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 information, e-mail cdhoundproject@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 one 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, Grature Professional Development School. He served on the boards 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 pioneers. 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 home from school.” A photo of Williams from the 1980s displayed at the funeral service showed him in his baseball uniform, a young confidant 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 Army. Williams was the first University Heights alum in the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

After leaving the military, Williams earned a bachelor’s degree and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Michigan. He later attended the University of Chicago, receiving a Master of Business Administration in 1997.

Williams was the first University Heights graduate of the 2008 Bridge Builders Flagship Class. He was a member of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders Flagship Class. He was a member of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders Flagship Class. He was a member of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders Flagship Class. He was a member of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders Flagship Class. He was a member of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders Flagship Class.

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The Heights Observer is your voice in the community

Deonna 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, citizen-based news source publishing monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life. Heights Observer, its staff and board of directors, do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

Support FutureHeights

As you enjoy an evening of food and drinks at Nighttown

Tuesday, July 24th starting at 5:00 pm.

* Present this Flyer to your Bartender or Server and a 15% portion of food proceeds benefits FutureHeights

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 bulldoze over the expressed desires and concerns of the city residents who live along Taylor Road between Mayfield and Euclid Heights Boulevard. These Taylor Road residents include children, a visually impaired woman, and many homeowners.

—Frann Benatch

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 Lauffer
**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 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 greenstrals so people can walk, bicycle, and use strollers and wheelchairs to get from place to place. The Millikin property is a crucial puzzle piece in the creation of a regional greenstral.

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

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**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 $7 at the fair, an 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 & Public Justice Program for the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee.
Plan C is the wrong plan, for the wrong price and at possibly the wrong time

Eric Silverman

Five minutes. That was the amount of time members of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education was willing to allow for public comment before they make a decision on a $200 million capital proj-
ec-
t that will be the single largest civic project in our community's history. At the June 3 meeting, I asked if they would entertain public comment at their work session on June 9, or sched-
ule another community meeting on the final plan. The reply was No. June 3 was the last opportunity for public com-
ment, 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 school’s issue.

This is not an easy choice for me. I am a second generation Heights High grad and served on the school board for eight years and on the library board for seven. I’ve worked on every school levies 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 Foun-
dation—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 com-
munity, 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 Assess-
ment 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 physical needs of our buildings on a limited budget. While I might quibble about how the Ohio School Facilities Commis-
sion determines square footage, decree its narrow-minded attitude towards single

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 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—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 sily additions, most of that work was

The McKeon Group

“Despite public perception, there is a SHORTAGE of houses for sale in the Heights. New listings are selling and our market is down over 30% in listing inventory since last year. So if you think the market is too crowded for your home, think again.”
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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 de-
creased 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,
have multiple violations and taxes in arrears. Rae-
ing will cost $10,000 and an asbesos survey
will cost $500.

Lead Safe Program
This has been awarded an additional
$512,000 for the Lead Safe Program. Eligible
residents may apply for funding for home im-
provements to abate lead hazards by calling
216-991-4869.

Waterline survey
Council authorized an agreement with Con-
selling Engineering Inc. for a waterline survey
not to exceed $44,000. These annual surveys
locate undeveloped 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 Kenwoth Road to
Warrsville Center Road.

Recycling income
Council Member Bonnie Caplan said that,
although only about 59 percent of house-
holds separate trash to recycle, the city made
$150,000 last year from the recycling program.

Sustainable zoning practices
Council adopted zoning code revisions to incor-
porate sustainable practices into the zoning code.
Council Member Caplan and Vice Mayor Dennis
Wilkos congratulated the planning department
and the law director for the extraordinary amount
of work they did to produce these revisions. Wilkos
pointed out these aspects to sustainability: environ-
mental, social, and economic. The full text of
the ordinance may be found on the Cleveland

More outdoor dining spots
Council authorized an agreement with Kafmandu
Inc. (Cafe Tandoor) for the use of public property
adjoining the building at 2906 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.

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 al-
locating Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG) funds. These include:
• An agreement with the Cleveland Tenants
Organization for $3,500 for its prevention
program at the Baptist 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
Street scape Low and Moderate Income Fund and
$136,250 into the Public Works Fund. This
will provide increased funds for road rehabilita-
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 Steel 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 con-
stitutional rights of corporations. The resolution sup-
ports an amendment to the constitution to provide
that corporations are not entitled to the protected
rights of natural persons, specifically so that corpo-
rations may spend 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.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayfield Road – Glass and metal
In Mayfield Road, from Beacon Avenue to
Grandview Avenue, the city will replace
windows and doors on both sides of the
road. This project is expected to begin
in June and will be completed before the
end of the year.

Café Tandoor – Fenced public
property
Café Tandoor (3351 Mayfield Road) has been
granted permission to build a fence on
public property to separate the cafe from the
eastern parking lot. The fence will be
constructed of wood and will be
maintained by Café Tandoor.

Café Quatro – New use
Café Quatro (3569 Mayfield Road) has been
approved for a new use of the building.
The new use will include an outdoor
patio, which will require additional
parking.

Cleveland Heights City Center
Cleveland Heights City Center, located
at 3416 Mayfield Road, has been granted
permission to construct an addition to
the building.

Community Development Block Grant
The city has been awarded $216,000 for
Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG) funds. These funds will be used
to support various projects.

Café Quatro – New patio
Café Quatro (3569 Mayfield Road) has been
approved for a new patio. The patio
will be constructed of wood and will
be maintained by Café Quatro.

Café Tandoor – Fenced public
property
Café Tandoor (3351 Mayfield Road) has been
granted permission to build a fence on
public property to separate the cafe from the
eastern parking lot. The fence will be
constructed of wood and will be
maintained by Café Tandoor.

Excellent Gardens
Excellent Gardens (3260 Mayfield Road) has
been granted permission to construct a
new addition to the building.

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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 City of Cleveland Heights and South Euclid police department. 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 low 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 required by 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 Pandve, 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.

MJV observer: Wendy Deuring.

Monday, June 4, was a difficult day for University Heights City Council members attending a moment of silence to honor Flesher. The meeting began with a moment of silence to honor Flesher, a longtime clerk in the finance department for five council meetings.

New resident meet and greet
The mayor announced that on Sunday, July 1, the Heights Community Congress, FutureHeights, and the Friends of the Library will co-sponsor a meet and greet for new Heights residents at the Lee Road Drive-In.

Returned check policy
Council approved a returned check policy, recommended by the finance director, which codified current returned-check practices and raised the fee for bounced checks from $20 to $30.

Funds for Fuchs Mizrachi purchase
Council authorized, on emergency, the transfer of funds from the general fund to the capital improvement fund for the first payment, $130,000, on the Fuchs Mizrachi property. A land survey is in process and payment will be made upon its completion.

Heat imager
Council approved the purchase, at $10,270, of a thermal imager for the fire department. An imager for the hook and ladder truck was purchased in 2007 for $9,800. The new purchase is to replace a second fire safety imager. The equipment can see through smoke, walls, furniture and other obstacles to find life in a burning structure.

Texting while driving
Steve Hannett, 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
Funding for four streets under construction will be completed in time for ceremoines at John Carroll University. A portion of North Park Boulevard will be renamed John Carroll Boulevard. New signs will be placed at Millford and Carroll roads. Waterline replacement on Llandale 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.

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Happy Hour

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Cuyahoga County. “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 you’re not talking 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 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.heightsobserver.org.

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and Heights Observer summer editorial intern.
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 Tahsha Roberts in 2008. Roberts will graduate 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 3.5 GPA or higher during the academic year.

Contributions to the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship fund can be mailed to:
The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o The Treasurer’s Office
CH-UH City School District
2155 Miramar Blvd.,
University Heights, Ohio 44118

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 Yelisky 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 Yelisky 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.

Yelisky has been the AFS Club advisor at Heights High for more than 20 years, and recently began hosting students from African and Muslim countries.

"It was awesome," Yelisky 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 Yelisky at 216-371-3733.

"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."

AFS promotes world peace one teenager at a time

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

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Cartoon by Pete Mueller | Reprinted from Funny Times.
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 17-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 Sles, 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 meet 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 need 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 tagnor@hawkcn.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.

YOC members are Lauren Lumpkin, 16; Randall Walker, 17; Devin Climaco, 16; Ian Sles, 19; and John Nelson, 24; all Heights residents.

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

Visit www.shophiba.org to register, view a list of participating organizations, and see complete program rules.

In honor of Independents Week, HiBA will offer double stamps July 1-7. HiBA may also offer special “pop-up” bonuses, gifts, and surprises throughout the week.

“By participating in the Indie Hop, people can learn more about the impact of choosing local, engage with their neighbors, and have fun doing it,” said Megan Johnson.

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

The ELC 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, x234, 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 park,” Spaeth said. “I know there are some long-term plans that the Cedar Lee SID has made to completely revitalize 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.
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.

“arly 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 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.

New historic district would be 11 for Cleveland Heights

Annemarie Grassi

The Overlook of Cleveland and Italianate. The neighborhood includes Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and significant architectural styles, such as Spanish style, the district is filled with examples of historically constructed in the Spanish style, the district would still be free to remodel, alter, sell, or even demolish their homes.

“When 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 emeritus 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, 2009) and The Overbook of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights (Arcadia, 2010). This is her first National Register nomination.

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

Repair grants are available for major repairs from HRRC

Allison Urbanek

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 $5,000 grant toward full roof 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 $50,970. 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.

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 216-381-6600, visit www.hrrc-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 Urbanek is the financial programs coordinator at Home Repair Resource Center and enjoys working one-on-one with residents to solve their home repair problems.

Buy local. Your merchants are your neighbors too.
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 plain clothes, 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 entered Cedar Fairmount’s Myxx, where the event took place.

As for Robertson, issues surround victims difficult.

evidence and statements from rape lice officers, which makes gathering

Heights currently has no female po-

Robertson said, “If we don’t have important citizens are to police work.

One of Hammett’s major initia-
tives is to revise the way in which the University Heights Police Department investigates sexual assaults. University Heights currently has no female po-

As for Robertson, issues surround

juvenille 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 depart-

ment received, and that it holds a zero-
tolerance policy for teenagers who block

streets.

Robertson has also installed cam-

eras in business districts and other areas in which young people frequently con-
gregate, 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 distur-

bances.

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 “work-
ing 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 residen-
tial neighborhoods, they likely lived nearby.

Throughout their speeches, both chiefs reminded the audience how im-
portant 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 resident to attend the Cleveland Heights Meet Your Police meetings, which take place every Thurs-
day 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 Improve-
ment District (SID) is hosting its 11th annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Sum-
mer 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 contribu-
tion 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 sta-
tioned 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.cedarfairmount.org. More information is available on the Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival Facebook page and at 216-731-3172.

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

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.
HUGH WILLIAMS continued from page 1

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 15 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.

Treichel had known him and was inspired by him. He gave the community a better food bank,” she 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 was 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 Williams’ 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.
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 negoti-ating with Mosdos Ohr Hatorah for a long-term lease for Millikin School.

Facilities planning

Facilities planners, architects, and financial advi-sors from Regency Construction said the high school would be remodeled first, but that change inflated the cost. Nevertheless, the consultants told the public the school would open at some time.

The consultants stressed the urgency of approv-ing 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 million levy on the November 2012 ballot. Nancy Pepper, 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 build-ing program. Voting bonding entails 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 ($202,831,450) will cover $55,083,390 for a total cost of $205,819,340. The bond issue of 6.6 mills will last for 37 years, although the schoolchildren levied for these years is an estimate of the millage.

The board had further questions, especially regarding additional costs and whether new op-tions 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.

LVW observer: Ubser Hauser.

MAY 24, 2012
All board members were present.

New facilities plans

Stephen Shergal, 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 Chagrin and New選擇-to-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 Canty 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 6.6 mills and the schools could borrow at 4 to 4.25 percent.

LVW observer: Ubser Hauser.

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.

District will be 7:30 a.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 students during school office sessions every day except Tuesdays, from 3:10-3:30 p.m.

Master facilities plan

Stephen Shergal explained that the board would be voting on a bond issue in the next month and setting a budget on what it can afford, not what is a pressing lay out 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 Cobb, board member, stated that he is working with the plan and wondering if there are other possibilities, such as K-6 at Wiley, Douglas Heuer, superintendent, said that numbers in classrooms 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 options are available.

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 school, would therefore be demolished if the facilities plan C is approved. However, the money must be spent this year.

LVW observer: Ubser Hauser.

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

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

The 2011-12 Communion of Saints Drama Club maximized the audience with its production of “Willy Wonka, Jr.,” based on the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. The cast of 63 children in kindergarten through eighth grade was directed by drama teacher Lydian Chawenka and musical director Marcia Battadur. 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’

Angie Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District announced at its June 16 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 leader-ship 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

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

Angie Shaker

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 spacekeeper, a trailblazer, a risk taker and forward thinker. We com-mend him for his work in the classroom and in the community. He is a special person who has touched many lives.”

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

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

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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 Maria 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 dominated every aspect of every game they played and when they defeated their nemesis. 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.

John Lentz

篮球比赛

州立半决赛失利结束了惊人的赛季 对于始终的女孩

## CH-UH欢迎新布鲁克林小学的校长

### Angel Shaker

Katrina Dean specialist在北卡罗来纳大学夏洛特分校

John W. Raper Elementary School

N.Y. She also served as assistant principal at 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 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.

Angel Shaker是通讯和项目管理的主任

Katherine Dean is director of communications

for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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
Heights High team competes in annual battle of the robots

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

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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 serve families hard hit by the economy,” said Sam Lapides, 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 offering 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 programs 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 Lapides 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.
Slovakian mayor visits Cleveland Heights

Last month, after visiting with Cleveland's Mayor Frank Jackson, Milan Ftčnik, 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).

Ftčnik 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. Ftčnik 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.”

Ftčnik and Sedgwick met with Cleveland Mayor Jackson to discuss renewing the sister-city agreement between Cleveland and Bratislava. Ftčnik 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

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

There are a few ways in which we can help protect the elderly in our community. Linda Noecker, senior vice president of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging (BRJ), 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 (OAO) 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 properly.

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 216-408-8000.

If you suspect elder abuse, please report it. Call the APS 24-hour hotline at 216-420-8700, or the LTCCO at 800-954-3172.

You can reach NCPEA at 646-462-3063, OA at 216-691-7777, and HRRC at 216-318-6100 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.
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 E尔斯ich, 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—free of charge, CSF brings to those who would otherwise be unable to afford tickets on any night, downtown theater, or may be uncomfor-
table to audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds. While Ensemble is generally “dark” (not performing) during the summer, CSF is celebrating its 17th 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@cleveshakes.org, or visit www.cleveshakes.org.

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 Ferring 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

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

Heights Observer July 1, 2012

Cast your ballot today for Best of the Heights!

Complete this ballot or go online to: www.futureheights.org
Deadline for ballot submission: August 31, 2012.

Please Note!
Voting is for Cleveland Heights and University Heights localities only.

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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 23.

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 has 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.”

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.

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

He has 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 to go home to take care of their family.”

Yelenia Tischenko

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

“I really enjoy running the business,” Duirk said. “We really do have a successful 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 has a lot of repeat customers and a lot of people who come to the restaurant as a part of their wedding festivities.

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 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 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.

“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 can be found at 2785 Euclid Heights Blvd., Cleveland Heights.

M-Th. 7 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Fri. 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Sat-Sun. 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
http://innoncoventry.com/

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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**
  - 7-9 p.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

### Thursday, July 5
- **University Heights Summer Concert Series**
  - Midland 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.-5 p.m., Larchmere Boulevard, Cleveland

### Saturday, July 7
- **SummerFest**
  - 5-9 p.m., Church of the Savoir, 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

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### Thursday, July 12
- **University Heights Summer Concert Series**
  - University Heights Symphony 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**
  - 7:30-11 a.m., Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

### Monday, 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

### 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

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

### Sunday, Aug. 26
- **University Heights Summer Concert Series**
  - University Heights Symphonic Band (with ice cream social)
  - 7-8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd

### Friday, Aug. 31
- **FutureHeights Battle of the Bands**
  - Crop Shop
  - 2785 Euclid Heights Blvd

### Sunday, Sept. 23
- **HGC Heights Heritage Home and Garden Tour**
  - (various Cleveland Heights locations)
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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.”

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.

“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.

“It’s 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.