New sign marks Cedar Fairmount as a unique destination

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (CFISD) unveiled a new sign in the traffic island where Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard meet. The sign, which had been a long time in the making, was unveiled just before the opening of the annual Discover Cedar Fairmount Festival on Aug. 12.

The sign is the fourth phase of a project that began in 1999 when we completed a streetscape plan for the district," said Kaye Lowe, executive director of CFISD. "In 2007, we hired Raymond Bugelski to create a logo for the district. We worked with Peggy Spaeth and Heights Arts to initiate a public arts project to mark the district as a unique destination."

Bugelski designed a logo, incorporating the district’s English-style architecture, which is used on all the signage. The first phase consisted of signs to mark the entrance points to the commercial district. Next came street signs and overhead signs. The final phase is a large metal sign that sits on a stone base in the center of a landscaped traffic island. The sign is illuminated from within.

"Heights Arts is elated to finally have this place-making sign installed," said Peggy Spaeth, executive director of Heights Arts. "It culminates our collaboration with CFISD to emphasize that Cedar Fairmount is not someplace to drive through on the way home, but that it is home to a unique neighborhood built up around a historic commercial district." Heights Arts also worked with CFISD to install murals painted by local artist Jesse Rhinehart in 2004 and 2008 on the Heights Center Building. "Members of a traffic island sign committee worked for years to raise funds and create a capstone design that would really showcase the district," said Lowe. "Citizens, businesses, property owners and neighbors have helped with the previous phases and we hope they will continue to be supportive."

CFISD is holding a benefit to raise money for the sign and future streetscape projects. On Friday, Oct. 12, two-time Grammy award-winner Rita Coolidge will perform a special benefit concert at Nighttown. The event begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $150 each, $60 of which is tax deductible, and include cocktails, gold circle seating and a silent auction. To purchase tickets, call Nighttown at 216.453.0051.

Heights Community Congress hosts 35th annual home and garden tour

Simona Quarrell

On Sept. 23, some of the unique homes and gardens in Cleveland Heights will be open to the public for Heights Community Congress’s (HCC) 35th annual Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour.

Cleveland Heights opens search for Evans’ replacement

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights City Council announced today that it would reopen the search for the council seat vacated by the retirement of Phyllis Evans. Council reviewed an opinion from Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) that indicated Evans’ health benefits would be jeopardized if she were reappointed and decided not to reappoint Evans to the vacant seat.

Evans resigned in June for personal reasons, then was one of 12 applicants who applied for the vacant seat in July.
Join the Tiger Nation team

Joan Spoor!

I’ve never participated in team sports, but am thrilled to have joined Tiger Nation, the team of students and families who comprise the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. I’d like to extend a warm welcome to new families joining us on what I hope will prove a satisfying journey in the CH-UH school district.

My son is a second grader at Fairfax Elementary School. Though my family is just three years into our journey, we have already benefited from our educational and social experiences. We’ve also happily shared our own modest resources to support and enhance the educational experience of the students.

On this journey, you, like us, will have the opportunity to make great friends and support the success of not only your own child, but other children and, thereby, the broader community.

Here are some examples of how to join our team, and how others have assisted our schools. With your help and input, the opportunities are endless:

• Join the PTA. There are many ways, big and small, to help. Fundraising is an important PTA activity; but many other PTA efforts provide special enrichment for a school.

• Volunteer at your school’s book fair. By seeking donations from local businesses, such as Zagara’s, The Stone Oven and Phoenix Coffee, Fairfax Elementary was able to raise money to enable children to purchase books who would not otherwise have been able to do so.

• Coordinate afterschool activities and other programs. Parents, teachers and community members have created opportunities for special assemblies, such as one with Bill Wade and Insole Dance Company, a bike rodeo and club, karate instruction, tumbling, yoga, chess and more.

• Tutor through the Reaching Heights Many Villages program, or through arrangements with individual teachers and schools.

• Coordinate or chaperone on field trips.

• Help at Literacy Night.

• Provide shoes and other supplies for families in need, and toys and materials for school classrooms.

• Speak to a class, or assist a teacher in other ways. My husband spoke about his work as a physicist. Another parent assisted the teacher by stapling books together for students’ homework packets. (She couldn’t help during the school day; so she found this way to help from home.)

• Seek grants for special projects.

• Serve on school committees.

• Participate in the school district key campaign or the school facilities planning meetings.

• Act as room parent or help with class parties and other special occasions.

• Spruce up the school. I brought in some decorative pillows and a basket of books and magazines to improve the atmosphere of our school lobby.

• Express concerns and suggest ideas for improving practices in the school.

• My son and I enjoy walking or biking to school. When we walk, we chat with other children. Often, I pick up litter and recyclables on my way home. When my son’s teacher asked me to help with a recycling unit they were doing at school; I jumped at the opportunity to lead some related games I’d developed for the Nature Center.

Highlights from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Remembering a father, and Olympian, an inspiration to many

“The throwing baving began, I put on a borrowed pair of shoes, the first I ever wore. I was feeling great…” — Eugene Oberst, 1954 Olympic bronze medalist.

This year marks 88 years since Eugene Oberst won a bronze medal in the javelin throw at the 1934 Olympics in Paris. Mr. Oberst was the first American to win an Olympic medal in the javelin throw. An amazing feat considering only seven Americans have medaled since (in the event).

—Tiffany Lafer
To the Editor:

Cleveland Heights celebrated its tradition of serving great food at the 4th annual Taste of The Heights held on June 14. More than 200 guests at the Heights Youth Club (HYC) on Lee Road savored delicious platefuls of food, sipped a beverage or glass of wine, and enjoyed wonderful jazz entertainment provided by Halbi’s Groove.

Local restaurants lined behind the club by providing a favorite dish, prepared by their chefs. The HYC board of directors wants to extend a special thank you to Jimmy O’Neill for orchestrating the participating restaurants. Kudos to Anatolia Café, Barle Soup and Sandwich, Brennan’s Colony, Café Tandoor, Cedar Lee Pub, fire food & drink, High Thaï, Phoenix Coffee, Lopez Bar and Grill, The Mad Greek, Mr. Brisket, New Heights Grill, Nighttown, O’Reilly’s Pub, Pacific East, Parnell’s Pub, Pizzazz, Stone Oven Bakery, Sweetie Fry, Tavern Company, Tommy’s and Zagara’s Marketplace.

To the taste of the Heights guests also participated in raffles featuring more than 25 prizes—from local restaurant gift certificates to Lake Erie cruises. A special thanks to all of the participating directors wants to extend a special thank you to Donna Murthesbaugh and her dynamic youth club.

A very special “Thank You” to all the wonderful supporters of the Heights Youth Club.

Kimberly Morgan
Board Administrator, HYC

Former Detroit resident objects to Cleveland Heights mayor’s characterization of that city

To the Editor:

I read with interest the Heights Observer online article about Myxx being declared a public nuisance. I have no opinion on the issue one way or the other (this is the first I’ve heard of the problem and it’s not that close to my house). However, I DO take issue with a statement made by the mayor in the last paragraph: 

“This is not downtown Detroit, this is Cleveland Heights, Ohio,” said Mayor Kelley.

I have been a proud resident of Cleveland Heights for more than 18 years. Before that, I was a proud resident of downtown Detroit. In 35 years living in Detroit and its surroundings, I had to call the police only once for anything other than a traffic accident. I or my family have had to call the police several times to report crimes (though still rarely) since we moved here.

I resent the mayor’s assumption that the communities of Detroit are rife with public criminal activity and that the communities of Cleveland Heights are clean.

Visit Ten Thousand Villages: a happy experience

To the Editor:

On Sunday, Aug. 12, the Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival transformed the streets of our community into an exciting, vibrant area. In a tent on Surrey Road, Ten Thousand Villages presented a craft experience for young people to learn and create batik art paintings. At Ten Thousand Villages, there are numerous pieces of batik art for sale. The tent also had information about volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages. The store’s assistant manager talked about the experience of shopping and working there—experiences that bring satisfaction to customers and to the artisans who make the figurines, bowls, textiles, jewelry and other items in the store.

A gift from Ten Thousand Villages gives twice—once to the recipient and once to the artisan, many of whom are from Third World countries. Because of your purchase, the artisans who make these beautiful hand-crafted items are able to provide for their families, enable their children to attend school, provide health care and clothing and so many other things that we take for granted.

Shopping at Ten Thousand Villages is like a trip to a small museum. Individuals who love their work help customers find just the exact item they’re looking for, either for themselves or for someone else. A good time is had by all.

Come and visit Ten Thousand Villages at 12425 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. Find the perfect gift and learn how you can become a volunteer or a board member for this dynamic, growing nonprofit organization. We look forward to seeing you.

Shirley Mette
Volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages

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Major development for Cedar Lee district

Vince Reddy

The Cedar Lee commercial district, the largest of the traditional neighborhood commercial districts that Cleveland Heights is known for, may soon add a new anchor to its collection. The Orlean Company, already active in the city as a partner in the Bluestone and Kenworth Mews residential developments, is planning a four-story, mixed-use building containing 77 market-rate rental apartments and nearly 15,000 square feet of commercial space on the long-vacant, city-owned parcel on the northeast corner of Lee Road and Meadowbrook Boulevard.

Orlean’s Stuart Friedman, who states that his company is “doing this development” because there is nothing else like it in Cleveland Heights,” said he expects the apartments will be a draw for young professionals and empty nesters who will add to the diverse mix in Cedar Lee, which he sees as already being a vibrant commercial district.

City council has signed off on an 11-year, 80-percent tax abatement for the project, which, still must be approved by the school district. Despite the apparent generosity of the abatement, the development would generate significant revenues for both the city and the schools during its first 11 years. Estimates supplied by the city envision property-tax revenues of $436,000 for the school district and $91,000 for the city during the abatement period. In its current state, the property is not generating any local government revenue. Additionally, the complex’s residents would pay a million dollars or more in income taxes during the years the abatement would be in effect.

Cleveland Heights has been conservative in its willingness to grant tax abatements in recent decades, but its neighboring municipalities have not. To keep pace with neighboring suburbs and the residential resurgence of many Cleveland neighborhoods, the city is arguably not in a good position to avoid making use of this popular economic development tool. Cleveland Heights now has more competitors than ever for its role as the pleasantly urban residential alternative for workers in the flourishing economic hubs of University Circle and Beachwood.

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The city has gradually assembled the parcels that make up the Meadowbrook Lee development site over the past decade or so, and has made significant investments nearby, most notably in the five-year-old Cedar Lee parking deck, which was built with one of its enclosed parking levels designated for a development like the one proposed. Two previous proposals for the vacant parcel, both of which would have included condominiums instead of the currently planned rental apartments, did not go forward.

The proposed Meadowbrook Lee development would fill up the last remaining large parcel in Cedar Lee, which, besides being the largest, is also the most centrally located of the city’s traditional commercial districts. The district is home to Heights High, the Lee Road Library, the Cedar Lee and Dobama theaters, Zagara’s Marketplace, and many small businesses.

These are two opinions about the proposed Meadowbrook-Lee project and tax abatement.

To express your opinion, send a letter to the editor at info@futurheights.org.

Economics of tax abatement

Kevin Smith

Residents often question the need for tax abatement for real estate development. The argument against tax abatement is that it takes money out of the coffers of already tightly budgeted municipalities and school districts. However, the unfortunate fact is that tax abatement is often necessary to justify the cost of construction.

The proposed development of the Lee-Meadowbrook site can be used as an example to explain the impact to investors and developers for tax abatement. The developer, The Orlean Company, is estimating it will cost $3,330,000 to develop a mixed-use building with 14,466 square feet of commercial space and 77 apartments. It is estimating annual rental income of $261,400.

Without tax abatement, the company is forecasting annual expenses, not including debt, of $338,000 ($328,000 of which would be real estate taxes). If the developer put 30 percent equity into the project ($338,000), it would need financing from a lending institution in the amount of $2,330,000. Assuming loan terms have a 20-year payback period at six percent interest, the developer would pay $688,000 annually in debt. All of this means that the developer would be operating over a $1,000 annual loss.

With tax abatement, the developer would be operating at a loss. With tax abatement, it would be able to justify the cost of its investment, albeit at returns lower than most real estate investors would be willing to accept. Markets dictate rental rates and, unfortunately, current market rents cannot support the cost of new construction without tax abatement for the developer.

Kevin Smith is a FutureHeights board member, the opinions expressed are his own.
In reversal, BOE announces Severance Tower polling site will remain open for 2012

Kim Sergio Inglis

In a July 26 e-mail to Jane Platten, di-rector of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE), Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward Kelly asked the BOE to move precinct 4G back to Severance Tower.

The closure of the Severance Tower polling site was one of several polling changes presented to Cleveland Heights City Council on June 25 by Erich Stubbs, election support official for the BOE. [Reported in the August issue of the Heights Observer.]

According to Vie Strader, property manager for Severance Tower, residents received a notification with a mailed-on date of July 18, informing them that their polling location would move to City Hall.

Severance Tower, 25 Severance Circle, is a Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) property, described on CMHA’s website as a “se-nior high rise.”

Strader said, “Everyone is elderly, handicapped or disabled—that is the criteria for living here. Most do not have transportation, and a large population is handicapped or disabled—that is the criteria for living here. Most do not have transportation, and a large population is

Concerns that residents from Severance Tower would potentially be unable to travel to City Hall to vote prompted Kelly’s e-mail. Kelley explained, “A few residents called and complained. Too many seniors or disabled couldn’t get from Severance Tower to City Hall. We want to protect the rights of people to vote.”

Strader said that of the building’s 206 residents, 165 are registered voters, and “they are very happy” that they will be able to vote in the building.

According to Stubbs, while the Severance Tower polling site will remain open for 2012, it will be evaluated again in 2013.

A major point of confusion was the question of transportation for Severance Tower residents to City Hall on election day. Strader said that she had been told that transportation would not be provided. Stubbs, however, said, “We were planning to work with CMHA and Paratransit.”

The BOE will send a letter to all precinct 4G voters, informing them of the change back, according to Platten. In an e-mail to Mayor Kelley, she asked for help from the city in communicating “this second move” to voters.

Referring to another change in polling location for 2012, Stubbs reported that he is also “getting calls and concerns about the Caledonia move, too, from folks coming from Oxford.” He plans to hold a meeting at Oxford Elementary School, which has been closed as a polling site, once school is back in session, to speak with affected voters there.

The polling changes in Cleveland Heights for 2012 are:

• Close Boulevard Elementary School polling place; move precincts 3C, 3E, 4E to Cleveland Heights Community Center (aka Rec. Center).
• Close Oxford Elementary School polling place; move precincts 5A, 5B, 5C to Caledonia School (Caledonia is part of the East Cleveland School District, but the building is in Cleveland Heights).
• Move precinct 2D (878 registered voters) from Fairfax Elementary School to Canterbury Elementary School. [According to Stubbs, this move is to accommodate the addition of precinct 2E (953 registered voters), which is moving from Lee Road Library to Fairfax. Precinct 2D is physically closer to Canterbury than it is to Fairfax, said Stubbs, who added that the gym at Canterbury is also larger than Fairfax’s, and thus able to accommodate more voters.]
• Move precinct 2E from Lee Road Library to Fairfax School (to reduce number of precincts voting at the library from five to four).

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

Family installs iconic British phone box to commemorate London Olympics

Pam Barr

The 2012 Olympic Games may be over, but memories of London will live on for one Cleveland Heights family—in their backyard. On the closing day of the 2012 Olympiad, family and friends of Chris and Amy Barr pinched in to erect a classic red telephone booth for box 129, the Brits call it, in the backyard of the Barr’s Coleridge Road home.

Thanks to Olympic caliber teamwork, the iconic structure was reconstructed under a sprawling oak tree to bring a bit of the British Isles to the neighborhood. Weighing in at 1,650 pounds, the cast iron phone booth was originally purchased by Tom and Cheryl Mackie, Amy’s parents, while the family was living in England. Following their return to the United States, they installed it in their yard on Chatfield Road.

After Tom retired, the Mackies left Cleveland Heights and the booth was put into storage. Tom says it’s great to see the box back in the neighborhood. “This telephone box was made in Scot- land, so it has a Scottish crown, rather than an English crown on the top,” Tom noted. “When we bought it, the booth was covered with graffiti and layers of paint. After drilling out every bolt, we had someone strip, prime and repaint it in the original colors.”

Tom said that this box is a K6, a model designed in 1935 to commemo-rate the silver jubilee of King George V. It was the first red telephone kiosk to be used extensively outside London, and has become a British icon.

Installing the box in the Barrs’ backyard took most of a day and a team of workers to reassemble the structure, after Tom had previously poured a concrete base to support it.

Now the Barrs will have to determine what role the kiosk will play in their lives. “I think it may become a home for birds,” said Amy Barr. “With flowering vines, it should quickly blend into our backyard.”

Pam Barr is a 20-year Cleveland Heights resident and a principal of Barr Communications, a boutique marketing and public relations consulting firm based in Cleveland Heights.
Cleveland Heights City Council declares Myxx a public nuisance

Meeting highlights

JULY 16, 2012
All council members were present.

2013 tax budget
A public hearing on the 2013 tax budget pre-
ceded the regular council meeting. Projected
revenues are $41,693,205 and projected expen-
ses do not exceed $41,615,992. The budget
must be filed with the Cuyahoga County Budget
Division by July 20. The hearing was about five
minutes long and there were no questions from
either the public or members of council.

Later, during the regular council meeting,
council voted to approve the budget. Council
Member Dennis Wilcox commented on the
increasing difficulty for budgeting in municipali-
ties, although Cleveland Heights is doing things
more efficiently, including collaborating and
cooperating with other cities. He believes the
state does not value cities as it used to, because
it has cut the amount returned to cities from the
county and state local government taxes and
the inheritance tax. Cleveland Heights has lost
more than $2 million.

Nuisance residential properties
Council declared the following residential pro-
properties to be a nuisance and authorized abate-
ment:

• 945 Brunswick Road, Troy Henderson
(mountain Martini & Wine Bar);
• 184 Lee Road, Ruth Miller (Trustee);
• 866 Nellisview Road, Federal National
Mortgage
• 2218 South Overlook Road, Mark Grady
(owner), partially built and abandoned;
• 27401 Rosewood Road, Bank of New York
Mellon (owner). Not only was the property
declared a nuisance due to serious disrepair,
but also due to criminal and quasi-criminal
activities of its tenants.

Noble Road gas station nuisance
Council declared the operation of the gas station
and convenience store at 2610 N Noble Road to be
nuisance, authorized abatement, and required the
business from continuing to operate. This busi-
siness had been mentioned and has been ex-
based in blatant disregard of a court order and
judgment from January 2011. It is a magnet for
criminal and quasi-criminal activities. The city
has been working on this problem for quite a while,
including a previously passed resolution.

Recreation rates for fall/winter
Council amended the use regulations and rates
for the Cleveland Heights Community Center
and parks for the 2012–13 fall/winter season.
There are essentially no increases, except a few
for nonresidents.

Coventry Village SID plan
Council acknowledged receipt of a plan for public
services and improvements from Coventry
Village Special Improvement District (SID).
There were no comments or recommendations
for change.

LWV Observer: Blanche Vanlanc
AUGUST 6, 2012
Council member Mary A. Dunbar was excused.

Lake to Lakes Trail Project
Council approved the submission of an applica-
tion, in conjunction with Shaker Heights, to the
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
(NOACA) for funding the Lake to Lakes Trail Pro-
ject. The project plans to link the Harrison Dillard
 Bikeway, a three-mile trail extending from the Lake
Erie shoreline through Rockefeller Park along Mar-
tin Luther King Jr. Drive, to the Shaker Lakes and
other points south and west. If the grant from the
Federal Transportation Enhancements Program is
awarded for construction of the portion of the Lake
to Lakes Trail that runs through Cleveland Heights
and Shaker Heights, the city will be responsible
for partial payment of engineering costs and
20 percent matching funds for construction of
the portion of the trail. The amount the city would
pay is not to exceed $30,000.

Nuisance ordinance expanded
Council amended the city code to expand
nuisance abatement remedies to incorporate
activities that may include, but are not limited to,
notification of a Certificate of Occupancy.

Myxx bar declared a nuisance
Council declared the business known as Myxx,
located at 12459 Cedar Road in the Cedar
Fairmount Business District, to be a public nuis-
ance. The premises were formerly owned by
Cedar-Fairmount Realty Ltd. and recently sold by
federal court order to JDI Loans LLC. Reported
criminal activities include aggravated assault, riot,
assault of a police officer, underage alcohol
consumption, public intoxication, open alcohol
containers, excessively loud music, disorderly
conduct, and public urination.

Mark Axel, a bartender at the Fair
mount Martini & Wine Bar, was bar-
ing Myxx for eight years. He moved to
Myxx from a location on Cedar Road in
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Cleveland Heights City Council declares Myxx a public nuisance
Board of Ed meets to discuss next steps for facilities plan

Kim Sergio Inglis

On Aug. 21, the Cleveland Heights–University Heights Board of Educa-
tion met to discuss next steps in the district’s master school facilities plan. While no formal vote was taken dur-
ing the work session, discussion among board members and district admin-
istrators led to consensus on several next steps, including opening Plan C for revision, and forming a lay advisory committee.

Board members discussed the timing of placing a bond issue on the ballot in 2013, and spoke of the need to build trust with the community. Ron Register, board member, said, “I think community is important. I think that is our starting point.”

A topic revisited throughout the meeting was the question of cost, and how and if to determine a budget. Eric Cable, board member, asked, “How do we determine how much money we can spend? Do we need to set a budget? Do we say, this is what the community can support, or do we want to dream big, and then figure out what it will cost?”

Board members agreed that Plan C should be subject to revision and modifi-
cation. Kal Zucker, board member, said, “The fact that the board voted unani-
mously against putting it on the ballot means the plan may need to change. I don’t personally feel the plan can exist in its state as it is now.”

Doug Heuer, district superinten-
dent, suggested that board members jot down ideas for “what components of the plan should be given new consider-
ation,” to see where there was “general interest in reassessment.”

Steve Shergalis, director of admin-
istrative services for the district, then narrowed the ideas down to eight main topics: big picture, renovation, grade configuration, locations, budget, how to pay for it, community and square footage.

There are two scheduled elections in 2013. Heuer told the board. Placing a bond issue on the ballot in May would require that the board initiate action in January; a November bond issue would require action in July.

Heuer said, “Everyone knows there is a ticking clock on our capacity to fund a comprehensive plan. Our experts tell us that clock will expire at the end of 2013.”

In an e-mail, Angee Shaker, direc-
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Nancy Pepperl, board member, advocated for a May ballot. “I think we need to do this more quickly. Looking at historic bond issues, sometimes a dis-

trict needs more than one attempt.”

The other four board members all stated a preference for November. Steve Shergalis, board member, asked, “How do we determine how much money we can spend? Do we need to set a budget? Do we say, this is what the community can support, or do we want to dream big, and then figure out what it will cost?”

Board members agreed that Plan C should be subject to revision and modifi-
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There are two scheduled elections
Ride with us!

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Riding with others is one of the great pleasures of cycling.

The Heights Bicycle Coalition is hosting Free Wheelin’ Wednesday group rides in September to get folks out on their bikes. The August rides were very well attended. Cyclists ride together, chat and visit interesting places in the Heights.

All rides leave from Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park (at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry Road) at 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 4: Trees of Cleveland Heights. Ride leader is Sue Wolfert.

Sept. 12: Visit the John Carroll University (JCU) Coburn Bike Co-op. Ride leaders are JCU Bike Co-op members.

Sept. 19: Surprise Tour. Ride leaders are Ian Hoffman and Brandon Henneman.

Sept. 26: The Heights from a new perspective. Ride leaders are Ian Hoffman and Brandon Henneman.

Another local group ride is the Ride for Miles on Sunday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. starting and ending at JCU. This 15-mile, police-protected route through eastern Cuyahoga County supports the environmental and cycling legacy of Miles Coburn. Advanced and onsite registration is available. Visit ridemiles.org for details.

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

Support sustainability in the Heights: Ride for Miles on Sept. 16

Feggy Spash

Everyone talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. The recent mild winter and hot summer have convinced even skeptics that human-induced climate change is a reality.

Although one climate event does not signal global change, scientists have been predicting global warming for decades. Northern Ohioans may be delighted to be living in a Carolina climate without migrating, but climate change is a global catastrophe. You can do something about it:

• Drive the most fuel-efficient car you can afford.
• Better yet, walk, ride a bicycle or take public transportation.
• Reduce, reuse and recycle.
• Modify your diet. Production of protein from meat uses far more fossil-fuel energy than plant sources.
• Become involved. The Sustainable Heights Network is a group of residents who promote sustainability in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Join them.

Another local initiative is about continuing to educate ourselves and others about the environment. The fifth annual Ride for Miles, scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 16, is a 15-mile bicycle ride that raises awareness and funds to continue the work of the late Miles Coburn, biologist at John Carroll University. The Ride for Miles route, which begins at JCU, is one that Coburn rode each day before he went to work.

Coburn, who died in 2008 in a bicycling accident, studied minnows—tiny creatures whose habitat has been threatened by environmental degradation. With his biology colleagues at JCU, he initiated classes in environmental sciences. His wife and children provided the initial support for the Miles Coburn Endowed Professorship in Environmental Science at John Carroll University to continue his work—to educate students about the environment. Fundraising continues for the professorship, with a goal of $500,000.

Everybody talks about the weather, and everybody can do something about it. To donate to the Miles Coburn Endowed Professorship in Environmental Science, go to www.jcu.edu/coburn or contact Mary Ryczyn at 216-397-4921.

Attend the Miles Coburn Environmental Symposium on Friday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Author Jeff Mapes will discuss Pedaling Revolution: How Cyclists are Changing American Cities. Register for the symposium at www.cmnh.org.

Participate in the annual Ride for Miles on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m., beginning at John Carroll University. To register for the ride, go to www.ridemiles.org.

Peggy Spash, executive director of Heights Arts, walks to work.

DivorceCare programs for adults and kids start Sept. 10 at Church of the Saviour

DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) is a special group for children ages 5-12. Through videos, stories, activities, games, journaling, prayer, and the guidance of DC4K leaders, children learn to cope with divorce in their family, to realize that divorce is not their fault, and to lean on God.

Church of the Saviour will offer this series on Monday evenings, 6:30–8:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 10. There is one time-fee of $45 for the workbook. DC4K will meet at the same time as the adult group. Childcare will be available for pre-schoolers. All members of the community who are dealing with these issues are invited to attend. For more information, call the church office at 216-321-8880 or e-mail rleonz@chsaus.org.

Loretta Dahlstrom is the administrative assistant at Church of the Saviour.
How much is your house really worth?

POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

Your house may not be worth as much as you think. The average price of houses sold in one University Heights neighborhood suggests a disturbing downward trend. Over the past three years, the average price fell from $181,850 in 2009 to $153,010 in 2011. Homeowners received a 2012 Proposed Value Notice from the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office showing their home’s new value. The county believes this is the market value someone will pay if you put your house on the market today. If you think it is too high, you have until Sept. 15 to appeal.

Let’s walk through an example using one small street, Tyndall Road. There are about 24 homes on Tyndall Road. The county assigns an NGH (neighborhood number) to each cluster of similar adjoining streets. Tyndall Road is in NGH 12307. Assume a 1941 house has about 2,000 square feet of living space. We go to Property Information at Desk 304 on the third floor of the County Administration Office and request a printout of the Comparable Sales Report (CSR) for this NGH for houses sold between 2009-11, with about 2,000 square feet of living space. It is a free service. The printout is available within minutes. In three years, only 34 houses sold in NGH 12307 with a living area of 1,900–2,300 sq. ft. The average price (three years combined) for houses sold is $165,947. Only 11 houses sold in 2009. The average sales price was $181,850. In 2010, another 12 houses sold, but the average price fell to $160,800. Not good. The bad news is that even fewer homes, only 10, sold in 2011. The very bad news is that the average price for these 10 plummeted to $153,010 in 2011.

The concern here is that the trend is down, down, down. For our example, the average sale fell by almost 16 percent in three years. You can do this evaluation yourself, using free county data for your NGH to see if it agrees with the new value assigned to your property. Of the 34 homes sold, the oldest was built in 1916 and the newest in 1956. Did the county adjust for age of construction when calculating the new values?

Fewer houses are selling, and at lower prices. Only those in the best condition, with the newest amenities, move at a price that does not break the heart, or the bank account, of the seller.

Does your house need a new driveway, energy-efficient windows, updates for that pink and green bathroom tile, or waterproofing the basement? Any number of old, tired or damaged conditions will delay, if not prevent, the sale of your property, regardless of how much you lower the price below your new value from the county.

UH taxes are high, second only to Shaker Heights—and the residents of that city just voted to raise their taxes. If our mayor’s plan to merge the UH fire department with Shaker’s takes place, will we have to match their higher taxes to cover the merge? Then there was mention of a new bond issue for UH taxpayers to help pay for the transformation of the Fuchs Mizrachi School property the mayor and council purchased earlier this year.

We don’t know the future of all our taxes, but with the assistance of Desk 304, you can at least examine the last three years of sales in your NGH.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, president of Noah’s Landing, LLC and a 30-year resident of University Heights. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.
‘Public Places, Sacred Spaces’ photography contest

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library announces the Fifth Annual Photography Contest sponsored by Cedar Center MotoPhoto. Submissions will be accepted now through Oct. 8. Participants may drop off submissions at any Heights Libraries branch.

This year’s theme is “Public Places, Sacred Spaces.” Contestants are encouraged to submit photos of the places and spaces that give meaning to their lives, such as neighborhoods, parks, streetscapes, homes, and places of worship.

“Each year, I am amazed at the incredible artistic talent there is in our community,” said Jennifer Greene, adult services librarian and coordinator of the community relations branch. “There have been so many people who have worked to make this happen,” said Lowe. “Neighbor Jan Kious created the landscaping [for the island], and she and her husband, Gus, are the honorary chairs of the benefit.”

Contributions for the project can be made to the Cedar Fairmount SJD, at 2460 Fairmount Boulevard, Suite 311, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. For more information, call 216-791-3172.

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

What’s going on at your library?

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 4 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Join our Lee Road TAB as it plans programs, supports teen services and offers input to shape the library’s future.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.
Genealogy 101. Learn the basic ins and outs of genealogy using databases, websites and print resources available at Heights Libraries. Registration required at www.heightslibrary.org.

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Join our Noble Neighborhood TAG as it plans programs, supports teen services and offers input to shape the library’s future.

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1 p.m.
Keeping Safe @ Home and in the City. Members of the Cleveland Heights Police Department provide tips on how to stay alert and be in tune with your surroundings to minimize threats to your safety, home and property.

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

Tuesdays, Sept. 18 & 25, 6 p.m.
Adaptations Film Study Group. From Book to Big Screen. Led by Sue Klarreich, Ph.D., this series covers the adaptations of critically acclaimed books into critically acclaimed films. Read the book, then attend the screening and discussion. Sept. 18: Hugo, Sept. 25: War Horse.

Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Monday, Sept. 10, 5:30 p.m.
Coventry Village Songwriting Workshop. Songwriters of all levels are invited to share their own songs in a constructive environment. Topics for discussion will include song structure, melody, lyrics and motivation. Local songwriter Charlie Mosbrook moderates. Registration required at www.heightslibrary.org.

Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Lego Madness. Build anything from castles to spaceships—the sky is the limit for this evening of fun. We supply the Lego blocks, you supply the inspiration and imagination. For grades K–5.

Sign continued from page 1

Towards at 216-791-0550.

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The 2011 photo contest winner was Victoria Dumesh’s “Blue Hydrangeas and Fruits.”
Heights Libraries to honor Harvey Pekar’s ‘Literary, Library Life’ on Oct. 14

Sheryl Banks

“Ordinary life is really complex stuff,” author and comics pioneer Harvey Pekar once said.

Heights Libraries and the Friends of the Heights Libraries will honor Pekar—the ordinary and complex son of Cleveland who died in 2010—with a Literary Landmark plaque and statue dedication ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. The event, “Harvey Pekar: A Literary, Library Life,” will include a presentation by JT Waldman, the artist who collaborated with Pekar on his posthumously published graphic novel, Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me.

The plaque was funded by the Friends and presented to Heights Libraries by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations to honor and recognize Pekar’s special relationship with the library system. Pekar’s wife, Joyce Brabner, said, “That library was Harvey’s first love and second home.” The statue of Pekar is being created by Justin Coulter, local sculptor, with $36,000 raised by Brabner last year through a Kickstarter campaign.

Pekar’s relationship with the library is a big part of Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me. Waldman met Pekar in 2005 and gave him a copy of his own first graphic novel, Megilat Esther, a retelling of the biblical story of Esther. Pekar liked the book so much he invited Waldman to illustrate a character on screen and in print, the man who died in 2010—with a Literary Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundation dedication to honor and recognize Pekar’s extraordinary life, work and creativity.

“Ordinary life is pretty complex stuff,” said Waldman. “I was telling me to ‘do my thing.’ ”

“The public is invited to this free event. Copies of the book will be offered for sale and refreshments will be served. The Lee Road Library is at 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. For information call 216-932-3600 or visit www.heightslibrary.org. For information on JT Waldman, visit www.jtwaldman.com.”

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

Church of the Saviour United Methodist

September 9 is Kick-Off Sunday—Join us for worship followed by a picnic on the lawn!

Dr. Charles Yoost preaching: Don’t Tell Anybody!

Fall Sermon Series: Body Language

8:30 a.m. Traditional service in Myers Chapel
9:30 a.m. Contemporary service in the Great Hall
11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Potluck, Praise and Prayer in the Parlor
6:30 p.m. Catalyst in the Great Hall

Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

LOPEZ knows what it means and how it feels to take your kid to college. It’s emotional, and almost unexpected, but it is a wonderful memory. Seriously. Remember it all. Memories come in handy.

LOPEZ southwest kitchen – tequila saloon
2196 lee road
beautiful downtown cleveland heights
216.932.9000
www.lopezonlee.com

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Waldman continued the project after Pekar died. “Finishing the book without Harvey over the last two years was heavy,” he said. “I missed my collaborator and friend, and I was drawing him every day, so it was a particularly bizarre process of mourning and creativity.”

Waldman continued, “Although Harvey cultivated a curmudgeonly character on screen and in print, the man himself was quite kind and surprisingly encouraging. He expressed complete faith in my creative vision and was always telling me to ‘do my thing.’”

Waldman’s talk will focus on his collaboration with Pekar and the role the Lee Road Library played in their research for the book.

“‘My Pekar years were full of crazy amounts of joy and sadness, and taught me a lot about the type of person and artist that I am. I was lucky to be in the grace of a comics legend, and given the opportunity to be myself and represent another person through comics. I trust that Harvey would be proud of the way the book turned out,” said Waldman. The public is invited to this free event. Copies of the book will be offered for sale and refreshments will be served. The Lee Road Library is at 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. For information call 216-932-3600 or visit www.heightslibrary.org. For information on JT Waldman, visit www.jtwaldman.com.”

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in 2011, and Coryell came within a few votes of winning a seat then. Do your best with what you have now.

• Morning Reflection: Every morning, pray or meditate and ask for help to get through your day. This will help you gain focus and strength to face your challenges.

• Sleep: Proper rest helps us feel stronger and think more clearly. The Mayo Clinic recommends that if you have trouble sleeping through the night, take naps to make up the time.

• Healthy Eating: The USDA My Plate program is an easy way to track how many calories you need and which foods to eat.

• Exercise: Regular exercise improves health, mood, energy and sleep. Find an easy program that is suitable for your level of ability, such as yoga, tai chi or water aerobics.

• Get Outside: Connecting with nature is calming and uplifting. Go for a walk or sit on the front porch.

• Take a Class: Learning something new is a great way to re-energize your enthusiasm. Sign up for a class at the senior center or YMCA.

• Help Others: Volunteering, teaching a class, or forming a support group are ways to help others in need, and help you appreciate your abilities.

If you’re still feeling down, you may be suffering from depression. This is common among older adults, and nothing to feel ashamed about. Ask a mental health professional for help.

Mark Twain once said, “Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.” While we can’t always change a situation, we can always change how we think and act in that situation.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through www.LivingLandsGroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578.

THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE ALMEDA TRIO

a Centennial Celebration Concert

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012

Concert – 7:30 PM
Harkness Chapel, Case Western Reserve University
Reception – 9:00 PM
Guilford Hall, Case Western Reserve University

Premiere Tickets // Includes concert and reception // $40
General Tickets // Concert only // $15

To purchase tickets or learn more, please visit TheMusicSettlement.org and click on the Events Tab, or call (216) 421-5806 ext. 123.

Join the Almeda Trio, piano trio and ensemble-in-residence, and celebrate The Music Settlement’s Centennial with a concert including works by Amy Beach and Johannes Brahms, plus the world premiere of Tales Told by Sightless Eyes, composed by Music Settlement alumna, Connie Luhta.

Celebrating 100 years of bringing arts and music to the community.
Heights High musicians participate in the Ohio State Fair

Kirsten Radivoyevitch

The All-Ohio State Fair Band (AOSFB) has been in existence since 1925. This summer, it included eight students from Cleveland Heights High School.

In mid-July, 200 high school musicians from across the state gathered at the State Fairgrounds in Columbus. Under the direction of Donald Santa-Emma, they promptly began learning nearly 60 pieces of concert music and marches representing some of the best music in band repertoire. They also improved their skills through clinics and sectionals under the batons of several professional conductors. The three days of rehearsal were jokingly referred to as “hell week.”

After the students auditioned for, and received, their seat assignments, Gretchen Drushel noted that “the Heights High musicians all got really good seat placements and we learned how good our instrumental music department is compared to a lot of other schools. We are very fortunate at Heights.”

A trip to the Ohio Statehouse at the end of the week gave band members the opportunity to expand their knowledge of the state’s judicial system and politics. It also gave them the chance to meet Governor John Kasich, who tried his hand at conducting the young musicians in John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever,” a national and state fair favorite.

The next day meant the start of the AOSFB’s demanding task of entertaining thousands of fairgoers for 11 days straight. All told, the band played nearly 100 concerts and marched daily in a parade.

The rigor of the performances was balanced with the fun of the state fair.

According to Ben Mesh, “playing ‘Stars and Stripes’ while riding the giant Ferris wheel was totally awesome!”

Mesh is a veteran state fair musician. “AOSFB is the highlight of my summer,” he said. “Being there is like being with my third family, after the Heights IMD [instrumental music department] and my actual family.”

Such enthusiasm prompted Oleaser Johnson to apply for the AOSFB, even though she didn’t know what to expect.

“I had never been to the fair, or stayed away from home for an extended period of time,” she explained. “This type of adventure was something that I saw only on television or in movies.”

Evan Radivoyevitch, also a first-time AOSFB member, reflected on his two weeks with the group. “Now that AOSFB is over for the summer, I realize that it was really a lot of work, but a lot of fun, too. I know that I came home a much better musician, and I liked meeting other high school students from all over Ohio. It was nice to learn that we actually have a lot in common with one another, not just our love for playing music.”

Kirsten Radivoyevitch, a Heights parent and supporter of music in the Heights schools, tasted deep-fried Kool-Aid at the Ohio State Fair.

Heights High student returns from year in Thailand

Joy Henderson

Heights High senior Janine Walker has returned to Cleveland Heights after completing her junior year in Bangkok, Thailand with the AFS Foreign Exchange Program. She lived with a host family and attended a Thai high school.

“When I left here I was a girl speaking the language of Cleveland Heights and I returned speaking Thai,” she said. “The exchange year was the best of my life! My host parents in Thailand could not speak English, nor did most of my teachers, so I learned the language quickly.

“My friends there, both Thai and international, were jealous when I told them about the opportunities at my school [Heights High], with the variety of AP and academic courses in music, the arts and the athletics opportunities,” she said.

Walker’s family has been involved with AFS for several years. Her brother Miles went to Japan for a summer exchange. Her mother, Carla Bailey, is an active volunteer and has hosted several students. While Janine was in Thailand, her family hosted two AFS students, from Tanzania and Senegal.

“Thailand, while beautiful, has much poverty and is underdeveloped—things you don’t see everyday in America,” said Bailey. “Now that Janine has returned, she has a greater confidence in herself, tolerance and respect for another culture, and a greater appreciation for her life here.”

Bailey is grateful to the host family that cared for Janine, and said, “It is amazing to me that people on the other side of the world, from an extremely different culture, and who don’t speak English, had the same love and care for Janine that they would have for their own child.”

For information about hosting an international student, contact AFS volunteer Adrienne Yelsky, 216-371-3733 or adrienny@msn.com.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison at Heights High.
As an unapologetic reader of education reform literature, it’s a relief to find a book that is jargon-free, makes sense, and offers a feasible approach to making sure students learn. This summer I hit the jackpot with British educator Dylan Wiliam’s 2011 book, *Embedded Formative Assessment*. Doesn’t sound like much of a page-turner, but I couldn’t put it down!

Despite my allergic reaction to anything that has to do with testing students as a lever for school improvement, I found myself drawn to Wiliam’s emphasis on student assessment as a valuable tool for change. This author is all about good teaching and, if you ask me, his ideas give teachers an approach that works. I’m excited because these ideas are taking shape in our school district and they have tremendous promise.

Formative assessments are simple, informal measures of student understanding that are embedded in the classroom routine—hour by hour, day after day. Students respond to a problem or question that captures a core idea in a lesson. They answer on a Post-it note, scrap paper, white board or by a show of hands. These simple low-tech snapshots give teachers immediate feedback that helps them know if their lessons are working so they can make good decisions about what to do next: re-teach the lesson, work with a few kids who missed the idea, or go forward. Unlike expensive and often disconnected standardized tests, the results of which are delivered months after the test is given, this kind of assessment provides immediate information that teachers can use on the spot to make decisions that will make their lessons better so more children learn. They provide actionable data that affect results. It’s not an impersonal accountability system, but a rededication of good teaching that makes responsibility for results a high priority and integral to the job.

The book contained a couple of interesting observations that made the emphasis on assessment a very powerful idea.

First, teaching is unpredictable. No matter how hard a teacher works at designing a lesson, there is no guarantee that students will take away from it what the teacher intended for them to learn. It isn’t reasonable to expect that every child will comprehend information in the same way, or in the way the teacher hoped. By frequently assessing what students are learning, while teaching, the teacher can monitor the effect of the lesson and figure out any corrective action. The information can help teachers individualize and improve their teaching so that more children learn.

Second, good teaching exists only when children learn. In the good old days, the teacher’s job was to show up and teach. If the student didn’t learn, that was not the teacher’s problem. Today’s emphasis on results means teachers need to pay much more attention to the effect of their teaching. They need to be more explicit about their teaching intentions, thoughtful about matching learning activities to the learning intentions, and able to identify what evidence helps them know what students are learning. With this framework, they can design assessments that can be built into the school day, to help them evaluate if the teaching is working in time to make corrections if necessary.

Formative assessment is not sexy or dramatic or expensive. It works. It is practical and useful. It affects what teachers do, which affects what children learn. It recognizes that teaching requires improvement and continuous professional development. I like that it expects professional educators to be in charge of making their teaching work—it is part of the definition of being a teacher.

Catching and blaming won’t make effective teaching the norm in every school. When teachers think about results, they are willing to measure the impact of their practice in order to modify their teaching to make sure children learn, you have authentic accountability. This is respectable, powerful and, really, the only way to make change.

Susie Kaeser is a 30-year resident of Cleveland Heights, former director of Reaching Heights, and serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

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**Teacher-driven assessment means authentic accountability**

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**Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board**

**Meeting highlights**

**July 16, 2012 – Special Public Forum**

**All board members were present**

**Purpose**

The forum was held to hear community members’ ideas concerning the master school facilities plan C for which a bond issue is planned for the November ballot. Each speaker was allotted a timed five minutes.

**Comments**

Eighteen residents addressed the board. Three spoke in favor, eight opposed the proposed plan, and the rest either urged more time to develop a plan the community could support or expressed concerns about the plan. Some were unhappy with the lack of notice for this public forum.

One senior citizen, a community resident for 34 years, explained that the financial hardship on seniors must be considered.

The three residents favoring the plan agreed that buildings have been neglected, must meet standards, and plan C would address these needs.

The negative comments included claims that the plan was not concrete, fundamentally flawed, and not the “right” plan because the board was split with a three to two vote. Some felt that consultants had pushed the plan on the district with an approach to funding that was inaccurate, one said, and did not follow the values of the community. Speakers asked for more time to develop a compelling plan that everyone would like, and requested that the plan’s timetable be clarified. Many speakers said they could not support the plan would and plan would campaign against it. One speaker, having researched the “small room” idea proposed as part of the plan, said that teachers have found such rooms to be “impossible” and that the architects were pushing this on the district. Grean parents would like to see an elementary school remain in University Heights because new buildings will be more likely to try the public schools.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld said that of the schools the school needs major repairs, plan C costs were too high and had many “ifs.” She asked why renovations were not considered, and expressed concern about the impact on property values if schools were closed in University Heights. She was also concerned that the board was not united.

**LWV observer: Lillian Houser**

**July 17, 2012**

All board members were present

**MEADOWBROOK-LEE PROJECT**

**Mayor Edward Kelley and the Meadowbrook job development group presented the proposed Meadowbrook-Lee project. Because the city owns the property, it currently generates no property taxes. The mayor presented the idea to the district’s superintendents. The operating costs are weighted with funds from Perkins grants, and tuition from Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights. Cleveland Heights, the receiving district, is responsible for the required expenses. The career and technical programs are health services, transportation and engineering science. Most of these are divided among the small schools at Heights High. Legacy teaches auto, engineering and exercise science; Mosaic teaches audio engineering and communications; and Renaissance teaches business management and criminal justice. DiSabato proposed developing partnerships with local hospitals, universities, and businesses. He explained that the program must be marketed, especially to middle school students. Because enrollment has been low, some classes have been cancelled.

The board unanimously decided to postpone the levy until next year when they feel they will have a better plan and community support.

**Career and technical education**

John DiSabato, coordinator of career and technical education, gave a presentation on the TriHeights Prep Consortium, a program instituted in 2011-12 comprising a partnership with the Shaker Heights, Warrensville Heights and Cleveland Heights high schools, with Cleveland Heights being the lead district. The courses offered provide training in a

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School nurse finds many Heights High students do not eat breakfast

Angee Shaker

Last year, many students visited school nurse Chris Bell complaining of headaches and stomachaches. After listening to them, Bell asked a simple question: “Have you had anything to eat today?”

Many said no.

Concerned by the number of “no” answers, she surveyed students for 67 consecutive school days to see just how many were eating.

Of the students who spoke with her, 28 percent reported they ate breakfast regularly; 6 percent ate sometimes; and an alarming 66 percent did not eat at all. The 66 percent who did not eat had many reasons for skipping breakfast, including that they did not like breakfast; overslept; did not have enough time in the morning; did not have breakfast foods in the house, or did not have breakfast foods they liked in the house; and did not like cafeteria food.

Time and again, research has shown that a nutritious breakfast to start the school day benefits students. It increases their ability to focus and concentrate, improves their performance in class, and decreases behavior problems. It is important that students have access to healthy food at the start of the school day so that they can learn and grow.

Action for Healthy Kids, a national nonprofit that works with schools, families and communities to help kids be healthier and ready to learn, awarded $1,571 to Cleveland Heights High School to implement a health and nutrition program this year. The grant is made possible by Action for Healthy Kids in partnership with Kellogg’s.

At the high school, the district’s goal is to increase the number of students who eat breakfast daily by 25 percent. To help get there, a “grab and go” cart will be stationed outside the auditorium before school begins. The cart will offer warm and cold breakfast items, including yogurt, breakfast bars, cheese sticks, and warm breakfast sandwiches on whole grain buns.

Students will be surveyed during the school year as part of a continuing effort to identify the foods they like, the food choices they make, and how their behavior changes as a result of eating breakfast in the morning.

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

CH-UH receives grant for afterschool arts programming

Jacalyn Elfvin

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has received grant funding from the Ohio Department of Education to pay for an afterschool arts program for at-risk incoming freshmen. The money totaling $850,000 over five years, will be used to partner with Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio to support the SHINE! program.

Up to 50 ninth-grade students will be invited to participate in SHINE!, planned as a place to do homework, receive extra academic support, engage with peers, and have the opportunity to develop strong bonds with adults in the high school community.

SHINE! will operate four days a week—Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30–6:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. The schedule is designed to leave two days free after school to enable students to engage in other activities, such as sports and clubs.

Students will be surveyed during the school year as part of a continuing effort to identify the foods they like, the food choices they make, and how their behavior changes as a result of eating breakfast in the morning.

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

Crystal Maclin to lead Legacy

Angee Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has selected Crystal Maclin to head Legacy New Tech at Heights High as principal. Legacy focuses on project-based learning, using technology, and fostering a culture of trust, respect, and responsibility among students.

“Ms. Maclin is a longtime member of our Cleveland Heights-University Heights family, and we’re thrilled she will return to the district to lead Legacy New Tech,” Superintendent Doug Hewitt said. “She knows the community, and she knows our students. I’m confident she will contribute in big, meaningful ways here, and I look forward to all she will accomplish in her new role.”

Maclin began work with the CH-UH district in 1996 teaching pre-algebra and geometry at Monticello High School in 1996 teaching pre-algebra and geometry at Monticello High School. Maclin earned both her Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from Cleveland State University. She earned her administrative degree in secondary administration from the University of Dayton in 2007.

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

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What can you do for your lawn after this summer?

Douglas Freer

This year’s weather has been particularly hard on yards and gardens. Beyond the drought and heat, lawns have suffered from additional stresses that may cause a slow recovery this fall. By mid-August, some area lawns were beginning to green and show signs of recovery. Early signs of recovery provide a good time to observe the extent of damage and how much work is needed to get the lawn back into shape.

Areas that were brown but have begun to green again are recovering from summer dormancy. Sections that remain brown may have been damaged by drought, insects, disease or other issues. Regardless of the reason, it is time to take advantage of the cooler, moist weather and allow newly seeded areas to establish prior to fall leaf drop.

Before repairing, determine if there are any diseases or insects that continue to cause damage. An insecticide application may be necessary, but it must be applied once the pests have been identified and remedied, follow these steps to get the lawn looking its best.

• Remove dead grass by thoroughly raking or de-thatching
• Remove or kill weeds
• Aerate in at least one direction
• Correct grade issues by adding soil or tilling high areas to fill low ones

Grubs may be the cause of brown patches in the lawn.

• Top dress bare areas with top soil
• Apply starter fertilizer with a N-P-K (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) ratio of 1:2:1 at a rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet
• Incorporate starter fertilizer into the loose soil if possible
• Apply grass seed mixture at a rate of six to eight pounds per 1,000 square feet and incorporate into the loose soil by gently raking
• Lightly cover the seed with mulch—either a paper pellet-type product, peat moss or compost

• Apply Earthworms

Before the repair, determine if there are any surface indications of soil saturation. It is important to follow up with diligent watering and care for the newly seeded areas.

Even when the forecast calls for rain, still plan on watering. Often shows will pass by or drop only a small amount of water, and trees may prevent moisture from reaching all areas of the lawn. Water each area for 10 to 15 minutes. As the lawn establishes, transition watering and care for the newly seeded areas.

For complimentary watering and care instructions, e-mail info@lawnlad.com with “new seed lawn care” in the subject line.

Douglas Freer is a Cleveland Heights native and the owner of Lawn Lad Inc., which provides residential landscape services. Find him at 216-371-1935 or www.lawnlad.com.

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Falling for the arts

Peggy Spaeth

September is the beginning of the artsful season, and the Heights overflows with beginnings in visual arts, music and theater.

Immerse yourself in the visual arts on Lee Road, on Friday, Sept. 7, when both Heights Arts and the Art Spot open new shows with public receptions.

Heights Arts presents Paperworks, featuring regional artists who work rigorously on or with paper. The show illuminates paper as a carrier of artists’ symbols and as a medium in itself, with processes including drawing, cutting, collage, sculpture and pulp.

Participating artists include Shelly DiCello, Tom Balbo, Tom Callaghan, Laura Cooperman, Julie Friedman, Sarah Kabot, Margaret Kimura, Michael Loderstedt, Liz Maugans, Pam McKee, Darice Polo, Corrie Slawson, Dan Tranberg, Achala Wali and Trudy Wiesenberger.

The Art Spot at The Wine Spot presents young artists in FIVE: Ash Fiasco, Amanda Pierce, Ben Weather, Rachel Yurkovich and Tyler Zeleny:

Heights Arts’s popular chamber music series, Close Encounters, begins a new season of concerts presented in intimate and unique venues and performed by world-class musicians who live in Northeast Ohio. Cleveland Orchestra violinist and Close Encounters artistic director Isabel Trautwein enlists her colleagues and other professional musicians to perform and to present insightful commentary on their programs.

Cleveland Orchestra members are fiddling around in September to benefit the ongoing programming of Close Encounters. A special concert will be presented on Friday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dunham Tavern Museum Barn, by a pop-up bluegrass band known as The Academy of Bluegrass in the Field and consisting of orchestra members Trina Bourne, Mark Dummin, Henry Peyrebrune and Derek Zadinsky.

In November, Close Encounters presents a chamber music concert programmed by Cleveland Orchestra violinist Sonja Braaten Molloy, who has enlisted Christina Dahl, Mark Jacobs, Charles Bernard, Charles Carleton and

Grog Shop celebrates 20 years of the offbeat

James Holmesworth

It wasn’t supposed to last this long.

When Kathy Blackman started the Grog Shop at age 23, she wasn’t intending to create the enduring Coventry landmark over which she presides today: “I had no idea that this would become my career,” she said. “It was just a job and something fun to do.”

Though it has moved locations and aged 20 years, the venue is still that “something fun” for Blackman. While discussing its storied legacy, she sits cross-legged, jostling one leg up and down, and speaks in a rapid staccato.

The Grog, as it is affectionately known, began as a bar that served food and only occasionally booked shows.

As Blackman began to carve a niche in the Grog, booking “a lot of punk and hardcore” bands, it began its transition into a full-fledged music venue. Over time, the Grog’s offerings expanded to other genres, including hip-hop, ska and comedy. Blackman cites diversity as crucial to the Grog’s success, noting, “You have to evolve with the times and keep it fresh.”

The Grog’s legacy will expand further in September, when it celebrates its 20th anniversary with a diverse collection of performers over two weeks. These include bands Blackman describes as “way too big to play here”—bands that played the Grog early in their careers and went on to achieve widespread success, such as Alkaline Trio, the Melvins, and bands that “are ‘way too big to play here’”—bands that played the Grog early in their careers and went on to achieve widespread success, such as Alkaline Trio, the Melvins, and bands that “are ‘way too big to play here’” bands that played the Grog early in their careers and went on to achieve widespread success, such as Alkaline Trio, the Melvins, and bands that “are ‘way too big to play here’”

How many towns the size of Cleveland Heights have two theaters? The daring, dynamic Dobama Theatre opens “The Mother*(*er with the Hat” on Sept. 14. Ensemble Theatre asks you to discover the human element with "The Normal Heart" opening on Sept. 28. For more details about these vibrant arts programs in the Heights, contact:

Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, at 216-371-3457 or www.heightsarts.org. The Wine Spot, 2271 Lee Road, at 216-342-5623; Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road, at 216-932-6838 or www.dobama.org; Ensemble Theatre, 2834 Washington Blvd (Coventry School), at 216-321-2930 or www.ensemble-theatre.com.

Peggy Spaeth is executive director of Heights Arts.

For more information or to schedule a tour and classroom observation, please contact our Admissions Office at 216-321-7571.

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Fall Open House
Sunday, November 4, 2012
2-4 pm
Author engineers snail’s pace to marriage

Nivi Engineer, author of The Indian Girl’s Definitive Guide to Staying Single, dropped by my house with her slim, sassy book. It is available through Amazon on Kindle for $2.99, and twice that in print form. The cover is deep orange, and deceiving. One might think, from a distance, that it’s the Hindi language on it. No, that’s a skillful designer’s illusion. Just as skillfully, the author offers tips on staying single written in a wry style, and urges young women to cultivate personae of their own and resist premature marriage. They should not blindly conform to suit anyone else’s expectations of the perfect, malleable Indian-American, says Engineer.

A Cleveland Heights resident with degrees in creative writing and computer science, Engineer has three children and, yes, is married. She is not anti-marriage. But the book explains how to avoid getting hitched too soon, and is written as a breezy how-to.

Engineer’s parents moved to the United States after they got married in India, and she and her sister were born here. As she describes, her parents were “pretty wily,” thinking of ways to keep their potentially assimilating daughters connected to Indian culture. From dance lessons to days set aside to make samosas-to-be-frozen en masse, the daughters did not escape tradition. The advice has a seesaw quality at times: “Don’t do this...” but then maybe...”well, do some of that, if you want.” In other words, strive for personal balance.

The cover illustration features a westernized character with a knowing smile to the left and more traditionally dressed kin to the right. The pictured groom is a mystery man; he has no facial features. Engineer is an advocate for, perhaps, compromise. If you must dance, young women of Indian heritage, “stick with group dances,” avoiding solos that would invite close scrutiny. Don’t dress traditionally, which might thrill potential mothers-in-law. Don’t become an expert in traditional cuisine, but don’t be ignorant of it either. Engineer’s advice even extends to spiritual life and Web presence.

With 11 chapters in 88 pages, this book is a quick read. Don’t goggle it without pausing to reflect on your own cultural norms, and those traditions you retained or discarded. “Who am I?” and “Who am I becoming?” are always worthwhile questions, especially in the vast U.S. expanse of cultures.

A tip for future editions: A glossary could help readers grasp insiders’ language quickly.

A friend of mine recently became enamored of The Rules, written by dating coaches about what female dating behaviors are most enticing to men. My own advice, “just be yourself,” is not what she wanted to hear. “Be your best self on your own terms” might be the message of Engineer’s humor-laced social commentary. Living with a foot in two worlds demands flexibility. And that is indeed what it takes to live a satisfying life, married or not.

Maria Shire Stewart is a writing teacher and teaching writer who attended school in the Heights. She owns Shine Writing Services, offering a wide variety of writing, editing, and tutoring services to experienced and new speakers of English.

Apollo’s Fire announces 21st season

Yelena Tischenko

Apollo’s Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, announces its 21st season under Jeannette Sorrell, music director. The season includes seven Cleveland Heights performances as well as tour engagements throughout North America.

The season begins in October, with Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos 1, 2 and 5. In December, the group will present two holiday programs, as well as Handel’s Messiah.

January through March, Apollo’s Fire presents two intimate chamber music programs, part of “The Fireside Evenings—Concerts, Coffee & Conversation.” These are 90-minute programs, followed by hot cider, coffee and conversation with the artists.

The 2012-13 season ends with Mozart’s Don Giovanni, April 25-28, featuring Haydn’s Tragic Symphony and Mozart’s early operas, with arias performed by soprano Amanda Forsythe. Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos 1, 2 and 3 will be performed Friday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights.

Visit www.apollofire.org for a complete performance schedule for the upcoming season, or call 216-330-0042 for information.

Subscription packages are on sale now for the 2012-13 season, and include ticket discounts of up to 25 percent. Single tickets are available for purchase online beginning Sept. 17.

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in musicology and new media at Kent State University and a Heights Observer intern.

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Heights Observer September 1, 2012

**Heights Arts**

**The Howson Gallery features paper and book artists**

Rob Lucarelli

The Howson Gallery at Judson Park presents “Marking Time and Mapping the Spirit: Two Artists of the Natural World,” Sept. 21–Oct. 28. The show features the work of internationally known papermaking and book artists Susan Gaylord and India Flint. The opening reception is Friday, Sept. 21 at 4:30 p.m. The Howson Gallery is located at Judson Park retirement community, 1801 Chestnut Hills Drive, in Cleveland Heights.

For information and gallery hours, call 216-791-2885.

Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord, book artist, has been working as a visual artist since the late 1970s. She is best known for the Spirit Book Series, and her website, www.makingbooks.com. She blogs at www.susangaylord.com, and teaches and lectures about book arts. Her work is in the library collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the University of Arizona, and the University of South Australia, researching eucalyptus dyes for textiles. She is the author of three books, and her work is represented in museum collections in Europe and Australia.

India Flint, textile artist and dyedeveloper, completed an M.A. in visual arts from the University of South Australia, researching eucalyptus dyes for textiles. Flint always travels with a small cauldron and dyeing cloth as she wanders. For more information, visit her website www.indiflint.com.

**Ensemble Theatre announces its fall-winter season**

Jewel Moulthrop

The stage may be dark, but the Ensemble Theatre company is busy preparing for its 2012-13 season—its 33rd consecutive season performing for Cleveland audiences, and the 2nd season in its new home in the former Coventry School.

As in previous years, Celeste Cosentino, Ensemble’s artistic director, has chosen plays that explore the fundamentals of the human experience.

The upcoming season begins on Friday, Sept. 28 with “The Normal Heart” by Larry Kramer. Winner of several Tony awards, “The Normal Heart” unfolds like a political thriller as a tight-knit group of friends refuses to let doctors, politicians, and the media hide the truth about the AIDS epidemic behind a wall of silence.

More than 25 years after it was written, this unflinching and unforgettable look at the sexual politics of New York City during this health crisis remain a powerful evening of live theater. “The Normal Heart” runs through Oct. 21.

The unexpectedly funny “Miracle and Wonder” heralds the holiday season. Opening on Nov. 15, “Miracle and Wonder” will be a world premiere. The play is about an obsessive-compulsive kindergarten teacher who receives some disturbing news. This may not sound funny, but then local playwright Jonathan Wilhem throws in some Bette Davis movies, mistaken identities, Midrashic parables, and why Jesus is having a really bad day . . . and the laughs are sure to follow. The play runs through Dec. 2.

For its third production of the season, Ensemble will present to Cleveland audiences the masterful work of Charles Smith, recipient of the 2004 Jeff Award for Best New Work. This season’s production of Smith’s “The Gospel According to James” is set in 1950 and based on real events. James Cameron and Mary Ball emerge as the sole survivors of racial crimes in Marion, Ind. Teenagers when the crimes occurred, they recall those events and discover that their remembrances of that day differ, even though their experiences were the same. “Gospel” opens Jan. 25 and runs through Feb. 17.

Celebrating a successful inaugural year in 2012, and entering into its second season, The Colombi New Plays Festival will again offer an opportunity for local playwrights to see their work produced. From scripts developed in Ensemble’s Stage Wrights workshop, which meets weekly, three plays are chosen for production. They will run from March 7 through March 24. The scripts have been selected and will be announced in the next few weeks—stay tuned.

To conclude its ambitious 2012-13 season, Ensemble will present Eugene O’Neill’s great American classic, “The Iceman Cometh,” currently playing a sold-out run at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. This epic play brings the audience into Harry Hope’s saloon, where a ragtag band of drunks and dreamers awaits the arrival of Hickey, the charismatic traveling salesman whose presence always means a good time. But when a newly sober Hickey comes on the scene, and attempts to fix the lives of his old drinking buddies, the results are at once comic and heartbreaking, and threaten to shatter the illusions that fuel their lives.

For more information about Ensemble’s forthcoming season, and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 216-321-2930 or visit www.ensemble-theatre.org.

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

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Social Room is popular place to socialize on Lee Road

Yelena Tischenko

The Social Room on Lee Road is a place where people can mingle and have a great time without breaking the bank.

Jim Grenwis and his wife, Jenni-
fer Babcox Grenwis, both Cleveland Heights High School graduates, bought the former Kobalt bar last March. “We kept the name Kobalt for a year and then we switched it,” Grenwis said. “We renamed it The Social Room because it’s the name of a room in the high school, so we decided to keep it close to home.”

The Social Room aims to offer an assortment of beverages at affordable prices. “We like to focus on our draft beer selection,” Babcox Grenwis said. “We’ve been able to double it in size since we bought the bar.”

In addition to its draft beer, customers also enjoy the bar’s patio and live music. “Theme nights are popular at The Social Room,” with open mic on Monday nights and karaoke on Wednesday nights.

The bar hosts special events, such as Halloween and New Year’s Eve parties. Perhaps the most unique event, the one-year anniversary party, featured the unveiling of the new name. Future events at The Social Room will include more live music and fundraisers.

“When our clients enjoy their time, we know we must be doing something right,” Babcox Grenwis said.

The couple doesn’t do a lot of advertising. Instead, they have a Facebook page with over 5,000 friends. “If we have local bands, they promote us and we drop off fliers all around town,” Grenwis said. “We also changed up the outside so it’s a little more obvious that there is a bar here. Bands find us and we find them sometimes. Mostly they approach us and want to play.”

A Kent State University graduate, Grenwis owned other businesses before buying the bar. He noted that while it may be exciting, operating a business is also challenging. “The bar business is exciting, operating a business is more difficult. There’s always something breaking. There’s always something you’re spending money on, that’s for sure.”

“I don’t think the economy impacted us that much,” Grenwis said. “We’ve been pretty steady, thankfully. The people and the bartenders are the best part [about our business]. Our bartenders are awesome, they help feed into the party. You never know what you’re going to get from each bartender. They each bring something positive and I’m very thankful for them.”

“It’s been learning the ropes, meeting locals, and, since we didn’t want to change anything that was already built, adding our own touch,” Babcox Grenwis said. “We try to embrace the people who come here and enjoy it. We try to get new people in here and get them to come back, and it’s been working.”

“We have a pretty relaxed, chill and laid-back atmosphere here,” said the owners. “Some people will always call it Kobalt, but call it whatever you want, just come in!”

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

spyngaFlows expands, promises to remain different

James Helmsworth

When Carina Adams found herself unable to reach her knees, she knew that something was wrong. Once an avid cyclist, her passion was leaving her stiff and at risk of injury.

When Carina Adams found herself unable to reach her knees, she knew that something was wrong. Once an avid cyclist, her passion was leaving her stiff and at risk of injury.

Since moving to Toronto to study with the founders of Spynga, the cycling and yoga chain to which she now belongs, Adams said she quickly discovered that the two activities complement each other nicely. Cycling offers an intense cardiovascular workout, while yoga provides an opportunity to increase flexibility. Inspired to Toronto to study with the founders of Spynga, the cycling and yoga chain to which she now belongs, Adams said she quickly discovered that the two activities complement each other nicely. Cycling offers an intense cardiovascular workout, while yoga provides an opportunity to increase flexibility.

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Between working at spyngaFlows and raising three children, Adams finds the time to offer her fitness expertise outside of her studio. She leads bike tours of the Chagrin Valley, where she lives, and occasionally conducts free yoga sessions in neighborhood parks.

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James Helmsworth is student at Oberlin College and a Heights Observer intern.
J. Taylor Boutique opens on Lee Road

Yelena Tischenko

J. Taylor Boutique, at 2207 Lee Road, celebrated its grand opening on Aug. 10.

The event featured a fashion show, with models showcasing the clothing sold in the store.

“I’ve wanted to open my own boutique since I was in ninth grade,” said owner Janel Taylor. “My teacher made us make coil baskets and I made mine into a purse. She loved the purse so much that she told me she would make me an outfit for the fashion show: I was really interested in how she was doing it, and since I’m good with my hands, I took over and ended up making the dress myself.”

Taylor enjoys making prom dresses and doing alterations. Her shop features a mix of new and vintage clothing, some of which Taylor makes or alters herself.

Taylor graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in apparel and textile design. She moved to Cleveland Heights a year ago to decide what she wanted to do.

“I was driving down the street one day and I saw this spot available and I really wanted to open up a shop there,” Taylor said. “I just went for it! I’ve been writing things down in my journal on ideas for my boutique. I had all these notes composed and then I just started taking the necessary steps to make it happen.”

In researching how to open her boutique, Taylor said, “I talked to people who owned retail businesses. From that point, I just did it.”

Taylor explained, “The concept behind the store is to give it a boutique feel, so customers can be comfortable. We offer something to drink and have a relaxing area where they can sit down and think about what to purchase. Sometimes just sitting down for a minute while shopping is nice.”

Taylor summed up her approach, “I want my customers to feel comfortable, relaxed and not rushed. My goal is to provide great customer service.”

“My next step is to push the business at this location and to go online,” Taylor said. “The site has been under construction but we’re really trying to get a lot of traffic. I’m going to have an online store.”

For more information, visit www.janeltaylor.com or call 216-338-7566.

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

New patio for Bodega on Coventry

Yelena Tischenko

Bodega on Coventry isn’t a topos bar. It’s a tapas bar.

“First, no one even knew what tapas were,” said head chef and owner Said Ouaddaadaa. “Actually, when we were saying tapas, everyone was thinking ‘oh, they’re opening a topos bar!’ We brought in something that Coventry didn’t have.”

Ouaddaadaa, who has been in the restaurant business for 23 years, grew up in Coventry and always wanted to open a restaurant on the street.

“Four and a half years ago, my dream came true and I opened up. It took me a year to build Bodega. It was just four walls, and that was it. I had nothing to work with,” he joked. “I’ve been doing this for years, so I knew what I was getting myself into. I didn’t come here to shut down, I came here to get better and grow bigger.”

Ouaddaadaa, who also owned Menu 6 in Larchmere, said some people thought he was crazy for opening on Coventry, and that he would forget about his other clients.

“I’ve built up clientele over the years,” he said. “Without my regulars, I probably wouldn’t exist. When I moved to Coventry, everyone thought I was catering to the Coventry crowd and the sports bars, but I had my own plan, and my clientele followed me.”

To cater to those who enjoy being outdoors in the summer, Bodega recently added a new patio.

“I do really well in the winter, but in the summer, my business dropped without a patio,” Ouaddaadaa said. “I knew I needed it, but I had to go through the city first. It was quite a ride, but we finally got it open, and business picked up about 25 percent.”

Ouaddaadaa is not only the owner and head chef, he is also general manager and (sometimes) disc jockey.

“It’s a one-owner operation, and that way you know things are getting taken care of.” Bodega offers happy hour Monday through Friday, and Tuesday Tapas, where tapas are 50 percent off. The bar offers more than 50 varieties of martinis.

“We also have live music and we support local musicians and bands. It’s a nice vibe that many of our customers enjoy,” he said. “We’re working on opening an oyster bar. We have it every Thursday for now, and we’re working to build a permanent one.”

“Absolutely love running my own business and wouldn’t trade it for anything else,” Ouaddaadaa said. “That’s why I work so many hours—I enjoy what I do. If you don’t like what you’re doing, you’re not going to spend 15 hours a day doing it. It’s something that I love.”

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and a Heights Observer intern.
Her next step was to secure funds. “There and readily available, so I was able to all of the fair trade groups that were out there,” Dunn said. “I really knew the product mix that would appeal to her customers.”

“I based [those decisions] on my past experience in the fashion industry and knowledge of the fair trade wholesale world,” Dunn said. “I really knew all of the fair trade groups that were out there and readily available, so I was able to determine which would be the best products to sell.”

Her next step was to secure financing. She and her husband worked full-time while they spent about two months renovating the store. Family and friends helped, too.

“When you have a community of friends and family who believe wholeheartedly in the same mission as you do, it’s hard to stop it,” she said. “It’s a force and the reason we were able to get off our feet and get the store up and running.”

Dunn began to feel the economic stress of the recession in 2008. Inspired by artisans’ dedication, work ethic and human rights advocacy and opened Revive’s doors. Dunn had to identify which groups she wanted to source from and the product mix that would appeal to her customers.

“W e made the decision to stick it out through the tough economy because we believed so much in what we’re doing and the mission of the store,” she said.

“We believe that there’s a wonderful dynamic here between clients who greatly appreciate the product mix and the ethical sourcing of products.”

To help get through the tough economy, Dunn opened a second store in Legacy Village in the fall of 2008. “We gained a lot of new customers and we were able to put fair trade even more on the map,” she said. “It’s been great to have two locations that can complement each other.”

Dunn’s Cleveland Heights customers helped the most. “They’re very loyal and I feel the mission of the store means a lot to them. [This] is a wonderful community that supports independent businesses and has a mix of cultures and global awareness,” she said.

Revive offers hand-knit organic cotton sweaters and items made from recycled materials, such as wallets made from recycled newspaper with unique text, making them one-of-a-kind pieces.

Dunn believes that the items she sells are unique “by nature because they’re handcrafted, not mass produced, so you can’t find them in every store you go into.”

She warns hopeful entrepreneurs that they will have to face possible 24-hour work weeks when opening a business. Even so, she still loves her work. “It’s what I love to do, so it doesn’t feel like work,” Dunn said.

Yelena Tischenko is a senior majoring in magazine journalism at Kent State University and a Heights Observer intern.
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Familiar faces and a dream come true at New Heights Grill

Richard Stewart

If you claim longtime Heights residency or have, through the years, found reasons to keep coming back, you may not know Kim Kral and Adam Fuller by name. But if either of them were standing in front of you, you’d be hard pressed not to say to yourself, “Oh yeah, they look really familiar.”

That’s because, between the two of them, they’ve logged upwards of 50 years of combined experience in the restaurant business. What is more remarkable is that all of it has been spent working in the Heights.

“I’ve pretty much lived on Corydon Road since 1968,” said Kral. “I just like the community, and St. Ann’s is really a big part of that. I have a great following of teachers who followed me from different locations. Kral inadvertently dated herself in referencing what is now known as Communion of Saints, no longer St. Ann’s. Call it longevity.

Late last year, the two restaurateurs—who have been an item for well over a decade, ever since meeting while working at the Colony—teamed up with Kral’s son, Bobby, to open the New Heights Grill. One of Cleveland Heights’s newest restaurants, it opened late last year in the space formerly occupied by Ariyoshi.

For Kral and Fuller, it’s the realization of a dream after years of cutting their teeth in the business. “It’s different when you’re doing it for yourself,” said Fuller. “I feel like I have more responsibility, and when I’m not here, I feel like I need to be here. And I want to be here. It’s kind of what we know.”

The fare is what one might expect from a bar, but with an emphasis on freshness. “It’s bar food,” said Kral, “but it’s also handmade. We make our own burgers. It’s fresh ground beef; we don’t freeze it. Same goes for the chicken tenders, our deep-fried pickles and the golden mozzarella,” added Fuller.

Kevin Nixon, general manager, and John Petras, kitchen manager, round out the leadership team and are dedicated to making it all work for the long term. Kral placed great faith in their Lee Road location and feels like her combined 28 years spent working within a three-block radius on the street will pay dividends.

“I love the idea of being on Lee Road,” said Kral. “I’m a talker and I like to meet people and chat. There’s great support from the people who followed me. It’s touching. People come in and they shout ‘I found you! I’ve been looking for you.’ People are genuinely happy that we got to do what we do because they know how hard we’ve worked.”

Perhaps what the owners value most is their ability to do business and give back to the community it knows and loves. “We sponsored two children in the Cleveland Heights summer soccer program,” said Fuller. “We’re trying to do a lot of things like that. It brings more families into the restaurant and I believe that if we’re making money in the community, we should be putting money back into the community.”

Fuller’s feelings of entrenchment in the Heights community far outweigh his desire to abandon the area for what some may consider greener pastures. “We wanted to be in the area . . . just growing up here. If we make good money here, we’re going to stay. I’m going to keep our house in Cleveland Heights.”

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