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Dog Project proposes lifting dog ban in CH parks

Yelena Tischenko

As summer starts, Heights residents are looking for places to enjoy the outdoors with their dogs.

The Dog Project Committee is a group of residents that formed as a result of the Cain Park Neighborhood Association's efforts to encourage more neighborhood activities in Cain Park. Members attended the June 18 Cleveland Heights City Council meeting to petition council to lift the dog ban in Cain Park. The group proposed a test run of six months to one year, and eventually wants to make all Cleveland Heights parks dog-friendly.

"Dogs are part of the 21st-century family," said Kerry Whitehouse, who spoke for the group at the meeting.

The committee hopes lifting the dog ban will reduce crime, increase foot traffic and encourage more families to spend time in Cain Park. Members are conducting a survey to gather information to develop a petition. For informa-



Beast, is a Cleveland Heights resident who enjoys walking on a leash.

tion, e-mail cbdogproject@gmail.com.

Anticipating some problems if the ban on dogs is lifted, the committee wants to educate and encourage residents to pick up dog waste and

ensure their dogs are practicing good behavior. "We have every intention to find a solution for problems," said Whitehouse.

"I believe that allowing people to bring their dog to the park is a net positive," wrote Jason Stein, Cleveland Heights City Council member, in his blog. "Of course, the dog must be on a leash and the person walking the dog must clean up after the dog and dispose of the waste."

The committee plans to research funding for dog waste receptacles and wants to partner with city council.

Andrew David, a Heights resident, was walking his dog Beast on Lee Road the day after the meeting. Asked to comment on the proposal, he said, "I think that dogs should be allowed in parks. They're just as much family as kids are."

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and a Heights Observer intern.

Remembering Hugh Williams

Deanna Bremer Fisher

University Heights resident Hugh Richard Williams IV was laid to rest June 23 after a memorial service at Cedar Hill Baptist Church, where he had been a member. Williams was 43 years old and died after a battle with an aggressive form of cancer.

Williams was active in many community organizations and his children's school, Gearity Professional Development School. He served on the boards



Gina Cheverine, former FutureHeights board president, stands with Hugh Williams at the 2009 University Heights Memorial Day Parade. Both are wearing their Heights Observer T-shirts.

of FutureHeights, Open Doors Academy and the Thea Bowman Center. He was a member of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders Flagship Class.

Williams was the first University

Heights resident to serve on the board of FutureHeights, which added the city to its service area when it launched the *Heights Observer*. "I'd like to see the area (including UH) become THE place to live for progressive-minded, intellectually stimulated people of all origins," Williams wrote in his board application.

Williams, the fourth of five children, was born in 1969 at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, into a military family and a long line of preachers. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather were ministers.

Early on, Williams demonstrated leadership ability and seriousness of purpose. He excelled at sports, and he was class president and student council president at Avondale High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Deidre Henry, a childhood friend, remembered how happy she was when he moved into her suburban neighborhood. "Another dark face, like mine," she said, "and we would have serious conversations walking home from school." A photo of Williams from the 1980s displayed at the funeral showed him in his baseball uniform, a young confident athlete sporting his characteristic determined look. "He was my first black president," Henry said. "And he took his job seriously."

"He had great earnestness and an awesome sense of humor," said Henry. "His nickname was Buddy. He made everyone feel like they were the most important person in the world."

Williams attended the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, and graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and sociology. He served for three years as an artillery officer in the

Shop local to celebrate our Independents

Philip Hewitt

The Heights Independent Business Alliance (HiBA) wants Heights residents to celebrate their independence this July by choosing to shop local. HiBA is partnering with the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA) and FutureHeights, in collaboration with the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, to declare the week of July 1-7 Independents Week.

"HiBA is joining organizations nationwide to celebrate the independent businesses that exemplify the uniqueness of the Heights," said Alex Quintana, co-owner of Quintana's Barbershop and Dream Spa and cofounder of HiBA. "Our community embodies a strong spirit of entrepreneurship and individuality. This campaign offers us an opportunity to celebrate that spirit, and cultivate an environment where independent businesses continue to thrive."

"We are extremely pleased to have Mayors Kelley and Infeld on board with this initiative," said Megan Johnson, organizing director for HiBA.

The Heights community is invited to join the celebration by participating in HiBA's first annual Summer Indie Hop in the Heights, during July. When residents spend money with a participating HiBA-member business, or donate to a member nonprofit, they will receive a chance to win prizes. At the end of the month, HiBA will select the winners. The grand prize is an Apple iPad.

Participants can register online as a community supporter, and for every \$10 spent with HiBA members, they will receive a stamp on their Indie Hop card (available at participating locations).

Deliver to addressee or current resident

FutureHeights
2163 Lee Road #103
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

CH announces free summer parking dates

Heights Observer Contributor

Free parking in Cleveland Heights? No, you're not hallucinating. The city is offering free parking at meters throughout the city on three weekends this summer:

- June 29-July 1
- July 27-29
- Aug. 24-26

"We have offered free parking in the past for specific events and when

we had really bad winters," said Susanna Niermann O'Neil, acting city manager for the City of Cleveland Heights. We picked this summer because different merchants asked about it as a possibility. We looked at it, thought about it, and council said this is a good thing to do to bring people to the commercial districts."

For more information, visit www.clevelandheights.com.

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Letters Policy

The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to:
www.heightsobserver.org/members or
 e-mail: info@futureheights.org

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The Heights Observer is your voice in the community



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Much has changed in the Heights this past year. Both Cleveland Heights and University Heights have new police chiefs, our public schools are going through a master facilities planning process, there are new faces on our city councils, neighbors are banding together to form new neighborhood organizations and revitalize old ones, and Cleveland Heights is even giving free parking a try. Positive action through citizen participation is what makes the Heights community such a wonderful place to live.

The *Heights Observer* is your voice in the community, and your voice is important. Through the *Observer*, you provide information about what is happening in our community, educate your neighbors about the significance of these events and advocate for changes that you think will move us forward.

The *Observer* helps connect people and convene them on important issues. It helps create networks in a diverse community and builds our capacity to sustain a vibrant future.

Has your voice been heard? Have you used the *Observer*?

If so, I invite your continued participation. If not, I invite you to tell your story. If there is an issue or an event that you think Heights residents should know about, write a story and submit it online. Have an opinion about something happening in our community? Write an opinion piece, post a blog or send us a letter. Whatever you want to address about life in this community, the *Observer* exists to make your voice heard.

And, if you like what the *Observer* does, I invite you to help support it.

The *Heights Observer* is operated by FutureHeights, a nonprofit organization dedicated to citizen engagement. FutureHeights relies on donations from individuals and special events; it does not receive any government funding. While the *Observer* generates most of its own operating funding through advertising sales, it still requires support

from FutureHeights.

This year, FutureHeights is celebrating 10 years of encouraging positive citizen participation to create a brighter future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights. You can help the *Observer* continue to be the voice for our community by making a tax-deductible contribution and becoming a member of FutureHeights. Here's a link where you can contribute securely online: www.futureheights.org/Donate.

If you have an idea or an issue that you think the community needs to discuss, consider this your invitation. Editor Kim Sergio Inglis and I are happy to discuss ideas with you and help walk you through the process of submitting it through the *Observer's* Member Center.

To reach us, e-mail city.editor@heightsobserver.org or call 216-320-1423. Register at the *Observer* Member Center (<http://heightsobserver.org/members>) and click on Submit New Story to send us your story or letter.

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

Highlights from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Bulldozer on Taylor: Children, people with visual impairments and homeowners don't count

The bulldozers are on Taylor Road; these machines are busy digging up and moving dirt, concrete and asphalt.

But these bulldozers wouldn't be there if it were not for Cleveland Heights city officials. They bulldozed over the expressed desires and concerns of the city residents who live along Taylor Rd between Mayfield and Euclid Heights Boulevard. These Taylor Road residents include children, a visually impaired woman, and many homeowners.

—Fran Mentch

Stop mugging around and buy something local

Starbucks is selling a new ceramic coffee mug for \$10. The novelty in this is

that the mug is made in America—East Liverpool, Ohio, actually, which I've just learned was once the nation's pottery capital. The mugs have their own display, separate from all the other ceramic mugs and travel cups that Starbucks sources from China.

—Bob Rosenbaum

Michelangelo Lovelace, Sr.—Urban Wonder

Last Friday I experienced urban wonder. Passionate—color filled—electric energy—urban wonder. Just shy of Little Italy at the Artist Archives of the Western Reserve I attended an amazing retrospective exhibition of the Art of Michelangelo Lovelace, Sr.

—Tiffany Laufer

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Dogs in parks?

To the Editor:

For some who suffer from allergies, dogs are definitely not “part of the part of the 21st century family.” While many dogs are well-behaved and well-trained, too many are not, jumping up and nosing strangers without invitation. For those with severe allergies, like my wife and sons, contact with dog dander or saliva brings on rashes and severe breathing difficulties, which may require hospitalization.

Our city parks and playgrounds are among the few outdoor spaces where they can enjoy a reasonable chance of not encountering a potentially life-threatening exposure. Please rethink this idea, or designate one “dog park” that they can avoid. And please don’t make it Cain Park, that wonderful venue, which should be enjoyed by all, even if they have to leave their best friends home.

Sam Bell
Cleveland Heights

Thanks to CH-UH School Board for its Millikin School decision

To the Editor:

Members of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board are to be commended for their leadership. They refused to give in to the demands of a small vocal group regarding the sale of Millikin School. The board recognized the real issue behind the sale of this public property—the land, not the building, is important.

This piece of land has significant economic potential because it could easily be connected to Severance Town Center. This land contains a wetland and provides a green buffer between the largest assemblage of concrete and asphalt in the city and the residential neighborhoods nearby.

This property contains the remains of the Severance stables, the last building connected to the history of the Severance estate. If we want to be a sustainable city, we have to develop greentrails so people can walk, bicycle, and use strollers and wheelchairs to



The former Millikin Elementary School.

get from place to place. The Millikin property is a crucial puzzle piece in the creation of a regional greentrail.

The Mosdos congregation is to be commended for its advocacy, and I hope negotiations result in the signing of a long-term lease for Millikin School.

Real leaders look to the long-range future of the community, not to appeasement and pandering of votes. I applaud and respect the school board for making the best decision for our community’s long-term interests. I hope the members of the Cleveland Heights City Council will look to the school board as an example of good governance. We will all look at the empty Walmart and the new Super Walmart, a half-mile away, as the example of theirs, for many years to come.

Fran Mentch
Cleveland Heights

Could “Coventry Cash” revive Coventry Street Fair?

Greg Coleridge

Organizers of the Coventry Street Arts Fair should consider an idea that could help any future fairs be both safe for individuals and successful for local businesses.

What about a “federal-cash-for-Coventry-Cash” entry fee exchange? Charge \$5 to enter the fair. In exchange, each entrant would receive \$5 worth of Coventry Cash—coupons redeemable for food or merchandise that day at any participating business or vendor.

How would this plan increase individual safety and business success?

Many of the safety problems from last year’s fair were connected to a large number of people from outside the area who descended on Coventry in a short period of time. Such a scenario would be less likely to occur if every individual had to pass through one of a few designated entrances. Having to pay an entrance fee might also deter out-of-area visitors who wouldn’t see the value of Coventry Cash since they aren’t connected to our local community and businesses.

For businesses, the local “cash” in the hands of fairgoers would likely be spent, and then some. Since Coventry Cash would be good only on Coventry on that day, the program would probably not only increase sales, but also build awareness of local businesses. It might also help plant a few seeds of the idea that there could be advantages of establishing some kind of local money that can only circulate within our local area, facilitating local transactions to help local merchants and our local community.

To offset costs associated with printing the local money, the “exchange rate” could be set up so \$5 in federal cash buys \$4 in Coventry Cash.

For anyone who couldn’t afford to spend \$5 at the fair, any unspent Coventry Cash could be redeemed for federal cash upon exit—which would be another deterrent to unruly behavior.

While the details can certainly be revised, the concept is one that very well could work to the benefit of individuals, merchants and the community.

Greg Coleridge is the director of the Economic & Political Justice Program for the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee.

The Heights Observer asked residents if they thought dogs should be allowed in city parks, via an online poll. The results so far:

74.4% Yes 25.6% No

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Plan C is the wrong plan, for the wrong price and at possibly the wrong time

Eric Silverman

Opinion

Five minutes. That was the amount of time members of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education were willing to allow for public comment before they make a decision on a \$200 million capital project that will be the single largest civic project in our community's history. At the June 5 board meeting, I asked if they would entertain public comment at their work session on June 19, or schedule another community meeting on the final plan. The reply was "No." June 5 was the last opportunity for public comment, except for July 3, the night board members will cast their votes.

I've waited more than 20 years for the community to give our children the buildings they deserve. However, I feel that I have no other choice: I cannot support the current facilities plan. If it is on the ballot this November, I will, for the first time in 27 years, vote "no" on a schools' issue.

This is not an easy choice for me. I am a second generation Heights High graduate. I served on the school board for eight years and on the library board for seven. I've worked on every school levy for the past 20 years and served as treasurer of Citizens for Heights Schools for most of the last decade. Recently, as president of the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation—a position I have held for 11 years—I handed out more than \$25,000 to graduating seniors at Heights High.

I want what is best for our community, something that is worthy of this community, and what I have seen so far is not it.

This is not the outcome I expected when the Citizens' Facilities Committee began its work. I served on the Assessment Subcommittee, touring every one of our schools, from boiler rooms to rooftops. I saw things that made my heart sink. I fully understand the capital needs of our system. I applaud the efforts of Steve Shergalis and his staff to address the needs of our buildings on a limited budget. While I might quibble about how the Ohio School Facilities Commission determines square footage, decry its narrow-minded attitude towards single-purpose spaces (i.e., auditoriums) and its bias for new construction, I do know that our buildings need work.

I also served on the Options Subcommittee. It was then that we began our descent into the current quagmire. One member of the subcommittee was correct in saying that we should view this project as first addressing the backlog of more than \$40 million in repairs. Instead of simply passing a bond issue to fix that list of repairs, we needed to address things on a systemic level. Instead of patching a pipe, replace it; if opening

a wall to replace a pipe, ask what other systems can be replaced when the wall is open. Then ask, is this wall where we want it to be? While addressing the mechanical needs of the system, a corollary benefit could be to implement some of the new educational space concepts we keep hearing about.

Sadly, this has not been the case. Instead, the 21st-century version of the open-classroom concept has been driving the plan. An early iteration of Plan C made sure that these "learning communities" were built, but showed a large number of spaces (including gyms, libraries and offices) left untouched—not the comprehensive plan the committee wanted. I am told that learning communities are not the open classroom concept of the past, and on at least one point this is correct—open classrooms didn't use garage doors to partition rooms as the current flexible-space plan proposes.

As a skeptic of the learning-communities concept, I have asked repeatedly for empirical data that shows the concept improves test scores in districts like ours—not overseas, not in private schools in Florida, not in wealthy communities in Michigan, but in systems like ours. I have seen none. I have asked what neighboring school districts are doing, or what comparable systems—locally or nationally—are doing. I hear nothing. In fact, I was told that what Shaker Heights and Lakewood do doesn't matter; we're doing our own thing. Correct me if I am wrong, but in those two communities people like the public schools, and they have better test scores than our schools do. Are we so arrogant as to think we cannot learn anything from them?

In the end, I feel the Citizen's Facilities Committee and the public meetings have been merely a charade to add a patina of legitimacy to this top-down process.

Even if I believed in the efficacy of the educational concepts, what about the buildings themselves? After squandering six months on two dead-on-arrival ideas, we land at Option C. But when I ask one question to two people working on this project, trying to reconcile what the district intends to keep and what it will demolish, I get three different answers.

There is a clear consensus among the public to remove the additions from the 1960s and 70s and replace the mechanical systems. That is what people want, but not what is proposed. We are told "historic cores" will be preserved, but this is playing with language, as only a few can discern what was built in 1926 and what was built in 1930. What this verbiage really means is that the district plans to keep the least amount of the original building in order to placate the masses—the people who live in this community, the ones who are picking up the \$200 million bill. What will be kept of the original buildings is to be gutted and replaced with design

concepts from the architect's Little Red Book of design—this year's trend in educational architecture, which is likely to be as outdated in ten years as the 1972 renovations were by the 1980s.

If the district is on a budget, and renovation costs 10 to 30 percent less than new construction, why not do more renovation? When we ask for more details about what will be built, we are told it is too early to commit to designs and floor plans. So what the board is approving is an idea 19—basically a blank check for \$200 million.

The worst part of Plan C is at the high school, where "additions" from 1930 and 1950 (the Social Room) would be demolished and replaced with the same square footage as sits there now. The Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation crafted a plan for Heights years ago that contains floor plans and drawings. Has anyone from the district asked the foundation about its ideas? No. In fact, the foundation has more floor plans and exterior drawings in its Heights High plan than the district has received from its expensive consultants.

We all decry the 1972 renovations, but aside from the five lost buildings and silly additions, most of that work was

cosmetic: ugly windows, carpet, crazy paint schemes and odd colors. Plan C is butchery on an industrial scale.

The clock is ticking. A school board that has had very little input or involvement in the planning process until the last few months must now either accept a plan—whose only enthusiastic supporters are those who draw a paycheck—or stop and come up with a plan that those of us who will be here five years from now can support.

We now are approaching a lose-lose scenario. If the district goes to the ballot and loses, it reduces its ability to ever go back to the voters with a good project, as it will have damaged its credibility. If the bond issue passes, the current plan would do far worse to our buildings than was done in '72.

I am not saying save everything, as I could live with demolishing two-thirds of our 15 buildings. I am not saying, save my child's school. I want what is best for our community and can pass at the ballot box. Plan C is the wrong plan, for the wrong price and at possibly the wrong time.

Eric J. Silverman served on the CH-UH School Board 1994-2001. He is president of the Heights High Alumni Foundation.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

MAY 21, 2012

Mayor Edward J. Kelley was absent.

Water and sewer fees increase

The city manager reported that due to decreased revenues from the housing downturn, monthly water service fees must be raised. These fees were first introduced in 2005 at \$4 per month and will be raised to \$10 per month beginning mid-July. Homeowners who are eligible for the homestead exemption will continue to pay no fee.

3354 Berkeley Ave.

Council declared the house at 3354 Berkeley Ave. a nuisance and authorized abatement. This house, which has been empty for many years, has multiple violations and taxes in arrears. Razing will cost \$10,000 and an asbestos survey will cost \$500.

Lead Safe Program

The city has been awarded an additional \$512,000 for the Lead Safe Program. Eligible residents may apply for funding for home improvements to abate lead hazards by calling 216-291-4869.

Waterline survey

Council authorized an agreement with Consulting Engineering Inc. for a waterline survey not to exceed \$44,000. These annual surveys locate undetected leaks and save a great deal of water.

Mayfield Road work

Council authorized an agreement, not to exceed \$254,845, with GPD Group for engineering and bidding support services for Mayfield Road rehabilitation from Kenilworth Road to Warrensville Center Road.

Recycling income

Council Member Bonnie Caplan said that, although only about 59 percent of households separate trash to recycle, the city made

\$150,000 last year from the recycling program.

Sustainable zoning practices

Council adopted zoning code revisions to incorporate sustainable practices into the zoning code. Council Member Caplan and Vice Mayor Dennis Wilcox congratulated the planning department and the law director for the extraordinary amount of work they did to produce these revisions. Wilcox pointed out three aspects to sustainability: environmental, social and economic. The full text of the ordinance may be found on the Cleveland Heights website, www.clevelandheights.com.

More outdoor dining spots

Council authorized an agreement with Kathmandu Inc. (Café Tandoor) for the use of public property adjoining the building at 2096 South Taylor Road for outside dining from May 1 through Nov. 1, and a similar agreement with Keith Logan (Sweetie Fry) at 2307 Lee Road.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

JUNE 4, 2012

All council members were present.

Phyllis Evans resigns

Mayor Edward Kelley announced that Council Member Phyllis Evans had resigned for personal reasons, effective May 31. Throughout the meeting several council members spoke of their sadness at her resignation.

CDBG funds

Council approved four pieces of legislation allocating Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These include:

- An agreement with the Center for Families and Children for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for \$15,000 to assist its Pinpoint Program at the RapArt Center.
- An agreement with the Cleveland Tenants Organization for \$4,500 for its telephone information service.
- Reprogramming and reallocating CDBG funds by removing \$151,250 from the Commercial

Loan Fund and putting \$15,000 of this into the Streetscape Low and Moderate Income Fund and \$136,250 into the Public Works Fund. This will provide increased funds for road rehabilitation and streetscape work.

- An agreement with the Home Repair Resource Center for \$216,000 for the agency's various home repair and home improvement programs.

Construction by service providers

An ordinance to revise the city code to ensure proper protection and restoration of public and private property during construction activities by service providers was presented on first reading. Early in the evening, during the period of public comment, Dave Gunning of Fairmount Boulevard, who represents Dominion East Ohio Gas, asked council to take time to talk to utility companies. He claimed the ordinance is unnecessary because existing ordinances cover sidewalk replacement but do not hold utilities to different standards than homeowners. The utilities just received the proposed ordinance late Friday afternoon.

Cooking oil collection

Council Member Caplan announced that used cooking oil will now be collected curbside in an original container or a marked two-liter bottle and will be recycled and sold for fueling specially adapted motor vehicles.

Citizens United Supreme Court decision

Council Member Jason Stein introduced, on first reading, a resolution opposing the U. S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission regarding the constitutional rights of corporations. The resolution supports an amendment to the constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the protected rights of natural persons, specifically so that corporate money spent to influence the election process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech. The resolution calls on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.



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, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lww-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

MAY 21, 2012

All council members were present.

County Planning Commission

Mayor Susan Infeld announced that the county executive has appointed her to the County Planning Commission to represent the Heights. She said she felt that her childhood spent living on the shores of Lake Michigan, combined with her long years of dedication to Northeast Ohio, would give her a good perspective on potential development opportunities for the region.

Returned check policy

An ordinance was presented on first reading to establish a returned-check policy. Currently, the city has no policy regarding checks that have been returned for insufficient funds. This ordinance would impose a fine of \$30 for each returned check.

Range service agreement

Council authorized a range service agreement between the University Heights and South Euclid police departments. Currently, University Heights officers use the South Euclid shooting range without a formal agreement, and the city pays a fee of \$100. The formal agreement would set the fee at \$75. Officers are required to pass a shooting test to carry their firearms.

Tree maintenance

Council authorized the mayor to hire Tree Service

Now for the pruning and tree removal of certain trees in the city. Tree Service Now was the lowest bidder on three of four sites for a total cost of \$19,950. Northeast Tree Service was the lowest bidder for the fourth site, but the bid was below the \$5,000 minimum that requires council's approval.

R.I.T.A. representatives

Larry Heiser, finance director, announced that R.I.T.A. representatives will be meeting individually with people who do not seem to be in compliance with local tax regulations. Individuals have received subpoenas and will have the opportunity to present their information to these representatives in council chambers. Mayor Infeld said that many of these cases involve people who have moved away or have stopped working.

Technology Advisory Commission

Susan Pardee, councilwoman, announced that the mayor will be appointing up to 15 people to the newly renamed Technology Advisory Commission. Council members were asked to make recommendations.

2012 recreation program

Pamela Cameron, councilwoman, announced that the recreation program for 2012 was now available in print and online. Pool passes can be purchased online using PayPal.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

JUNE 4, 2012

Councilman Thomas Cozzens was excused.



to find life in a burning structure.

Texting while driving

Steve Hammett, police chief, noted that Ohio House Bill 99, recently passed to curtail texting while driving, does not supersede local ordinances. It will go into effect 90 days from passage.

Street construction

Final paving on four streets under construction will be completed in time for ceremonies at John Carroll University. A portion of North Park Boulevard will be renamed John Carroll Boulevard. New signs will be placed at Milford and Carroll roads. Waterline replacement on Lansdale and Westwood roads is underway.

Program on sewer maintenance

The county engineer's office will present a program on sewer maintenance and repair at city hall on Monday, June 18 at 6 p.m.

Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will not take place until Tuesday, September 4. Special meetings may be called during July and August.

LWV Observer: Patricia Solomon.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

UH mourns the death of Dina Flesher, finance clerk

Christina Sanders

Monday, June 4, was a difficult day for University Heights City Hall employees. Dina Flesher, a loyal and cherished employee and member of the University Heights community, died suddenly on June 3. Following the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the June 4 city council meeting, attendees observed a moment of silence to honor Flesher.

Susan Infeld, University Heights mayor, noted that Flesher had worked in the city's finance department for five years, and said, "I was surprised to see it was that short a period of time. She was an integral part of making this city function, and her personality lent so much to our operations."

Infeld described Flesher as "an employee who really interacted with

everyone. She paid all the bills for the city—when it came down to cutting the checks, she did that."

Flesher is survived by her two children, a son and daughter, and is remembered by her family, friends and co-workers as a pleasant person with a good sense of humor.

"She was a fun lady who really had a zest for life. The glass was definitely half full for her, if not overflowing," said Infeld. "Her sunny personality really set a tone for the people who work here, and that tone benefited the city and the way we interact with residents."

Christina Sanders is a senior at Cleveland State University and a FutureHeights intern.



Dina Flesher

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Heights Community Congress celebrates its 40th anniversary

Yelena Tischenko

Heights Community Congress (HCC), is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

HCC began in 1972 with four women who were members of the Social Justice Committee at St. Ann's Church (now part of Communion of Saints Parish) on Cedar Road. The women suspected that prospective homebuyers were being steered into different neighborhoods in Cleveland Heights based on their race. They conducted what became known as the St. Ann's Audit to see if their perceptions were accurate.

"They got together and formed the first fair housing audit to see if prospective homeowners were being treated equally," said Kasey Greer, HCC executive director. "It was a big case that helped the federal fair housing law. It was the first sales audit performed in Cuyahoga County."

Some of the women are still involved with HCC today. Greer credits the group with setting the precedent for the character of Cleveland Heights.

"I think it was already well on its way to becoming known as the community that is open and welcoming. But, with this issue, it gave Cleveland Heights the label that it doesn't matter if you're white, black, gay, straight, Jewish or Muslim; you're welcome here," Greer said.

Four decades later, the community still continues fair housing testing.

"Testing is still very much needed, as well as education," Greer said. "A lot of people have no way of knowing they're being discriminated against. We still send out the 'secret shoppers' in the real estate market."

HCC has several programs to help educate the public about discrimination. HCC started a diversity program in the mid-80s to provide opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds and walks of life to come together. The group's largest event is the Heights Heritage Home and Garden Tour, which, now in its 35th year, will take place Sept. 23.

"We've had community dialogues, group discussions, movie nights and book clubs around the topics of race, class, LGBT issues and sexual orientation—issues that need to be discussed but aren't always the easiest to talk about. If they're not talked about, that's when the problems start," Greer said.

With only a small paid staff, the nonprofit depends on the generosity of its volunteers. HCC has a few regular volunteers and hundreds of volunteers who work with it over the course of the year.

"In a way, it reinforces in our mind that it's something that's needed," Greer said. "While we may not be able to do things like we did in 1972, by no means do we need to stop doing what we're doing. It's an important piece to the quality of life in Cleveland Heights."

HCC takes in complaints and helps individuals who believe they have been discriminated against to resolve their issues. It also works with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, helping people file complaints and taking cases to trial.

"Knowing that the secret shopper is out there keeps people motivated to do the right thing," Greer said. "That's a huge achievement for us."

Going into its 41st year, HCC is exploring ways to reinvigorate itself and rally the community around its mission and related topics. HCC is planning events to engage more people and get back to its roots.

"As we move forward, we're really trying to recapture the synergy from 1972 and bring the community together," Greer said. "We want to try to use the technology out there to connect to people with social media and webinars."

To learn more about HCC, call 216-321-6775 or visit www.heightscongress.org.

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and a Heights Observer summer editorial intern.



HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONGRESS

Senior Citizen Happenings for July

Heights Observer Contributor

Senior Citizen Happenings are sponsored by the City of University Heights. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m., at the University Heights Library, with the exception of the July 26 event, which meets at the Maltz Museum.

July 5: Mary Hamlin, of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, showcases all 26 gardens on East Boulevard and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, as well as the cultural heroes represented for each nation.

July 12: Cosandra Wheeler, group manager for the Cleveland Play House, and Corey Atkins, audience liaison, sing the praises of the seven productions in their upcoming 2012-13 season.

July 19: Lois Goodman (Class of 1950)

and Harold Mendes (Class of 1945), are newly inducted members of the Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. They will reflect on their experiences in academia and the professions that inspired their achievements.

July 26: Meet at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, 2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood, to ponder "A Blessing to One Another." The exhibit explores the enduring friendship of Pope John Paul II and the Jewish people, from his humble beginnings in Poland, to responsibilities of world leadership in Rome and his historic prayers at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

(Note: Senior Citizen Happenings will recess for August.)



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Stedman Smith receives the Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship

Lita Gonzalez

At the Senior Awards Ceremony at Cleveland Heights High School on May 30, Stedman Smith received the 2012 Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship. Commander Robert Montgomery presented the award to Smith.

In addition to having a part-time job, and being co-captain of the lacrosse team, Smith found time to become involved with the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), and was selected as a student representative to the national MSAN conference. Smith's volunteer work has included participation in a project to package and ship medical supplies to needy people in Third World countries. He also participated in the Ohio State Patrol Cadet program and was a junior trooper for a week.

Smith plans to enter the National Guard after graduation and will begin college in the fall of 2013. He plans to earn a college degree and to pursue a career in law enforcement. He hopes to become a member of a specialized SWAT or Drug Enforcement Administration task force.

Residents and business owners in Cleveland Heights, together with fellow officers, family and friends of Officer Jason West, who lost his life in the line of duty in 2007, established the scholarship in his memory in 2008.

Each year, the scholarship goes to a graduating senior from the law enforcement/criminal justice program at Heights High who exemplifies Officer West's dedication to his work as a police officer, and who plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. The recipient is eligible to receive a second scholarship after he or she successfully completes the first year of college.

The first Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship went to Tashay Roberts in 2008. Roberts will graduate



Commander Robert Montgomery with Stedman Smith, the 2012 recipient of the Officer Jason West Memorial Scholarship.

from college this year.

Last year's recipient, Kamille Harris, is completing her first year at Wright State University and will receive the second part of her award. Harris was honored on May 23 at the Wright State University Bolinga Awards ceremony for achieving a 3.0 GPA or higher during the academic year.

Contributions to the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship fund can be mailed to:

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Make checks payable to "CH-UH City School District," and include "Jason D. West Scholarship" on the memo line.

Lita Gonzalez is the founder of PATH, a group of volunteers that provides personalized tours of Heights High School to prospective parents.

AFS promotes world peace one teenager at a time

Joy Henderson

Krista Hawthorne and Adrienne Yelsky have nearly 60 years of combined volunteer service with the AFS Foreign Exchange program.

AFS places foreign students with local host families, and sends American students to foreign countries to attend school and live with families abroad.

The purpose of AFS is to "provide intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world." In other words, "promoting world peace one teenager at a time," according to Hawthorne.

Hawthorne is stepping back from some of her AFS volunteering, and Yelsky recently retired from teaching at Heights High, but will remain active as an AFS volunteer.

Hawthorne has been involved in AFS since 1979, when she was an AFS exchange student in France. As an adult, her family hosted nine students, including a girl from the Netherlands this past year, and her family has been a liaison support family for six students.

"From every student and host family, I learn about the world, teenagers, parenting and communication skills," Hawthorne said. "I learn how people manage change and support each other as they adjust to a new family dynamic."

As AFS students share stories about their countries and cultures, they also hear stories of their new friends and their families.

Host families volunteer their home and time to give an exchange student a healthy and enriching experience. "This work sends such a strong message of hope for humanity and the real possibility of world peace," said Hawthorne.

Yelsky has been the AFS Club advisor at Heights High for more than 20 years, and over a 25-year period, she and her husband have hosted 13 students and have been a liaison support family for five students.

"Having a teen in our house, especially after our own children were gone, has kept us active," Yelsky said. She especially likes the addition of the



Krista Hawthorne and Adrienne Yelsky (L-R) helped build a strong AFS program in the Heights.

"music and laughter in our house." She and her husband have visited many of their "sons" around the world.

She also has seen how exchange students add to classroom discussions and influence students at Heights High. "All students are curious about other cultures, religions and languages," Yelsky said. "Students learn from each other about life in different cultures."

At the core of the AFS Exchange program are the very personal life-changing experiences for the students and host families. A recent Passover seder illustrated the richness of extended family in Yelsky's life. Along with her local family, she was joined by her visiting Bolivian "son" and her current Argentinian "son." "It was awesome," Yelsky said. She will continue for one more year as AFS advisor and will help transition another teacher into her position during the year.

The AFS program has been strong in the CH-UH community for more than 50 years, and recently began hosting students from African and Muslim countries.

Host families are needed in Cleveland Heights, University Heights, and other eastside communities. For information about hosting a student or sending a local student abroad, contact Adrienne Yelsky at 216-371-3733.

Joy Henderson is an AFS volunteer and has hosted two exchange students.

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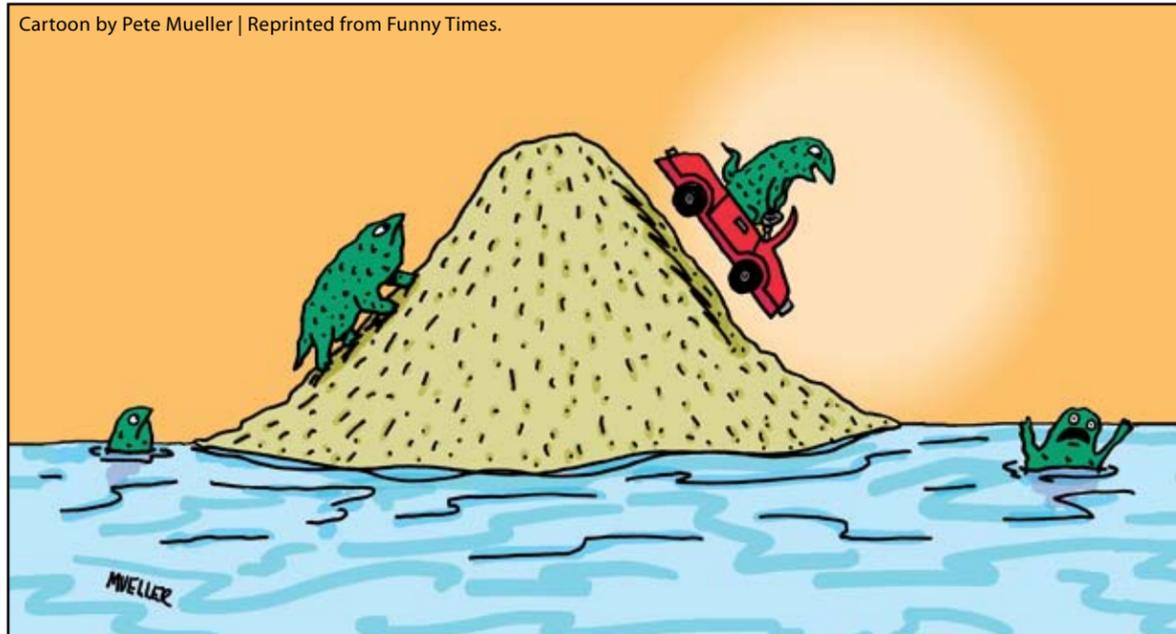
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Youth of Coventry still aims for curfew change

Yelena Tischenko

After Cleveland Heights instituted a curfew last year, Youth of Coventry (YOC) set out to change it.

The group formed last June after a highly publicized flash mob disrupted the Coventry Street Fair. Following the incident, Cleveland Heights City Council instituted a curfew of 6 p.m. for anyone under 18. The curfew originally applied to the Coventry and Cedar Lee commercial districts; Severance was added later.

"We believe [the curfew] is a temporary solution to a permanent problem," said Nora Eagan, a founder of YOC. "Instead of keeping this extreme curfew in place, we would like city council figure out a more permanent solution that everyone can be happy with."

Eagan, a 15-year-old sophomore at Hawken School, started the group with a few like-minded friends. Current group members are Lauren Lumpkin, 16; Randall Walker, 17; Devin Climaco, 16; Ian Slee, 19; and John Nelson, 24; all Heights residents.

"I think it's really unreasonable for the city to expect that they can take away the two biggest areas where kids hang out—Cedar Lee and Coventry," Eagan said. "By shutting those down, it gives kids no options to go and gather at a big place."

YOC members met with Council Member Bonnie Caplan to build support for their position. She suggested they organize formally, and in October 2011 YOC received its Ohio Articles

of Incorporation. It is now working to receive federal tax-exempt status.

"It's an interesting and diverse group. They ceased having officers and now take a group approach to their issues," Caplan said. "Their mission is to give a voice to youth."

Eagan said she feels council has been supportive of her group. "I understand they're under a lot of pressure because obviously they need to listen to all the adults and have to be concerned about the kids," she said. "But, I'm grateful that city council has given us a chance to speak [and is] listening to our opinion."

Caplan said, however, "City council has no plans to address the curfew. Businesses are happy about the curfew but kids aren't. They're very disappointed. They came in during the winter asking whether the curfew can be changed and the majority of the council was not inclined to think about it."

In addition to lobbying for changes in the curfew, Eagan said the group is organizing fun events for the summer, such as ultimate Frisbee games and water fights. But she feels kids are even more limited now with the installation of new security cameras in the Cedar Lee district. The cameras were a response to a series of late-night break-ins on Lee Road.

"The cameras are kind of a blessing and a curse," Eagan said. "It's definitely great for all the businesses, but it enables the cops to come break up a group of kids that could possibly be walking home. It's hard to go out and be with your friends when they crack down and

you can't hang out with anyone."

The group meets on the first Sunday of every month, and often ends meetings with a game of Frisbee. YOC communicates through Facebook, flyers and word-of-mouth.

Caplan said of the group members, "They're trying to set up some activities that would attract other kids from the Heights. They actually helped clean up the park in the community. They're always looking for activities to help with."

YOC members aren't sure how to change the curfew. They would like to work with city officials to come up with a solution to benefit everyone, Eagan said. That may include setting up a place for teens to go for fun or changing curfew exceptions to allow kids to still visit restricted areas, with the understanding that if they're disruptive, they may be asked to leave.

The group will continue to attend city council meetings and meet with other community members to discuss modifying or eliminating the curfew.

"The first step toward making our goals come true is getting more kids involved," Eagan said. Young people are a large part of the community, she said, "and no one really speaks for them."

To become involved in the Youth of Coventry, contact Nora Eagan at 14eagnor@hawken.edu.

Yelena Tischenko is a senior magazine journalism major at Kent State University and the Heights Observer summer editorial intern. Simone Jasper, also an intern, contributed to this story.

CLEVELAND INDEPENDENTS continued from page 1

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Founded in 2010, HiBA is an alliance of independent locally owned businesses working together to create a sustainable, thriving community by strengthening the impact of local businesses in the Heights. Learn more at www.shophiba.org.

Philip Hewitt is a John Carroll University alumnus and a volunteer with the Heights Independent Business Alliance.



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YWCA's Early Learning Center suits local residents

Rachel Baker

One of the best-kept secrets in Greater Cleveland is the Early Learning Center (ELC) at the YWCA. It's where one will find children at play and early childhood education at its best.

Cleveland Heights residents and parents Tara and Alex Pesta credit the ELC with teaching their three children not only academic skills, but also the importance of playing well with others. "They show so much self-confidence, and they make friends easily in new situations," said Tara, adding that they also show affection for old friends. "Our oldest child has now moved on to kindergarten, but she still loves visiting her teachers, where she's greeted like a rock star."

A quick glance into any of the classrooms shows that the children in this unique program are a reflection of the community. The ELC welcomes children and families of all races, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and socioeconomic status.

"One of the hallmarks of all of our programs at the YWCA is our strong commitment to diversity and inclusion," said Christine Davis, program director. "At the Early Learning Center, we have created a wonderful environment where diversity is celebrated—and this is greatly valued by the parents and families of the children enrolled here."

The ELC provides a high-quality, comprehensive, age-appropriate learning environment for children ages six weeks to five years.

The Pestas were attracted to the center because of its convenient loca-



The Pesta family of Cleveland Heights has enjoyed their time with the YWCA Early Learning Center.

tion and the opportunity to have a part-time schedule. They've stayed for over five years because of the staff. "It's easier to go back to work when you feel good about the care that your child is receiving," Tara said.

The ELC earned a two-star rating from the State of Ohio's "Step Up to Quality" program, indicating it has exceeded licensing requirements with its evidence-based curriculum, low teacher-child ratios, high teacher education levels, focus on professional development and effective administrative practices.

The Early Learning Center is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is currently enrolling children. The ELC is located at 4019 Prospect Ave. in Midtown Cleveland, minutes from University Circle. For more information, contact Christine Davis at 216-881-6878, x.234, or cdavis@ywcaofcleveland.org.

Rachel Baker is marketing and communications coordinator for the YWCA of Greater Cleveland.

Volunteers revamp mini park on Lee Road

Yelena Tischenko

Gary Lustic and his wife Julie, residents of Cleveland Heights, initiated a community effort to revamp the mini park that sits between the Heights Arts Gallery and Lemon Grass restaurant on Lee Road on Saturday, May 26.

"We looked at the park and thought, this is a gateway for a tourist attraction," Lustic said. "Everyone who comes to a movie walks through this park, and there was garbage strewn and weeds everywhere. So we said, why don't we take on this park?"

The Lustics approached Heights Arts, the nonprofit gallery that abuts the park, and got an enthusiastic response from Peggy Spaeth, the organization's executive director.

The Lustics, and other volunteers they and Heights Arts recruited, replaced weeds with perennials and dry soil with lush vegetation. Seven volunteers started planting at 9 a.m. and didn't stop until the project was done. The City of Cleveland Heights donated three loads of mulch. Many others contributed planting materials.

There was no master plan for the park's garden. "Our Iron Chef analogy is, whatever ingredients come, chefs have the challenge of making something edible out of them," Spaeth said during the planting. "So our challenge is, whatever anybody brings today, we're going to make work and so far, it's working pretty well."

Spaeth noted how amazing it is that someone who lives in the neighborhood took the initiative to help with something that needs attention and actually do something about it.

"We would love to activate the mini



Volunteers spruce up the Cedar Lee mini park.

park." Spaeth said. "I know there are some long-term plans that the Cedar Lee SID has made to completely renovate it when they get the funding, but that could be never. In the meantime, why not make it attractive?"

Spaeth's goal for the park this summer is to bring Heights Arts classes outside and have music there. Her goals don't stop with the park.

"We're very interested in making the streets look as creative and as imaginative as the residents who live here are," Spaeth said.

"There's plenty of opportunity on Lee Road," Lustic said. "I lived on Coventry for 20 years and it's absolutely awesome, so I want to see something here."

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and a Heights Observer summer editorial intern.



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CH resident chosen as president-elect of Junior League of Cleveland

Yelena Tischenko

Cleveland Heights resident Annemarie Grassi has been chosen as the 2012-13 president-elect of the Junior League of Cleveland (JLC).

JLC is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. According to its mission statement, JLC is an organization of women volunteers dedicated to community change. Its members show creativity and diversity while promoting voluntarism.

Grassi has been with Open Doors Academy for 10 years and resides in Cleveland Heights. She has been a member of the JLC for eight years and served as co-chair of the Girls Make Great Leaders Initiative and Girl Culture Initiative. She also served on the board of directors as training director for one year and membership director

for two years.

"My initial reaction was excitement and panic," Grassi said. "I wasn't thinking about running this year until a conversation with a friend encouraged me. After an interview, I received a call that I was selected. I was honored that I had been chosen and I hope to raise awareness of JLC's work and to empower women."

Hermione Malone, JLC president, said in a statement, "The new board represents a mix of talented women who will further the long history of developing women as civic leaders to improve the community."

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and the Heights Observer summer editorial intern.



Annemarie Grassi

Repair grants are available for major repairs from HRRC

Allison Urbaneck

Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has a Financial Assistance Program that can help Heights homeowners with needed repairs to their homes. HRRC offers grants and loans to qualified homeowners.

A homeowner can receive a \$1,000 grant toward whole-house exterior painting, masonry step rebuilding, a new heating system or a roof replacement. HRRC offers a \$1,500 grant toward furnace replacement or roof replacement for senior citizens who are 62 years old or older.

There are income guidelines that must be met for homeowners to be eligible for the program. The maximum household income for a family of four is \$50,950. Only certain types of repairs qualify. HRRC handles these on a case-by-case basis, and anyone can call or stop by to get clarification.

HRRC also has a Challenge Fund that does not have income restrictions. The fund enables homeowners who can't qualify for a conventional home repair loan to obtain bank financing. The Challenge Fund is offered on a case-by-case basis, but is designed to make it possible for homeowners with credit or equity issues to complete needed repairs.

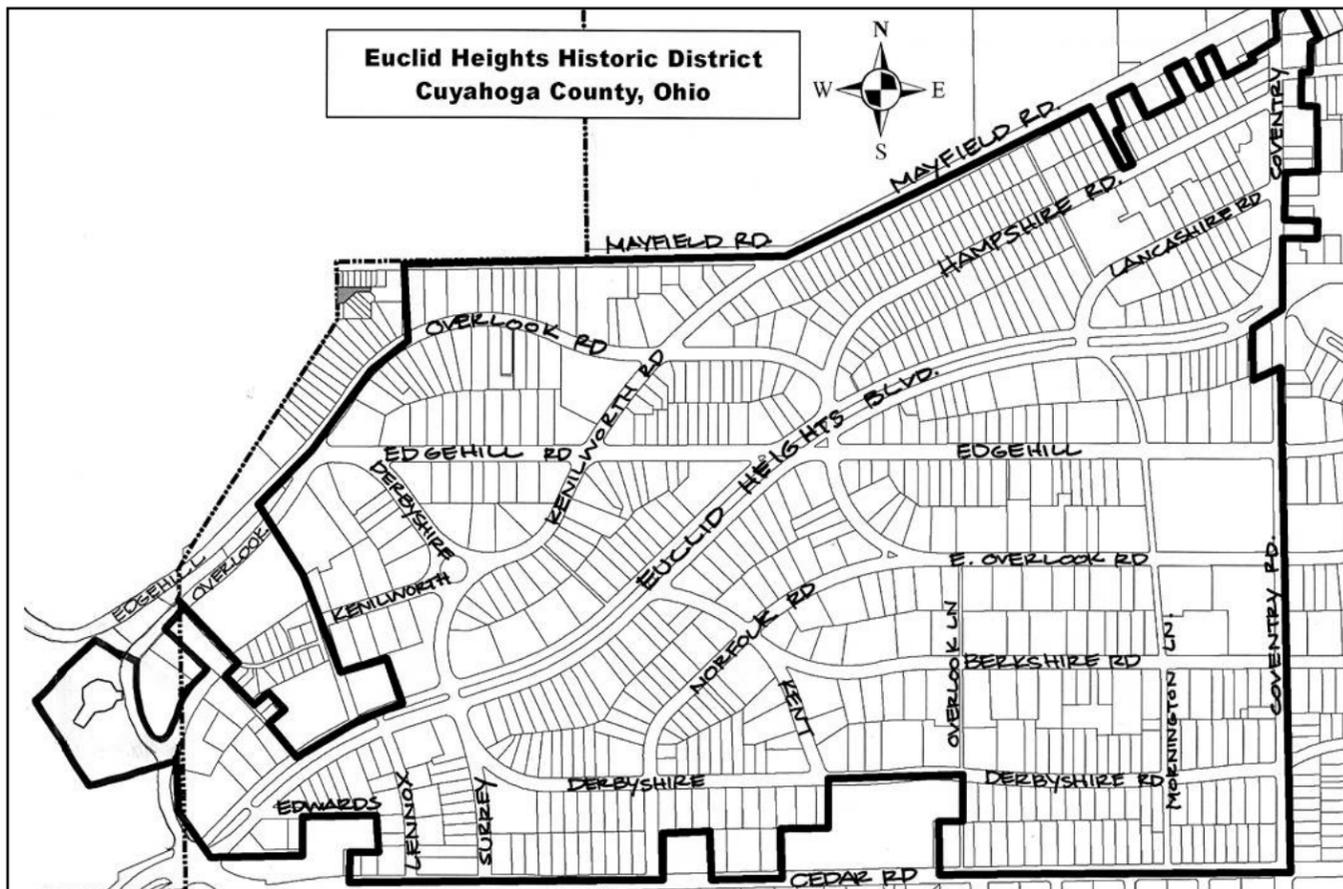
Even if a homeowner doesn't need financial assistance, HRRC can be a valuable first stop for those who want to complete a home repair on their own or to contract the work. HRRC's resource library has handouts and DVDs, as well as evaluations of contractors who have worked on homes in the community. There are hands-on workshops, informational lectures, budget and credit counseling, and foreclosure intervention services. These resources are open to all Cuyahoga County residents.

As HRRC marks its 40th anniversary as a grassroots nonprofit organization, it celebrates the critical role that its programs continue to play in maintaining the community's housing stock.

For more information, call 216-381-6100, visit www.hrcc-ch.org, or stop by the office, located at 2520 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights, two blocks north of Monticello Boulevard. For up-to-date information on events and workshops, "Like" HRRC's Facebook page or follow it on Twitter.

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

New historic district would be 11 for Cleveland Heights



Map of the proposed Euclid Heights Historic District.

James Helmsworth

The Alcazar, located on Derbyshire Road in Cleveland Heights, was the perfect venue for the June 18 presentation on Euclid Heights Historic District's bid to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

If approved by the National Park Service, Euclid Heights would become the 11th National Register Historic District in the City of Cleveland Heights.

Like many buildings in the district—which centers on Euclid Heights Boulevard and extends north to Mayfield Road, east to Coventry Road, south to Cedar Road, and west to Overlook Road—the Alcazar is a storied building with distinctive architecture.

Although the building was constructed in the Spanish style, the district is filled with examples of historically significant architectural styles, such as Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and Italianate. The neighborhood includes homes designed by some of Cleveland's most famous architects, including Harry E. Weeks and Sigmund Braverman.

The evening's presenters—Marian Morton, a local historian who wrote the

National Register nomination, and Susan Tietz, of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office—explained that it is partially due to this abundance of exemplary architecture that the Ohio Historical Society recommended that the Euclid Heights Historic District be added to the National Register.

Another reason for seeking the recognition, as detailed in the application, is the way in which the district influenced the development of the region.

Businessman Patrick Calhoun first conceived Euclid Heights around the turn of the century, as a neighborhood that would offer a wide range of homes for upper-class buyers.

When Calhoun lost the property to banks some 14 years later, construction strayed from the rigid guidelines he had established, giving way to what Morton described as the "rich mix" of styles and housing types present in the area today.

The eclectic architecture was accompanied by an influx of ethnic diversity to the region, setting a trend for Cleveland Heights in years to come.

Recognition by the National Register of Historic Places primarily serves as a celebration of the area's uniqueness, explained Morton. "Residents should

be excited because the designation as an historic district simply acknowledges that your neighborhood is special, which [they] knew anyway."

Addition to the Register brings some tangible benefits, including potential tax benefits for income-producing properties.

At the same time, the designation comes with few obligations, as residents would still be free to remodel, alter, sell, or even demolish their homes.

"While it is an honorary designation, our hope is that listing the district would encourage residents to preserve, enhance and reinvest in the neighborhood," said Chuck Miller, a member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission.

Marian Morton is a professor emerita of history at John Carroll University and has written several books on Cleveland Heights history, including *Cleveland Heights: The Making of an Urban Suburb* (Arcadia, 2002), *Cleveland Heights* (Arcadia, 2005) and *The Overlook of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights* (Arcadia, 2010). This is her first National Register nomination.

James Helmsworth is a senior majoring in English at Oberlin College. This is his second summer interning for the Heights Observer.

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Police chiefs talk crime prevention with local residents

James Helmsworth

Cleveland Heights Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson would have stood out, even if he had been in plainclothes, as he mingled with the crowd at the June 20 Meet the New Police Chiefs event.

At 6 ft. 8 in., Robertson naturally drew the crowd's attention when he entered Cedar Fairmount's Myxx, where the event took place.

Hosted by FutureHeights, Meet the New Police Chiefs was an opportunity for locals to learn firsthand, from both Robertson and University Heights Police Chief Steven Hammett, the directions in which they are taking their departments.

Both chiefs are relatively new to their positions. Robertson was appointed in December 2010, while Hammett was appointed last July.

Each gave a brief speech outlining new initiatives their departments are taking, how their departments interact with others, what they are doing in terms of community outreach, and what the community can do to help the police.

One of Hammett's major initiatives is to revise the way in which the University Heights Police Department investigates sexual assaults. University Heights currently has no female police officers, which makes gathering evidence and statements from rape victims difficult.

As for Robertson, issues surrounding juvenile crime made up a large por-

tion of his talk.

He stated that reports of "kids walking in the street" were the most frequent complaints that his department received, and that it holds a zero-tolerance policy for teenagers who block streets.

Robertson has also installed cameras in business districts and other areas in which young people frequently congregate, to help catch troublemakers.

Youth crime has been of particular concern for many Cleveland Heights residents since last summer, when large groups of teens showed up at the Coventry Street Fair and created disturbances.

In attempts to prevent a recurrence of this, both Robertson and Hammett said their departments research and monitor social media.

As for the 6 p.m. curfew in the Cleveland Heights business districts that was put into place after the events at Coventry, Robertson said it is "working well" and that he will recommend to CH City Hall that it be left in place.

Robertson denied allegations that the curfew was causing crime to migrate elsewhere, claiming that, if teens were congregating in residential neighborhoods, they likely lived nearby.

Throughout their speeches, both chiefs reminded the audience how important citizens are to police work.

Robertson said, "If we don't have citizens interacting with the police, [fighting crime is] a losing battle."

He encouraged residents to attend



Cleveland Heights Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson responds to questions from residents.

the Cleveland Heights Meet Your Police meetings, which take place every Thursday, from 6-8 p.m., in the lower level of Cleveland Heights City Hall.

James Helmsworth is a senior majoring in English at Oberlin College. This is his second summer interning for the Heights Observer.

Cedar Fairmount Festival set for Aug. 12

Simone Jasper

The Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID) is hosting its 11th annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival and Arts & Crafts Sale on Sunday, Aug. 12 from noon to 4 p.m., at Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights.

"This family-friendly event is provided for the community by the generous contribution of the merchants, business owners and neighbors," said Kaye Lowe, executive director of Cedar Fairmount SID. "We look forward to continuing this free event for Cleveland Heights families."

This year, both Lennox and Surrey roads will be closed during the festival, so that arts and crafts tents can be stationed along these streets.

The festival will feature musical performances from Get Back Duo, The Karma Kings, Opera Night Cleveland and Oldboy. Activities for children will include a bounce house, face painting, games, pony rides, clowns and rides on the iconic Rocket Car.

Ann Donkin, will deliver a lecture titled "The Alcazar: Cleveland Heights Palace Hotel" at the historic building.

"We're still looking for artists," Lowe said. Applications are posted at www.cedar-fairmount.org. More information is available on the Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival Facebook page and at 216-791-3172.

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



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Disciples Christian Church's Tall Puppets on parade



COURTESY DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Tall Puppets of Disciples Christian Church marched in the South Euclid Memorial Day Parade on May 28. The puppets have previously participated in Parade the Circle and were a part of the Christian Church's (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly. Parade participants included the church's minister, Rev. Kristine Eggert, as well as the co-directors of the church's Puppet Ministry, Dale and Karen Schmauder. In the photo, from left to right, the puppet operators are Carol Reed, Dale Schmauder, David Reed, Elaine Mates, Greg Beckner and Connor Mates.

Zoned for Green draws a crowd



HANNAH BALDWIN

The Sustainable Heights Network hosted Zoned for Green, a community networking event on June 5 at the home of Gus and Jan Kious. About 70 people gathered to hear Karen Knittel, a city planner for the City of Cleveland Heights, give a brief overview of the new green zoning codes that the city council approved last month. The network organized small discussion groups to share thoughts and ideas on such topics as geothermal heating, composting, outdoor lighting concerns, demolishing buildings, permeable paving and gardening. The event drew participants from the cities of Akron, Shaker Heights and South Euclid who were interested in learning more about Cleveland Heights's innovative approach to sustainability. A tour of the Kious' straw bale house, the gardens and chicken coops, was also part of the event.

Family Connections receives 'Toolbox for Education' grant from Lowe's

Ashley Mankin

Family Connections, a nonprofit organization with facilities in both Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, has taken an active role in strengthening connections among families, schools and communities for around 30 years.

Family Connections recently became the recipient of a "Tools for Education" grant from the Lowe's Home Improvement Corporation. The grant will support the expansion and enhancement of the parent resource center at Canterbury Elementary School with the addition of shelving, furniture, new parent lending resources (books, videos, games) and a wall mural.

Charone Edwards, a Family Connections liaison, said, "The parent resource center has been a comfortable place for parents to gather and get information and resources, but thanks to the Lowe's grant, the center will now be more comfortable and inviting."

Family Connections is best known for its programs for infants to preschool age children. In addition to programs at the Lee Road Library, the former Coventry School building, the Shaker Family Center, and Shaker Heights Main Library, the organization offers a variety of resources to families within the CH-UH City School District.



Chad Reaser, Lowe's store manager, presents a check to Charone Edwards, a Family Connections liaison.

Family Connections has a liaison in each of the district's seven elementary schools. The coordinator of the family-school connection program, Charniece Holmes, described the role of the liaison—to engage the family in the education of their children. Liaisons do this through several programs: Play-a-Day Family Literacy Series, Kindergarten Kickoff, PAWS home visits, and school-wide events, such as the Family Literacy Carnivals.

Family Connections also has parent resource centers in each elementary school. Resources include lending materials to support learning at home. The centers also provide a place for parents to gather and share information.

For more information about Family Connections, call 216-321-0079.

Ashley Mankin, a member of the AmeriCorps NEO Literacy Corps, is in the middle of a service year at Family Connections.



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HUGH WILLIAMS continued from page 1
1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was a paratrooper and air assault qualified.

In 1995, Williams relocated to Cleveland as part of a team to open a new branch for the McMaster-Carr Supply Company. He served as the company's operations manager for 13 years. While at McMaster, Williams earned an MBA from John Carroll University.

Traci Rourke, who worked with him, said, "His laugh, his expressions, that twinkle in his eye brought people together."

Williams worked for INROADS, a national nonprofit internship-recruiting organization, and then became the vice president of operations for the Cleveland Foodbank. "Hugh was obsessed with improvement, a strategic thinker, and serious about operations," said Anne Goodman, president of the Foodbank.

Goodman credited Williams with improving inventory management and implementing technology and processes that enabled the organization to grow. "He was touched by and driven about feeding hungry people. I learned from him and was inspired by him. He gave the community a better food bank," she said.

"Hugh was one of the best people I've ever known. He had a way of making his point in a very diplomatic, nonconfrontational manner. He was compassionate and tireless in encouraging people to do just a little bit more," said Judi Miles, a FutureHeights board member. "I've missed his presence on the board. Hugh loved University Heights and encouraged us to be part of the annual Memorial Day Parade, which we've done every year since. He

had such a big life, and had such a big impact in a short time."

"Hugh always talked about his kids," said FutureHeights board member Lisa Smith. "He served on the development committee and chaired the auction. He always had a can-do attitude, where there was a will there was a way. Everything he did was for something greater. He clearly had a vision for that."

Williams was the percussionist for the Cedar Hill Baptist Church's Praise Team. Robert Hubbard, a member of the Praise Team, played the drums in a musical tribute of "When the Saints Go Marching In" at the funeral. "He was

'that guy,' the guy who had it all together, the guy I wanted to be," he said.

"Hugh took his faith seriously," said Reverend Larry Green, pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church. "When people came to visit him in the hospital, he ministered to them. He told me that he worried that he had not spread the Gospel enough, and when he got sick he had a greater sense of urgency."

The pastor read passages from William's own well-used Bible, that Williams had marked specifically for the occasion.

Williams was a devoted husband and father. His wife April said that

Williams was deliberate in everything he did. He wrote his own obituary, and planned his own ceremony. She said that when she was pregnant with their third child, they had put their University Heights home on the market, hoping to move to a larger house. "But it didn't happen," she said. "We don't know why it didn't happen but we are glad we stayed. Our community was so supportive. Hugh loved this community."

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

UUS of Cleveland votes to repudiate 'Doctrine of Discovery'

Walt Nicholes

At its recent annual congregational meeting, the Unitarian Universalist Society (UUS) of Cleveland joined a fast-growing number of other religious congregations and social activist groups by voting to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

Why would so many groups and mainline churches want to repudiate a doctrine defined by the word "discovery," a process most liberal minds find exciting and widening? The Doctrine of Discovery, first promulgated in the 15th century, has a dark side, being the historical justification for and root of indigenous hardship and discrimination.

The doctrine is a Christian theological teaching developed in a series of 15th-century papal bulls and 16th-century charters by European monarchs to justify expropriation of native lands and indigenous populations by Europeans. Since the 19th century, the doctrine has been used by United States courts to justify continued oppression of America's indigenous populations.

The Doctrine of Discovery gave European Christian explorers who "discovered" other lands the authority to claim those lands and subdue—even enslave—peoples of those lands if they were not already Christians. Of course, no Caribbean natives or indigenous Americans were Christians at that time.

Given legal status in U. S. law via an 1823 Supreme Court decision, the doctrine still carries significant legal weight and was last cited in a 2005 court decision, City of Sherrill vs. Oneida Indian Nation of New York.

At its recent annual congregational meeting, UUS of Cleveland voted to repudiate the doctrine, and convey the resolution to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, of which the society is a member. On June 24, the UUA General Assembly repudiated the doctrine.

Commenting on his congregation's vote, Colin Bossen, minister, said, "In our nation where separation of church and the state is constitutionally mandated, it is deeply disturbing when a specific theological doctrine continues to significantly influence the law.

"I am proud of the congregation for repudiating the doctrine. I see their vote as part of a process to re-examine America's religious roots, and our nation's often dark experience with colonialism. It is my hope that the General Assembly vote can be part of an ongoing dialogue concerning the United States government's oppression of America's indigenous peoples."

The UUS of Cleveland is a liberal religious community located in the Coventry neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. Services are at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Visit www.uucleveland.org for more information about UUS of Cleveland, and visit www.uua.org for more information on Unitarian Universalism.

Walt Nicholes is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, and is active in Veterans for Peace and Cleveland Peace Action.

Road Position for Cyclists



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Ohio law states that bicyclists should ride as close to curb as practicable. What exactly is practical? The Heights Bicycle Coalition suggests that cyclists evaluate each situation and ride in the lane location that provides the most comfortable and safe ride. This is often several feet from the curb because:

- 1) Obstacles in the gutter—potholes, uneven surface, litter, gravel, glass or drainage grates—can prevent safe passage.
- 2) Riding several feet from the curb

prevents drivers from passing too close—especially important on roads with narrow lanes.

- 3) Drivers are more likely to see a cyclist if positioned farther from the curb.

- 4) A lane position away from the curb allows the cyclist more room if an emergency quick right move is necessary.

For more tips on how to safely share the road with other vehicles, see the League of American Bicyclists Ride Better Resources: <http://www.bikeleague.org/resources/better/index.php>.

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

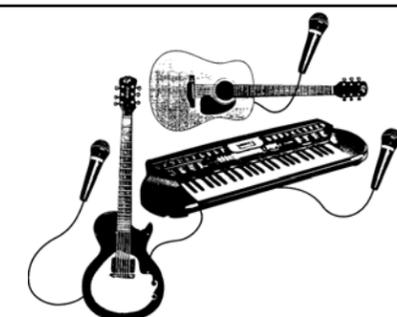
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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights



MAY 15, 2012

All board members were present.

Millikin and Mosdos

The board asked administrators to begin negotiating with Mosdos Ohr Hatorah for a long-term lease for Millikin School.

Facilities planning

Facilities planners, architects, and financial advisors from Regency Construction said the high school would be repaired first, but this change inflated the cost. Nevertheless, the consultants think the public would want the high school to come first.

The consultants stressed the urgency of approving the Plan C proposal because two resolutions have to be voted upon before July 9 and another on July 31 in order to put a 6.6 mill levy on the November 2012 ballot. Nancy Peppler, board member, asked for two bond levies, but if the levy is not presented to the voters soon, the special needs designation for the district will run out, forcing the district to issue more costly, alternative forms of debt or postpone significant portions of the building program. Voted bonds entail the lowest annual cost, and tax-exempt interest rates are currently at all-time lows.

Plan C is divided into two time segments. The total cost for segment one will be \$158,562,953. Segment two (2020-22) will cost \$46,718,543, for a total cost of \$206,281,496. The bond issue of 6.6 mills will last for 37 years, although the actual millage levied for these years is an estimate of the ballot millage.

The board had further questions, especially regarding additional costs and whether new options could save money. At the same time there is urgency to make the decision soon. Deadlines are approaching and the community is waiting for a decision. However, the board decided it needed more information and deliberation before a final decision.

LWV observer: Lillian Houser.

MAY 24, 2012

All board members were present.

New facilities plans

Stephen Shergalis, director of business services, presented three new plans for the facilities project:

- Plan C-1: Renovate and redesign only the high school at a cost of \$92 million. This could be covered by a bond issue, and the other schools' renovations funded by other means.

Plan C-2 and 3 would maintain an elementary school in University Heights with the rest of plan C left in place:

- Plan C-2: Renovate and redesign the high school and also Gearity as a pre-kindergarten through grade three building.
- Plan C-3: Renovate and redesign the high school, create a pre-kindergarten through grade three building at the Wiley site and create a grade four through eight building at the Canterbury site.

Funding

State funding under the Ohio School Facility

Commission would be limited to 14 percent of the cost for the square footage that the state approves. Discussion included doing only the high school and two levies. The amount of the levy was predicted to be 6.83 mills and the schools could borrow at 4 to 4.25 percent.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

JUNE 5, 2012

All board members were present.

High school schedule changes

The board approved schedule changes at the high school. In the 2012-13 school year, 11 modules will replace the eight-period configuration. [In a modular system, modules can be combined to create longer time periods for certain subjects.] Dismissal will be at 3:10 p.m. every day except Tuesday when students will be released at 2:46 p.m. to enable teacher collaboration from 2:55-3:45 p.m. Class periods will be 50 minutes long, with student lunches between the third and ninth modules. Teachers will offer academic support for students during school office sessions every day except Tuesdays, from 3:10-3:30 p.m.

Master facilities plan

Stephen Shergalis explained that the board would be voting on a bond issue in the next month and setting a budget on what it can afford, but not approving layouts or architecture of schools. When finances are in place, then more planning and input would be required. The final product would be an efficient school plan, not just add-ons or renovations. Eric Coble, board member, stated that he is wrestling with the plan and wondering if there are other possibilities, such as K-8 at Wiley. Douglas Heuer, superintendent, said that numbers in classes would be affected, and funding would not be available if student levels were under 350 in some schools. Small numbers in grade levels affect programming and create inequality in what could be offered. He stated that every year the district waits to upgrade facilities would raise the cost of construction. There is a need for downsizing, and many of the buildings need repairs now. He would like the schools to be a learning community model. Ron Register, board member, questioned where we were in Plan C because there have been many changes and revised proposals.

High school renovations for 2012-13

The board awarded contracts for the new tech classroom renovation project and a new audio and video classroom project at the high school. Before the board voted, it was noted that these improvements, which cannot be included in the historic core of the high school, would therefore be demolished if the facilities plan C is approved. However, the money must be spent this year.

LWV observer: Lillian Houser.

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

See disclaimer on page 5.

'Willy Wonka, Jr.' proves sweet success for Communion of Saints Drama Club



COURTESY CLURI PHOTOGRAPHS.COM

The 2011-12 Communion of Saints School Drama Club mesmerized the audience with its production of "Willy Wonka, Jr.," based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. The cast of 60 children in kindergarten through eighth grade was directed by drama teacher Lydia Chanenka and musical director Maria Bottilodovico. The drama club is part of the school's enrichment program, which was established three years ago and is supported by parish and school volunteers. Volunteers build sets, design scenery, costumes and props, and manage rehearsal schedules, communications and marketing.

JCU recognizes CH-UH's Joe Micheller as a 'distinguished educator'

Angee Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District announced at its June 5 board meeting that Dr. Joe Micheller, director of special programs and compliance for the district, received the Distinguished Educator Award from John Carroll University (JCU).

JCU gave the award to Micheller for exemplifying the Jesuit Ideal of an Educator: providing educational leadership for a more just society in schools and community agencies.

"Joe is a visionary," said Doug Heuer, superintendent. "He is a dedicated professional and a master of his craft. He understands what it takes for both teachers and students to be successful and prepared for the future. We are so proud to have him as part of our team and we congratulate him on this very well-deserved award."

Before serving as the director of special programs and compliance for the CH-UH district, Micheller served as superintendent of the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, assistant superintendent of Brunswick City Schools, and, for 11 years, as a middle school social studies teacher in the East Cleveland City



Dr. Joseph Micheller

COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Schools.

"Joe Micheller sees the big picture in education long before the rest of us," said Mark Storz, associate dean of graduate studies at JCU. "Throughout his career he has been a pacesetter, a trailblazer, a risk taker and forward thinker. We commend him for his work in the classroom and in the community. He is a special person who has touched many lives."

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

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State semifinal loss ends amazing season for Heights Girls Lacrosse

John Lentz

The Heights Tiger Girls Lacrosse Team's dream of a state championship turned into a nightmare June 1, as the number one ranked Golden Bears of Upper Arlington dominated every aspect of the semifinal game, winning 11-5.

The Tigers had beaten Upper Arlington in April, 9-6, and came into the state semifinal game feeling confident. The Golden Bears scored in the first minute, but Tigers senior co-captain Margeaux Apple tied the score on a pass from senior co-captain Meg Lentz.

Upper Arlington scored a minute later, but the Tigers showed their mettle, tying the score 2-2 on a goal by sophomore Meredith Matia at 18:12. For the next ten minutes, Heights sophomore goalie Maddi Kohr fended off shot after relentless shot. Upper Arlington opened the flood gates with 8:45 left in the first half, scoring four consecutive goals to take a 6-2 lead at the break.

Meg Lentz won the draw control to start the second half and drove down the field, scoring after just 20 seconds to bring Heights to a 6-3 deficit. Then the speed, athleticism and depth of the Upper Arlington roster started to show. Forcing multiple turnovers from the rapidly tiring Tigers and winning every draw control, the Golden Bears pressed their advantages to score three successive goals and open a 9-3 lead with 15 minutes to play.

The Tigers, led by Meg Lentz, scored two more goals, but it wasn't nearly enough as Upper Arlington matched the tallies and won the game.

The game ended the high school careers of senior co-captains Meg



Members of the Heights Tigers Girls Lacrosse Team celebrate the team's 8-7 victory over Hudson, which advanced them to the semifinals.

Lentz, Margeaux Apple and Ellie Austin. Next year, the Tigers will be led by seniors Kyra Schoonover, Isabel Collins, Allie Sharon, Sara Friedberg and Kelly Dawson. Meredith Matia, Madeleine Winans, Prisca Ngolo and Kalah Saunders will represent a strong junior class. Sophomore Maddi Kohr, who finished her first year as goalie, and freshman Sarah Lentz, who showed tremendous progress through the year,

will be back.

Although the season did not end the way Heights had dreamed, the Tigers showed surprising determination, crafting a successful season that exceeded expectations. Highlights of the year included defeating Upper Arlington in April; winning a close game against the Division 2 champion, Hathaway Brown; beating the team's cross-town rival, Shaker Heights; and holding on

to win a thriller against the number one team in western Pennsylvania, Peters Township.

The Tigers finished the year 9-2, and when they defeated their nemesis Hudson in overtime in the district finals, 8-7, they found themselves in the state final four.

John Lentz is the proud parent of two Heights Girls Lacrosse Team members.

CH-UH welcomes new Boulevard Elementary principal

Angee Shaker

Katrinka Dean has been named principal of Boulevard Elementary School. She will begin in her new job on Aug. 6.

"We are very excited to have Ms. Dean lead our Boulevard team," said Superintendent Doug Heuer. "Her wealth

of experience in STEM education and project-based learning, her willingness to collaborate with staff and parents, and her steadfast commitment to preparing all students to achieve in a global economy will prove very valuable for the Boulevard community." The district will announce dates for parents to meet Dean in the coming weeks.

Prior to joining the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Dean worked as a project manager for the International Center for Leadership in Education in Rexford, N.Y. She also served as assistant principal at Moreland Hills Elementary School in Moreland Hills, and principal of both Randallwood Elementary School in Warrensville Heights and the John W. Raper Elementary School in Cleveland.

Dean is pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at Northcentral University in Arizona. She is a member of the Principal's Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and past president of the Cleveland Council of Administrators and Supervisors. She also



Katrinka Dean

is a member of the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators, the National Association of Elementary School Administrators, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Alliance of Black School Educators, Phi Delta Kappa Sorority and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

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



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Gesu students Hike for Hunger

Simone Jasper

On May 24, the community of Gesu Catholic School in University Heights walked in the 28th annual Hike for Hunger.

Each year, students collect pledges for organizations that combat hunger. After students raise the money, they participate in a two-mile walk around University Heights. Hike for Hunger is one of many ways in which Gesu students serve their community.

"It's a culmination of all the projects they do throughout the year," said Hallie Farrington, a Gesu parent.

At the event, students first gathered in the school gymnasium for an assembly that included a student music performance and remarks from Susan Infeld, University Heights mayor.

Katie Spotz was the guest speaker at the program. At 22, Spotz, a Cleveland-area native, became the first person to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

When Spotz set her rowing record, she raised more than \$100,000 for the



Gesu students walk to raise money to fight hunger here and in Honduras.

Blue Planet Network, a nonprofit organization that provides safe drinking water for people across the world. This year, a portion of the \$14,220 that Gesu students raised from pledges will go to the network. The money will provide clean drinking water for more than 100 children in developing countries. Pledge money will also go to hunger relief programs in Cleveland and Honduras.

"It wasn't just a row across the Atlantic," Spotz said. "It was a row for water."

Spotz told the group that her feat required great endurance and she encouraged the students to achieve their goals. "We are each capable of whatever we set our minds to," she said. "Passion is powerful. Determination is key."

After the assembly, Gesu students, parents and teachers walked in the

school's surrounding neighborhood to support an end to hunger.

"It's a very enthusiastic group of young people," said Eileen Lloyd, a member of the Gesu community.

Simone Jasper is a recent graduate of Beaumont School. She was a staff writer for the Beaumont Voice student newspaper and an intern for the Heights Observer.

Heights High team competes in annual battle of the robots

Ann Kent

"Scrap Happens." This mantra of the Robotics Club at Heights High School echoed throughout the year as a team of students created a robot called Great Lakes Destroyer for the second annual RoboBot competition.

The Heights High core team consisted of four juniors: Bryan Kent, Gabe Wojnarowski, Kayla Poirier and Ethan Tucker. These students and their mentors spent countless hours designing and manufacturing their robot. Among the mentors were Yvonne Schiffer, engineering teacher at Heights High, with more than 20 years of experience as a product development engineer for Ford Motor Company and General Electric; John Vanas from Euclid Heat Treating Co.; and Tim McCord and Charlie Bookman from Heisler Tool Company. They coached and challenged the students on multiple Friday afternoons, Saturday mornings, and even during school holidays.

Euclid Heat Treating provided both skill and funds for the materials, while Heisler Tool Company provided the machines and know-how for tooling the pieces.

Two dozen teams from local high schools competed in this year's RoboBot competition, held in the Lakeland Community College gym on April 28. The battles were fought in a bulletproof plexiglass cage approximately 15 feet high with a diameter of 10 feet. Robots were

required to weigh less than 15 pounds, so teams had to make trade-offs for weight, reliability and performance.

Alliance for Working Together (AWT), a local manufacturing consortium, provided a three-judge panel for the battles and another three-judge panel to review design documentation and answer questions pertaining to lessons learned during the process.

So, how did the Great Lakes Destroyer do in the bulletproof cage? Let's just say that many valuable lessons were learned and that next year's robot is already under construction in the brains of these rising seniors.

In addition to learning about perseverance, research skills, teamwork and communication, the Heights High team received the Sportsmanship Award for assisting another team with needed parts after the Great Lakes Destroyer was eliminated.

All four team members will pursue new learning experiences during the summer. Wojnarowski will intern at First Energy; Kent will intern at Heisler Tool Company and participate in the National Student Leadership Conference in Engineering at Georgia Tech; Poirier, who graduated a year early from Heights, will take courses at Columbus State Community College; and Tucker, a varsity tennis player, will teach tennis at Cain Park.

Ann Kent is a longtime Heights resident and mother of Bryan Kent.



(L-R) Team members Bryan Kent, holding the service award from Euclid Heat Treating and the robot; Kayla Poirier, with the team's RoboBot Sportsmanship Award; and Gabe Wojnarowski, holding the controller for the robot.

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Heights Libraries serves up summer lunch and learning

Sheryl Banks

With the school year over, many children and teens in the Heights who rely on free or low-cost school lunches are potentially facing a hungry summer. To help prevent this, Heights Libraries is once again hosting the Cleveland Foodbank-sponsored free summer lunch program at the Lee Road Library through Aug. 10.

Heights Libraries' partnership with the Cleveland Foodbank began in 2010 in response to the growing number of children spending long hours at the library, often without parental supervision. Also, large numbers of patrons, many of them parents with young children, were using library computers to apply for jobs and seek other employment resources.

"It became clear that we had a great opportunity to find a different way to



Makayla Brumfield enjoys a carrot and some coloring sheets with mom Tonya Taylor and baby sister Mackenzie Brumfield at last year's summer lunch program.

serve families hard hit by the economy," said Sam Lapedes, Heights Libraries special projects manager and summer lunch program coordinator. "This program enables us to fill the crucial nutritional needs of local children while also of-

fering opportunities for early literacy programming and services."

Along with lunch, the library will serve up summer reading-related activities. Children and teens can read books, play games and sign up for reading pro-

grams while enjoying a healthy lunch.

"We served about 5,000 lunches in 2010 and 2011 combined," said Nancy Levin, director of Heights Libraries. "Our library prides itself on being a social hub, a gathering place for the community, so the addition of a free lunch for our young customers just makes sense, and the numbers bear that out."

Up to 250 lunches are served between noon and 1 p.m. every weekday through Aug. 10. All area children and youths up to age 18 are welcome. No registration is required.

For more information about the program, contact Sam Lapedes at 216-932-3600, ext. 290. The Lee Road Library is located at 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

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

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



MAY 21, 2012

All board members were present.

New board member sworn in

Robert Fischer, new board member, was sworn in by Laurie Marotta, human relations coordinator. He will complete the term of CarDala Carter, who moved out of the area.

Carron M. Gugliotta retires

Carron Gugliotta, who served as a part-time adult services library assistant at both the Coventry and Lee Road libraries for a total of 12 years, is retiring. At Coventry, she hosted the International Tea to give non-English speakers a chance to practice English. At Lee Road, her interest and knowledge of foreign language instructional materials generated a customer fan base. She was also a readers' advisor resource for fans of Scandinavian mystery and literary fiction genres.

Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center

The board hired Studio Techne Architects to provide the appropriate services for the development of the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center in the former gymnasium area in the west wing of the Lee Road Library's activity center. The fee is not to exceed \$65,310 plus \$2,500 for reimbursable expenses.

Little Free Library movement

Summer will see "Little Libraries" in volunteers' yards. Neighbors can check out material on the honor system, and the initial stock will be donations. This movement is highlighted in an NPR podcast, which can be accessed by looking up the March 7 program for "All Things Considered" on the NPR website.

School facilities plan

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board, the city councils of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, and a South Euclid councilwoman discussed the proposed school facilities plan at a joint meeting May 14. Of concern to the library, Scott Gainer, school district fiscal officer, confirmed that if the school borrows the maximum available funds, the library would not be able to propose a bond issue until more debt became available.

Library bills in Ohio legislature

The Ohio Library Omnibus Bill (SB321), which is supported by the Ohio Library Council, addresses a number of issues affecting public libraries. The OPERS Pension Reform Legislation has been introduced in the Ohio Senate (SB343) as a means to strengthen Ohio's public pension systems, which include library staff. Eligibility to retire with an unreduced benefit would increase to a minimum age of 55 with 32 years of service, or age 67 with five years of service. The final average salary calculation would move from three to five years. The cost-of-living adjustment would be tied to the consumer price index but capped at 3 percent.

Dobama liquor license

James Roosa, board member, noted that although Dobama had planned to serve only wine and beer, the license as issued is for full liquor service. He believes that the library should amend its lease with Dobama to ensure that only beer and wine are served.

April public service report highlights:

- Adult Services experimented with organizing several new and ongoing programs under the central theme of Victorian Times Celebration.
- Coventry Village Library installed five new armchairs for the fireplace area and created a new Playaway display to highlight the collection of books available.
- Coventry hosted Cleveland author and graphic artist Derf, who presented a slide show of his new book, *My Friend Dahmer*.
- Noble Neighborhood Library added an evening storytime to attract working parents.
- The Cleveland Foodbank began its afterschool snack program two days a week at Noble.
- Noble is preparing for the STEPS (parent enrichment) Program to begin in May. The program features a research-based curriculum to improve parent interaction with children.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

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(L-R) Richard Browdie, president and CEO of Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging; Patricia Frutig, member of the board of directors; Milan Ftáčnik, mayor of Bratislava; and Ambassador Theodore Sedgwick.

Slovakian mayor visits Cleveland Heights

Christina Sanders

Last month, after visiting with Cleveland's Mayor Frank Jackson, Milan Ftáčnik, the mayor of Bratislava, Slovakia, and United States Ambassador Theodore Sedgwick came to Cleveland Heights. They were in town to see the Margaret Wagner House of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging (BRI).

Ftáčnik and Sedgwick met with Richard Browdie, president and CEO of BRI, to discuss issues related to the placement of Slovakia's aging population. The visitors were given a tour of the campus, which consists of the Margaret Wagner Apartments for low-income seniors, Adult Day and Partial Hospitalization programs and McGregor PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly).

The Margaret Wagner Apartments are fully renovated to accommodate the needs of residents. "The staff tries to accommodate the residents' social needs and works to keep them engaged," said Browdie. The residents choose the program they want and that fits their needs. They can engage with staff and other residents, or not. And they have the option to live alone or with someone else. The medical needs or conditions of

the resident do not determine his or her living circumstances.

The purpose of the mayor's three-day visit to Cleveland was to view the city's future plans with regard to space planning and local resource use. Ftáčnik wants to be actively involved in finding solutions for his city, and said, "The closer you are to the ground, the more progress you make." He was especially impressed by how low-income elderly could be accommodated with "apartment coordination and services" at the Margaret Wagner House. He said he had made the visit because he wanted to "see real problems and real solutions that worked."

Ftáčnik and Sedgwick met with Cleveland Mayor Jackson to discuss renewing the sister-city agreement between Cleveland and Bratislava. Ftáčnik sought to improve the "culture exchange" between Clevelanders and Bratislavians by encouraging tourism to Slovakia and having the cities "engage in smaller markets." English is already being taught in the schools in Slovakia, and he hopes to increase Internet exchanges with schools in the United States.

Christina Sanders is a senior at Cleveland State University and a FutureHeights intern.

Reporting elder abuse: protecting our vulnerable neighbors



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

According to the Department of Senior and Adult Services (DSAS), the provider of Adult Protective Services (APS) for Cuyahoga County, there were 3,426 cases of alleged elder abuse reported last year. The problem, however, may be even larger than that. The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) estimates that 84 percent of incidents are not reported to authorities.

There are several forms of elder abuse: physical, sexual, psychological, financial, neglect and self-neglect. Self-neglect accounted for the majority of the cases reported to APS last year, followed by caretaker neglect. Self-neglect is not voluntary. It occurs when an impairment prevents the senior from adequately taking care of himself or herself.

Many people are afraid to report suspected elder abuse because they don't want to meddle, or are afraid of the consequences if their suspicions are wrong. The Ohio Revised Code, however, which governs the actions of the APS, allows abuse reports to be given anonymously and also protects reporters from punishment.

APS protects those seniors who are living independently. Those living in group facilities are protected by the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO). Like the APS, reports to the LTCO can be made anonymously.

There are a few ways in which we can help protect the elderly in our community. Linda Noelker, senior vice president of the Benjamin Rose

Institute on Aging (BRI), recommends that neighbors be vigilant and note any unusual activity. "Be in communication with your older neighbors," she recommended. "Get to know what's normal for them."

Georgia Anetzberger, NCPEA president, suggests that neighbors be alert for the following warning signs: suspicious bruises, unkempt appearance, neglect of house or yard, change in finances and unfamiliar visitors.

The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging (OA) offers several safeguards to protect the elderly: employees of their Meals on Wheels and transportation services check in on seniors daily; they can recommend reputable home care agencies; and they can also help seniors obtain an emergency alert system.

The Cleveland Heights Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) has a new senior repair specialist who helps seniors find reputable contractors and get fair estimates, and ensure that the repair work is done correctly.

According to APS, financial exploitation of elders is on the rise. On July 25, BRI is hosting a forum on financial protection for older adults to address this issue. Contact BRI for more information at 216-791-8000.

If you suspect elder abuse, please report it. Call the APS 24-hour hotline at 216-420-6700, or the LTCO at 800-365-3112.

You can reach NCPEA at 646-462-3603, OA at 216-691-7377, and HRRC at 216-381-6100 ext. 22.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment 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 or Judith@LovingHandsGroup.com.

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Ensemble and CSF join forces to bring more live theater to the Heights

Jewel Moulthrop

William Shakespeare is coming to Cleveland Heights . . . well, sort of. The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival (CSF) recently began collaborating with Ensemble Theatre of Cleveland Heights. Both Celeste Cosentino, Ensemble's artistic director, and Aaron Elersich, production manager at CSF, hope their collaboration will grow to include other organizations and other performing arts, such as music and dance. For the time being, they will share office and rehearsal space, to the mutual benefit of both theater companies.

With mission statements that complement each other, and declining funding for the arts, this collaboration makes sense. Ensemble Theatre strives to produce works that celebrate the human spirit, drawn from the rich canon of modern American classics, as well as other significant contemporary plays.

CSF aims to produce quality theater drawing from the works of William Shakespeare. By performing out of doors at venues throughout Greater Cleveland, CSF reaches audiences that would be less likely to travel to a downtown theater, or may be uncomfortable in a more traditional theater setting. By offering their performances free of charge, CSF brings to those who might not ordinarily afford the price of a ticket the opportunity to connect with actors and the roles they play through contemporary performances of classic plays.

Both companies offer educational outreach programs and joint ventures

with other arts groups. Both celebrate the talents of local artists in all aspects of production—actors, directors, set designers and others.

In different ways, Ensemble and CSF make the theater experience accessible to audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds. While Ensemble is generally “dark” (not performing) during the summer, CSF is celebrating its 15th consecutive season of presenting Shakespeare's plays to audiences in Northeast Ohio.

CSF's 2012 season began on June 15 with “The Famous Life and History of King Henry the Eighth or All is True,” directed by David Hansen.

“Henry VIII” and “As You Like It,” which opened on June 23 and is directed by Dana Hart, will continue in repertory on Saturdays and Sundays in July, at various locations throughout Northeast Ohio, including Shaker Heights Community Colonnade and the Kulas Stage at Wade Oval in Cleveland.

All shows begin at 7 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets. In case of rain, spaces have been secured for all venues, except Wade Oval. The show will go on—rain or shine.

For more information about the CSF and a schedule for the 2012 season, call 440-794-1274, e-mail info@clev-eshakes.org, or visit www.cleveshakes.org.

Jewel Moulthrop, a Cleveland Heights resident, is a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors and a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.



Poet Cavana Faithwalker at a pre-Pop-Up event.

Pop-up poetry comes to the Heights

Meredith Holmes

Once again, Heights Arts is bringing art into the community. With Pop-Up Poetry, some of the region's most interesting and provocative poets stage one-time-only public poetry happenings.

The poets will be popping up in a portable booth created by architect Theodore Ferringger and furniture designer Patrick Doran. In an update of Lucy's “Psychiatric Help 5 cents” booth, the Pop-Up Poetry booth sets up, unfolds, and the poet is in business. Look for the sign that says, “The Poet is IN” at the events listed below. Step up to the Pop-Up Poetry booth, and the poet-in-temporary-residence there might write a poem just for you, do a rap, or help you write a love poem. You never know.

Saturday, July 14, 1-4 p.m.

Alma Theatre Courtyard in Cain Park, Cleveland Heights, with Cindy Washabaugh

Tuesday, July 17, 2-5 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library atrium, 2800 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, with Shelley Chernin & Friends

Sunday, August 12, 12-1:30 p.m.

Discover Cedar Fairmount Arts Festival, at Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, with Cavana Faithwalker

Wednesday, August 22, 12-2 p.m.

Shaker Lakes Nature Center, 2600 South Park Boulevard, Cleveland, with Kathleen Cerveny

For more information, visit www.heightsarts.org, or call Heights Arts at 216-371-3457.

Meredith Holmes is a freelance writer-editor and a 30-year resident of Cleveland Heights. Active in HeightsArts and a member of the HeightsWrites committee, Holmes was Cleveland Heights's first poet laureate.

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Culture of Cutting serves neighbors and celebrities

Christina Sanders

DeSean Matthews is a humble laid-back guy, but he's stern. If clothing is a form of self-expression, his freshly ironed red Adidas shirt, pressed denim shorts, flawless goatee and haircut reflect his hardworking, perfectionist mentality. It was his work ethic and his pursuit of perfection that enabled him to open his shop, Culture of Cutting Barber Salon, on South Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights, at the age of 33.

Matthews began cutting hair in the sixth grade and has been passionate about it ever since. "I just love the art of cutting hair. It makes you feel good when someone is satisfied with your work," he said.

After high school, Matthews attended Lake Erie Barber College. Following graduation, he started cutting hair professionally, and saving money with the goal of having his own shop some day. Three years ago, his dream came true.

The shop that Matthews owns had



DeSean Matthews is the owner and operator of Culture of Cutting on South Taylor Road.

been on South Taylor for 15 years before he purchased and renamed it Culture of Cutting Barber Salon. The place is, indeed, a salon offering complete hair care services, including cutting, styling, bump treatment and facials. As Matthews said, "Everything that has to do with hair." He

is currently seeking a nail technician in order to offer hand and foot services. The shop also serves women with haircuts, facials and brow arching.

Matthews hopes to open up another barber shop in Northeast Ohio, but he does not plan to franchise or create a

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www.facebook.com/pages/Culture-of-Cutting-Barber-Salon/

commercial brand for himself.

Although Matthews' talents have brought in some celebrity clients over the years, such as Chris Chambers of the Miami Dolphins and several Cleveland Browns players, he remains humble and his shop maintains a family-friendly and community-first atmosphere.

Matthews has never lost sight of his goals and his vision for the business. "My passion is to make everyone satisfied with their haircut and the goal is to please every head," Matthews said. The barbers in the shop reflect his vision—each barber in the salon is passionate about cutting hair. If they weren't, they wouldn't be employed there. He's stern.

Christina Sanders is a senior at Cleveland State University and a FutureHeights intern.

The Inn on Coventry celebrates 32 years

Yelena Tischenko

Owners Debbie Duirk and Mary Haley have been running their family-style dining business, the Inn on Coventry, for more than three decades.

After I finished college, I met Mary," said Duirk. "She had a dream of opening up a restaurant and so did I. Amy Haley [Mary's mother] was 96 years old and worked here every Sunday until she passed away."

The artsy and eclectic vibe of Coventry appealed to Haley and Duirk when they were looking for a location for their business. "Coventry Yard had just burned down and there was an empty space here," Duirk said.

Although the economy has taken a toll on many businesses, Duirk and Haley have tried to keep prices low.

They set "budget" prices from the start, and Duirk pointed out, "We have a morning breakfast special that's \$4.25, with eggs, bacon and fried toast. You can't beat that."

"Meeting people is the best part of our business," Duirk said. "We love meeting all the people who come through here and have a lot of longtime customers who have become friends." She noted that the Inn on Coventry brings in customers from the neighborhood, as well as nearby colleges and hospitals.

"We really do have a successful business so we don't do a lot of advertising anymore," Duirk said. "We sometimes distribute flyers during street fairs. We dress up in pancake suits and hand them out. We've gotten a lot of catering jobs through word-of-mouth."

The Inn on Coventry is known for its eggs Benedict, and has won awards for its homemade sauce. The Inn offers eight different types of pancakes, and the batter is made fresh daily. The Inn also features many vegetarian dishes.

"I really enjoy running the business," Duirk said. "We have the best staff we've had in 32 years. They're dedicated to the job and know they're coming here to make money and go

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home to take care of their family."

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and a Heights Observer summer editorial intern.

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Image: XinXin Liu '12 From X to M to I to A to N to S... robotic components, PCB printed circuit board, video

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Community events

Monday, July 2

Coventry Summer Series: Playground Fun
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 5

Coventry Music and Movies Under the Stars
7:30-11 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 5

University Heights Summer Concert Series
Yiddish Cup Klezmer Band (with family night activities prior to the performance)
7:30-9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Saturday, July 7

Larchmere Festival
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Larchmere Boulevard, Cleveland

Saturday, July 7

SummerFest
5-9 p.m., Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road

Sunday, July 8

Coventry Summer Series: Sundays in the Park
2-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Monday, July 9

Coventry Summer Series: Playground Fun
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Tuesday, July 10

Coventry Summer Series: Karaoke
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 12

University Heights Summer Concert Series
University Heights Symphonic Band
7:30-9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, July 12

Coventry Music and Movies Under the Stars
7:30-11 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Sunday, July 15

Coventry Summer Series: Sundays in the Park
2-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Monday, July 16

Coventry Summer Series: Playground Fun
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 19

University Heights Summer Concert Series
Blue Lunch Band
7:30-9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, July 19

Coventry Music and Movies Under the Stars
7:30-11 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Saturday, July 21

Thunder Run 5K Run/Walk
8 a.m., 2370 Lee Blvd.

Sunday, July 22

Coventry Summer Series: Sundays in the Park
2-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Monday, July 23

Coventry Summer Series: Playground Fun
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Tuesday, July 24

Coventry Summer Series: Karaoke
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 26

University Heights Summer Concert Series
University Heights Symphonic Band (with ice cream social)
7:30-9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, July 26

Coventry Music and Movies Under the Stars
7:30-11 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 26

Cedar Lee Rock the Block
Featuring Brent Kirby & The Lost Fortunes
6-8 p.m., BottleHouse Brewery, 2050 Lee Road

Sunday, July 29

Coventry Summer Series: Sundays in the Park
2-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Monday, July 30

Coventry Summer Series: Playground Fun
7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, Aug. 2

University Heights Summer Concert Series
Frank Moravcik Polka Band
7-8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 9

University Heights Summer Concert Series
The Stratophonics (with ice cream social)
7-8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Sunday, Aug. 12

Discover Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival & Arts and Crafts Show
Noon to 4 p.m., at Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard

Thursday, Aug. 16

University Heights Summer Concert Series
Mark Grey and Northcoast Jazz Collective
7-8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 23

University Heights Summer Concert Series
Clear Fork Bluegrass Quartet (with ice cream social)
7-8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Friday, Aug. 31

FutureHeights Battle of the Bands
Grop Shop
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Sunday, Sept. 23

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Brennan's Colony: an 'old friend' serves up classic American fare

Richard Stewart

Over time, a favorite local restaurant begins to take on the characteristics of an old friend—ever-present, reliable and welcoming. Few eateries personify that quality better than Brennan's Colony at the corner of Lee and Silsby roads.

To longtime neighborhood residents, the place is known simply as The Colony. What began as a bartending job for Jim Brennan, in 1981, turned into more than 20 years of successful ownership of the local institution.

"I was a waiter in college and kind of fell into it. Once I became involved, I developed a knack for it," Brennan said. "We're lucky to have a great location with more than ample parking in the back and all near the best housing stock in the Midwest."

A 1954 picture of a former owner of the establishment, known as Uncle Gus, hangs high above the bar, and Brennan greets customers by name as Thursday's lunch is served.

Brennan's Colony has become known, and loved, for classic all-American cooking. The extensive menu features chicken carbonara; meat loaf with mashed potatoes, gravy and green beans; burgers; salads; Colony wraps and other traditional cuisine.

Richard Wise, kitchen manager and head chef, can be seen through the food pick-up window, patrolling the kitchen that he knows so well. Wise is a mature presence in an otherwise youthful kitchen, ably staffed by Ed Stoudmire, Dave Jones and Jen Turrick.



Richard Wise, kitchen manager and head chef, with Jim Brennan, owner.

"I try to bring out the best in everyone who works here, and I try to set a good example for young people and motivate them because many of them are in transition," said Wise. "Some of them move on to other careers and others never get it out of their system."

The Colony has been around for most of the last century and, in recent years, has expanded north, down Lee Road to include four storefronts, a party room and large patio with an indoor/outdoor bar. A hospitable, family-oriented atmosphere is perhaps what

The Colony is best known for.

"It's like a big family here. Relationships are born here; people become engaged here. It's just the kind of place where families come together," Brennan said.

"We love kids and we really like families. They are the core of any institution," added Wise, whose career began in a restaurant in The Park, now known as Reserve Square, in downtown Cleveland.

Wise is known to allow outsiders into the kitchen to try their hand at

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whipping up a favorite family recipe. Mary Ellen Waithe, professor at Cleveland State University, cooked up pulao, a South Asian rice dish; and Judge Joe Russo once prepared his version of pizzaiola, a traditional Neapolitan dish that features beef tenderloin cooked with peppers, tomatoes, olive oil, garlic and basil. That one even made it onto the menu for a limited time.

Brennan said the best day The Colony ever had was when the restaurant held a fundraiser for Seamus O'Connor, a teenager suffering from brain cancer. On a beautiful Saturday in October 2007, more than \$10,000 was raised for the boy's medical care and expenses.

"It was a selfless day, a great day for The Colony," said Brennan. "Everybody felt so good about helping that kid."

Having served thousands of meals, and sponsored too many softball teams over the years, Brennan has thoroughly enjoyed his tenure as owner.

"I feel like it's just my turn at the wheel. I've had a good run. We have memories to last a lifetime. It's just amazing the memories that come after 20 plus years owning a place" he said.

Richard Stewart is a FutureHeights board member and owner of Digizoom Media.



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