CH-UH district and JCU partner in early college program for Heights High students

Jay Henderson and Angee Shaker

This school year, 49 students in the class of 2016 are enrolled in Heights High's R.E.A.L. Early College small school. The students may earn up to two years of college credit through Early College, a new collaborative program from Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and John Carroll University (JCU).

The program is an opportunity for CH-UH students to attend classes on the John Carroll University campus. If students demonstrate a mastery of their first two years of concentrated high school coursework, they are eligible to enroll in courses at JCU during their junior and senior years. Upperclassmen participating in the program will also enroll in high school electives at Heights High to ensure they still receive a high school diploma.

“This partnership with JCU will expose Early College students to a real college setting and college-level academics. It will build their confidence and make higher education affordable, a reality some didn't think possible,” said Marc Aden, R.E.A.L. Early College principal. “Successful participation in the Early College high school experience will also significantly increase our students’ opportunities to complete their bachelor degree program after their completion of high school.”

All JCU classes will be taken at the university with support provided by Heights High and JCU. The credits earned are considered JCU credits, and are eligible for transfer consideration as governed by each college and university that students apply to for admission.

“To participate in the Early College program, students follow the same selection procedure that other eighth grade students follow. They listen to presentations from the small school principals,” said Aden. “Students and families are given time to discuss the selection of a small school so that students make a meaningful, informed decision from OPERS, Evans applied as a candidate for the seat she had resigned, and then sought an opinion from Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) on whether she would be able to keep the health benefits she received as a retired public servant if she were reappointed to city council. While awaiting the decision from OPERS, Evans applied as a candidate for the seat she had resigned, along with 11 others who submitted applications for the seat vacated by Evans.

The process to replace Evans began June 25, when Mayor Edward Kelley announced that city council was beginning the application process to fill the council seat vacated by Evans. Twelve applications were received by the July 25 deadline, including one from Evans herself. Evans resigned her council seat for personal reasons, and then sought an opinion from Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) on whether she would be able to keep the health benefits she received as a retired public servant if she were reappointed to city council. While awaiting the decision from OPERS, Evans applied as a candidate for the seat she had resigned, along with 11 others who submitted applications for the seat vacated by Evans.

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Legacy New Tech’s new space: where education is going

Two things struck me early in a tour of the new Legacy New Tech space: its location in the present—which I found fascinating—and the community that brings it to the core of our neighborhood.

The entrepreneurs who have poured their hard-earned money into creating these businesses are important to the health and vitality of our community. Their diversity gives us choices. A larger portion of the revenue they earn stays in the community—through taxes, payroll, spending on their own goods and services, and contributions to school programs, local organizations and causes. Owners of many local businesses also live in the community; they are our neighbors.

You hold in your hands the largest issue of the Heights Observer ever—23 pages of hyper-local news and information about things happening in your community. This issue and this community news project would not be possible without the advertising support of local businesses.

You probably picked up this issue at a local business. The print version of the Observer is available in 270 locations, in all neighborhood business districts in the Heights and in surrounding areas, such as Shaker Square and University Circle.

Most of the locations the Observer is in are locally owned businesses. Some business owners give us a prominent place in their shops. We have a longstanding partnership with Phoenix Coffee owner Sarah Wilson-Jones. She gives us a special box in her three Heights locations (Covington, Lee and Mayfield, which is technically in South Euclid) and coupons for our distribution volunteers.

Other businesses, such as Dewey’s Pizza and Heights Arts, also have a special place just for us.

Tommy Pello, owner of Tommy’s restaurant on Coventry, recently went to bat for us with a distribution company that distributes other local publications. The company representative told us that their volunteers were illegally placing the Observer in racks they owned. This wasn’t the case, but the company rep wouldn’t hear it. Tommy talked to him on our behalf and ultimately decided to give us a special basket, just for the Observer. That’s huge; we appreciate his support.

On Oct. 17, we have an opportunity to show our appreciation. All summer long, Heights residents voted for their favorite locally owned businesses—the Best of the Heights—in various categories. Hundreds of votes were cast and many businesses were nominated. FutureHeights will recognize them all at the Best of the Heights awards ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Dobama Theatre. Because, whether they came in first place or not, we appreciate the contributions that all of them make to our quality of life.

Legends from the Best of the Heights: Read local. Shop local.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.
Kudos to the Cleveland Heights Community Center

To the Editor:

I wish to give sincere thanks and praise to Cleveland Heights City Council’s unanimous decision to declare Myxx a public nuisance.

We in the Cedar Fairmount district have striven very hard to make this an attractive destination for visitors and residents. The appalling indifference shown by the owner of Myxx to all of her neighbors needed to be acted upon swiftly and indeed was, both by council and our Cleveland Heights Police Department.

I also wish to thank Chief Robertson for his part in not allowing things to have gotten worse, which most certainly could have happened given the powderkeg nature of what was going on there.

I want to make special mention of Mayor Kelley’s role in this situation. I have seen some comments critical of Mayor Kelley’s “strong language” and mention of Detroit. This is a case of not seeing the forest for the trees. Mayor Kelley is most passionate about Cleveland Heights and in the course of his comments at council meetings it is that passion that makes him a great mayor. He does not pull punches, and I for one am glad that is the type of person heading council in Cleveland Heights. Is it not refreshing to have a politician who tells it like it is?

Bravo Mayor Kelley, and thank you again . . .

Brendan Ring
Owner of Nighttown
Treasurer of Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District

Cedar Fairmount SID thanks city and mayor of Cleveland Heights for their support

To the Editor,

I’ve long been impressed by how well the gym is being run and maintained, and when it reopened, spic and span, after certain repairs, general cleaning and check-up of the exercise machines, I thought it high time to write this public letter of appreciation.

Hey, all of you community center managers and staffers, you’re doing an exemplary job! Thank you!

I wish to give sincere thanks and praise to Cleveland Heights City Council’s uniform decision to declare Myxx a public nuisance.

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Brendan Ring
Owner of Nighttown
Treasurer of Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District

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Join COSE and your local chamber today and save $150 on admission to the 2012 Small Business Convention!
Myxx closes; new building owner plans improvements

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Myxx, a restaurant and bar located at 12459 Cedar Road in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, closed Oct. 1. Cleveland Heights City Council declared the business a nuisance at its Aug. 6 meeting and filed a complaint with the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Judge Daniel Gaul issued an order for Myxx to cease operations on or before Oct. 1.

JDI Realty, the Chicago-based company that purchased the building in July, had already given Myxx owners a 60-day notice of the termination of its lease.

"Judge Gaul did an excellent job of coming up with a solution that works," said Mayor Kelley. "Both our goal, and the goal of Myxx, is to have law and order—and peace and quiet—return to Cedar Fairmount." Kelley said that John Gibbon, city law director, and David Lynch, lawyer for Myxx, were meeting with Gibbon, city law director, and David Lynch, lawyer for Myxx, were meeting every Wednesday to ensure a smooth transition and that Cleveland Heights police were continuing to monitor the situation.

Cleveland Heights City Council had declared Myxx a hazard to the health and safety of the community because of criminal activities taking place at the business, including aggravated riot, assault, assault of a police officer, fights, underage drinking, public intoxication, disorderly conduct and public nuisances. Several incidents over the summer months required police response.

The city’s law department had sought a restraining order and injunction with Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. On Sept. 12, Judge Daniel Gaul issued an order limiting Myxx’s operations and ordering its closing. The order specified that Myxx would cease operations on or by Oct. 1, 2012, that no more than 400 people could occupy the building at one time, that no one under the age of 21 could be admitted, and that its closing hours would be amended to midnight on Sundays, 1 a.m. on Thursdays and 1:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

JDI Realty, a Chicago-based company that specializes in real estate turnarounds, purchased the building, in which Myxx was located, out of receivership from Myxx owner Kimberly Lisboa’s Cedar Fairmount Realty in July. Joel Scheer, company representative, said that JDI plans several improvements to the property, including tuck-pointing, roof repair, landscaping, parking lot improvements and lighting.

“We have several potential tenants who have shown interest," said Scheer. "We most likely will divide the current Myxx space into smaller storefronts, depending on the needs of the new tenants.”

“The business owners of Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District welcome new businesses, which will serve the neighborhood’s needs, and contribute to the safe, friendly environment at Cedar Fairmount,” said Kaye Lowe, executive director of Cedar Fairmount SIDS.

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

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Keep our community unique; support local independent merchants

The Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID) will hold a community meeting to discuss the possibility of having street fairs in the summer of 2013.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16, in the Brody-Nelson Room at the Lee Road Library.

For more information, contact Steve Presser at 216-496-4104 or steve@bigfunfigmin.com.
Lt. William Freeman was sworn in as the new Fire Chief for the City of Cleveland Heights on Aug. 27, in City Hall Council Chambers.

Freeman, a 20-year veteran with the Cleveland Heights Fire Department, was the top candidate based on civil service testing, and was recommended by six fire chiefs, including outgoing Chief Kevin Mohr. Mohr served as Cleveland Heights fire chief from 2002 until his retirement at the end of August.

In Cleveland Heights, by charter, the police chief and fire chief are promoted from within, via civil service process, explained Susanna Niermann O’Neil, acting city manager.

“Lt. Freeman has all the qualities needed in a strong fire chief. I have no doubt that he will carry on the traditions of the excellent fire and paramedic services that Cleveland Heights residents have come to expect,” said Mayor Ed Kelley.

Freeman had been a lieutenant for seven years, and most recently served as the fire chief’s coordinator for the department, overseeing planning, training and personnel issues. He has been a long-time participant in the Heights Area Special Rescue Team (H.A.S.R.T.).

Freeman, 46 years old, is married and is the father of four sons.

William Freeman is Cleveland Heights’ new fire chief. He lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

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

In recent years, residents of Cleveland Heights have leaned toward Democratic presidential candidates. Now these residents have a place to drop in and volunteer—the Barack Obama campaign office on Lee Road.

The office is located across from Lemon Grass restaurant and is open seven days a week. Every day, there are opportunities for volunteers to go door to door or make phone calls, encouraging residents to vote.

This is the first time a campaign office has been open on Lee Road. The Ohio Democratic Party owns an office at Shaker Square, which Cleveland Heights campaign volunteers often used in past campaigns. In 2008, there was also an office in South Euclid.

The grand opening of the office was held on Sept. 22, with a party for volunteers to meet one another. Speakers included Cuyahoga County Councilman Julian Rogers and Ohio State Representative Armim Budish, who encouraged residents to become involved in the campaign.

Clark Harvey, a neighborhood team leader, recruits Cleveland Heights residents to volunteer and then trains them in canvassing, phone banking, and data entry. Harvey said that Cleveland Heights could “determine the outcome of the election,” as it is an “important part of Ohio, a very critical swing state.”

He also encouraged Cleveland Heights residents to vote early—by mail or at the Board of Elections.

Harvey, a retired lawyer living in Cleveland Heights, began his position with the Obama campaign in April. He had the same position in the 2008 election. He was also a volunteer for John Kerry’s presidential campaign in 2004.

Joyce Glenn, a freshman at Cleveland Heights High School, plans to volunteer at the Obama office as often as three days a week. Despite being too young to vote, she believes that by volunteering, she can “contribute to the change I want to see in the world.”

Glenn worked the phone bank for Obama once in 2008 and hopes other high school students will come to the office to volunteer.

Julian Rogers also was a volunteer for political campaigns in high school. In his remarks at the office opening, he highlighted health care reform as one of the biggest accomplishments of Obama’s first term, along with “re-establishing the United States as a partner in world affairs.” Since Obama took office, “Americans are looked at more favorably,” said Rogers.

The nearest Romney campaign office is in Richmond Heights.

Simone Quartell, a graduate of Heights High, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.
Cleveland Heights vice mayor attends Democratic National Convention as a delegate

Simone Quartell

Dennis Wilcox, vice mayor of Cleveland Heights, was a member of the Ohio Delegation at the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. He had applied to the Ohio Democratic Party to be a delegate last spring.

Wilcox described the experience as “the opportunity of a lifetime.” While the primary responsibility he had as a delegate was to vote for a presidential and vice presidential candidate for the Democratic Party, the delegates also voted on the party platform, rules and credentials.

Although the convention started at about 4 p.m. every afternoon, Ohio delegates attended other events during the day. Speakers for the Ohio delegates included Jesse Jackson Sr., activist and minister; Martin O’Malley governor of Maryland; Ted Strickland, former Ohio governor; and United States Senator Sherrod Brown. There was an opening reception for Ohio delegates on Sunday night, and numerous gatherings throughout the week for delegates to meet one another.

One of the most significant meetings for Ohio delegates was a lunch with elected officials from Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus to discuss the possibility of having the 2016 Democratic Convention in Ohio. “Unless you’re there, you don’t understand the magnitude of the event,” said Wilcox. There was a lot of security and traffic, but “a major Ohio city can definitely handle it,” he added.

Wilcox feels that some of President Obama’s greatest accomplishments of his first term include “stopping the economic bleed, leading to 30 straight months of job growth,” as well as passage of the Affordable Care Act and ending the war in Iraq. He hopes that if Obama is elected to a second term, both Democrats and Republicans can work together to end the federal deficit.

Other Ohio delegates from Greater Cleveland included Julian Rogers, member of the Cayahoga County Council; and Barbara Boyd, state representative.

There were “dozens” of excellent speakers at the convention, Wilcox said, but he thought the best were President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and former President Bill Clinton. “They were all fantastic speakers in different ways,” said Wilcox. He has met them all three several times, though not at the convention.

Wilcox has been involved in politics for most of his life, beginning with student government in high school. He has been a member of the Cleveland Heights City Council for 13 years and was involved with voter protection activities in 2008.

Simone Quartell, a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, is a student at Cleveland State University and a Heights Observer intern.

CH free parking weekends extended

Observer Editor

The City of Cleveland Heights has announced additional free parking weekends through the end of 2012.

“This is a great way to welcome people into our community to experience all we have to offer,” said Mayor Ed Kelley. “It is also support for all of our merchants throughout our commercial districts.”

On the last weekend of each month, parking will be free wherever there is a meter: on the street, in city parking lots and in city parking garages.

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Rockefeller to host Scrabble tournament

Mike Kenney

The third annual Scrabble Tournament Fundraiser will be held on Saturday Oct. 27. The event benefits the Waiting Child Fund and its efforts to find permanent families for children in foster care.

The tournament will run from 3 to 6 p.m. at Rockefeller’s Restaurant, 3099 Mayfield Road. Vikki and Todd Webster, residents of Cleveland Heights, are the hosts. The $40 ticket includes appetizers, drinks, and a chance to test your Scrabble skills and win fun prizes.

Registration is available (limited to 60 players) online at www.waitingchildfund.com. Contact Vikki at vikkinoxwaki@gmail.com with questions. Table sponsorships are also available.

Mike Kenney is co-director and co-founder of the Waiting Child Fund.

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Mike Wilcox is a member of the Ohio Delegation.
Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

AUGUST 20, 2012
All council members were present.

Millikin lease proposal
Council authorized a nonbinding proposal to lease the Severance-Millikin School, 1700 Crest Road, from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District to sublease the property to Millikin Cit Hahorah. The proposal provides for a 30-year lease with two 10-year extensions, and for Millikin to make $1.5 million in improvements to the building and property. Several council members commented. Bonnie Caplan praised the resolution as creative and flexible. Jason Stein spoke about “misinforma-
tion” leading to criticism of his involvement as a “conflict of interest” and stated he would be voting on the matter.

Tax abatement for Meadowbrook/ Lee project
Council approved an agreement between the city and the Orange Company (or related entity) to grant tax abatement for development of the property currently owned by the city at 2223 Lee Road. The abatement may be 80 percent for a period of 11 years for both the commercial and residential components of the development. Council Member Bonnie Caplan abstained from voting on this matter.

Council member Dennis Wilcox maintained that the proposal, the best of several submitted, will be reviewed, has many benefits including potential tax revenue, and is consistent with the city’s strategic plan. Council Member Cheryl Stephens asked whether it would generate income to make up for the lost due to the tax abatement. Council Member Jason Stein claimed it would bring income and commercial money into the city. Mayor Ed Kelley called it a model project, with a good developer and architect. He said it is shown that Cleveland Heights is alive and well and “fills in the missing teeth” on Lee Road.

Nuisance properties
Council declared three properties to be nuisances and authorized abatement:
• 889 Helmsdale Road, razing and cleaning is estimated to cost $13,500.
• 3064 Meadowbrook Blvd., razing and cleaning is estimated to cost $15,300.
• 3146 Meadowbrook Blvd., razing and cleaning is estimated to cost $12,500.

Fund transfers
Council approved two appropriations amend-
ments for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2012:
• A transfer of $1,150,000 from the general fund to the economic development fund. The amount in question resulted from increased property and income tax revenues and the final payment from Zagara’s Marketplace for the city land on which the store is built.
• A transfer of $652,797 from the miscellaneous agency fund to the economic development fund to be restructured into loans to help attract busi-
nesses to Cleveland Heights.

Cedar Fairmount SID streetscape
Legislation authorizing application, in conjunc-
tion with the Cedar Fairmount Special Impro-
vement District (SID), for federal funding for streetscape improvements for the Cedar Fairmount Business District was pre-

presented on first reading. If the grant is awarded, the city will enter into an agreement in which the city and/or the Cedar Fairmount SID will provide funding in the form of a 20 percent match for the NOACA grant.

Nuisance property
Legislation declaring the abandoned property at 3417 West 121st, razing and cleaning was presented on first reading. Costs for razing the house, cleaning the debris, and preparing an asbestos survey are estimated to be $12,500.

CLEVELAND Heights NEWS

University Circle’s Chris Ronayne to speak at Cedar Fairmount annual meeting

Kaye Lowe

The annual meeting of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improve-
ment District is on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 9 a.m. The program is invi-
ted.

Chris Ronayne

At 10:30 a.m., Chris Ronayne, president of University Circle Inc. (UCI), will give a talk on “University Circle: The Neighborhood without Borders.”

This will be an opportunity to dis-
cuss future relationships between Uni-
versity Circle and Cleveland Heights and the Cedar Fairmount Business District.

Ronayne was named president of UCI in 2005. UCI is the nonprofit community service corporation responsible for the develop-
ment, service, and advocacy of University Circle as a world-class center of innovation in health care, education, arts and culture, and as a premier urban district.

Since becoming UCI’s seventh president, Ronayne has developed a more collaborative and aggressive agenda to leva-

gage the institutional assets of the Circle’s anchor “Eds, Meds, and Arts” organizations, and transform it into a vibrant mixed-use district.

Ronayne and his staff partner with more than 40 member institutions to oversee the growth and direction of Ohio’s fastest growing employment district, with UCI providing community planning, de-

g
dvelopment, education, marketing, police, and other shared services.

Before joining UCI, Ronayne has developed a strong reputation as a change agent and has worked with numerous nonprofits and community based organizations to develop new partnerships to address neighborhood revitalization and economic development. Ronayne was named president of UCI in 2005.

The Neighborhood without Borders.”

Mark Your Calendars


Clip this ad and save $1 on admission.
University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

AUGUST 13, 2012
Council Member Adele Zucker was excused.

McDonald’s request for extended hours
After council allowed comments regarding McDonald’s request to extend its hours, Anne Rawelson of Bushnell Road expressed her con-
cern about people coming right into Bushnell despite the noise prohibiting it. She suggested a police presence might help. She appreciates that McDonald’s employees pick up trash along Bushnell, but would prefer that people are not allowed to eat in their cars in the parking lot.

Council approved McDonald’s request to extend its hours from 9 p.m. down and midnight for drive thru. Owner Dew Stiles explained that because of the college students, they have much business after 9 p.m. and are having to turn customers away at 10 p.m. He noted that since the store opened they’ve received complaints regarding trash and noise regarding lighting. Regarding

Cleveland Heights Council Member Mary Dunbar, who attended the groundbreaking ceremony, said, “The new RTA station will be presented as a new, contemporary and impressive entry to Cleveland and University Circle. If you happen to be going east on Cedar Road, it’s really helpful to have a connection point to the Heights—a better doorway either way.”

Construction is expected to take about 24 months and is slated to begin by Oct. 1. Both the rapid station and the bus terminal will be located on the north side of Cedar Road, where only the rapid station now sits. The current site of the bus terminal will become green space. Both will remain open throughout construction, making the transition fairly seamless for RTA riders.

Car commuters, however, will not be so lucky. According to an RTA spokesperson, beginning the first week of October, one of three lanes heading up Cedar Hill, on the south side of Cedar Avenue, will be elimi-

ated during construction. Traffic on three downhill lanes on the north side will close on evenings and weekends. The schedule will vary. Commuters are advised to check www.ridersite.com for updates.

“There aren’t all of ways to get between Cleveland Heights and University Circle,” said Dunbar. “I think people will adjust if Cedar Glen gets too jammed, either finding other routes or getting an earlier or later start on their trip. During construction, people using Cedar Road from or into the Heights can help reduce traffic congestion by walking, biking, carpooling or taking public transportation.”

The $8.5 million project is made possible by $1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Authority, including a $1.0 million TIGER II (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant.

The existing University Circle rapid station is one of the highest transfer points within the RTA sys-

Cleveland was in its heyday. Since 2005 University Circle has produced 1,000 jobs a year, and population has increased 17 percent. The next heyday is now! The next renaissance is now!”

“IT makes the connection between Cleveland Heights and University Circle more comfortable and more attractive,” said Mayor Kelley. “A transportation center like this will enable University Circle and Cleveland Heights to do more together.”

Deanna Bremer Fischer is executive direc-

tor of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

Texting while driving
Council approved prohibiting the use of elec-
tronic wireless communication devices for tex-
ting while driving. This would allow local code enforcement of the recently passed state law prohibiting texting while driving as a second-
ary offense for adults. Council also voted to prohibit the use of these devices by holders of temporary permits under age 18 and holders of probationary driver’s licenses for any purpose while operating a motor vehicle. This mirrors the state law for juveniles. Councilman Steven Sims abstained from voting, expressing a concern about increased chances for juveniles to face legal penalties.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8.

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And, why do the best of times seem to never last.

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Money management key to successful homeownership

Rebecca Stager

Money management is a sophisticated term for budgeting, which is a necessary skill for successful home buying and sustainability. Current interest rates are low and there are several down payment options for home buyers, making this an ideal time to purchase a home.

Here are four real-life steps you can take to improve your chance of success: (1) leverage your financial capacity; (2) negotiate for the seller’s needed finances; (3) learn the duties and responsibilities required of the professionals involved in the transaction (lenders, real estate agents and brokers, appraisers, and property inspectors); and (4) plan for the upkeep of a home and your ability to sustain homeownership during difficult financial times and the unplanned life events that inevitably will occur.

Home Repair Resource Center offers free home buyer education classes to teach prospective home buyers the ins and outs of purchasing a home, preparing them for successful, responsible, sustainable home ownership. The class schedule is posted at www.hrsrc.org. Individual counseling is also available to help you make the best decisions for your situation.

If your goal is to purchase a home within the next few months, take advantage of this opportunity to empower yourself. HRRC’s Home Buyer Education Program will provide the knowledge and tools you’ll need for sustainable home ownership.

Remembering Charlie Ault

Alex Pesta

Cleveland Heights recently lost a hero. Charlie Ault died on Aug. 31. You might not know who Charlie was, but you have undoubtedly benefited from his work and passion. He was a founding member of the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation, which eventually became the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC). Ault and fellow parishioners began fighting social injustices and shady real estate practices during the 1970s, starting with a house remodel and sale. Cleveland Heights was changing, and Ault and his newly founded group were advocating for people’s rights, their community’s values and the strength of neighborhoods.

The establishment of a line of credit with a partner who would provide much needed finances was of primary importance in the organization’s effort. With his experience, maturity and business acumen, nurtured through his practice of law, Ault approached the Cleveland Trust Bank, and established what would become the Challenge Fund. His foresight cannot be overstated. Let me share some staggering numbers to show how its relevance is even more heightened today.

The Challenge Fund’s growth has enabled almost 1,000 loans with an approximate value of $5,350,000 worth of repairs. Ault’s passion was not focused on the financial impact of the HRRC, but on the social justice and equality he and his partners so richly valued. His mission was one of empowerment, education and compassion.

I had the pleasure of meeting Charlie and his wife, Janice, at this year’s HRRC 40th Anniversary Celebration, coincidentally in the same space where he negotiated the original loan with Cleveland Trust Bank. I’m convinced our beloved Cleveland Heights would be different if not for Ault’s work.

I’ve served on the HRRC board for nine years, and the Challenge Fund is vitally important to our organization and the health of Cleveland Heights homes. Its relevance is even more heightened with the recent housing crisis. Simply stated, it gives deserving people an opportunity to maintain their homes.

Charlie Ault will be missed tremendously but his legacy of social justice, housing rights and home maintenance will be carried on by the HRRC. Although he is not here to share our successes and future, I would like to think he’s looking down at us and guiding our next moves.

Alex Pesta is president of HRRC’s Board of Directors.

Community news

Chili Cook-Off Nov. 3 benefits Heights Youth Recreation Fund

Kim Sergio Ingle

The City of Cleveland Heights Division of Parks and Recreation and the Recreation Advisory Board announces the Inaugural Chili Cook-Off at the Cleveland Heights Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 3, 5–7 p.m.

The event will benefit the Heights Youth Recreation Fund, which provides scholarships and reduced rates for Cleveland Heights youth to participate in Cleveland Heights recreation programs and leagues.

The Chili Cook-Off will feature a variety of recipes and a spirited, but friendly, competition from the following Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses: Brennan’s Colony, Cedar Lee Pub, Inn on Coventry, New Heights Grill, O’Reilly’s Pub, Rockefeller’s, Tommy’s, Zagara’s, and Barle’s Soup & Sandwich.

The Chili Cook-Off will include: Chili samples from the participating businesses, plus beverages; A children’s menu; A playroom for children and gym availability for adults; Celebrity judges; A raffle with exciting prizes, such as an iPad Nano, Barnes & Noble Nook, new bicycle, Community Center passes and a Tiger Nation gift basket; Free parking and shuttle to Heights High School if the football team has a home playoff game that same evening.

Tickets are $5 for adults; $3 for students, high school and under; and $20 for families. Tickets will be available for purchase at the participating businesses and at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, One Monticello Blvd., beginning Oct. 1.

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

Heights groups need volunteers and donated items

PE.A.C.E. Park cleanup is Oct. 6 Volunteers are needed for full clean-up day at Coventry PE.A.C.E. Park on Saturday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Help clean up the park, garden and make repairs. Garden tools and garden gloves will be provided. Bring your own knee pads for kneeling. Coffee and light snacks will be available also.

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

For more information about the park visit the Coventry PE.A.C.E. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CoventryPEACE.

League of Women Voters needs volunteers to cover University Heights City Council meetings

The League seeks new volunteers to attend University Heights City Council meetings, and take the notes that are published in the Heights Observer. The League also welcomes observers to cover Cleveland Heights City Council meetings, CH-UH Board of Education meetings, and CH-UH Library Board meetings. For information, contact Maryann Barnes at 216-321-7125 or mbarnes9575@gmail.com.

Fairfax seeks library volunteers

Fairfax Elementary School is seeking retired librarians or others with library experience to help as volunteers in the school library. If you are interested, contact Andrett Calloway, principal, at 216-371-7480 or a_calloway@chuh.org.

Fairfax wants your college pennants

The school welcomes donations of college pennants and university pennants, to foster student interest in the many options available for their higher education and to support the “culture of college.” If you don’t have a college pennant on hand, please consider ordering one from a college. If you like, you may include a brief note of encouragement to students, and provide your name to be displayed with the pennant. This is an opportunity for community members to demonstrate their support of the children’s efforts and aspirations. Duplicate pennants received will be shared with other interested CH-UH schools.

Fairfax needs clothes for costumes

Fairfax Elementary is also seeking donations of old T-shirts, men’s dress shirts or pillowscases for a costume-making table at its Fall Harvest Festival. Volunteers will then bring them off during school hours at Fairfax Elementary by Oct. 16. For information, call 4-e-mail Joan Spoel at 216-371-1962 or jspoel08@bcgohl.net.

Fairfax Elementary is located at 3510 Fairfax Road in Cleveland Heights.
Pumpkins transform the café into a family room.

Haunting Lee Road

Peggy Spoth

Shawn Paul, known primarily for cutting and coloring hair, is really just a big kid. Last year, when he heard about the annual Phoenix Pumpkin Carving Party a few doors away from his salon at 2265 Lee Road, he begged owner Sarah Wilson-Jones to help him organize a candy crawl on the same day. This year, a new tradition joins the old one. On Thursday, Oct. 25, from 4-8 p.m., favorite haunts on Lee Road will be offering not tricks, but free treats at the Cedar Lee Candy Crawl and ninth annual Phoenix Pumpkin Carving Party. Participating shops with Treasures at the Cedar Lee Candy Crawl will be offering

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FutureHeights announces Best of the Heights on Oct. 17

Deanna Bremer Fisher

From May through August, Heights residents voted for their favorite Heights businesses in 20 categories, including best new business. Each year, FutureHeights—a nonprofit dedicated to promoting civic engagement in the Heights through information, education and advocacy, and the publisher of the Heights Observer community newspaper—conducts the Best of the Heights survey to recognize the unique attributes of independently owned businesses in the Heights, and their contributions to the local economy.

[View the 2011 Award Ceremony at http://cimeo.com/event/29660281.] “Heights residents recognize how lucky they are to have such an amazing diversity of independent businesses in their community and want to show their appreciation,” said Lloyd Bell, board president of FutureHeights.

Project V.O.I.C.E. to perform at Ruffing Montessori School

Julie Black Haffke

Acclaimed spoken-word poets Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye will kick off Ruffing Montessori School’s Arts Integration Year on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. with a spoken-word performance at Ruffing Montessori School, at 3380 Fairmount Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.

This event is free and open to the public. Register by contacting Karen Hahn at karenh@ruffingmontessori.net or 216-321-7571.

Sarah Kay is the founder and co-director of Project V.O.I.C.E. (Vocal Outreach into Creative Expression) with Phil Kaye. Through Project V.O.I.C.E., Sarah and Phil travel to schools, colleges and universities throughout the country to teach and empower young adults to write, perform and express themselves through spoken word poetry. Project V.O.I.C.E. will be working with Ruffing’s Elementary and Middle school students during its time in Cleveland. In addition to her work with Project V.O.I.C.E., Kay published a book, If I Should Have a Daughter, which she performed at the 2011 TED Conference in Long Beach, Calif. She has also performed at the 2011 Cannes Lions Creativity Festival, the Tribeca Film Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, and the United Nations. To learn more about Sarah Kay, Phil Kaye and Project V.O.I.C.E., visit www.project-voice.net and www.kaysarah.com.

Julie Black Haffke is director of institutional advancement for Ruffing Montessori School and a Shaker Heights resident.

Find out who came out on top at the Best of the Heights awards ceremony, which begins at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road. Enjoy refreshments and music from oldboy, a Cleveland Heights-based roots-rock group. The event is sponsored by Meaden & Moore and DVUV LLC. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Call 216-532-1423 or visit www.2012bestoftheheights.centribrite.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

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

Susie Kuenser

It’s election season and we need to pay attention.

Apathy is the enemy of democracy. It can allow unacceptable conditions to become accepted facts of life. By expressing our concerns through our actions as citizens and as voters, we decide which issues receive attention and if solutions serve the public’s interests. It’s our responsibility. It’s the central feature of a democratic government and society. It makes democracy work.

I was reminded of the power of citizen voices by The Race Beat, a 2006 Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff that documents the media’s role during the civil rights movement.

Through thousands of acts of individual bravery, ordinary citizens put themselves in harm’s way to assert their rights. They stood up to an entrenched way of life where brutality was used—and accepted as normal—to enforce segregation, disenfranchise voters, subvert justice, and exclude African Americans from economic and other opportunities. The media, previously disinterested in issues of race, could not ignore the explosive reaction from the white establishment that used violence to stop protests and spewed hatred to defend its actions.

By speaking up, these citizens, and the reporters who covered them, brought the reality of racial oppression into the light of day for the nation, the world, and Congress to see and to finally address. It upended a way of life that had been sanctioned for generations by the nation’s complicity of silence.

The civil rights movement inspires me and I hope it encourages anyone who doubts that they can affect the common good. I believe that by joining with others I can be part of making change, be it ever so small. That keeps me going. And I know it helps move things forward.

I believe hope propels individuals to push for a better world. I am troubled by what seems to be an effort by cynical power seekers to make citizens give up hope in their government and disengage from the political process by making government ineffective and defining it as the problem. Another discouraging development is the raft of legislation to suppress the vote and the aftermath of confusion about the rules—a cynical strategy to obstruct involvement. Power gained by limiting participation—either by promoting apathy or creating hurdles to voting—strikes fear in my heart. Any effort that tries to silence citizens undermines democracy.

Now is the time to connect, engage, pay attention, vote. We squander the common good if we sit out the process.

Susie Kuenser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, former director of Reaching Heights, and serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

Voting Information

Make sure you are registered to vote. Registration ends Oct. 9. Download a form from the Board of Elections website or sign up at your local library, Heights High or City Hall. If you have moved or changed your name since you last voted, regerest by Oct. 9. Decide how you want to vote and cast your ballot. Your choices are:

• Early vote in person at the Board of Elections (BOE) between Oct. 2 and Nov. 2. Cuyahoga County BOE is located at 2925 Euclid Ave. Hours and days vary. Check with the board before you go.

• Vote absentee starting on Oct. 2. All registered voters are supposed to receive an absentee ballot application in the mail. If you do not receive one, contact the Board of Elections. Return the application to receive a ballot. Remember, once you apply for a ballot you can’t change your mind and vote in person.

• Vote on Nov. 6 at your assigned polling place. Voter identification has not changed in Ohio. A photo ID, utility bill or other document with your address is acceptable. You can also use the last four digits of your social security number.

Encourage your friends and family to do the same.

For the 2013-2014 School Year

Sunday, November 11 // 1-2:30 PM

Learn more about our award-winning Early Childhood Programs and meet our exceptional teachers and staff.

Register* online by clicking on the Open House Banner or Events Tab at TheMusicSettlement.org. For more information about our Early Childhood Education Programs, call 216-421-5806, ext. 150

*This is an adults-only event. Your child must turn 3 years old by December 31, 2013 to be eligible for admission in the 2013-2014 Early Childhood Programs.

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I formed a hypothesis! I played the starring role! I explored world cultures! I spoke a foreign language!
Coit Road Farmers Market
Taste of Autumn benefit Oct. 8

Kim Sergio Inglis

The annual Coit Road Farmers Market Benefit will be held on Monday, Oct. 8, 6-8 p.m. at The Beachland Ballroom. The event features live music and the taste of the local harvest from area farmers, prepared by local chefs. Tickets are $25, and are available at the Coit Road Farmers Market or online at www.coitmarket.org. The market is open on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from April to November, and is open on Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., year round. The market is at 15000 Wordworth Road (corner of Coit and Woodworth roads), East Cleveland.

The Beachland Ballroom is located at 15711 Waterloo Road, Cleveland. Founded in 1913, the market is celebrating its 80th anniversary. The Coit Road Market offers access to affordable locally sourced farm-fresh products to the residents of Greater Cleveland. The proceeds support operation of the market during the winter months.

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

A World Perspective
As a photography student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, Sarah Groh spent an amazing semester abroad in Ireland. She brought back a new perspective on her art and a cherished lucky charm.

On November 17 you can learn more about our study abroad experiences and 18 majors in art and design during CIA’s fall open houses. Talk to faculty, learn about portfolio preparation, and take a campus tour.

Learn more at cia.edu.

Keep our community unique; support local independent merchants

Cleveland Heights Observer October 3, 2012 13
Bossen departs as UUSC minister; interim minister takes the helm

Walter Nicholes

Rev. Colin Bossen, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland (UUSC) since September 2007, officially stepped down on Aug. 12. He will move with his family to Boston to begin a doctoral program at Harvard University.

Rev. Doug Wadkins, minister of the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Bellingham, Wash. for the past 13 years, will be interim minister at UUSC while the society searches for a new full-time minister.

Bossen will enter Harvard University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, with the Committee on the History of American Civilization. He will study the relationship between theology and social movements, with special interest in how people’s beliefs shape the kind of social movement they create. His ultimate goal, he told the congregation in his final service, is to become a “public intellectual.”

During his tenure at UUSC, the congregation grew from 60 to 90 members, with most new members in their 20s and 30s. Noteworthy accomplishments on his watch included congregational approval for GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) rights, and support for demonstrations in Columbus, at Cleveland City Council meetings and on the CWRU campus.

In support of compassionate immigration reform, the congregation stood behind Bossen during his civil disobedience arrest in opposition to Arizona’s SB1070 legislation. Members hosted events and sent dozens of letters to the President and to Congress demanding just immigration reform. The congregation also passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, an obscure 15th-century Catholic theological teaching that forms the basis of much United States property law.

Other events included hosting nationally known speakers, such as journalist Amy Goodman and author Ursula Goodenough, and an annual public worship service commemorating U.S. and Iraqi victims of the Second Gulf War. UUSC is a founding organization of Greater Cleveland Congregations, and participates in an ongoing program that works with the local Bhutanese refugee community.

Doug Wadkins, Bossen’s temporary replacement, has served as a hospice chaplain and campus minister, and has led congregations in North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Oregon, Wisconsin and Washington. For the past six years, he worked with the Pacific Northwest Unitarian Universalist Association District on its Transition Team, helping congregations share the ministry during times of change.

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, visit www.uucleveland.org.

Walter Nicholes is a member of the United Universalist Society of Cleveland.

Sergio Abramof:

a remembrance

Jewel Mouhthrop

I wasn’t a personal friend of Sergio Abramof, though I would have liked to be. I am, however, and will always be, an ardent fan who had three brief person-to-person encounters with him.

In the five years since we moved to Cleveland Heights, Saráva, at Shaker Square, has become my favorite local restaurant. (Sergio’s in University Circle is also in my top five.) The first time I met Sergio was when I was dining at Saráva. He was walking through the restaurant; we made eye contact and he stopped to chat with us. We complimented the food and he thanked us for choosing his restaurant.

Last February, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood presented an evening with three local Jewish chefs, including Sergio. Doug Katz (fire food and drink), and Michael Herschman (Lopez). They told wonderful stories about family dinners, the foods they grew up with, and about getting started in the restaurant business.

Sergio told the now well-known tale of his interview, many years ago, with Carl Quagliata, who was opening an Italian restaurant on Chagrin Boulevard. Ristorante Giovanni. As Sergio told it, Quagliata knew him by only his first name and assumed he was Italian. It was only after hiring him that he learned Sergio’s last name, that he was Jewish, and that he knew nothing about Italian cuisine. A quick learner with an innate food sense, Sergio soon became the executive chef and stayed at the restaurant, encouraging and teaching others, for 14 years.

The three chefs stayed around after the presentation to mingle with the crowd. I had the opportunity to talk with Sergio for a few minutes about the hard work and scar-toughened hands of professional chefs. He showed me his and we had a good laugh together.

I met Sergio for the last time at the beginning of August in Whole Foods Market on Cedar Road. I was standing behind him, waiting to check out. Recognizing him, I spoke his name. Sergio turned and looked at me as if he should know who I was. In response to his quizzical look, I said, “I’m just a fan.” He gave me that warm and wonderful smile, took my hand in both of his and said, “That’s all I need to know.” We talked a little about how our summers were going, and then went our separate ways. That’s the way it was with Sergio—it was personal.

The news of Sergio’s death hit like a thunderbolt. His memorial service on Sept. 3 was SRO—standing room only. Brazilian music played as hundreds of mourners entered the chapel. Longtime friends and colleagues shared stories about him, often with tears. It was a fitting tribute to the man who had given so much to so many people, and died too soon.

There are those who will remember Sergio for his friendship, for his support and encouragement, for his infectious laugh, and for his remarkable life. I will remember him for his grace, good humor, and the twinkle in his eye.

Jewel Mouhthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer’s editorial advisory committee.
Rita Coolidge concert at Nighttown to benefit Cedar Fairmount SID

Kim Sergio Inglis

On Friday, Oct. 12, Nighttown will be setting the setting for two performances by two-time Grammy Award-winner Rita Coolidge. The second of the two concerts, at 8 p.m., will benefit the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID), to raise funds for the newly erected Cedar Fairmount street sign at the intersection of Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard, and for future streetscape projects.

Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. general public concert are $55 each. Tickets for the 8 p.m. benefit concert are $70 each ($60 tax deductible) and include cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction at 7 p.m., and feature Gold Circle seating, right in front of the stage. The benefit’s honorary chairs are Gus and Jan Kious.

Silent auction items include a three-night stay at a Holiday Valley ski lodge; a night at the InterContinental Hotel on Carnegie with a $200 Nighttown gift certificate; Browns box seats; Ohio State tickets; a gift basket of items from Cedar Fairmount merchants; and a private dinner for eight in the Kious’s home.

Kaye Lowe, executive director of the Cedar Fairmount SID, said, “Rita Coolidge is traveling from Toronto to Cleveland Heights, and then on to New York.” Commenting on the benefit, Lowe asked, “Where else can you go to see such a famous performer, in such an intimate setting?”

Lowe noted that she had been working with a committee for approximately two years to raise money for the Cedar Fairmount street sign and hopes, through the concert and through donations, to move forward with other streetscape projects for the district. “ODOT has scheduled redoing Cedar Road in 2015,” said Lowe, “and Cedar Fairmount hopes to tie in streetscape plans with all that. With a streetscape plan, and by calculating costs for it, we can apply for grants to help fund streetscape projects.”

“Our budget is so small,” said Lowe, “we rely on the generosity of building owners and the neighborhood to accomplish what we have, in creating a safe, pleasant environment for the citizens of Cleveland Heights.”

To make reservations for either concert, contact Nighttown at 216-797-

Celebrate local food in the Heights Oct. 1-6

Kendra Dean

During the first week of October, the Heights will celebrate sustainability with Local Food Week. The event is coordinated by the Sustainable Heights Network and will feature events throughout the week, as well as a festival on Saturday, Oct. 6, at Grace Lutheran Church, 13005 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights.

Enjoy local food dishes at Nighttown, Brennan’s Colony and Bade Soup & Sandwich every day from Oct. 1-6, and experience a “fresh mob” hosted by The Wine Spot and Farmshare Ohio on Friday, Oct. 5, featuring Ohio wines and farm-fresh produce. Other activities, such as a movie screening about the local food movement and local farmer’s markets, are happening throughout the week.

The Local Food Festival on Oct. 6 will feature food preservation and composting workshops, and demonstrations from many organizations, including the Rid-All Green Partnership, The Ohio State University Extension, and Food Not Laws, Cleveland. There will be food samples, and activities for kids.

Noelle Celeste, publisher of Edible Cleveland, will host a conversation between Douglas Katz, chef and owner of fire food and drink, and Jay Szabo of Dunham Tavern Market Garden, exploring the relationship between a chef dedicated to local food and the farmer who grows it. Local businesses will also be participating in the festival, with ice cream from Sweetie Fry, and jams and jellies from The Charmed Kitchen, among them.

This colorful produce was grown and purchased locally.

“Our food supplies are becoming less personal,” said Keith Logan of Sweetie Fry, explaining one benefit of eating local. “The farmer doesn’t know the community or the people who are eating his food. This is risky, as better decisions are made when we are close to the outcomes, especially about such things as chemical use, growth hormones and antibiotics.”

In support for Local Food Week, Cark Skalak of Cleveland’s Blue Pike Farm said, “Supporting local food is one of the best things you can do for yourself. Buying local gets you the freshest, highest quality produce.”

A complete list of Local Food Week events, is listed at www.sustainableheights-network.net. Also on the website is a tab for Local Food Week recipes—a week’s worth of recipes from The Charmed Kitchen, featuring food items that can be purchased from local producers, and tips for sourcing them locally.

Kendra Dean is a graduate student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and is an intern at FutureHeights.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Rita Coolidge to perform at Nighttown.**

Rita Coolidge to perform at Nighttown.

5:00. To learn more about the Cedar Fairmount SID, visit www.cedarfairmount.org.

Those unable to attend the concert who want to contribute can send tax deductible donations to Cedar Fairmount SID, 1460 Fairmount Blvd., Suite 311, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106.

All companion animals (furry, feathered, winged and otherwise) are welcome at this lively celebration creation.

**Blessing of the Animals**

Sunday, October 7, 3:30 p.m.

on the front lawn

Church of the Saviour UMC

2557 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

One block north of Fairmount Blvd.

Enjoy local food dishes at Nighttown.
Bob Rosenbaum

Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development which operates Hanna Perkins preschool and kindergarten, will host a fall open house from 5:30–7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 19910 Malvern Road in Shaker Heights.

The purpose of the event is to introduce members of the education, child development and East Side communities to Karen Baer, new CEO of the nonprofit organization and school. Baer, who joined Hanna Perkins over the summer, was previously chief clinical officer of Lifebanc, the Cleveland-based organ and tissue procurement organization.

The open house will highlight the Hanna Perkins approach to child development and early education—an effective method that has been used for more than 60 years to train child care specialists and educators across the region and around the world.

“A lot of people think they know who we are, but there is so much to this organization that even those who know us well often don’t realize the full scope of our services,” Baer said. “It’s a critical process for children to understand, communicate and manage their feelings. Located in the renovated, historic former Malvern School in Shaker Heights, Hanna Perkins is a direct descendant of the Cleveland Day Nursery Program, which ran one of the nation’s earliest nursery schools (opened in 1880) and which pioneered in the field of early child development.

To learn more about Hanna Perkins, visit hannaperkins.org.

Bob Rosenbaum, a longtime Observer volunteer, provides marketing services for Hanna Perkins.

Hanna Perkins open house is Oct. 24

FutureHeights auction starts Oct. 13

Skip the tux! Stay at home!, an annual online fundraiser to benefit the work of Future-Heights, kicks off at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13.

“This annual event is a win-win for everyone,” said Lloyd Bell, director of FutureHeights. “Local business donors receive terrific online presence throughout the auction’s run and a tax deduction, bidders can snap some wonderful bargains for themselves or gifts for the holidays, and FutureHeights receives much needed funds to continue its work of building community in the Heights through civic engagement, including publishing the Heights Observer.”

“This year’s auction includes many one-of-a-kind items and unique experiences,” said Bell. “There’s six-months of groceries from Zagaria’s, a private tour of the West Side Market with local food author Laura Taxel, a weekend getaway to Chautauqua, lunch with Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley, brunch at fire with Michael Ruhlman, and lots of other cool things you can’t get anywhere else.”

FutureHeights is accepting donations of new goods and services throughout the course of the event, which runs from 5 p.m., Oct. 13, through 8 p.m., Nov. 18. All items will go to the highest bidder at the close of the auction.

For more information or to donate online visit www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights or call 216.320.1423.

Many Heights residents participated in the 5th annual Ride for Miles on Sept. 16. The 10-mile bicycle ride raises awareness and funds to continue the work of the late Miles Coburn, biologist at John Carroll University (JCU).

The course begins at JCU and 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 JCU to continue his work—to educate students about the environment. Fundraising continues for the professorship, with a goal of $500,000. To donate, go to jcu.edu/coburn or contact Mary Rycyna at 216-397-4921.

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FutureHeights auction starts Oct. 13

Skip the tux! Stay at home!, an annual online fundraiser to benefit the work of Future-Heights, kicks off at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13.

“This annual event is a win-win for everyone,” said Lloyd Bell, director of FutureHeights. “Local business donors receive terrific online presence throughout the auction’s run and a tax deduction, bidders can snap some wonderful bargains for themselves or gifts for the holidays, and FutureHeights receives much needed funds to continue its work of building community in the Heights through civic engagement, including publishing the Heights Observer.”

“This year’s auction includes many one-of-a-kind items and unique experiences,” said Bell. “There’s six-months of groceries from Zagaria’s, a private tour of the West Side Market with local food author Laura Taxel, a weekend getaway to Chautauqua, lunch with Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley, brunch at fire with Michael Ruhlman, and lots of other cool things you can’t get anywhere else.”

FutureHeights is accepting donations of new goods and services throughout the course of the event, which runs from 5 p.m., Oct. 13, through 8 p.m., Nov. 18. All items will go to the highest bidder at the close of the auction.

For more information or to donate online visit www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights or call 216.320.1423.

Many Heights residents participated in the 5th annual Ride for Miles on Sept. 16. The 10-mile bicycle ride raises awareness and funds to continue the work of the late Miles Coburn, biologist at John Carroll University (JCU).

The course begins at JCU and 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 JCU to continue his work—to educate students about the environment. Fundraising continues for the professorship, with a goal of $500,000. To donate, go to jcu.edu/coburn or contact Mary Rycyna at 216-397-4921.

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Heights Youth Club travels to El Salvador

Kimberly Morgan

The board of directors and the members of the Heights Youth Club (HYC) offered their thanks to the Sheffler family for sponsoring a second International Partners in Mission (IPM) immersion experience to Central America. Five HYC delegates, and two chaperones, traveled to El Salvador in August for a one-week visit to that country. All parties connected with the trip agree that the experience will have a lasting impact on the young travelers.

While in El Salvador, the teens met a group of women who had campaigned to bring well water to their community of 96 families. One of the women, Conchita, told the group that when they finally struck water, everyone cheered and hugged and cried tears of joy together.

Today, the community receives water every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for two hours each day. Everyone knows when the water will be turned on, so they can prepare their containers. Because the children no longer have the chore of carrying the water to the village, they can attend school.

The women also worked to purchase a mill to enable them to grind corn for flour. The mill provides six women a monthly salary of about $12 each. The women also saved enough money to buy an oven, which enables them to bake bread from the corn they have milled. The bread they bake feeds their community and saves the people much money.

The Salvadoran people express pride in their heritage through art: murals, posters, celebrations and memorial parks. The group toured the art studio of local artist Fernando Llort, whose art is characterized by bright colors and powerful symbolism. Much of Llort’s art represents the faith, work and labors of Monsignor Oscar Romero, a Catholic priest martyred during the country’s civil war. Llort believes his work “is a gift from God for the people of El Salvador” and teaches his techniques to local artists.

The travelers met several Salvadoran living legends, who taught the word da’le (pronounced doll-eh), which means “to keep going, striving, taking a stand for what is important to each person.” In the coming months, the young travelers will present their perspective of the Salvadoran immersion experience—and the da’le each has gained.

For more information about this and other IPM immersion experiences, go to www.ipmconnect.org.

Kimberly Morgan is board administrator for the Heights Youth Club.

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Heights seniors advance in National Merit Scholarship program

Angus Shaker

Four Cleveland Heights High School seniors have been recognized as semifinalists in the first round of the 58th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Trevor Coble, Carter Hastings, Ian Kraus and Thomas Frederick. The four seniors will have the opportunity to compete this spring for one of 8,300 scholarships.

“These are exceptional students,” Superintendent Doug Heuer said. “We are extremely proud that they have earned this recognition. Their level of achievement is exactly what we have come to expect from Heights students, who demonstrate their excellence every year... on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.”

Trevor Coble likes math, science and the social sciences. “I’ve had really great teachers at Heights,” he said. “Mr. Meister makes history so real.” Coble is also enrolled in numbers theory and world literature at Case Western Reserve University. Coble’s love of learning was encouraged by his parents. Unsure of his plans after graduation, Coble intends to apply to several liberal arts colleges, including Macalester in St. Paul, Minn. and Kenyon in Gambier, Ohio.

Carter Hastings felt he had no other choice but to succeed. “My parents are proud of me. A lot of the credit goes to them—they pushed me and helped me to reach my goals,” he said. Carter said. “My parents are teachers really encouraged me to do my best,” Carter said. “My parents are proud of me. A lot of the credit goes to them—they pushed me and helped me to reach my goals,” he said. Carter is interested in attending a liberal arts college and plans to apply to Oberlin College, Denison University and Kenyon College.

Ian Kraus appreciates the great teachers at Heights High. “Heights has done a lot for me,” Kraus said. “The teachers and staff are always there to support me.” History teacher Karen Bauer-Blazer has had the biggest impact on him. “History is my favorite subject and I have had her class every year of high school,” he said. “She makes class interesting and engaging.” Kraus plans to apply to several liberal arts programs, including Stanford, Columbia and Princeton universities.

Thomas Frederick’s favorite classes are chemistry and statistics. He is enrolled in organic chemistry and calculus at Cleveland State University and AP statistics at Heights High. “I have always been a math person,” he said. He credits chemistry teacher Evelyn Bradshaw for being especially inspiring. Frederick enjoys his organic chemistry class at CSU because it enables him to see how things work at the micro level. Frederick plans to apply to several schools, including Brown and North-western universities.

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

Fall Harvest Festival at Fairfax Elementary

Joan Spoerl

The Fairfax Elementary School PTA will hold a Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 12-5 p.m. The community is welcome and encouraged to attend this family-friendly event and fundraiser.

The festival will feature face painting, bounce houses, cake walks, a 50/50 raffle, local craft vendors, food and drink, music, crafts and activities. In the event of rain, the festival will be held inside the school.

Fairfax Elementary School is at 3510 Fairfax Road, Cleveland Heights.

Joan Spoerl is the parent of a second grader at Fairfax Elementary and is an early childhood consultant with more than 13 years of combined experience teaching kindergarten, Head Start, preschool and college.

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Sunday, November 4, 2012
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Schools to promote safe walking and biking in October

Mary Dunbar

Neighborhood schools are even stronger community assets when kids bike or walk to school. The benefits are many: less traffic congestion, healthy exercise, zero pollution and more independent kids. Though some children must ride buses, many live within a mile of school and can easily walk or bike there.

Oct. 3 is International Walk to School Day, and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district has a Walk or Bike to School Day on its calendar for that date. In addition, schools are offering activities throughout October to encourage safe walking and bicycling as a way of creating a supportive environment for healthy lifestyles.

To bolster such efforts, Clif Kids and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership provide schools with kits that contain a banner, educational materials, reflective stickers and 250 Clif Kid bars.

This year, six district schools requested and received kits. They are Boulevard, Canterbury, Fairfax, Gearity, Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Intermediate schools.

Meanwhile, other cycling-friendly initiatives are underway. The district is upgrading and adding more bike racks to meet growing demand. Building on the popularity of bike rodeos held in the spring at Gearity and Fairfax, Canterbury is planning one in October. And the Bike Club—featuring weekly, afterschool rides at Fairfax School in the spring—is being repeated at Fairfax this fall and expanded to Gearity.

Parents who would like to help expand bicycle activities at their children’s schools should contact Mary Dunbar, 216-321-1335.

Mary Dunbar is president of the Heights Bicycle Coalition and a member of Cleveland Heights City Council.

Heights High senior visits Brazil in summer exchange

Joy Henderson

Cleveland Heights High School senior Zoe Cook was one of 13 students nationally and one of three from Ohio, who was chosen for a three-week student exchange in Brazil.

The Young Ambassadors program, which is supported by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs and the U.S. State Department, promotes understanding between the people of the United States and Brazil, prepares teens to be leaders, fosters relationships between ethnic and religious groups, and creates networks of young leaders.

The trip began with two days of orientation with the U.S. embassy staff in Washington, DC, followed by three days in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. The students met several of the Brazilian diplomatic staff and that, said Cook, “is where we were really introduced to the Brazilian culture.” Brazilian Young Ambassadors helped guide the American students.

The majority of the trip was spent with host families. Cook’s family lives in a third-largest city. “My host family was so kind and welcoming,” she said. Her host sister spoke English, but the rest of the family did not. “I learned a little Portuguese, but only a little.” Cook added.

Part of the experience was to learn about the work of several nonprofit organizations in Brazil. The students toured several favelas—neighborhoods with concentrated poverty. The students learned about programs focused on improving education and decreasing drug use and violence.

“This was really a life changing experience for me,” said Cook. “I learned so much about the people and culture of Brazil. We really broke down our stereotypes about each other.”

Cook is a member of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) and learned about the trip at a meeting.

“Zoe is a quiet leader who is very interested in community service,” said David Peake, MSAN advisor. “We are really proud that she was chosen for this experience.”

Cook, who plans to be involved with the Young Ambassadors program when the Brazilian teens come to Cleveland this winter, plays field hockey, is on the swim team, student council and National Honor Society, and is a peer tutor. She will apply to The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati.

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

Heights High senior Zoe Cook spent three weeks in Brazil this summer.
After discussion, the board unanimously approved a nonbinding proposal for the lease of the Severance Millikin School to the City of Cleveland Heights for subleasing to Mosdos Ohr Hatorah. The City of Cleveland Heights will be the lessee and will sublet the property to Mosdos. A 30-year term is proposed, rent would be $1, and Mosdos would commit to putting a minimum of $1.5 million worth of improvements in place within the first 18 months of the lease. Mosdos will take over the building entirely so the school district will have no further obligations concerning the building.

LWV observer: Casandra Tufel-Morin
AUGUST 21, 2012
All board members were present.

Library bonds reissued
The board approved a refinancing of bonds. The board will recall old bonds and reissue new bonds at lower interest rates. This will save taxpayers $1.5 million over the life of the bonds. These are library bonds, and funds go to the library.

Facilities planning
The board discussed the process for revising the facilities study, the establishment of a lay facilities advisory committee, and the timeline for putting the bond issue on the ballot. The members decided that Plan C must be revised with consideration of the “big picture.” Items discussed included renovations vs. large projects, location of the schools that will remain open, budget, funding for the project, and community support. Questions included how much square footage was allotted to each student, how much the district can afford, whether the bond issue should be limited, and whether the district should establish a budget or follow a vision and finance a riker project.

The board believed that November 2013 would be the best time to submit the bond issue to the public, although there was discussion on whether the chance of approval would be greater in May 2013.

Discussion of the proposed lay committee included its tasks and goals and member selection. The board decided that each board member would submit names of potential members by Aug. 27. Karen Jones, board president, would sort the names and begin to develop a selection process. Suggestions for a 15 to 25-member committee included city officials, representatives from FutureHeights and Reaching Heights, the alumni foundation, and the teachers’ union; FTA officers, older voters, and board of education members.

LWV observer: Jillian Houser
SEPTEMBER 4, 2012
All board members were present.

Transportation concerns
Parents whose children attend Lawrence Language School in Broadview Heights, a private language-disability school, had been told they were not eligible for busing based on the district’s claim that the ride is more than 30 minutes. Board policy approves busing only for trips less than 30 minutes. The parents maintained that the trip to Lawrence from Geauga, which is the measured start point, takes no more than 20 to 25 minutes.

Another parent said that her daughter wants to attend the gifted program at Wiley but is assigned to another school and bus. She said her daughter is being harassed by a neighbor at the bus stop and needs this transportation and transfer. Her other two daughters attend Wiley and are transported by school bus.

Later in the meeting, the board heard an update on the transportation services. At the Oct. 18 meeting, the board hopes to review policies impacting both district finances and family needs.

Early college at JCU
The board approved a program in which the R.E.A.L. School, in partnership with John Carroll University (JCU), provides an early college opportunity to enable students to take college courses before graduating from high school. John Carroll will provide support and mentoring to the students.

Aquatics supervisor
After discussion, the board, in a split vote, approved hiring an aquatics supervisor. Board members Ron Register and Kol Zucker voted no.

LWV observer: Jillian Houser.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8.
Ruffing Montessori teacher receives 2012 Conservation Educator of the Year award

Julie Haffke

On Sept. 7, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History presented the 2012 Conservation Educator of the Year award to Mary Beth McCormack, science and field experience teacher at Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights. McCormack teaches science to fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. At this level, Ruffing’s science curriculum provides students with opportunities for field work, including various projects at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. One such project has been a collaboration with the Nature Center on its ongoing marsh restoration. This work has been recognized and funded through a Project Learning Tree GreenWorks Grant through the American Forest Foundation. McCormack’s commitment to environmental stewardship and her integration of science with conservation studies is helping to shape the next generation.

Julie Haffke is director of advancement for Ruffing Montessori School.

Former Heights High science teacher honored by U.S. Navy

Angee Shaker

Navy hero, World War II veteran, Morse code expert, navigator, aero-science engineer, and Cleveland Heights High School science teacher, Valentine Hambor has been them all.

His long and distinguished career was celebrated on Sept. 1 when Lieutenant Valentine Hambor (ret.) was honored by the U.S. Navy as part of Cleveland’s Navy Week celebration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

Hambor, a 90-year-old resident of Warrensville Heights, was joined by other members of the National Association of Destroyer Veterans, known as the Tin Can Sailors, aboard the USS Dewey, a Navy frigate docked at the Port of Cleveland for the event. He served aboard the USS Thaddeus Parker Destroyer Escort (DE-369) at Okinawa, Japan, during World War II. His tour included escorting Navy destroyer convoys on trips between Pearl Harbor and Japan. As a Morse code expert, Hambor was responsible for the ship’s navigation and communications.

After he was Lt. Hambor, he was Mr. Hambor, an aero-science engineer at TRW and NASA, before coming to Heights High, where he taught science and created an aero-science curriculum. Many of his students have gone on to have successful careers in the aerospace industry.

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

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Teen pages and volunteers gain experience while helping libraries

Sheryl Banks

Teen pages and volunteers are the unsung heroes of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library—just ask the staff.

“The page position is one of the most important jobs in the library,” said Jenny Greene, adult services librarian and page supervisor. “They sort and shelve every item in the library to make sure our customers can find what they’re looking for. It sounds simple, but it’s labor-intensive. A lot of our pages, about 20 out of 30 total, are teens from our own community.”

For many teen pages, their job at the library provides them with their first real work experience. Jimmy Williams, a recent graduate of Benedictine High School and current Tri-C student, started as a page last February at the Lee Road branch. “I was surprised by how much work it is,” Williams said, while shelving children’s DVDs. “But it’s great because I’m really learning to take initiative. You start at the bottom and have to work your way up.”

Alicia Coulter, 16, who started at John Carroll University this fall, works part time as a page at the Noble Neighborhood branch, and has made herself indispensable, according to Amanda Rome, youth services librarian. In addition to carrying out the regular duties of a page, Coulter keeps an eye on youngsters in Noble’s children’s area. “She often beats me to the punch, talking to the kids about proper behavior in the library,” said Rome. “She comes up with great ideas for getting kids more involved in the library’s programs.”

Like many teen pages, Williams and Coulter started out as library volunteers, who are just as crucial to the library as the pages, according to Heather Howiler, volunteer coordinator at Heights Libraries. “Some of our programs couldn’t take place without our teen volunteers, like our summer Reading Buddies program,” she said. “It pairs elementary school students with teen volunteers who help the younger kids practice their reading skills. We had 15 volunteers in that program alone this summer.”

Teen volunteers are also the backbone of the Summer Lunch program, sponsored by the Cleveland Food Bank and held at the Lee Road branch each summer. They serve lunch to youngsters, and help out with the less glamorous tasks, such as cleaning tables and breaking down delivery boxes from the Cleveland Food Bank. “Many of the teens who volunteer are also regulars in our teen room,” said Sam Lapides, coordinator of the Summer Lunch program and special projects. “They take great pride in helping out because, as they’ve told me many times, the library is their second home.”

The library seems to inspire some teens. Williams plans to transfer his Tri-C credits to Kent State University, where he hopes to earn a master’s degree in library and information science.

For information about volunteering and openings for page positions, check the Heights Libraries jobs and volunteering page at www.heightslibrary.org/page/jobs.

Jimmy Williams, Heights Libraries page at the Lee Road Library, shelves DVDs in the children’s area.

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

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August 20, 2012 all board members were present.

revenue forecasts
Molly Riffe, fiscal officer, noted that a four percent drop is forecasted for property revenues. Because the library budget calculated a five percent drop this will not present a problem for the budget. The Public Library Fund (funding from the state) had dropped in July but is back up this August, and might rise further in 2013. For the budget, mid-year expenditures are on target. Jim Posch, board member, asked about property tax collection rate. It dropped a little last year, but the county predicts it will go up. Currently it is up to 96 percent.

new shelving in children’s department

The board approved the purchase of new picture book shelving for the Lee Road Library’s children’s department at a cost not to exceed $15,000. The actual estimate from Walker-Duman Inc. is $14,273. The new shelving is designed to be more patron-friendly for adults ( parents and staff), reducing the need for them to stoop to see what is on the bottom shelf. The old shelving can be put to use by donating some to Little Heights or using them in other Heights Libraries.

new hires

The board approved hires for two full-time positions. Shelby Morris as adult services librarian and Shandria Jackson as circulation supervisor. Both were internal hires. In addition, three part-time positions have been filled: one security guard and two youth service associates.

demographic analysis study

Mark Saling of Cleveland State University, director of CSU’s data and information services, presented a demographic analysis study which were seldom built

fall energy audits benefit homeowners and HRRC

Becky Stager

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) is partnering with Dominion East Ohio’s Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program again this fall to encourage homeowners to sign up for energy audits. This is a great value for both homeowners and HRRC. Dominion East Ohio residential gas customers will pay only $50 for the 3-4 hour energy assessment (normally $300), and HRRC will receive a donation from GoodCents (the company providing the audits) for each order placed between Oct. 10 and Nov. 10.

The audits can be especially helpful in older homes, which were seldom built with energy efficiency in mind. The audit will include tests to determine where heat is currently being lost in the home; free home improvements, such as caulking, weatherstripping, door sweeps, and more; and a report identifying and prioritizing measures that will make the home more energy efficient and comfortable. If the homeowners then make any of the suggested improvements using prequalified contractors and use the official rebate process, they can get up to $1,250 back—and the GoodCents auditor will return to check the quality of the work and verify that appropriate materials were installed. The value of this partnership with GoodCents extends beyond support for HRRC; it benefits the entire community when energy is conserved and homeowners pay less for heating costs. Audits can be ordered online at www.dominioneastohio.com or by calling 877-287-3416.

Becky Stager has been the home repair education coordinator at HRRC since 1989. Visit www.chvre.org or call 314-5600 for more information on programs and services.
Tour the CH-UH learning communities pilots

Angie Shaker

Sections of three Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools—the first grade wing of Oxford Elementary, the sixth grade wing of Roxboro Middle, and the Legacy New Tech wing of Heights High—were remodeled over the summer as part of the district’s Learning Communities Pilot. While some parents and community members have had the opportunity to experience the pilot open houses at Roxboro Middle and Legacy New Tech, the district is inviting the whole community to see the new learning spaces.

The district believes the new Learning Communities provide environments where students can master the state’s required curriculum, the Common Core Curriculum, which measures students’ skills in four areas: collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity—the four Cs.

Curriculum, which measures students’ skills in four areas: collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity—the four Cs.

Each school will open its doors to parents and community members, and the principals of each school will give the tours to demonstrate how teams at each school are using the new spaces.

Oxford Elementary: Tours will begin on Thursday, Oct. 11, from 1:15–2:15 p.m., and will be offered every Thursday at the same time. Tours must be booked in advance. RSVP to Barb Pletnewski, office secretary, at 216-320-4951. Prior to starting at 5:30 p.m.

Roxboro Middle: Starting Wednesday, Oct. 3, tours will be held from 10–11 a.m. every Wednesday. Tour participants will have an opportunity to view teachers and students in the pilot area. RSVP to Danielle Smith, administrative assistant, at least one week in advance of the tour, at 216-320-3503.

Legacy New Tech: Starting in November, tours will be held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 9 a.m. Call the Legacy Office at 216-320-3210 to schedule.

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

Anna Register

Perhaps you’re tired of waiting for the ideal job to turn up, or maybe you simply want to branch out on your own and don’t know how to do it. Whatever your reason for wanting to start your own business, Heights Libraries has classes to help you figure out how to make that business thrive.

Heights Libraries’ new Small Business Series can start you on the path to entrepreneurship. From getting funding to finding the right location, this series provides an array of practical information to get a new business up and running.

The full session consists of six classes taught by the training services staff at the Lee Road Library. Joe Kaiser, supervisor of technology training, proposed the idea that SCORE be incorporated after Kaiser brought his idea to Heather Howiler, training and development manager for Heights Libraries. “I learned about SCORE at a Public Library Association convention in Philadelphia,” Howiler explained. “SCORE is a group of experienced business leaders in the community who offer free support to individuals who are interested in starting their own business.” SCORE will be providing the series speakers, people from the community who have owned businesses in the Heights.

In addition to new staff hires at the library, the unemployment rate was another inspiration for these classes. “With unemployment over eight percent in most areas, many unemployed people are looking at owning and operating a small business as a way of providing for themselves and their families. Many successful small businesses, even some that became Fortune 500 companies, started during poor economic times,” said Kaiser.

The series will take place at the Lee Road Library every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., from Oct. 10 through Nov. 14. The series will feature a variety of topics designed to help those who already have a business and those who are in the planning stages.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings are sponsored by the City of University Heights. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library.

Oct. 4: Wesley Walker, senior re- search specialist for the Home Repair Resource Center, discusses the center’s new and expanded services for senior citizens in communities beyond Cleveland Heights.

Oct. 11: Chris Thompson, director of regional engagement of the Fund for Our Economic Future, talks about recruiting key partners and mapping strategies to strengthen the region’s economic competitiveness with world markets.

Oct. 18: Cathy Whitehouse, Ph.D., president of The Intergenerational Charter School (12200 Fairhill Road, Cleveland), recounts its founding in 2000 and its success as a most highly rated public charter school.

Oct. 25: Patrick Milloy, vice president for clinical services of the Center for Families and Children, reports on the work of the center, including providing groceries for the needy, jobs for the unemployed, a learning center for disadvantaged kids, and support and stability for the community.

Special Events for Senior Citizens:

Saturday, Oct. 13: Health & Wellness Fair, 10-4 p.m., University Heights Library.

Sunday, Oct. 14: Senior Living Health Expo, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Montefiore, Beachwood.

Lisa Fredrickson is events manager at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

Nature Center celebrates fall with fun family events

Lisa Fredrickson

Family events take center stage at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes this fall as the center celebrates autumn and invites nature lovers, young and old, to enjoy s’mores, hikes and birding.

On Friday, Oct. 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Nature Center presents Family Campfire Night. The evening includes guided night hikes on the All People’s and Skewers Trails with night vision activities, owl calling and searching for nocturnal animals. There will be games and stories and songs around the campfire and plenty of marshmallows to roast s’mores. New this year is the Night Hike Challenge for individuals to navigate the All People’s Trail by themselves in the dark. Registration is required, and participants are encouraged to bring their own camp chairs and marshmallow sticks. Cost of Family Campfire Night is $5 per person, with a $25 maximum per family up to six people.

The Nature Center is offering a Crepuscular Coyote Hike on Thursday, Nov. 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This guided hike will take participants through the Nature Center property to learn how to recognize tracks and signs of coyotes.

The hike presents an opportunity to learn more about coyotes in our region and gain a greater understanding of this elusive creation. Registration is required, and the cost for members is $5 and $8 for nonmembers.

Color Your Winter with Birds is a birder’s class scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. This class will introduce children and parents to winter birds, with instruction on how to use binoculars. In addition, there will be supplies and guidance in making a bird-themed craft. Registration is required for this event. The cost is $7 for members and $10 for nonmembers.

We welcome the season cadence of change,” said Kay Carlson, executive director, “so don’t squirrel away this fall. Of change,” said Kay Carlson, executive director, “so don’t squirrel away this fall. With the introduction of change, come out, enjoy the change in seasons, and enjoy what the Nature Center has to offer.”

For more information, and to register for the fall family events, call 216-321-5935 or visit www.shakerlakes.org.

Lisa Fredrickson is events manager at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

Financial assistance for senior veterans and their families

Judith Eugene

The federal government offers several forms of financial assistance to military veterans and their families through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Programs include disability compensation, pension plans and burial benefits.

Disability compensation is a benefi t paid to a veteran due to injury sustained or disease acquired while on active duty, or aggravated by military service. Disability compensation benefits depend on the severity of the condition, and whether the veteran is married or has dependents. Pension benefits are available to veterans age 65 or older who served during a period of war and who have little or no income or a low income from other sources. Veterans under age 65 who are disabled, in a nursing home or receive disability payments are also eligible. Survivors’ Pension is a benefit paid to a spouse or child of a deceased wartime veteran, who meets certain income requirements.

Additional support for the series comes from SCORE, a national organization dedicated to assisting small business owners. The partnership with SCORE was incorporated after Kaiser brought his idea to Heather Howiler, training and development manager for Heights Libraries. “I learned about SCORE at a Public Library Association convention in Philadelphia,” Howiler explained. “SCORE is a group of experienced business leaders in the community who offer free support to individuals who are interested in starting their own business.” SCORE will be providing the series speakers, people from the community who have owned businesses in the Heights.

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The series will take place at the Lee Road Library every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., from Oct. 10 through Nov. 14. The series will feature a variety of topics designed to help those who already have a business and those who are in the planning stages.


For more information about this series, and others offered at Heights Libraries, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Anna Register is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Library Public Library.
CH-UH forms lay school facilities committee

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education is convening a group of citizens to help devise a school facilities plan that can win voter approval. The Lay School Facilities Committee was introduced to the Board of Education and the public at the board’s Oct. 2 meeting.

The committee will hold its first meeting at 7 p.m. on Oct. 3 in the project room of the newly renovated space within Legacy New Tech School at Cleveland Heights High School. On the agenda is selecting a chairperson, establishing a mission and clarifying the charge of the committee.

Patrick Mullen, executive director of Reaching Heights, a nonprofit that encourages community support of the public schools, had urged the school board at its Aug. 21 meeting to form a committee of Heights residents that was independent of the board and the district administration in order to re-examine the school facilities plan. After an 18-month planning process, the school board had voted in July not to place a 15–25 member committee at its Aug. 22 work session. Among the goals suggested for the committee were to recommend plan configuration, timing and price range.

Following suggestions from board members, Karen Jones, board president, extended invitations to join the group to representatives of various community stakeholders, including the cities, the library, the alumni foundation, parents, nonprofits, the PTA, the teachers’ union and local business owners.

Members of the lay school facilities committee include: Patrick Mullen; Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights; Brian Schanzer, teacher at Heights High and vice president of the teachers’ union; Pam Cameron, University Heights City Councilwoman; Phil Ertel, University Heights City Councilman; Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director; Jane Goodman, South Euclid City Councilmember; Jodi Sourini, Gearing PTA president; Dallas Schubert, former levy co-chair; Jim Posch, former levy co-chair; Natoya Jennell; Sam Bell, owner of the Lusty Wrench; Cheryl Oates, assistant director of the Tree-Mart Youth Development Fellowship Program at Case Western Reserve University; Krissey Dietrich Gallagher; Dave Tabor, former levy co-chair; Richard Wong, Cleveland Heights planning director; the Susan Fleischer, co-owner of The Wine Spot; Alvin Saafir, Reaching Heights board member; Betsey Bell, Reaching Heights board member; Dennis Wilcox, Cleveland Heights City Councilmember; Katura Simmons; Eric Silverman, former school board member and president of the alumni foundation; Heather Conwell; John Hubbard, Reaching Heights board member; Donna Guilmette, a Canterberry neighborhood and University Heights resident; and James Call, Cleveland Heights Planning Commission member.

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Cleveland Heights High School kicks off its homecoming festivities at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 19, and at 7 p.m., the Heights Tigers will take on the Lorain Titans. This year’s homecoming theme is Glow in the Dark.

“Homecoming weekend is a special time for our students and our community,” Superintendent Doug Heuver said. “It brings us together and gives us another reason to celebrate our Tiger Pride. We’re all looking forward to it.”

The weekend fun begins with the homecoming parade and Family Fun Fest, and the community is welcome. Students and participating community members will meet at the school at 4 p.m. on Friday. The parade down Washington Boulevard begins at 5:30 p.m. Community groups that wish to march in the parade should contact Kristin Hughes at k_hughes@chuh.org or 216-330-201 for information.

The Family Fun Fest will begin after the parade outside the gates to the football field. Activities will include bounce houses for children, face painting and fake tattoo stations. Free glow sticks will be distributed to children while supplies last.

The Sign Language Department’s Chili Cook-off Challenge begins at 6 p.m. at the concession stand closest to the football field entry gate. All proceeds will support the department’s trip to Africa later this school year.

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

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Boise comes to Cleveland at Dobama

Dobama Theatre announces the second show of its 43rd season—the regional premiere of “A Bright New Boise” by Samuel D. Hunter. The play opens on Oct. 26 and runs through Nov. 18.

The setting for “A Bright New Boise” is the bleak employee break room of a fictional big-box craft store in Idaho. Will, the play’s central character, is a deeply religious man who has fled his rural hometown where his “end of days” church was embroiled in a scandal. He comes to the Hobby Lobby not only for employment, but also to rekindle a relationship with Alex, the brooding teenage son he had given up for adoption. He joins the ranks of the blue-vested employees, a comedic set of misfits, struggling to find their way.

Directed by Nathan Motta, Dobama’s recently appointed associate artistic director, the play features Tom Woodward, Kim Krane, Kristy Cruz, Brian Devers and Andrew Deike. Both Woodward and Krane are members of Actors’ Equity and will be appearing under a special appearance contract with the actors’ union.

In 2011, “A Bright New Boise” received an OOP award for playwriting and a Drama Desk Nomination for Best Play. Hunter’s other plays have been produced and workshopped in American cities. His work has been performed and holds degrees in and at The University of Iowa. A native of northern Idaho, Hunter lives in New York City and holds degrees in playwriting from New York University, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop and Juilliard.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. For a complete schedule, ticket prices, and reservations, call the Dobama Theatre box office at 216-932-3396. Ask about reduced prices for RUSH tickets (as available, no earlier that five minutes before curtain), the preview performance on Thursday, Oct. 25, and the pay-as-you-can performance on Sunday, Oct. 28.

Jewel Maulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer’s Editorial Advisory Committee.

Mosaic Project enriches afterschool experience for HYC kids

Project Comes to Cleveland

The Heights Youth Club (HYC), located across from Heights High School at 2605 Lee Road, is the place to be after school for more than 75 children, aged 6 to 18. The setting for “A Bright New Boise,” Oct. 26 and runs through Nov. 18. is the bleak employee break room of a fictional big-box craft store in Idaho.

With support from the City of Cleveland Heights, the team that is working to bring the Mosaic Project to the community includes Peggy Spash, executive director of Heights Arts; Andrea Joki, program director for Heights Arts; Roscoe Morgan, executive director of HYC; and Jackalyn Februnbach, assistant director of HYC.

“The $11,500 residency and project funding is in part, through a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. Additional support has been provided by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, Jack and Blanche Vacy, and the MLG Philanthropic Fund. To fully fund the project, tax deductible contributions can be made to Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.”

Peggy Spash is executive director of Heights Arts.

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An Episcopal & Campus Community

St. Alban-Agape An Episcopal & Campus Community

Worship
Wednesday Monastics
7am: Morning Chant with Eucharist
6pm: - Agape Community Meal (students welcome)
7am - Neo Monastic Evening Prayer
Sunday Gatherings
8am: Morning Taize Prayer
9am - Conversations on Faith
10am - Community Eucharist

Sunday Evening Compline & Evensong
An ancient time of reflective prayer at day’s end
Oct. 7: First Sunday Evening @ St Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleve Hts.
Oct. 14, 21, 28: Sunday Compline @ St Alban’s Agape Campus, 2555 Euclid Hts., Cleveland Heights
The Compline rite is over 1,000 years old. It is a reflection, contemplative and simple offering of chant, hymns, liturgy, candlelight and art. Someone once called it “a nightcap for the soul.” All are welcome, be ye student, staff, community or stranger.

2555 Euclid Hts. Boulevard, Cleveland Heights (at the corner of Edgewood) www.saintalbanchurch.org
Heights Youth Theatre presents new musical ‘Midsummer’

Mary Patton

Heights Youth Theatre opens its 2012–13 season with “Midsummer,” a new musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The production will be directed by its composer, Nathan Morta. The adaptation is accessible for audiences of all ages with the addition of modern language and music, performed by a 13-piece chamber orchestra.

“Midsummer” features a cast of local students in grades 3 through 12, plus professional musicians playing an original score. Cast members include Andrew Reynolds (Lysander), Benson Anderson (Demetrius), Sidney Perelman (Helen), Sophie Madorsky (Hermia), Emily Kervin (Puck), Gus Mahoney (Oberon), Giovanna Miller (Tirania), Christina Giovanni (Bottom), Anna Sheridan (Quince), Alexis Marinelli (Snout), Carolina Manfredi (Snug), Jack Bistritz (Flute), Neil Kelly (Theseus), Cassandra Knaggs (Egeus), Sydney Fieseler (Peaseblossom), Callie Swaim-Fox (Cobweb), Yumi Ndhlova (Mustardseed) and Sara Fedor (Philomante).

“Midsummer” will be presented at Wiley Middle School Auditorium, 2281 Miramar Blvd. in University Heights, on Oct. 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 14; and Friday, Oct. 19.

Pictured are “Midsummer” cast leads and ensemble members who reside in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Ensemble presents more than just ‘The Normal Heart’

Jewel Moulthrop

“The Normal Heart,” the largely autobiographical play by Larry Kramer that opens Ensemble Theatre’s 2012–13 season, is anything but normal.

More than 25 years after it was written, this unflinching look at the sexual politics of New York during the AIDS crisis remains as relevant today as it was when it premiered in New York City in 1981. Debates are still raging over human rights, marriage equality and access to healthcare, to name just a few of the issues the play examines.

Because of the play’s continued importance, playwright Larry Kramer agreed to do a radio interview about his play and Ensemble Theatre’s production with Dee Perry on “Around Noon,” which aired on Sept. 26. To listen to the podcast of that interview, go to wcpn.org, click on “podcasts” and then on “Around Noon.”

Winner of the 2011 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play, “The Normal Heart” focuses on the rising HIV-AIDS epidemic in New York City between 1981 and 1984, as seen through the eyes of writer and activist Ned Weeks, the gay Jewish-American founder of a prominent HIV advocacy group.

Ensemble’s production features Derdrui Ring as Dr. Emma Bruckner, and Brian Zoldessy as Ned Weeks—two actors whose faces are familiar to Cleveland theatergoers.

The play also seeks to educate future generations about a very important part of the nation’s history, and to remember those who died and those who still live with AIDS. In conjunction with this production, there will be post-show panel discussions and talkbacks with local physicians and area organizations that are working to address the issues raised in “The Normal Heart.”

To bring these discussions to Clevelanders, Ensemble is partnering with the following organizations: Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals AIDS Clinical Trials Unit, AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, WCPN, Dare2Care, MetroHealth LGBT Pride Clinic, University Hospitals, The Cleveland Clinic, Nightwears and T-Cells.

Talkbacks and panel discussions will take place following the performances on Sunday, Sept. 30; Friday, Oct. 5; Sunday, Oct. 14; and Friday, Oct. 19.

Among the physicians participating in the discussions are Henry Ng, MetroHealth; Barbara Griphover, UH/Case Medical Center, Martin Kohn, Lerner College of The Cleveland Clinic; Susan Rhem, The Cleveland Clinic; and Leonard Calabrese, The Cleveland Clinic.

To purchase tickets for “The Normal Heart,” call the box office at 216-780-2235 or e-mail tickets@ensemble-theatre.org. For information about Ensemble’s season, go to www.ensemble-theatre.org.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, and chair of the Heights Observer’s Editorial Advisory Committee.
Western Reserve Chorale starts new season with new director

Joanne Poderis

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) has appointed David W. Gilson artistic director for its 2012-13 season. Gilson is the associate dean for student affairs at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he has been employed since 1991, and director of music for the United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls.

WRC, a nonprofit choir, is supported by the Ohio Arts Council, and typically presents three choral concerts each year. Gilson is already preparing the group for its first concert, scheduled for Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1900 Cedar Road. The featured work will be Benjamin Britten’s “Ceremony of Carols,” with harp accompaniment.

As a new venture this year, the second and third concerts will each be presented twice, in different locations. The concerts on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Breen Performing Arts Center, and March 10 at 3 p.m. (location TBA), will be a collaboration with the Singers’ Club of Cleveland in a program titled “Cry of Freedom, Plea for Peace: The Civil War in Remembrance.” The main work will be Ralph Vaughan Williams’s “Dona Nobis Pacem,” performed with soloists Marian Vogel and Brian Johnson and accompanied by string orchestra.

The June concerts, titled “For Love of Shakespeare,” will be presented on June 2 at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church and June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection in Solon. This program will explore Shakespeare’s sonnets, poems and plays that have been set to music by composers through the ages. Some composers were inspired to set the texts themselves, while others, such as Leonard Bernstein and Cole Porter, were inspired to express the thematic elements of the Bard’s plays in musicals, such as “West Side Story” and “Kiss Me Kate.”

For further information, visit www.westernreservechorale.org.

Cleveland Chamber Music Society begins 63rd season

Kim Sergio Inglis

The Cleveland Chamber Music Society will present its 2012-13 season at Plymouth Church, 2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights.

The new season begins Oct. 9, with a performance by the Jerusalem Quartet, and ends May 5, with a free Young Artists Showcase, featuring the Omer String Quartet.

According to David Richardson, director and chair of communications of the Cleveland Chamber Music Society, “Plymouth Church offers an intimate and acoustically superb space, perfect for chamber music.” Parking is free in the church lot and on adjacent streets. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

The 2012-13 season is the 63rd for the society, and features a series of national and international string quartets and other chamber ensembles.

Highlights include the following:

- Oct. 9: The Tokyo String Quartet performs during its final tour, after a distinguished 4 year career.
- Dec. 4: The Juilliard String Quartet appears in collaboration with the Cleveland Institute of Music’s annual Chamber Music Festival.
- Israel’s Jerusalem Quartet (Oct. 9) and France’s Quatuor ébène (April 16) are rising international stars.
- For more information about the season’s performances, and to purchase tickets, visit www.clevelandchambermusic.org or call 216-299-2777.
- Tickets for single performances are $30 for adults, $28 for seniors, and $5 for students. Full-season subscriptions offer substantial savings at $140 for adults, and pick-four subscriptions are $95 for adults.

[New subscribers who mention this article will receive a 20 percent discount on adult and senior tickets (not student tickets).]

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer. She lives in the Shaker Farm Historic District in Cleveland Heights.
CityMusic Cleveland opens its season with violin soloist

Eugenia Strauss has been executive director of CityMusic Cleveland for the past eight years.

CityMusic Cleveland has been a significant force since 2004, when it began presenting free concerts in local churches. The price of admission is only part of the chamber orchestra’s appeal. Equally crucial is the high level of the music making.

CityMusic Cleveland will open its ninth season with a program featuring De Falla’s “Ritual Fire Dance,” Bruch’s “First Violin Concerto,” and Beethoven’s “Fourth Symphony.” The program will be led by acclaimed conductor Ryan McAdams. Internationally known violinist Rachel Barton Pine will perform the Bruch concerto.

In 1995, amid beginnings as a child prodigy with a brilliant career ahead of her, Rachel Barton Pine suffered a life-changing accident. Her violin case straps caught in a subway door. The train began to move, dragging her along and resulting in the near destruction of her right leg and the total loss of her left foot.

Pine achieved a complete comeback. As a classical musician, she has appeared as a soloist with many of North America’s most prestigious orchestras, including the Chicago, Montreal and Atlanta symphonies; and the Philadelphia and Louisville orchestras.

Overseas, she has performed with the Vienna, New Zealand, Iceland and Budapest symphonies; the Royal Scottish and Belgian National orchestras; the Mozarteum, Scottish and Israeli Chamber orchestras; the Royal and Russian philharmonics, and the Netherlands Radio Kamer Filharmonie.

She has worked with such renowned conductors as Charles Dutoit, Zubin Mehta, Erich Leinsdorf, Neeme Järvi, Marin Alsop, Plácido Domingo and Semyon Bychkov.

Pine is also a rock star. A fan of rock and heavy metal since her preteens, Pine’s ability to see the connecting threads between classical and rock music makes her the perfect bridge between generations of music fans. Hailed as an artistic ambassador, she often visits rock radio stations and rock clubs to perform her own arrangements of rock and metal songs, followed by classical pieces to illustrate how the two genres share a similar intensity and compositional complexity. In this way, she has been able to draw new listeners to classical music.

In 2009, Pine founded the six-piece doom/thrash metal band Earthen Grave. The group performs frequently and recently released a five-song EP (extended play) called “Dismal Times.” Pine and her band will perform in Slavic Village on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 p.m. until midnight, at 6508 Forman Avenue.

Tickets are not required for CityMusic Cleveland performances, which are always free to encourage people to attend and discover the joys of classical music right in their neighborhoods. The orchestra’s first concert of the 2012-13 season will be on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., in Cleveland Heights.

For more information about CityMusic Cleveland’s 2012-13 season, venues and nearby restaurants, go to www.citymusiccleveland.org.

Eugenia Strauss has been executive director of CityMusic Cleveland for the past eight years.
Local restaurateur’s career spans more than three decades

Richard Stewart

If you want to see Raj Singh’s face light up, ask him to talk about his lengthy history in the restaurant business. It’s a journey that spans more than 32 years and has taken him from Kathmandu, Nepal all the way to Cleveland Heights.

It’s a distance of more than 5000 miles, though Singh doesn’t much worry about numbers. “Fifty-three, I think,” he responded when asked his age. “Twenty-two…twenty-three years,” is how he characterizes the length of his marriage to Beverly Roberts Singh, founder and director of the Atma Center, located right next door to Singh’s Taste Restaurant on Lee Road.

Singh, who grew up in Kathmandu in a prominent Indian family, cut his teeth working as a manager in a tourist restaurant owned by his uncle, shortly after college graduation. “I didn’t want a common job,” he said. Perhaps his family lineage, which he describes as “warrior,” a reference to the founder and director of the Atma Center, opening up his first restaurant,

In 2000, he added an Aurora restaurant and opened in Westlake in 2001. He later ceded control of the Westlake location now occupied by Taste, Singh opened The Wine Room, a forerunner to the restaurant smoking bans that have swept through many parts of the country years later. “I did a survey—I think in ’98—and I opened a 100 percent non-smoking bar with light food, before even California went smoke free. Café Tandoor followed suit in 2009,” said Singh.

Having long been urged by a friend to invest in a nightclub, Singh took his entrepreneurial spirit to the warehouse district. “In 97, I got involved with Spy Bar, a forerunner of Fat Cats, and he said he would help me. That’s when we started doing the project.”

Specializing in modern American cuisine, according to Singh, Taste has become one of many popular and critically acclaimed restaurants in the Heights.

“In fine dining, there are a lot of details involved. Lots of wine-related questions people have, which my partner, Larry Weider, who is a wine connoisseur, handles,” said Singh. “He takes care of the wine part and I take care of the management. That’s because we have to pull the team together from the kitchen to the outside. We make sure the service is good, everybody’s happy and customers are satisfied.”

After struggling through some tough times following the collapse of Enron in 2001—an event that Singh sees as a seminal moment in the decline of his fortunes—he remains safely in business. He also has a positive outlook for the future.

“People give me a lot of good feedback here. They’re really very supportive,” said Singh. “Cleveland Heights, Shaker, and those who come from a little farther, too—Beachwood, South Euclid, University Heights. They thank me for being here, and they’ve been always wishing good luck to us from day one, so that keeps us going.”

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

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