bale house and learn how the family incorporated sustainability into the home by using building methods and materials that increase energy efficiency. Straw bales provide insulation and are the structural building blocks of the house. After the bales were stacked, the walls were finished with plaster.

Since its construction, the Kious’s house has been highlighted by the GreenCityBlueLake Institute at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Heights Community Congress’s Heights Heritage House and Garden Tour.

Refreshments will be provided. Parking is available at the Cedar Hill Baptist Church parking lot, located two houses east of the Kious’s house off Cedar Road. Space is limited, and early registration is recommended. For more information, visit www.sustainableheightsnetwork.net.

Chris Hanson is a recent graduate of the Urban Studies program at Cleveland State University and an intern at FutureHeights.

Voting starts for Best of the Heights

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Heights residents can vote for their favorite local businesses in FutureHeights’s annual Best of the Heights awards survey. Residents have an opportunity to cast their ballots through Aug. 31, when FutureHeights will tabulate the results and select the winners in each category.

“There are 23 award categories this year,” said Richard Stewart, Best of the Heights committee chair. “Some are the same as previous years, such as Best New Business, and others are new, such as Best Place for a Sandwich. We try to keep the program fresh and create opportunities for all types of businesses to be considered for an award.”

Since 2005, FutureHeights—a non-profit dedicated to creating a vibrant and sustainable future for the Heights through civic engagement and innovative ideas—has conducted this public opinion survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, and their contributions to the local economy.

“Independent businesses help define the unique character of the Heights,” said Lloyd Bell, FutureHeights board president. “Together, they represent diversity and choice. Shopping local strengthens our local economy. And local owners, having invested much of their life savings in their businesses, have a natural interest in the sustainability of our community. They give back, and support numerous Heights causes.”

FutureHeights will announce the Best of the Heights winners at an awards ceremony in the fall, at a date and time to be determined. The name of one lucky survey respondent will be drawn at random at the awards ceremony, to receive a FutureHeights gift package.

A Best of the Heights award ballot is printed on the back page of this issue of the Heights Observer, and ballots are also available at the many Heights independent businesses or online at www.futureheights.org. For more information, call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423.

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

County passes landmark legislation

The Coit Road Farmers Market

Bug of the month

Barry Zucker

Pesticides bug me, and it looks like I am not alone. On April 11, Cuyahoga County Council passed a comprehensive ordinance banning pesticides on all county-owned properties. Because pesticides are toxic chemicals that are ubiquitous in our environment, the decision to reduce this burden is heroic. Councilmembers Julian Rogers (Cleveland Heights) and Sunny Simon (South Euclid) spearheaded the effort. Their leadership serves as an example to other Ohio officials that public health is always a priority and that safer pest and land management can work. Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 are linked to birth defects, 15 to neurotoxicity and 15 to endocrine system disruption. Last year, for the sake of children’s health, New York and Connecticut banned pesticides from all school grounds and playing fields. For the same reason, Cleveland Heights banned pesticides on all city, school, library and daycare center grounds. Recent reports from Cornell and Harvard universities demonstrate that transitioning to organic lawn-care practices saves money and produces healthier, disease-resistant turf when compared to chemical-based programs.

Beyond Pesticides Ohio is helping Greater Cleveland school districts and cities adopt safe and affordable natural turf care policies, and is co-hosting Healthier, Cleaner, Greener Schools and Facilities, a forum at the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG) on Friday, June 15, 11 a.m. to noon. Speakers include Sunny Simon, Julian Rogers and a keynote speaker who will explain how he saves $250,000 per year by using green cleaning products and organic turf care at his school district.

For more information or to register, call CBG at 216-721-1600, ext. 100 or visit www.cbgarden.org.

Barry Zucker is executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio.
Cedar Lee's Rock the Block 2012

Simone Jasper

This summer, the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District (SID) will sponsor Rock the Block, a series of consumer-appreciation events. “This will be our fourth year for Rock the Block,” said Kelly Robinson, director of Cedar Lee SID. At Rock the Block events, Cedar Lee patrons can enjoy music from local artists as well as complimentary appetizers, soft drinks, and giveaways. Two venues, The Wine Spot and The BottleHouse Brewery, will offer optional tastings for a small fee.

“This is our way of thanking our customers for supporting the Lee Road businesses,” Robinson said. “It’s a lot of fun. We feature some of the best bands in Northeast Ohio.”

• On June 21, The Wine Spot will feature Saborit Latin Jazz & Soul from 6-8 p.m.
• On July 26, The BottleHouse Brewery will feature Brent Kirby & The Lost Fortunes from 6-8 p.m.
• On Aug. 9, Family Night, the New Heights Grill will feature The Brighter Side Band from 6-8 p.m. There will also be activities for children to enjoy, including games, a photo booth, and the iconic Rocket Car.

Simone Jasper is a senior at Beaumont School. She is a staff writer for the Beaumont Voice student newspaper, and she is an intern at the Heights Observer.

New CH and UH police chiefs to speak June 20

Kevin Smith

FutureHeights will host Meet the New Police Chiefs, the latest event in its speaker series, on Wednesday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at Myxx, 12459 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights.

The evening will feature two speakers: Jeff Robertson, chief of police for the City of Cleveland Heights, and Steven Hammett, chief of police for the City of University Heights. Both chiefs will discuss new initiatives they have been working on since taking their new positions, how their departments interact with other communities, and how the community can be more involved in keeping our cities safe.

New resident welcome and open house at Lee Road Library

Amy Boyd-Kirksey

The New Resident Welcome and Open House is scheduled from 2–3 p.m. at the Harvey & Friends bookstore on the second floor of the library. All new residents are invited to attend and enjoy light refreshments.

“Several events bring together people from many organizations for community collaboration and to welcome newcomers,” said Kirsten Radiovoyech, one of the volunteer coordinators. “We want people to get to know the community, and to let them know that this is a great place with a lot to offer. The idea is to encourage people to get to know their neighbors, get involved in the community, learn the benefits of shopping locally, and discover the great facilities right in their neighborhoods.”

Sponsors for the reception include the Friends of the Heights Libraries, FutureHeights and Heights Community Congress. Ed Kelley, mayor of Cleveland Heights, will give a brief welcome. Civic leaders, including city and school officials, will be on hand to welcome and orient new residents. Local businesses will provide raffle prizes, and area schools, institutions and other organizations will have information available.

For more information, call the Friends office at 216-932-3600, ext. 234, or e-mail friends@heightsbrary.org.

Yelena Tischchenko is a senior magazine journalism major at Kent State University and a Heights Observer summer editorial intern.

Welcoming reception for new CH and UH residents is July 1

Yelena Tischchenko

Three Heights-area civic organizations will host a welcoming reception for new residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights on Sunday, July 1 at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road.

The New Resident Welcome and Open House is scheduled from 2–3 p.m. at the Harvey & Friends bookstore on the second floor of the library. All new residents are invited to attend and enjoy light refreshments.

“No other event brings together people from many organizations for community collaboration and collaboration to welcome newcomers,” said Kirsten Radiovoyech, one of the volunteer coordinators. “We want people to get to know the community, and to let them know that this is a great place with a lot to offer. The idea is to encourage people to get to know their neighbors, get involved in the community, learn the benefits of shopping locally, and discover the great facilities right in their neighborhoods.”

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Yelena Tischchenko is a senior magazine journalism major at Kent State University and a Heights Observer summer editorial intern.

Call for entries to Heights Battle of the Bands

Kevin Smith

FutureHeights will host a Heights-based Battle of the Bands on Aug. 31 at the Grog Shop in Coventry Village. All musical genres are welcome. To qualify, at least one member of the band must live in Cleveland Heights or University Heights.

To enter, submit the band’s contact information and at least one musical selection via e-mail to info@futureheights.org, or by mail to: Battle of the Bands, c/o FutureHeights, 2163 Lee Road, Suite 103, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. The deadline for entries is July 1. For more information, call 216-320-1423.

Kevin Smith is a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

River Valley Ringers annual spring concert on June 8

Amy Boyd-Kirksey

The River Valley Ringers will present “Spring Again!” on Friday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m., at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1744 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. The annual spring concert will feature the world premiere of H. Dean Wagner’s “Elegy,” which was composed for the River Valley Ringers and will be conducted by Wagner.

The group will also present works by composers Karen Lakey Backwalter, Jason Krug and Emily Li, along with well-known compositions arranged for handbells, such as “Classical Gas.” The concert is free, and a free-will offering will be taken.

The River Valley Ringers, under the artistic direction of Elizabeth Lucas, is an advanced four-octave handbell choir, with members from across Northeast Ohio. The group receives public support with local tax dollars from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture to preserve and enrich the region’s artistic and cultural heritage.

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Heights High Hall of Fame inducts ten

Jacalyn Elfvin

On May 3, the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame held its 32nd induction ceremony.

The Hall of Fame was created as a way for Heights High to honor the accomplishments of its alumni while providing current students with solid examples of what they can accomplish in life. With more than 50,000 graduates to date, Heights High has an impressive and diverse list of alumni. The general public makes Hall of Fame nominations, and a student committee, the Imagemakers, selects the inductees. In the selection process, students know the accomplishments of the nominees but do not know their names.

This year’s inductees include:
• Robert Gaede, Class of ’38 – Architect and Historic Preservationist
• Lois Klein Goodman, Class of ’50 – Nonprofit Advocate
• Dr. William Halal, Class of ’51 – Aerospace Engineer and Educator
• Dr. Susan Koppelman, Class of ’58 – Womens Studies Pioneer
• Dr. Mark Lurie, Class of ’62 – Physicist and Researcher
• Harold Mendes, Class of ’45 – Businessman and Education Advocate
• Pamela Anne Miller, Class of ’73 – Environmental Conservationist
• Brent Routman, Class of ’74 – Attorney and Author

• Alisa Weilerstein, Class of ’99 – Musician and Performer
• Dr. Philip Yosowitz, Class of ’50 – Physician and Musician

“It’s not until you hear the inductees speak and listen to their stories that you understand just why the students select them for the Hall of Fame,” said Eric Silverman, president of the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation and a 1987 Heights High graduate. “The wide breadth of careers and experiences we see with this year’s inductees is representative of the pluralism that is Heights High. With over 85 years of graduates, our Hall of Fame is just a sample of the amazing achievements our alumni have accomplished.”

The evening program began with performances by the Heights Singers followed by remarks from the inductees. The next morning, the new Hall of Famers visited Heights High to tour the building and speak to classes.

The alumni foundation accepts nominations for the Hall of Fame year round. Application forms can be found at www.heightsalumni.org. The foundation’s website also includes a complete listing of Hall of Fame inductees as well as biographies for inductees from the past 17 years.

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

Nearly all of the 100 athletes with the highest GPAs attended the Scholar Athlete recognition ceremony.

Joy Henderson

The Heights High athletes with the top 100 GPAs were invited for refreshments and recognition on the afternoon of May 8. Kristin Hughes, athletic director, congratulated the students for their accomplishments in the classroom and in athletics.

Senior Meg Lentz (lacrosse) received the award for the female athlete with the highest GPA (4.7) and senior Erik Thiem (swim team) was recognized as the male athlete with the highest GPA (4.4). Many parents joined the students to celebrate their hard work and dedication to learning and academic success.

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

It’s time to speak up about testing

Last month, after I walked the third graders from across the street to school for another day of testing, I came home to a welcomed invitation to sign a petition, modeled after a resolution supported by more than 360 Texas school boards, calling for the end of high stakes testing. I’ve been waiting 10 years for the chance to speak up in an organized way on this issue. It finally came.

The advent of standards and accountability in the late 1990s confused me. On the one hand, I was thrilled by the explicit interest in addressing low achievement, and the value of defining what children should know so that we could take some of the randomness out of the education process. The downside was an expectation of improved results without an additional investment in anything except the tests used to measure learning. The theory of change, it seems, was that test results would create the incentive educators needed to work harder.

As a person who spends a lot of time in schools, I know firsthand that hard work isn’t the issue. Changing results takes a lot more than standardized tests and pressure on educators to do better. A standardized test—one single measure—gives a very limited view of student learning. Yet the accountability systems we now have in place to move schools forward rely heavily on this very weak link. Test results are the basis for “high stakes” decisions about who receives a diploma, teacher evaluation or pay, or the continued operation of a school.

I’m not expert on testing, but it is a refined science. And the experts know what isn’t. In 2002 when I researched what children should know so that we could take some of the randomness out of the education process. We've lived with No Child Left Behind for more than 10 years now, and with state testing for even longer. Finally those who had concerns about testing didn’t have the patience to let results be the basis of their change. For the last dozen years, we’ve used test scores to deny diplomas, to stigmatize and label schools and teachers, to drive the best teachers from classrooms serving the neediest students, to market communities or hasten their decline. Test scores have been used to justify disinvestment in public education and giving up on poor children. Testing encourages judging schools instead of measuring them work. Accountability purposes are branded an apologist for a broken system.”

Students donate to senior center

The criminal justice class at Cleveland Heights High School donated $670 to the Senior Center on April 26.

The students wanted to make a difference in the lives of older citizens.

“We know that it is hard for some senior citizens to pay their heating bills in the winter,” class member Brianna Ward, senior class vice president; Domenique Hill, junior class president; Stedman Smith, senior class president; Brianna Ward, senior class vice president; Linda Katz, CH Office on Aging social worker.

The students presented the money that they raised to Cleveland Heights Office on Aging staff members Linda Katz and Amy Jenkins.

“They have no idea how this will help a few of our seniors,” Jenkins said. She read the students a thank-you note from a recipient so that the students would know the importance of their action.

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

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Harvard Magazine

Elmore observed in the September 2002 edition of Harvard Magazine, “critics who suggest that there might be problems with the ways tests are used for accountability purposes are branded an apologist for a broken system.” That shuts people up.

Schools have taken the expectations seriously, and without additional resources have done their best to implement initiatives to intervene with children in the short run, and transform teaching and learning in the long run. Some have tried to game the system and get off track. But innovations that will produce different results have received short shrift in this blame-and-shame environment. It saddens me that all too frequently it has resulted in a narrow curriculum—if it isn’t tested it isn’t taught—limited time for innovative instruction, and lost excitement about teaching and learning. Kids are losing out.

We’ve lived with No Child Left Behind for more than 10 years now, and with state testing for even longer. Finally those who had concerns about testing didn’t have the patience to let results be the basis of their change. For the last dozen years, we’ve used test scores to deny diplomas, to stigmatize and label schools and teachers, to drive the best teachers from classrooms serving the neediest students, to market communities or hasten their decline. Test scores have been used to justify disinvestment in public education and giving up on poor children. Testing encourages judging schools instead of measuring them work. Accountability purposes are branded an apologist for a broken system.”

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Heights artists win awards

Joy Henderson

Three Heights High student artists received awards at the 2012 Eleventh Congressional District Art Show, held on May 12 at the MLK branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Juniors Katy Collier and Jenna Goldthwaite’s paintings placed second and third, and sophomore Meredith Matia’s drawing placed second.

Seven other Heights students entered pieces in the show: Adrian Ber, Emily Brock, Julia Gay, Darth Mathews, Alexa Sollich, Chloe Sudurb and Leonard White.

Art teacher Susan Hood Cogan submitted the pieces and was very happy with her students’ performances. “All three of our winners are very well rounded and talented artists,” she said.

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

APRIL 23, 2012

All board members were present (Ron Register, by speaker phone).

Master facilities plan

The board heard a presentation and discussed a districtwide master facilities plan, including financing. Once approved by the board, the plan and cost would be submitted to the county auditor by July 9, for inclusion on the November 2012 general election ballot.

Plan history and development

A districtwide facilities assessment in 2007 by Regency Construction found that short-term maintenance, costing $40 million, would bring the district up to Ohio School Facilities Commission standards. A 2009 assessment by that commission found that total renovation of all facilities would require $225 million. In 2011, the district’s Citizens Facilities Committee toured the buildings and confirmed reports of outdated systems, unsatisfactory building configurations, and excess space for the district’s 6,000 students.

The student population is projected to be 5,575 in five years. The Ohio School Facilities Commission standard is 276,000 square feet of warning space for 6,000 students. The district has 1.26 million square feet. Reconfiguration plan

Public feedback led to Idea C, which calls for the renovated high school to house 1,680 students, the three renovated middle schools to each house 700 fourth through eighth graders, and renovated Canterbury, Oxford and Roxboro elementary schools, plus a new Boulevard Elementary School, to each house 420 kindergarteners through third graders, and 75 preschoolers. The elementary sites to remain open were chosen based on geographic distribution, student density, size, condition, cost to renovate, and the community’s preference for 1920 architecture.

Plan costs and financing options

The cost projection for Idea C is $189 million. A 28-year bond issue could generate $158 million, which is the maximum bond revenue possible due to current legal constraints. The lowest millage needed is not known yet, but a millage of 3.92 would cost taxpayers about $10 per month for a $100,000 house. The board discussed possibilities for generating additional funds to bring the total close to the needed $189 million, including borrowing against its continuing permanent improvement levy or against savings that would accrue to the general fund because of the district’s redundant facilities. Board questions and comments

Board members had many comments and questions regarding the impact of Idea C on racial breakdown among buildings, the link between building configuration and academic outcomes, the strength of the music program across the district, funding for professional training in the use of the new configuration, the need for support staff, the development of the high school, and the irretrievability of avoided or closed buildings. Gearty parents and University Heights residents expressed opposition to closing Gearty, but board members noted that closing Gearty was recommended in all three plans and that the facilities plan must consider what works best for the entire district. They instructed the district to investigate the potential impact of an elementary school’s closing on property values. The board will meet with both city councils on May 14 to discuss the facilities plan.

Student achievement

According to Shergalis, abundant data suggests that poor facilities negatively affect student achievement and normally functioning facilities have a positive offset. The most important factors are natural and artificial lighting, sound issues, temperature and climate issues. Kal Zucker, board member, asked for information relating student achievement to the proposed grade level configuration.

Budget

The district team that interviewed construction firms concluded that Regency Construction had the expertise and experience to provide a high quality and accurate budget proposal including the creation of swing space. The district already has more information than most districts have at this point, and contingency plans are built into all aspects of the project. No detailed design plan exists at this point because the cost of design work is so high it is not practical to do one before the decision to move ahead is made and funding obtained. Board members’ questions will be answered and facilities discussion will continue at the May 15 work session.

LWV observer: Nancy Dietrich.
Heights Libraries summer reading programs for everyone

Anna Register

What kid (or adult for that matter) doesn’t long for summer fun during the school year? Whether one wants to explore distant lands, meet new friends, discover lost civilizations, travel to outer space, or ward off evil, summer adventures can be found through the Heights Libraries’ summer reading programs.

Heights Libraries summer programs encourage kids, teens and adults to read this summer. The programs offer a unique approach to summer reading and reward participants for their accomplishments.

The children’s summer reading program, Dream Big, has two categories. Read with Me and Independent Readers.

The Read with Me program is designed for children who still need adult help to get through their favorite books. Mary Drak, youth services librarian, said, “Reading is also for kids who aren’t yet reading on their own. There are many skills that form the basis of literacy, and this program focuses on fun ways to practice them.”

For children who can read on their own, the Independent Reader program helps them to develop their budding skills. Kids can earn stickers, prizes and free books.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights

APRIL 16, 2012

Board Members James Rasor, vice president, and Carl Dale Carter were absent. [Carter had resigned due to an out-of-town move.]

Open Doors collaboration

Annemarie Grasso and Alyssa Neinas talked to the board about the activities supported by the Starting Point grant, which involves the library and Open Doors Academy. Basic activities are for middle and high school students, with an eight-week summer camp and family programs.

Parents are expected to give back time to the program. There’s an alumni program for former students who continue to need support. The program for Heights High School is held at the library and includes tutoring twice a week for those with a grade-point average below 2.8. College visits, an apprenticeship program, and a held field trip to Brazil.

Telephone system to be upgraded

Technology fund expenditures requested this month were $44,295.49, which will cover an upgrade to a new telephone system plus replacement of a staff laptop used for training.

CLEVENET now offers its member libraries the opportunity to link with its Cisco-based VoIP phone system, and the expenditure will cover equipment and licensing.

Status of Dobama liquor license

The issue of a liquor license for Dobama is still tabled as liability insurance coverage continues to be an issue for further review.

March public service report highlights

• Circulation staff is teaching Tivoli, a new self-checkout system, so staff will be comfortable with the new system before demonstrating it to customers.

• Coventry Village Library’s program with author Dan Chaon hosted 80 people. In another program, Kambri Crews, the hearing daughter of deaf parents, presented a reading and discussion of her memoir, Burn Down the Ground, to 85 people.

• Noble Neighborhood Library’s Tuesday Evening Jazz program featured artist Dobamento. Reservations and the waiting list were filled within a week after registration opened.

• Targeting grades three through six, the Youth Services Department is piloting a partnership program for Kids’ Science Challenge with WCPN 90.3 ideastream. The partnership will plan a freeyear grant from the National Institutes of Health.

• At the University Heights Library, Robert Conrad, president of WCRC Radio, spoke at Senior Citizen Happenings. Alexia Fishoff, children’s services associate, presented a Lorain-themed family program at WhoFoods.

The University Heights Library and John Carroll University (JCU) partnered to offer two genealogy classes. In February, a session on researching African-American family history was held in the electronic classroom at JCU’s Grasselli Library. In June, Nancy Miller, JCU librarian, presented “The ABCs of Genealogy” in the computer classroom at the Lee Road Library in March.

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

See disclaimer on page 4

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Heights Observer: Nonprofit and written by volunteers.
Person-centered care—a holistic approach to retirement living

Judith Eugene

Person-centered care is a method of retirement home management that nurtures the physical, mental and emotional needs of the residents. It focuses on enhancing the quality of life, and empowering residents by involving them in almost every aspect of decision making about their care.

According to The Ohio Person-Centered Care Coalition in Columbus, “Person-centered care is a relationship-based approach to care that honors and respects the voice of elders and those working closest with them. It involves a continuing process of listening and changing things in an effort to individualize care.”

The purpose of person-centered care is to make life for the residents less institutional and more home-like. This applies not only to personal care, but also to meal service methods and atmosphere, the number and type of recreational activities, and even the design of the buildings.

The Person-Centered Way: Revolutionizing the Quality of Life in Long-Term Care, a book by Ohio gerontologist Dr. James H. Collins, gives examples of approaches to person-centered care. These include allowing residents to wake up at whatever time is most comfortable for them; to eat when they are hungry, rather than at prescribed mealtimes; and to eat what they want to eat, rather than having to choose from a set menu. Collins describes person-centered care as offering “privacy, dignity, autonomy, and self-worth” to the residents.

Successful person-centered care involves a team-based approach to every aspect of care, where the residents are an integral part of the team. Judson Smart Living, with locations at University Circle and Chagrin Falls, has been practicing this approach since 1999. Lin Bartel, director of Judson member programming, said, “We base our entire approach on developing meaningful relationships between the residents and the staff, who work together to improve the quality of life for residents as well as employees.”

Judson programming empowers residents to live as fully and autonomously as possible, in whatever ways are most meaningful to them. Residents decide what activities they would like to participate in, and some have even started new programs using their own personal skills and talents. Judson also offers intergenerational programming, uniting residents with students at local schools to share learning experiences.

Judson offers their programs not only to their residents, but to the entire Cleveland community. Their Wellness Center memberships are available to the public, and they have opened satellite centers in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights. Robert Lucarelli, director of communications, said, “We offer a platform for all older adults to remain meaningful members of society, and we give them tools to nurture that.”

Call the Ohio Person-Centered Care Coalition at 614-466-5002 and Judson Smart Living at 216-721-1234.

Heights senior citizen receives art award

Cleveland Heights resident Elaine Wells takes art classes at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center. She won an award for her outstanding artwork at the Lee Road Library Senior Art Show. Wells will have more artwork on display at the library during the month of June.

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Weights Culinary Heritage Show at Council Gardens on June 24

Hyla Winston

Council Gardens will host the first-ever Heights Culinary Heritage Show, on June 24, at 2501 North Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights. The free, festive gathering for adults in the community will begin at 5 p.m., and is supported by a grant from Cayahoga Arts & Culture. The evening will include free re-freshments, ethnic music and dancing, tours of Council Gardens and the recent improvements financed by a $1.6 million Federal Green Retrofit Program Grant. There also will be tours of the organic produce gardens and an ethnic food contest.

Judges for the contest will include Michael Bloom, artistic director of the Cleveland Play House; Tom Fello of Tommy’s; Doug Katz of fire food & drink; Mark and Ruth Levine of Bistro 185; Steven Pincus of Pincus Bakery; Burt Saltzman of Dave’s Supermarkets; Ricardo Sandoval of Felice and Far Cars; Alex Schneider of Restaurant Europa; Raj Singh of Taste; and Laura Tasel, journalist and author of Cleveland Ethnic Eats.

Council Gardens (www.councilgardens.org) is a cluster of garden apartments on North Taylor Road, just north of Mayfield Road. It was established in 1963 by National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section, and offers affordable independent housing for people of all backgrounds, age 62 and over, and for mobility-impaired adults of any age.

Barbara Mervine is the CEO of Council Gardens, Debbie Hoffmann is the board chair, and co-chairs of the event are Becky Chesler and Linda Friedman.

Tickets must be reserved in advance. Space is limited, and free valet parking is available. For information and to reserve free tickets, call 216-651-7740.

Hyla Winston is a freelance communications consultant and is on the board of trustees of Council Gardens.
Julia’s Creations, jewelry store, opens on Lee

Simon Jasper

On May 5, Shaker Heights residents Julia and Victor Nimmons opened Julia’s Creations, a jewelry boutique on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

The couple has been married for two years, and both worked at MetroHealth for more than 30 years before resigning from their jobs.


After leaving their jobs, they started God’s Work Inc., a nonprofit organization designed to end hunger and establish cultural centers for young people.

Meanwhile, Julia was adjusting to retirement. “I was trying to find something I liked,” she said. As her hobby grew, the couple decided to open a store.

They began to search for a location. After driving by a vacant building on Lee Road, Victor recalled, “We saw opportunity there because of the amount of foot traffic. Julia found an outlet in jewelry making and eventually converted one floor of their home into a jewelry studio. “I love jewelry anyway, so it was right up my alley,” she said. As her hobby grew, the couple decided to open a store.

In addition to selling Julia’s jewelry, the shop also sells sunglasses, hats, bags, body oils, organic soaps, and accessories.

Marc Aurele Buholzer will open a stone oven pizza and Italian gelato restaurant in the former site of La Gelateria and Pizzeria on Cedar Road. Buholzer is familiar with the business, as he helped open the previous restaurant in 2002.

He then worked at La Gelateria and Pizzeria while attending college and pursuing a degree in philosophy and business.

Buholzer saw the closing of the former restaurant as an opportunity to pursue his dream of owning his own business. He chose the name Vero, meaning “true” or “real” in Italian. Vero will offer simple, traditional Neapolitan pizza with a thin crust, homemade sauce, and the freshest of ingredients—local when possible. The pizza is baked in a traditional wood-burning brick oven, which was imported from Italy.

Vero’s gelato will be delivered fresh daily. Buholzer will continue to offer customers’ favorite flavors, such as pistacchio, gianduia and stracciatella, and flavors will be rotated monthly.

Although best enjoyed within minutes, Vero’s gelato will be delivered fresh daily. Buholzer will continue to offer customers’ favorite flavors, such as pistachio, gianduia and stracciatella, and flavors will be rotated monthly. Buholzer is excited to offer homemade waffles cones, made on-site each day.

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Buholzer has completely remodeled the space to produce a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. More room has been made for tables and chairs, and the decor is modern-rustic with wooden tables, brick accents and warm colors. Soundproof panels have been strategically and aesthetically placed to help create a pleasant dining experience.

Julia’s Creations is a business that allows Julia to pursue her passion for jewelry. She encourages others who want to start a business. “Go for it,” she said.

Julia and Victor Nimmons, owners of Julia’s Creations.

Julia Nimmons is a senior at Beaumont School. She is a staff writer for the Beaumont Voice student newspaper and an intern for the Heights Observer.
Lopez: a Cleveland Heights staple

Chris Hanson

Call it "swag," call it subculture, skate-ware, call it whatever you want. Another Enemy is a Cleveland Heights clothing brand that is gaining rave reviews across the nation, with notable celebrities donning the attire, rappers from bars to Cavaliers courtside seats, and more. It opened its flagship store in Cleveland Heights just four months ago, at 13437 Cedar Road.

Another Enemy, launched in 2009 by owner Justin Lipsky, focuses on pro-viding apparel to hard-to-reach core demographics and younger consumers. "We were fortunate to have Rick Bayless as our first chef," Sumers said. Bayless is now an internationally ac-claimed celebrity chef, restaurateur and TV personality who specializes in Mexican cuisine. Yet, Lopez continued to thrive after his departure. "Every since, we've been lucky to have a number of talented chefs," said Sumers. "Only five or six in 32 years."

After nearly a 20-year run in its original location, Lopez temporarily suspended operations due to lease dis-agreements. The restaurant reopened in its current location in 2001. Sumers said, "With the help and assistance of the City of Cleveland Heights Planning and Development Department, we were able to purchase the former Yorkville Cafe and went from 70 to 150 seats, plus a patio."

A major impetus for selecting the current location was the desire to capi-talize on the proposed condominium project at the corner of Lee and Tul-lamore roads, a project that eventually fell through. In spite of that, Lopez flourished behind its excellent food and stellar reputation.

"Our success is predicated on a lot more than the business we would have gotten from that building," Sumers said. "The quality of the food and service goes far beyond Lee Road. We attract customers from the west side of Cleve-land all the way to Akron."

Michael Herschman has been ex-ecutive chef for over a year, and brings experience and passion to the position. "I see Lopez through the eyes of the community and the customer base because I live right down the street," Herschman said. "I have a great crew of guys, some of whom I've worked with before, and we have a similar work ethic. We all try to out-cook one another."

Sumers said his successful collabora-tion with Herschman has given Lopez a strong foundation—one that enables the pair to launch expansion plans. "The future is bright," Sumers said. "We're going to be opening another Lopez on the east bank of the Flats in the spring or summer of 2013, and there are other restaurant projects in the works."

Sumers says he feels nostalgic when he reflects on the history of the restaurant. "I've seen families that had little babies when they first came in, now their kids are coming in with their kids," said Sumers. "We've been really fortunate. Cleveland Heights has been very good to us. It's hard to imagine that we could have had this type of longevity and loyalty in many other communities. I'm a resident of Cleveland Heights and I love it here."

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

Another Enemy

Another Enemy's flagship store in Cleveland Heights is located at 13437 Cedar Road.
ChamberFEST Cleveland has Heights roots

Daniel Budin

ChamberFEST Cleveland, the brainchild of Cleveland Heights native Diana Cohen, kicks off its inaugural season June 27. ChamberFEST Cleveland is an intensive summer chamber music festival, featuring outstanding musicians in both traditional and nontraditional concert settings throughout Cleveland. The festival aims to enhance the region’s passion for classical music through innovative performances and venues.

Talented musicians have surrounded Cohen, executive and artistic director of ChamberFEST Cleveland, since birth. The daughter of Franklin Cohen, principal clarinetist of the Cleveland Orchestra, and the late Lynette Diers Cohen, a well-known local bassoonist, Cohen is now the concertmaster of the Richmond Symphony. Her brother, Alexander, is the principal timpanist of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. As an alumna of Cleveland Heights High School and the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), Cohen was determined to bring a world-class chamber music festival to her hometown.

After enlisting her father as co-artistic director, Cohen incorporated ChamberFEST Cleveland as a nonprofit organization and began the arduous task of fundraising. Through a fall benefit concert in a beautiful Heights home, along with the help of grants, donations and community support, ChamberFEST Cleveland has finally become a reality. “My father and I are absolutely thrilled to be bringing ChamberFEST Cleveland to our city,” Cohen said. “Despite Cleveland’s culturally rich traditions, an international caliber chamber music festival has never existed here. We cannot wait to change that, and so are excited to introduce our roster of 16 world-class musicians, an acclaimed speaker and visual artist. ChamberFEST will offer chamber music at its finest, and a host of other special touches including post-concert Brazilian and gypsy jam sessions, fantastic local food offerings, and a real chance to engage with the community.”

Running from June 27 to July 1, ChamberFEST Cleveland will feature performances of the Cleveland Institute of Music, CWRU’s Harkness Chapel, the Dunham Tavern Museum, and The Wine Spot in Cleveland Heights. Each venue will host unique performances; the event at The Wine Spot will feature a Movie Night, complete with live accompaniment to the silent film, “Sherlock Jr.,” as well as a complimentary wine flight.

For tickets or information, visit www.chamberfestcleveland.com or call the CIM box office at 216-791-5000 ext. 411. ChamberFEST Cleveland co-artistic directors Franklin and Diana Cohen.

Coventry Village tour launches Heights Historical mobile phone app

Mark Souther, associate professor of history at Cleveland State University and member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, leads an app-enhanced walking tour of Coventry Village on May 19, using Cleveland Historical’s mobile phone app developed by CSU’s Digital Humanities Department. The tour is the first of four neighborhood tours to be developed for the app by FutureHeights, CSU, the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, and the City of Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, and is generously funded by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and with support from the City of Cleveland Heights, Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley, the Coventry Village ID; the Cedar Fairmount ID; Nighttown Restaurant, CH Council Member Dennis Willcox and others. Download the free app at the iPhone App Store, Android Market or http://clevelandhistorical.org.

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The 30th annual Roxboro Arts Festival was held May 19 at Roxboro Elementary School. Highlights from the fun-filled event included rides on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, make-your-own Chia pet and facepainting. Pictured are Roxboro kindergarteners Juliette Godard (left) and Anna Fisher, with Anna’s brother Max Bauders.

The evening will include a silent auction, open bar, special presentation by Bays, live music and dancing after 8:30 p.m. Admission for the event is $30 for the two-tiered Star Gazers, enter at 6 p.m., and Night Bloomers at 8:30 p.m. Star Gazers will arrive for cocktails and dinner with Bays, and Night Bloomers will arrive for dessert and open bar.

“Tickets can be purchased anytime before June 5, and are $15 for Star Gazers and $40 for Night Bloomers. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Dobama Theatre at 216-932-1366 or visit www.dobama.org/dobamarama.”

Yelena Tischenko is a senior magazine journalist major at Kent State University and a Heights Observer summer editorial intern.
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