Residents choose Best of the Heights

Simone Quattrell

More than 600 residents in Cleveland Heights and University Heights voted in 21 categories, online and by ballot in the Heights Observer for their favorites in the eighth annual FutureHeights Best of the Heights competition.

The awards were presented at Dobama Theatre on Oct. 17, where more than 120 people gathered for the ceremony and reception.

Winners in four coveted categories were the Tavern Company for Best Cleveland Heights Business, Bialy’s Bagels for Best University Heights Business, Sweetie Fry for Best New Business and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District for Best Heights Spirit. Academy Music, an anchor in the Mayfield Warrensville business district, received the Board Choice Award.

Angie Shaker, director of communications for the school district, was “very excited and proud” that the district won Best Heights Spirit. She especially wanted to recognize Kristen Hughes, the district’s athletic director, and the athletic teams for their school spirit and involvement in the community. She said that she believes the district’s “Tiger Proud and Bully Free” movement has contributed to a rise in school spirit, and also thanked the alumni foundation for its continued support of the district.

Shaker began working for the district in 2009. “[The Heights] is such a strong, diverse, engaged community that pushes everyone to be their best,” she said. “We are all Tiger Nation.”

Lloyd Bell, president of the Future-Heights Board of Directors, has two sons who attend CH-UH schools. “My sons have gotten an excellent education in the system and a lot of attention from their teachers and the administration,” he said.

Keith Logan, who owns Sweetie Fry, said, “Cleveland Heights is a spectacular place because of its racial, socioeconomic and intergenerational diversity. Sweetie Fry would not be understood in other communities, but when the business opened on Oct. 1, 2011, people immediately understood and were excited.”

Senior soloist Sara Friedberg performs at IMD concert

Hope Wright

The Instrumental Music Department of Cleveland Heights High School will open its 2012-13 season with the first of three major concerts, on Friday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The premier concert of the season will include students in Symphonic Winds, Heights High Symphony, and Senior soloist Sara Friedberg performs at IMD concert

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School facilities are important to the vitality of our community.

The BOE agreed and the work of that committee has begun. One of the ways we hope it will be different this time is that we plan to really listen to the voice of the community. There are multiple options that make sense on paper or for other communities, but not necessarily for ours. We are not working from a blank slate. We have 11 existing buildings, and our communities were built around them. If one of those buildings closes, it will impact the neighborhood. On the other hand, we also know that we can't just continue as we have in the past. We need to know what you value, and what trade-offs you are willing to make. Would you agree to close your neighborhood school if it meant a lower tax bill down the road? Would you agree to a higher cost project, if you thought that improved buildings would improve student performance?

Although the board determined the members of the committee, there are multiple ways for community members to become involved. Contact a committee leader and tell us your thoughts (see page 9), write a letter to the editor (www.heightsobserver.org), or participate in the online facilities forum (www.subilicities.org).

Whatever you do, don't sit this one out until you find out that your elementary school building will be closed or that your property taxes will increase. Get involved now!

Deanna Bremner Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.
Neither religion nor just hamstrings

To the Editor:

All of us at the Atma Center rejoiced after receiving news that we were named the Best Place to Express Your Spirituality in the 2012 FutureHeights Best of the Heights awards. Then we imagined some might wonder why a yoga school won in this category, dominated by nominations for churches and synagogues.

Yoga, in its currently most visible form, highlights fancy postures, long complicated routines and sweaty bodies. But this is just one small aspect of yoga in the legacy of this ancient 5000 plus-year-old practice. At the Atma Center, students have a wide range of experiences.

Beginning students move their bodies gently, joint-by-joint, increasing their body awareness. Progressing slowly, more advanced students learn powerful breathing and meditation techniques that increase more subtle awareness of the spirit.

Yoga is not a religion; it is welcoming of all religions. Through their yoga practice, our Christian students say they feel closer to Jesus while our Hindu students connect more deeply with Brahman, Shiva, or other deities to whom they are personally drawn. Further, the practices taught are centered around the belief that we are more than our physical bodies, and that when we get our bodies comfortable and our minds quiet, we can experience that eternal spark of life within us.

The Atma Center would like to thank all of the community members who recognized this element of our teaching, and we extend our warmest invitation to all those who are seekers, no matter what physical shape you might be in, to explore this ancient science of life.

Omkar Olga Chwa
Yoga instructor and staff member at Atma Center in Cleveland Heights

Will a new city hall parking lot help our city?

Fran Mentch

Will greening city hall’s parking lot attract new residents or help our businesses?

According to a Sun News article published on Cleveland.com on Oct. 6, Mayor Ed Kelley plans to spend $2,500,000 of the city’s money to “retrofit” the city hall parking lot to make it “greener.”

At the Sept. 19 meeting of the Cleveland Heights City Council, council members unanimously passed a resolution to pay Behnke Associates $4,850 plus expenses to develop this plan. The resolution was passed as “an emergency.” “Passing legislation as an emergency reduces citizen input and prohibits citizens being able to use a referendum. Please consider asking council not to pass such large ticket items as emergencies.”

Using $250,000 in tax dollars is only part of the project. Council also hopes to raise additional funds from grants to add trees and plants to the parking lot. Sources of possible additional funds include Ohio EPA and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Small-Scale Demonstration Grants.

Spending $250,000 of city money to retrofit a parking lot did not sound like a good idea to me. But I thought maybe the parking lot was in really bad shape and needed to be replaced anyway. So I drove over to city hall and drove around the parking lot to see for myself. It seemed fine to me. It’s not in perfect condition, it has a few holes that should be patched. But it is not a road. It’s a parking lot.

Most of us are in the same boat. We have friends and family unemployed or underemployed, our property values have declined dramatically but our property tax rates are increasing. We can anticipate further property tax increases to pay for the CH-UH City School District facilities master plan; a bond issue is in the works for the November 2013 ballot.

By all means, let’s spruce up the city and make it greener. But let’s do it in a way that will make our city appealing to residents and businesses and help our economy. There are many places around town that need better stormwater management, but plantings and pocket wetlands should be built in places that will help connect neighborhoods and business districts, or make biking and walking to University Circle a safer and more pleasant experience.

Please drive through the city hall parking lot and judge for yourself whether this $250,000 expenditure is worthwhile. Some proposals and plans are complicated, this one is not. You can trust your own judgment on this issue.

If you agree that city council members should use $250,000 of our tax dollars, not on a parking lot, but to do something that will help people and our economy and our city’s future, please contact them and let them know how you feel.

Fran Mentch is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.

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Tenth year for Scarborough Road donut party

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Every October, early in the month, a small, round yellow sign goes up on Scarborough Road to announce a cherished neighborhood tradition: the Sperl family's donut party. Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and his family invite several hundred of their closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on their neighborhood pals and an occasional family's donut party. Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and his family invite several hundred of their closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on their Scarborough Road to announce a cherished neighborhood tradition: the Sperl family's donut party. Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and his family invite several hundred of their closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on their Scarborough Road to announce a cherished neighborhood tradition: the Sperl family's donut party. Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and his family invite several hundred of their closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on their Scarborough Road to announce a cherished neighborhood tradition: the Sperl family's donut party. Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and his family invite several hundred of their closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on their Scarborough Road to announce a cherished neighborhood tradition: the Sperl family's donut party. Tom Sperl, bassist for the Cleveland Orchestra, and his family invite several hundred of their closest friends, associates and absolute strangers to a donut party on their Scarborough Road to announce a cherished neighborhood tradition: the Sperl family's donut party.

Tom Sperl (right) enjoys making donuts for his friends and neighbors every year.

Campaign trail affirmations

DEANNA BREMER FISHER

Tenth year for Scarborough Road donut party

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

Campaign trail affirmations

THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Koesser

I got started on the campaign trail in Cleveland Heights in early October. While knocking on doors is not my favorite activity, it is my civic duty. Despite my hesitation, something sweet kept happening, which made those moments of discomfort worthwhile. I encountered parents of children who went to school with my kids back in the 1980s and 90s at Boulevard, Monticello and Heights. I've loved these heartfelt reunions, rich with authentic interest in one another's families, and with unspoken trust and delight that we are once again working for the same cause. We live in a web of relationships—some daily, some occasional, but those connections make us whole, make life rich, make the place where you live more than shelter.

There is something very special about the connections I made with other parents during my kids' school years—strangers with whom I shared the same anxious hope that our school community would do right by our children. It is a remarkable bond. One that lasts long after the school years end. The children became our children. And our schools gave me the chance to forge connections with people beyond my usual circle of like-minded friends. Our public school involvement made us a diverse and cohesive community, with high hopes for one another's children. It nurtured our commitment to the common good.

I moved to Cleveland Heights in 1979 with the explicit goal of joining an integrated community that would expand my world, and would provide our children opportunities that would break old barriers. The best way to pursue my commitment to justice was to become part of a community that made equity a goal of daily life.

Of all things, the campaign trail gave me more than enough evidence that my aspirations for moving to Cleveland Heights so long ago have been realized. As my compatriots provided updates on their children, I learned that the six-year-old boy, whose coloring skills my world, and would provide our children opportunities that would break old barriers. The best way to pursue my commitment to justice was to become part of a community that made equity a goal of daily life.

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Learning about the children who are now approaching their 30s provided that invaluable long view that is so rare and so informative. Judging by these young adults, I'd say our future is in good hands. Our community pulled together to give this upcoming generation the support, encouragement, and educational opportunity they needed and deserved.

I couldn't be more proud of them and of us.

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

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

Campaign trail affirmations

THE COMMON GOOD

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Project Build at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park cleanup

Joy Henderson

More than 60 students from Cleveland Heights High School’s Project Build helped at the Oct. 6 Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park Cleanup Day. They repaired swings, climbing structures and benches, removed graffiti, painted play structures, weeded and mulched flower beds and trimmed bushes.

“They were enthusiastic and hard working, and they had a great time doing it,” said Erik Kaufman, president of Coventry P.E.A.C.E.

The group was started by several students last year and their motto is: Build. Have Fun. Do Good.

Grace Goodluck, Project Build’s vice president, was happy with the turnout and the amount of work that was accomplished.

“We had a diverse group from the community—students from Heights and other schools, middle school students, and adults,” said Goodluck. “Everyone came ready to work, and we had a really great time and accomplished so much!”

While they focus on the physical work of building, the Project Build members also want to build community between and among groups.

“We want to create positive and fun volunteer opportunities that involve both students and teachers,” explained Goodluck.

Chris Sutton, the Project Build advisor, said, “I am so proud of their hard work and dedication to improving the Heights community. The Coventry cleanup was the first of many important projects for Project Build.”

Read more about Project Build on its Facebook page.

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

Members of Project Build celebrate after the cleanup of Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park.
Berkeley Neighbors builds community

Donna Bremer Fisher

Berkeley Road resident Yolanda Stone and her neighbors love their street, love the Heights, and hope their enthusiasm spreads.

Stone helped organize the Berkeley Neighbors in 2006, to host a number of events throughout the year to, as she said, “come together as a community and develop relationships.”

“We have a core group of about 10 [neighbors] who meet regularly to plan events,” said Stone. “We usually have about 74 people who come to the block party, and we’re trying to have something for everyone.” Stone attended the neighborhood leadership training that FutureHeights hosted last April, along with several of her neighbors. “Our association covers Berkeley from the west side of Taylor Road,” she said.

Berkeley Neighbors hosts a block party every other year in late summer, Berkeley Neighbors shows neighborhood pride at National Night Out.

Stone said the group was a little tight on funds for this year. “I’d like to see even more people on our block, and in other Heights neighborhoods,” she hopes to spread the word to surround doors, and join us.”

Berkeley Neighbors is planning to stay indoors this winter. The group is organizing a holiday caroling event for December. To learn more, contact Yolanda Stone at ystone0410@yahoo.com.

For the past two years, Berkeley Neighbors has participated in National Night Out: America’s Night Out Against Crime (NNO), a national event sponsored by National Association of Town Watch. The 219th annual NNO was held on Tuesday, Aug. 7. More than 30 Berkeley Road residents joined more than 37 million people in 15,000 communities nationwide in turning on porch lights and walking together along their street to show solidarity and take a stand against crime.

“We carried flashlights and lanterns as we greeted and talked with one another,” said Stone. “Several generations were represented, from a two-year-old in a wagon to a senior citizen using a cane. We asked residents along the route to turn on their front lights, lock their doors, and join us.”

Berkeley Neighbors is planning to stay indoors this winter. The group is organizing a holiday caroling event for December. To learn more, contact Yolanda Stone at ystone0410@yahoo.com.

Heights Emergency Food Center hosts benefit

Robyn McGinty

Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC) is hosting a benefit to support its mission of providing food to people in emergency situations.

The benefit, sponsored by The Equal Food Fund, will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the B-Side Lounge, 2785 Euclid Heights Blvd.

Tickets are $35 and may be purchased in advance at http://hefcsun_nrj.eventbrite.com or at the door the night of the event. Tickets include food, beer and wine. There will be a basket raffle and 50/50 raffle.

If you cannot attend the event, a donation can be made at the above website. All of the money raised will go to HEFC to purchase food to help hungry families in this community.

“We have had a great response from community businesses such as City Buddha, Tommy’s, the Inn on Coventry, Heinen’s, Alexei’s and Crate & Barrel,” said Bob Vitolan, president of HEFC.

The center opened in October 1981 with help from the Heights Interfaith Council. It served nine families that month. More than 1,000 individuals are now provided with a three-day supply of food once a month.

HEFC serves individuals from the Cleveland Heights, University Heights, South Euclid and Lyndhurst neighborhoods.

People seek help from HEFC due to a recent illness, loss of a job, change in family status resulting in loss of income, unemployment, disability, fixed income or other situations that have left them without the means to secure adequate food for themselves and their families.

The board of trustees and volunteers run the food center. There’s always a need for volunteers to pick up donations, restock the pantry and sort food. Support comes from churches, service and social organizations, public, parochial and private schools, federal grants and individuals.

For more information visit www.hefcweb.com.

Robyn McGinty, a volunteer for the Equal Food Fund of Cleveland Heights, works closely with Bob Vitolan and Michael Freedlich of the Heights Emergency Food Center.
Cleveland Heights News

The Best of the Heights: continued from page 1

The Best of the Heights are:

Best New Business
Winner: Sweeter Fry
Finalists: The Wine Spot
The BottleHouse
Best Pizza
Winner: Dewey's Pizza
Finalists: Marotta's
Geraci's Restaurant
Best Curb Appeal
Winner: Anotana Café
Finalists: The Tavern Company
Luna Bakery Café
Best Ethnic Eats
Winner: Anotana Café
Finalists: Café Tandoor
Aladdin's Eatery
Best Coffee
Winner: Phoenix Coffee
Finalists: Starbucks
The Stone Oven
Best Place for a Sandwich
Winner: The Stone Oven
Finalists: Tommy's Restaurant
The Tavern Company
Melt Bar and Grilled
Best Contractor
Winner: Skelette Electric
Finalists: The Beard Group
Monroe Constructs
Reilly Painting & Contracting
Best Place to Study
Winner: Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library
Finalists: Phoenix Coffee
Starbucks
Lee Road Library
Best Place for an Oil Change
Winner: Washington & Lee Service
Finalists: Alternative Solution Car Care
Lusty Wrench
Simon's Auto Service
Tommy Fello, owner of Tommy's Restaurant
Best Place for Music
Winner: The Grog Shop
Finalists: Cain Park
Nighttown
Best Bar, Pub or Tavern
Winner: Brennan's Colony
Finalists: The Tavern Company
The BottleHouse
Best Place to Take your Kids
Winner: Sweeter Fry
Finalists: Coventry P.A.C.E. Park
Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library
Best Place to Express your Spirituality
Winner: Armna Center
Finalists: Communion of Saints Parish
Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
Best Place to Take a Date
Winner: Cedar Lee Theatre
Finalists: Nighttown
Taste
Best Place to Get in Shape
Winner: Cleveland Heights Community Center
Finalists: Jazzercise
Armna Center
Best Place for Fashion
Winner: Revive Fair Trade
Finalists: Blush Boutique
American Apparel
Best Barber Shop
Winner: Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa
Finalists: Crazy Mullets
Adam's Barber Shop
Best Salon or Spa
Winner: Shawn Paul Salon
Finalists: Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa
Crazy Mullets
Best Heights Spirit
Winner: Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District
Finalists: Steve Pressor, owner of Big Fun Toy Store
Best University Heights Business
Winner: Bialy's Bagels
Finalists: Whole Foods Market
Geraci's Restaurant
Best Cleveland Heights Business
Winner: The Tavern Company
Finalists: Tommy's Restaurant
Ten Thousand Villages
Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa
Board Choice Award
Academy Music

CH City Council selects city manager search firm; interim city manager to seek position

Kim Sergio Ingis

At the Oct. 3 Cleveland Heights City Council meeting, council members voted to authorize an agreement with the Novak Consulting Group of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of assisting with the search for a new city manager.

Mayor Kelley said, “We fully expect the Novak Group to work with us and get this done somewhere between three to five months [from now]. The reason I say three to five months, as opposed to three months, is the fact that we’re going to be running into a lot of holidays. We’d love to get this done before the end of the year but my guess is . . . it will probably be done sometime early next year.”

Kelley noted, “Our interim city manager, Susanna Niermnn O’Neill, will be seeking this position. I want it to be known that [she] did not participate in any part of the process of hiring this group. She doesn’t know who the Novak group is, didn’t see the proposals, has had no conversations with anyone associated with Novak. This has been a cleaner process.”

CH City Council appointed O’Neill acting city manager in April, when Bob Downey resigned as city manager after learning his contract would not be renewed. At the time of her appointment, Mayor Kelley stated that a national search would be conducted for a permanent city manager.

The resolution passed by council authorized an agreement with the Novak Consulting Group for executive search services, for the purpose of assisting with the search for a new city manager. The resolution states that services shall include, but not be limited to:

• developing a recruitment plan,
• preparing a position profile for the position,
• development of organizational goals for choosing a successful candidate,
• conducting a national search,
• supporting city council in negotiating and choosing a candidate,
• preparing an employment agreement and monitoring the process of the sum of the $16,000 plus reimbursement for the expenses not to exceed the sum of $1,500 without written permission from the city.

“It look forward to moving through this process and sometime early next year having a full-time appointed city manager on our staff.” Kelley said. “We look forward to the process. It will be interesting, it will be time-consuming. But we will get the best person to move this city forward.”

Kim Sergio Ingis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, which publishes the Shaker Farms Historic District in Cleveland Heights.

Cleveland Heights Observer November 1, 2012

Tempt Your Tastebuds

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Deanna Bremer Fisher

Steve Presser, marketing director for the Coventry Village Special Improvement District (CVSID), cancelled a public meeting scheduled for Oct. 16. Presser said that it would be rescheduled at a later date. The CVSID had planned to discuss ideas for a Coventry street fair in 2013 at the meeting.

“As we were planning for the meeting, I had gotten input from a lot of people, and the city, and it became clear that we were not going to be able to close the street as we’ve done in the past,” said Presser. “We’ll have to keep Coventry Road open. I am working to get more clarity on the parameters for what we will be able to do.”

“I don’t want to hold a meeting prematurely. Whatever we end up doing in 2013, our goal is to have it be fun, safe and family-oriented,” Presser added.

For more information, contact Steve Presser at 216-496-4104 or steve@bigfunbigfun.com.

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

It’s true.
Good food tastes better!

The Stone Oven

All Are Welcome!

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 19, 2012
All council members were present.

Coyote Village improvements
Council approved a resolution that would allow businesses in the Coyote Village Special Improvement District (SID) to continue to invest in the public areas of the vibrant Coyote dist-
trict, the second oldest SID in Ohio (after Play-
 sufficiently and commercial revitalization. She noted that
the affordability of single-family homes is the highest it has been since tracking that statistic
began 50 years ago.

Cleveland Heights News

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

[The observer was unable to attend the meet-
ing, but observed the video made available
on the city’s website. The meeting lasted about
51 minutes.]

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at

These meeting summaries are abstracted
from LWV observers’ written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared
by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive an email
summary of each meeting, send an email to
mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through
Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer
postings” as a search phrase.

Support local independent merchants.

Harvey Pekar continued from page 1
comic book panel rendered in bronze,
with Pekar (approximately two-feet high) stepping out of the panel onto the
desk.

Waldman’s presentation focused on
the professional and personal relation-
ship he had with Pekar, which grew while
they worked together on the book. Wald-
man, who completed the book on his
own after Pekar’s death, found the event
dependently moving, and a little bittersweet.
“When Harvey died I was isolated,” said
Waldman, who lives in Philadelphia. “But
being here today with all these people
who knew him and cared for him and
shared the same grief I had felt—it was
very comforting. It gave me closure.”

During the program, local musician
Marissa DeSantis performed an original
song, “American Splendor,” that she wrote
as a tribute to Pekar and his celebration
of everyday life and ordinary people.

The large crowd responded enthu-
siastically to each presenter, with lots of
applause, laughter, and even a few tears.

With daughter Danielle by her side, Brab-
son spoke movingly of Pekar’s attachment
to the city and his family “that always believed a library card
was more important than a charge card.”

Shaker Heights resident Saman-
tha Baskind, a professor of art history
at Cleveland State University and
author of the anthology The Jewish
Graphic Novel: Critical Approaches, had
been looking forward to the event for
some time. “I got a babysitter so I
could be here today,” she said, smiling
broadly.

Nancy Levin, director of Heights
Libraries, summed up the program
this way: “We all miss Harvey. But with
this tribute and the statue, it’s like he’s back
with us.”

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

Support local independent merchants.

Skip the Tux, Stay at Home!

8th Annual Future Heights Online Auction
October 13th to November 18th
www.biddingforgood.com/futureheights

FutureHeights
IS A COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT WORKING TO PRESERVE & STRENGTHEN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS & UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Click • Bid • Buy Local!
**University Heights City Council**

**Meeting highlights**

**September 24, 2012**

Council Member Philip Ertel was excused.

**Commercial property rates**

Commercial property rates are serving to hold steady in University Heights, showing a rise of 1.4 percent.

**South Euclid-Lyndhurst recreation area**

South Euclid-Lyndhurst recreation programming has been transferred to the Hillcrest YMCA.

**JCU Murphy High renovation**

JCU approved the preliminary development plan submitted by John Carroll University (JCU) for the renovation of Murphy Hall, a student residence. This will make Murphy Hall ADA-compliant for 90 percent of the rooms and the chapel. Elevators, ramps and six “special needs” spouses will be added to maintain the Gothic appearance of the front. The elevators will be built into the interior of the building. Two projections on the back of the building will extend out 18 feet. JCU plans to replace the roofs, tuckpoint, odd sprinklers, and put in new windows keeping the divided panes. JCU will seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for energy sustainability.

**Police department honored**

Police Chief Shawn Smoot announced that the University Heights Police Department is one of a handful of departments to be honored by the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Prevention Center.

**Emergency repair**

Jeffrey Pokorney, service director, announced that another emergency repair had been made to the storm sewer on East Road. This repair nearly depleted the funds allotted for emergency repairs for 2012 and additional funding might be needed. Also, they have begun grading soil and removing the 30 tree stumps left behind from tree removal.

**Gas line**

Joe Cian, city engineer, announced that Dominion East Ohio will be running a new main gas line by Caesar and Wemple roads, to provide gas service to the new Walmart. Some minor traffic and sidewalk blockage will occur for a short period. Business owners will be notified before the work begins.

**Lay Facilities Committee Chair**

Patrick Mullen, patrick@reachheights.org

**Buildings Subcommittee Leaders**

Deanna Bremer Fisher, dbfisher@futureheights.org

**Community Subcommittee Leaders**

Kristy Gallagher, kcxcherrin@msn.com

**Money Subcommittee Leaders**

Donna Guilmette, dgrove@roadrunner.com

Dave Tabor, davetabor@dom.com

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**Why does autumn go so fast.**

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

Lopez remains – resolved to endure.  
And, perform.

Lopez wants your loyalty.  
We are committed to be a regular and frequent moment of pleasure and pride...  
...for you, and for us!!

Every day with passion – craig.
Local veterans give voice to America’s past and present warriors

Walter Nicholas

Members of Chapter 39, Veterans For Peace (VFP), will again commemorate Veterans Day with readings of battlefield letters and statements by United States veterans. This year, Mary Reynolds Powell, Chapter 39 spokesperson and longtime Heights resident (along with her husband, retired physician Douglas Powell), said Mary Reynolds Powell, Chapter 39 spokesperson and longtime Heights resident, “often reveals war’s essence more realistically, certainly more personally, than TV or other media usually convey.”

Powell served as an army nurse in Vietnam, and was president of Chapter 39 when the commemorative readings program was first performed outdoors near the Heights Observer November 1, 2012

The experiment of war, expressed by persons actually involved, and shared with persons dear or dearest to him or her, often reveals war’s essence more realistically, certainly more personally, than TV or other media usually convey,” said Mary Reynolds Powell, Chapter 39 spokesperson and longtime Heights resident. “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.”

Veterans For Peace is a national non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization consisting of men and women veterans of the U.S. military from all service organizations. Non-veterans who support the work of VFP may become associate members. Visit www.veteransforpeace.org for more information.

Walt Nicholas is a World War II veteran and VFP member, and a longtime Heights (Cleveland and Shaker) resident.

Women homeowners benefit from gender-specific repair course

Rebecca Stager

Dellwood Road homeowner Linda Lopez was excited when Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) expanded eligibility for its women’s repair course. When she learned that any woman homeowner could participate in the Home How-To program, she decided to sign up. “I liked the idea of a women’s group,” she explained. “We don’t have to feel intimidated by people who are more knowledgeable or want to go at a faster pace.”

The course is consists of four modules—Home Maintenance 101, Carpentry, Electrical and Plumbing—each made up of eight two-hour classes. Although the modules do not need to be taken in sequence, Lopez started with the first and second modules and will soon complete her third. She plans to enroll in the fourth module, which begins on Nov. 7, according to Lopez. “The training is excellent, well-paced, clear, and a lot of fun. And, we have a great group of women who are always ready to help one another.” Most participants are residents of Cleveland Heights and nearby suburbs, but some come from more distant communities.

As a result of the course, Lopez said she feels more confident talking to contractors and service providers, and has a better understanding of what she wants them to do. Learning how to make repairs around her house was one of the reasons she took the course, and Lopez reports that she has tackled some things herself—projects that previously were out of her comfort zone.

Cleveland Heights homeowner Linda Lopez works to construct a toolbox with other participants in HRRC’s Home How-To course.

For more information about HRRC’s Home How-To program, visit www.hrcc.org, or call Becky Stager, program coordinator, at 216-871-6100, ext. 16.

Becky Stager has an HRRC Home Repair Education Coordinator since 1989.

Stay Married for Life’ workshop at Church of the Saviour

Loretta Dahlstrom

With so many challenges facing married couples, it is important to find time to nurture and renew relationships.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Doug Swink of Winning at Home, a Christian marriage and family support organization, will lead a workshop, “Stay Married for Life,” at Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights.

Swink, a nationally known speaker, will share insights for developing genuine friendship, emotional closeness, and cherishing each other—all done with a sense of humor. This will be a day spent to renew the joy and harmony in your marriage.

The cost is $25 per couple, and includes lunch as well as morning bagels and coffee. Call 216-331-8800 to register, or register in the church office. Child care will be provided by reservation.

Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Road. The church is handicapped-accessible and has free parking.

Loretta Dahlstrom is the administrative assistant at Church of the Saviour.

Advent Festival

Saturday, December 1
9 am - 1 pm

Feast admission - Food - Live music - Silent auction - Activities for children - Bring mittens and scarves to decorate the mitten tree - All proceeds benefit local 501(c)3 global missions

Holiday shopping featuring 10,000 Villages and other fair-trade vendors

Church of the Saviour
2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights
(216) 321-8800, www.churchofsaviour.org

Buy local.
Your merchants are your neighbors too.

Friedberg continued from page 1

The annual concerts have become a tradition the Cleveland Heights High School Instrumental Music Department has offered the community for the past 70 years.

In addition to the thrilling band and orchestral arrangements, there will be several chamber ensembles in concert from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Heights High Social Room. Much of the music of ensemble groups entails special arrangements that enhance the unique combination of instruments.

The highlight of the evening will be the senior solo. Each year, the selected seniors are exceptionally gifted young men and women who, over the course of their high school careers, have worked hard to earn a much coveted spot. During the 2012-13 concert season, the instrumental music department will host five senior soloists. Sara Friedberg is the featured soloist at the Nov. 16 concert. She will perform the first movement of J.C. Bach’s “Viola Concerto in C Minor.”

At the age of four, Friedberg began playing violin in the Suzuki program at the Cleveland Institute of Music(CIMO). By age eight, she was participating in the CIM’s beginning and preparatory orchestras. When Friedberg turned 14, she began to study the viola. She is presently studying at the Music Settlement with Lemi Veskimets, a member of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Friedberg is a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, Cleveland Heights High School Symphony, and a flutist in the Heights High Marching Band. She is also a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society. Prior to this year, she was a member of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra for two years.

Last summer Friedberg attended the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, Vt. She loved this camp because, in addition to making great friends, she was able to devote all of her energy to creating beautiful music. The experience opened her eyes to the world of music by primarily focusing on chamber music via many extraordinary and inspiring recitals. She plans to study music and music in college, along with health science, specializing in nutrition and dietetics.

The students, parents and directors of the high school instrumental music department appreciate the community’s support, as well as the administration’s help in ensuring a continued tradition of excellence in music education.

Tickets are available at the door for the Nov. 16 concert. They are $5 for adults, $3 for students.

Hope Wright is the co-president of BOPO, Band and Orchestra Parents Organization.
Cleveland Heights installs new bike racks on parking meters around town

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The City of Cleveland Heights has added more parking in several city business districts, but don't go looking for expensive new parking lots or garages. You won't find them. Instead, the city has enhanced parking for bicycles in the form of small attachments to parking meters, called meter rings.

Richard Wong, planning director for the City of Cleveland Heights, purchased 25 meter rings—at a total cost of $1,938—and has had them installed on meters in several business districts. "A planning colleague in Indianapolis had installed them and vouched for the product," said Wong. "I like them because meters are right in front so that a bicyclist can see her or his bike. The ring's height and shape make it easy to lock the back wheel and frame using a U-shaped lock. Many racks don't have these attributes."

Wong said he plans to purchase at least 10 more meter rings and will purchase more if public response is positive.

"I just tried one for the first time the other day—the one in front of Phoenix on Lee," said Mary Dunbar, Cleveland Heights City Council member and president of the Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC). "It worked great. Being right in front of the shop, I could keep an eye on my bike, not that I worry about anyone taking it—it's an old warhorse." Dunbar said her only concern was that some people might think that they have to feed the meter when parking their bicycles. "As a member of city council, I can assure everyone that that is not the case," she said.

Wong said that Mayor Ed Kelley had asked him to initiate a program to enhance bicycle parking in the city this year. "Council Member Mary Dunbar got the city involved in the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community designation, and it specifically calls for 'readily available bike parking,'" said Wong. "Mary and HBC member Ian Hoffman met with me and offered assistance."

"The bottom line," said Dunbar, "is that these devices can be easily placed in convenient locations, are relatively inexpensive and easy to install, and provide good security, especially because they allow cyclists to put their bikes where the bikes can be seen by the bicyclist or others."

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“Getting more bike racks around town is a top goal of HBC’s engineering committee,” said Dunbar. “We are delighted with the progress Cleveland Heights is making. Having bike racks where bicyclists want to go is an important piece of the infrastructure our city needs to become more bicycle friendly and to encourage people to use their bicycles to get around town.”

Hand of Fatima Pendant, $89
HANDCRAFTED IN PERU

Luis Quispe helps young artisans improve their lives through craft.

Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Taylor and Noble Nela are planned so far.”

Wong said that the city is working with University Circle on two planning studies to increase the number of people walking, taking public transit or bicycling between Cleveland Heights and University Circle. “Bicyclists hopefully will appreciate the new parking facilities and be encouraged to frequent the districts on bike,” he said.

“The city has completed Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative studies in the Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Lee business districts,” said Wong. “As a result of the studies, the city has requested streetscape funding from NOACA that will include bike racks, and various striping and paving measures to make bicycling easier.”

In June, HBC posted a survey on its website asking for input on bike racks in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. HBC, the Sustainable Heights Network, the Heights Observer and Cleveland Heights Patch promoted the survey, and 30 people responded. “Getting more bike racks around town is a top goal of HBC’s engineering committee,” said Dunbar. “We are delighted with the progress Cleveland Heights is making. Having bike racks where bicyclists want to go is an important piece of the infrastructure our city needs to become more bicycle friendly and to encourage people to use their bicycles to get around town.”

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.
St. Paul’s is on the map for sustainability

The church grounds boast a lawn free of pesticides and a couple of active composting bins. Members of the Geauga Family Farms CSA (community supported agriculture) pick up locally grown produce in the church parking lot every week. Herbs, vegetables and flowers grown on church property are featured in an annual fall harvest sale. Volunteers also grow hops on the grounds, used for small-batch beer brewing, with names such as “Episco-pale Ale” and “Forty Days.”

Inside the building, savvy visitors will notice additional efforts to support sustainability. Recycling bins and LED lighting are seen throughout the building. A commitment to lessening the carbon footprint of St. Paul’s led to upgrades in insulation, more efficient appliances, and improved air sealing as part of a larger project to restore a fellowship hall for parish and community use.

Even with all these features, the work is not done. The group’s Green Team at St. Paul’s knows that it has much work to do. The group’s participation in E4S (Entrepreneurs for Sustainability) has led to a desire to create a regional buying program for the bulk purchasing of green supplies by various parishes in the Heights.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church is located at 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, at the northeast corner of Fairmount Boulevard and Coventry Road. For more information about the church’s green mission, call the church office at 216-932-5815.

Jim Ptacek is a LEED-accredited design professional and chairs St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Green Team. Kirsten Radivojevitch is a founding member of the Green Team and member of the St. Paul’s Vestry.

Historic Cedar Fairmount walking tour to be held Nov. 3

FutureHeights hosts its final 2012 neighborhood tour on Saturday, Nov. 3 in historic Cedar Fairmount.

The tour is the last of four mobile phone app-enhanced tours created by FutureHeights, with help from the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, and the Center for Public History and Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University (CSU).

On Nov. 3, Deanna Bremer Fisher and Hugh Fisher, authors of Euclid Golf Neighborhood, an Arcadia Images of America-series book, and of the National Register application for the neighborhood, will lead the tour which includes landmarks such as Nighttown and the Alcazar. The free tour will take place rain or shine, and will start at 10 a.m. at the Barton Deming House, 2485 Fairmount Blvd., at the corner of Fairmount Boulevard and Cedar Road.

“Cedar Fairmount has long served as a gateway to Cleveland Heights,” said J. Mark Soutter, associate professor of history at CSU, member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, and one of the project leaders. “This village center developed in response to the meteoric rise in population as thousands of Clevelanders followed the lead of wealthy families who left Millionaires’ Row mansions for the crisp, clear air on the Heights.”

To help bring history to life, the tour project is generously funded by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and with support from Coventry Village Special Improvement District, Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley, the City of Cleveland Heights, the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, Nighttown Restaurant, Council Member Dennis Wilcox, Cleveland Heights Historical Society and others. For more information, visit www.clevelandhistorical.org or call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423.

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Beth El hosts scholar-in-residence weekend on the environment

Nina Sobel

Tikkun Olan is a Hebrew phrase meaning “repair the world.” In Jewish tradition, it is often cited to inspire active participation in working to improve life for all people, or in one’s own community. For Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman, it is their life’s work.

Waskow, a prolific writer and environmental activist as well as a rabbi, is the founder and director of The Shalom Center in Philadelphia, an interfaith organization that seeks to bring together Jewish practice with social and political activism. Prominent among its other goals is to repair the world by drawing attention to current environmental concerns.

Berman, who is married to Waskow, founded a school that teaches ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for adult immigrants in New York. Waskow and Berman will be in Cleveland Heights later this month as the featured speakers for the Scholar-in-Residence weekend at Beth El–The Heights Synagogue (BE–THS).

Beth El, a Jewish congregation in the Heights Synagogue (BE–THS), is to repair the world by drawing attention to the environment.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow

A Havdalah concert, marking the end of Shabbat, is planned for Saturday evening along with an event called Storytelling as a Path for Social Change at a venue to be announced. The concluding program on Sunday is a book event and community lecture at the Mandel JCC honoring the release of the new edition of Seasons of Our Joy: A Modern Guide to the Jewish Holidays by Rabbi Waskow.

Waskow’s commitment to ecological activism is deeply rooted in his religious vision and his political activism. Among his other books is Torah of the Earth, which he edited. It is a collection of essays by both Judaic scholars and environmental science writers connecting ecology with Jewish thought.

BE–THS’s Scholar-in-Residence program is open to all Heights residents. Prepaid registration is required for the programs that include meals; other programs are free. For more information and a complete schedule of events, go to www.bethelheights.org/scholar-in-residence, or call Judie at 440-449-5855.

Nina Sobel lives in Cleveland Heights and is a member of Beth El Synagogue’s adult education committee.

Advent Festival features gifts; benefits charities

Arleen Twist

The Church of the Saviour’s annual Advent Festival is sure to solve many holiday shopping dilemmas. The festival will take place on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and all proceeds will benefit local and global mission projects.

Among the festival’s vendors are Ten Thousand Villages and Esperanza Threads. Ten Thousand Villages offers handmade crafts, with all proceeds going back to the Third-World artisans who make the bowls, jewelry, bags, rugs and other items. Esperanza Threads offers organic cotton apparel and goods.

The festival will also feature a book sale, handmade crafts, African jewelry, fair trade items and much more.

Shoppers can begin the day with a hot breakfast at 8:30 a.m. The Great Hall will open for shopping at 9 a.m. Don’t miss the fresh hot donuts, fair trade coffee, and homemade Christmas cookies that will be available.

There is a free holiday-craft workshop for kids. Live music will include brass and string ensembles, carolers and other performers. All are encouraged to bring new children’s mittens, gloves, hats, scarves or socks for the Mitten Tree. All items will be donated to a local charity that helps children and families.

Returning this year will be the Silent Auction, with bids accepted between 9 and 11 a.m. Proceeds from the auction go directly to local missions. Bid on theme baskets, prayer shawls, art work, food items and more.

Church of the Saviour is at 2357 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, one block north of Fairmount Boulevard. Plenty of free parking is available. For information, call 216-322-8880.

Arleen Twist, a member of Church of the Saviour, worked in the church office for 25 years before retiring in 2006. She and her husband, John, are longtime residents of Cleveland Heights.
Simeri named interim principal of Mosaic

Angie Shaker

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District announced Oct. 2 that Jane Simeri will serve as interim principal for the Mosaic School of Fine and Performing Arts at Heights High beginning in December. She will replace Joseph Nohra.

Mosaic supports students interested in fine and performing arts and creative technologies. Under Nohra’s leadership, Mosaic added computer gaming, technical theater, theatre studies, and advanced audio and video engineering to its course offerings.

“He’s spent nearly 20 years as a teacher at our high school and two years coordinating our gifted program for students interested in the arts,” Superintendent Doug Heuer said. “Her decades of experience in the classroom as a teacher and her passion for education and the arts will serve our students well.”

Simeri began work with the CH-UH district in 1991, teaching Advanced Placement classes, business, English, and government. She is a licensed administrative principal for grades 7-12.

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

Heights students attend achievement conference

Joy Henderson


The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is a member of MSAN, a national coalition of 25 multiracial, suburban-urban districts that works to eliminate achievement gaps. MSAN’s mission is to understand and change school practices and structures that perpetuate racial achievement gaps.

Students at the conference listened to speakers and discussed the barriers faced by students of color.

“I enjoyed meeting students from all over the United States who had different ideas,” said Russia Edwards, a senior. “The speakers had an impact on me that will last a lifetime.”

A core activity for the students was to create an action plan to implement in their schools. The purpose of the plan is to eliminate barriers to student success and motivate students to succeed.

The Heights students crafted a plan that includes continuing the freshman tutoring lab, starting a mentoring program with middle school students, initiating a campaign to promote honors and Advanced Placement enrollment, and sponsoring inspirational and informative speakers who will address the academic and social issues of Heights students.

“After the conference, I’m motivated to start our action plan as soon as possible,” said De’Mone Frisco, another Heights senior.

MSAN advisors Shawn Washington and David Peake accompanied the students, as did REAL principal Marc Aden.

Washington, an MSAN advisor for three years, said, “While we still have much work to do to reach more students, at this conference I could really see that our district is a leader in this area. We have programs like AVID and the Summer Bridge that are making a difference in the achievement gap.”

“The students worked so hard on the action plans,” she added. “I know they will make a difference in a peer-to-peer way that is so valuable.”

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison at Heights High. Zoe Cook, senior MSAN member, contributed to this article.
Preliminary state report card for CH-UH schools

Susie Kaeser

The Ohio Department of Education released the preliminary district and building report cards in October, which showed Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District earned a Continuous Improvement rating again for the 2011–12 school year. Scores remain largely consistent with previous years.

The report card is based on student performance on Ohio’s Achievement tests given to students in grades 3–8 last April, and the Ohio Graduation Test given to high school students last March. Attendance and graduation rates for the 2011–12 school year are also included.

There were notable improvements at Canterbury Elementary School, and Monticello and Roxboro Middle schools. Canterbury moved up three designations from Academic Watch to Excellent. Monticello advanced two categories from Academic Watch to Effective, and also met AYP and Value Added performance. Roxboro Elementary School, which previously earned an Excellent rating, also had an Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and met four of eight indicators and met AYP and Value Added standards.

Boulevard, Fairfax and Garity Elementary schools maintained their Continuous Improvement ratings.

Ohio’s accountability system: understanding state report cards

Susie Kaeser

Each year the Ohio Department of Education ranks Ohio school districts and individual buildings on a continuum that comprises six different levels of success at meeting state expectations for student achievement and progress.

The six designations are:
• Excellent with Distinction
• Excellent
• Effective
• Continuous Improvement
• Academic Watch
• Academic Emergency

Schools and districts earn points based on four different performance measurements. The report cards reflect each performance measurement and the overall designation, which is based on a combination of the four measurements below.

State indicators:
The state sets a standard that defines test passage, attendance and graduation rates. If students in a building or district meet or exceed these rates, the indicator has been achieved. Reports show the number of indicators met.

Performance Index:
This number gives credit for the actual performance of each child. Test scores are grouped into five performance levels, and each category is assigned a weight between 0 and 1. More credit is given for scores at the higher levels. The performance index number 0 to 120 shows the cumulative value of individual scores. The performance index number is reported.

Value Added:
This calculation gives credit when children make progress from the previous year, even if they don’t earn a test score that shows they pass. If, as a group, students make more than one year’s progress, they receive a plus designation. If progress is less than a year, it earns a negative designation, while a year for a year is a check.

Annual Yearly Progress (AYP):
This federal measurement sets a standard for the percentage of children in any building who should pass the test each year if all children are to pass by 2014. Data must be disaggregated by race, poverty and disability. For a school or district to meet AYP, all groups within the population must meet the AYP goal. This complex calculation is reported as either met or not met.
CH-UH Board of Education
Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 18, 2012
All board members were present.

Legacy School
Crystal Mackett, principal of Legacy School, explained that the New Tech space within Heights High has been redesigned for flexible use and to help students develop professionalism and collaborative skills. The state-of-the-art labs are similar to those at Harvard and MIT. Teams of students and teachers work together, and subjects such as English and biology can be taught together through projects. Patrick Fisher, a teacher at Legacy, described his combined science and world history class, The Age of Enlightenment, in which students use the scientific method to investigate controversial issues from the 16th and 17th centuries. All students have a district laptop, and can view their class agendas and even do assignments online.

State and federal laws
Tom Britton, a NEOLA attorney who provides legal counsel on government policy to school districts to help them create up-to-date policies that align with changing federal policies and regulations, explained some of the recent changes that boards of education need to address in the coming months. By Sept. 30, the district needs to have a policy on the

Third Grade Guarantee and a plan to annually assess the reading skills of every student through third grade. Senate Bill 116 has changed the time by which a district must notify a teacher of nonrenewal for the next school year from April 30 to June 3. By July 1, 2013, the district must create and approve a standards-based teacher evaluation policy to comply with Race to the Top requirements. The State Board of Education has issued a model policy that can serve as a guide, and Joseph Michieler, director of special programs and compliance, reported that a committee of four teachers and four administrators has been working on this all year. The board will also need a new policy to align with a Senate action that allows children to enter kindergarten earlier. The bullying policy, which recently added a teacher-training requirement, must now also include bullying on a school bus and cyberbullying. Some implementation processes can be handled through administrative guidelines whereas in other instances new policy must be set to comply with the law. The board should receive NEOLA documents with the latest changes in federal and state laws by next week. Three readings are required for adoption of new policy.

Facilities committee
Members of the newly formed Lay Facilities Committee will be introduced to the board at the Oct. 2 meeting, and the committee will hold its first meeting Oct. 3.

CH-UH schools participate in walk or bike to school day

The bike rack at Roxboro Elementary School was full on Oct. 3. Other district schools that participated in International Walk to School Day were Boulevard, Canterbury, Fairfax, Noble and Gearity elementary and Roxboro Intermediate schools.

LWV observer: Nancy Dietrich.

OCTOBER 2, 2012
All board members were present.

Recognitions
Options Program graduate Fabian Poul-Blanc was recognized for landing a supporting role in the movie "Undar Dog." Options is an alternative education program for students who struggle in the regular school setting.

• Natalie Winter, teacher at Gearity Professional Development School, was part of the NBC Education Nation program.

• Angela Bowman, a paraprofessional, received an award from the American Association of School Personnel Administrators to complete her work to become a teacher.

Facilities committee
Board President Karen Gorman Jones introduced the Lay Facilities Committee members. Fourteen of the 25 were present. They represent many community groups such as Beaching Heights, FTA, FutureHeights, and the city councils of Cleveland Heights, University Heights, and South Euclid.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.
District acts to protect students from thieves by keeping iPads at school

Kim Sergio Inglis

Six eighth grade students at Roxboro Middle School were able to take an Algebra 2 class at Cleveland Heights High School through a new Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District program—distance learning. Students at Roxboro are able to conference into the Algebra 2 class at Heights High, which is taught by Ryan McCartney.

"The equipment and setup is fantastic. I feel like I'll always remember this class; you could see all the kids just watching in amazement. Both Roxboro and Heights High students were excited, enthusiastic and eager in class today," said McCartney. "In the period after, I had students from that class trying to bring in kids from the hallway to show them. I am looking forward to what the future holds for this class," McCartney added.

This distance learning class gives eighth grade students the opportunity to interact with their academic counterparts at the high school. "As the gifted coordinator, I feel it is a wonderful opportunity to be able to meet students' academic acceleration needs utilizing technology," said Jane Simner, district coordinator for the gifted program.

Stew Pharis, a parent whose son took the accelerated Algebra 2 course online last year, is wildly enthusiastic about the direction that the district has taken in offering this distance learning class. "There were some technology issues in the beginning, but now that those things have been fixed I'm excited. I'm excited about the teacher, the teacher is excited, and he's doing a great job," said Pharis.

Gia Parker provides operations support for the communications and community engagement department of the CH-UH City School District.
Heights High musicians inducted into music honor society

Joan Drushel

On Oct. 10, twelve Cleveland Heights High School students were inducted into the Heights chapter of Tri-M Music Honor Society, or Modern Music Masters.

Tri-M is an international association dedicated to the recognition of exceptional students in grades 6–12 who demonstrate excellence in music, scholarship, leadership and character. These students serve as role models to their peers, infuse their school music programs with quality, and are expected to find ways to provide service to both their music programs and communities. Tri-M is also an official organization of MENC, the National Association for Music Education, the largest arts education association worldwide.

Daniel Heim, director of orchestras, is the advisor for the Heights chapter.

Tri-M encompasses students from the Instrumental Music Department (IMD) and Vocal Music Department (VMD). Candidates provided evidence of their qualifications in music achievement, scholarship, leadership, and character and community service. The members were then selected by the music faculty.

The Tri-M members will be planning community service events, such as performing at a local children’s hospital. Newly inducted members are Gretchen Drushel, Ilona Eke, Kyle Finnegan, Rebecca Friedberg, Sara Friedberg, Gordon Gustafson, Lillian Hall, Joseph Nicoletti, Abigail Osgood, Benjamin Sperl, Janine Walker and Taylor Young.

Joan Drushel is a resident of Cleveland Heights with three daughters who are graduates of CHHS and a daughter who is a junior at Heights.

CH-UH festivities celebrate Homecoming

Heights High crowned seniors De’Mone Frisco and Alexandra Smith-Giriusas Homecoming King and Queen as part of this year’s Homecoming festivities.

The Homecoming Court included Amanda Murray and Orion Brock (freshmen), Tabitha Edmonds and Sean Ayers (sophomores), Victoria Lewis and Raishawn Taylor (juniors).

Senior running back Braxton Gamble scored five touchdowns during the homecoming game, leading the Heights High Tigers to a 41-13 win over Lorain.

Angee Shaker, Heights High crowned seniors De’Mone Frisco and Alexandra Smith-Giriusas Homecoming King and Queen as part of this year’s Homecoming festivities.

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Angee Shaker is director of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
More than 600 students in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools will participate in the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical “The Phantom of the Opera” at Heights High Nov. 1–4 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 4 at 4 p.m.

“I jumped at the opportunity to produce ‘Phantom’ because this year we have the voices to do it,” said Craig McGaughey, producer and Heights High vocal music director. “Both our boys and girls bring amazing talent and skill to the roles.”

The students will perform in two casts, and the production includes 600 elementary, middle and high school students participating on stage, in the pit orchestra, and in the stage crew.

“Phantom” is unusual in that it includes two styles of music, Broadway and opera, giving students experience in both. “The show also offers great comedic moments,” said assistant producer Kari Sharpe. “The kids really enjoy that.”

McGaughhey can see the continued improvement of the Heights student vocalists and actors. “When we involve the elementary and middle school students, the older students mentor and coach the younger students,” he said. “And the younger students are motivated to develop their skills so they can be involved when they get to the high school.”

There are 17 lead roles. Heather Morrison and Midori March play Christine, and Marley Lieberman and Phoebe Morrison and Midori March play Chris.

Heim, Heights Symphony director will lead the orchestras, with student concertmasters Thomas Pharis and Mason Spencer. The 30 stage crew members have been constructing the sets and finding props with the assistance of Lisa Kish, Dave Jurns is the acting coach. Theatre vocal coach. English teacher Anne Wilson is the rehearsal pianist and volunteers. McGaughey, lead producer, is assisted by Kari Sharpe and student teacher Alicia Salgado.

The sets include a boat that sails around the stage, an elephant, a haunted piano and a chandelier.

Organizing 600 students for four shows takes many adults—both staff and volunteers. McGaughey, lead producer, is assisted by Kari Sharpe and student teacher Alicia Salgado.

There will be advisers on hand to answer questions about the RN-BSN and MSN programs.Refreshments will be served.

Advance Your Career: Nurse Information Session
UA Lakewood
Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, 3:30 p.m.

Highlights of the UA Lakewood RN-BSN program:

- Completion of the bachelor’s degree in one year
- Adult learner-focused, building on prior education and clinical experience
- An option to portfolio student experience in place of one clinical
- No challenge exams required

There will be advisers on hand to answer questions about the RN-BSN and MSN programs. Refreshments will be served.

Contact Nicole Lee at 216-221-1141 or UAL@uakron.edu to RSVP, or for questions.
lakewood.uakron.edu

UA Lakewood is located on the first floor of the historic Bailey Building in the heart of downtown Lakewood.
Cleveland Heights resident co-authors book for West Side Market’s 100th anniversary

Simon Quartell

This year, Cleveland’s West Side Market celebrates its 100-year anniversary. To mark the occasion, Cleveland Heights resident Laura Taxel, along with Lake-wood native and Vermilion resident Marilou Suszko, co-authored a book about the market’s history.

The book, Cleveland’s West Side Mar- ket: 100 Years and Still Cooking, published by University of Akron press, is available in local bookstores.

The book “really tells the history of this important local landmark,” said Taxel, and “shows that the West Side Market is alive, busy and active today, not just a thing of past.”

Taxel has been writing about food for more than 30 years. Her most well-known book, Cleveland Ethnic Eats, was first published in 1997 and has been updated several times, most recently in 2009.

She had never before written a book with Suszko, whom she met at conference for food professionals in Baltimore about ten years ago, but they have worked together on a maga-zine called Feast. Suszko, the author of The Locavori Kitchen: A Cook’s Guide to Seasonal Eating and Preserving and Farm and Food of Ohio: From Garden Gate to Dinner Plate, approached Taxel in 2009 about the possibility of collaborating on a book about the West Side Market, to commemorate its 100th anniversary. Taxel, who has shopped at the market since 1971, knew right away that she wanted to do it.

Taxel and Suszko interviewed more than 300 people, including vendors from past and present, employees and their families, shoppers, historians and politicians. They talked to market ven-dors and patrons at the market café, by phone, and in their homes.

When word of the project spread, people sent in their stories via letters and e-mails to Taxel and Suszko. Some who had moved away from the Cleve-land area heard about the project from friends who still live here, and said that hearing about the book made them miss the market and want to go back, accord-ing to Taxel.

Taxel’s husband, Barney, took photos for the book. Barney Taxel, a commercial photographer, specializes in food, but also has experience with people, architecture and still life.

“I like the energy and interaction with people at the West Side Market, and the variety of foods and variety of people who sell it,” Taxel said. “The book has something for ev-eryone—it has all the historical facts, including many that people wouldn’t know, and is full of wonderful, heart-warming personal stories from people who have worked there or shopped there,” said Taxel.

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

Holiday boutique at Judson Park in Cleveland Heights

Rob Lucarelli

Judson Foundation will host a holiday boutique on Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Judson Park, 1801 Chestnut Hills Drive, Cleveland Heights. Proceeds will support Judson’s 2012 An-nual Fund and Creative Arts Fund.

The Judson Holiday Boutique will feature vendors selling purses, accesso-ries, books, pottery and hand-knit items. Peterson Nut Co. and Malley’s Chocolates products will be available at the boutique, and Colonial Coin and Jewelry will be on site, buying back gold, silver, diamonds and coins, and selling jewelry.

For more information, call 216-921-2061 or visit www.judsonsmartliving.org.

The 2012 Judson Annual Fund en-sures that all Judson residents have the opportunity to participate in enriching programs, regardless of their need for financial assistance.

Proceeds also support the Judson Creative Arts Fund, which provides residents and their families with unique opportunities to express themselves through the visual arts.

Rob Lucarelli is director of communications for Judson Services, Inc.

Observer advertising is good for your business and good for your community.

St. Alban-Agape An Episcopal & Campus Community

Worship

Wednesday Monastics
7:00am - Morning Chant with Eucharist
6pm - Agape Community Meal (students welcome!)

Sunday Gatherings
8:00am - Morning Taize Prayer
9:00am - Conversations on Faith
10:00am - Community Eucharist

Sunday Evening Compline & Evensong
An ancient time of reflective prayer at day’s end

Oct. 14, 21, 28: Sunday Compline @ St Alban’s Agape Campus; 2555 Euclid Hts. Blvd., Cleve Hts.

Celebrating 120 years of serving God in community -
5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18. All welcome

The Compline rite is over 1,000 years old. It is a reflection, contemplative and simple offering of chant, hymns, prayer, candlelight and art. Someone once called it “A nightcap for the soul.” All are welcome, be ye student, staff, community or stranger.

www.stalbanchurch.org

2555 Euclid Hts. Boulevard, Cleveland Heights (at the corner of Edgehill)

Shadows of the Past at Saint Albans

The Compline rite is over 1,000 years old. It is a reflection, contemplative and simple offering of chant, hymns, prayer, candlelight and art. Someone once called it “A nightcap for the soul.” All are welcome, be ye student, staff, community or stranger.

www.saintalbanchurch.org

2555 Euclid Hts. Boulevard, Cleveland Heights (at the corner of Edgehill)

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www.saintalbanchurch.org

2555 Euclid Hts. Boulevard, Cleveland Heights (at the corner of Edgehill)
“What’s old is new,” is a phrase that is easily applied to the local group of musicians known as Oldboy. The band is gearing up to release its first album, “Covered in Sound,” on Nov. 3. Members of the roots-rock group have been playing together for the past three years, culminating in their first full-length album, recorded at Whiteout Audio in Cleveland. The album consists of 12 lyric-driven and meticulously crafted songs.

Oldboy will perform a record release concert with Family of the Year from Los Angeles. The local Cleveland band Dan Muraldi & the Alhino Winos will also perform. The concert will be an all-ages show on Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Beachland Tavern in North Collinwood. Doors open at 8 p.m., and tickets are $10.

The current lineup for Oldboy is Shawn Brewster (songwriter, guitar, and vocals), Mike Kinsella (bass, backing vocals), Greg Hyland (drums), Pete Simon (guitar), Chris Volpe (banjo), and David Jenkins (percussion). While the band regularly rotates its lineup for different types of events, the release concert will feature six members who were involved in the recording.

As a band, the group’s sound is always changing, yet consistently driven by Brewster’s vision. He and Kinsella paired three years ago to begin making music. As Brewster recalled, “It was love at first harmony.” With influences such as R.E.M., Sonic Youth, and Tori Amos, Brewster said he tries to avoid being too “derivative of other bands” but prefers to “try to structure songs as strongly as the bands I listen to.” Such familiar influences make “Covered in Sound” music that quickly resonates. Conversational lyrics lend an element of truth to the work, something Brewster describes as important to him. “Structure and honesty, two rules, make sure it’s an honest song,” he said.

While band members are busy as musicians, they are also involved in philanthropic endeavors throughout Greater Cleveland. Upcoming events include fundraisers for the Free Clinic, the Hunger Network, and Greater Cleveland Community Shares. Mike Kinsella, a resident of Cleveland Heights and FutureHeights board member, feels that giving back to his community is not only beneficial for the band as it “gets us in front of different audiences” but is also “a way I can give back. If we can help organizations raise money in that way, that’s what we do.”

Oldboy has been the house band for the Best of the Heights Awards, and the featured band for other community events. Oldboy performed at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park’s Music and Movies Under the Stars events, at the Cedar Fairmount Festival, and at the Wine Spot. Other venues at which the band has performed include the Tavern Company, the Grog Shop, B-Side Liquor Lounge, and Parnell’s Pub.

Oldboy’s work for the community reflects the work band members have done for themselves. The band is self-represented, is not on a label, designs its own posters, and books its own shows. Taking the grassroots approach to their music is reflected in the honest sound that the group produces. What’s old is certainly new in this “folk music repackaged” group.

Elisabeth Farrer is a recent graduate of Case Western Reserve University where she received a Bachelor’s of Arts in English. She is interested in writing about Cleveland and the surrounding area so everyone will come to love this city as much as she does.
Close Encounters music series

Peggy Spaeth

In 2000, the City of Cleveland Heights held neighborhood visioning meetings to create a citizen-driven future. At one of those meetings, resident Tom Gibson stood up and suggested gateway signs that would read “Music City” because of the many talented musicians living here.

Today the city claims a broader title, “Home to the Arts,” and the nonprofit Heights Arts is a major presenter of local arts and culture.

One of the most popular Heights Arts programs is the chamber music series, newly named Close Encounters. This series, now in its seventh year, presents intimate performances by world-class musicians who live in Northeast Ohio. Isabel Trautwein, Cleveland Orchestra violinist and Close Encounters artistic director, collaborates with her colleagues and other professional musicians to present programs of their choice in unique venues.

This season’s concerts take place in homes on Eaton Road in Shaker Heights and Herrick Mews in Cleveland Heights, at the grand Crystal Room in the newly restored Tudor Arms—and at the home of violinist Alicia Koelz in Cleveland Heights.

The first concert, Trout Playing in the Forest, on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m., is a unique combination of art songs and chamber music masterpieces by composers, Franz Schubert and Robert Schumann, performed by Cleveland Orchestra string players, pianist Christina Schumann, and soprano Jung Oh. Bach to Piccolo, on Sunday, Jan. 13, at 3 p.m., is a chance to hear Cleveland Orchestra principal piccoloist Mary Kay Fink perform a rare solo piece and a Spanish duo with cellist Tanya Ell. Also performing are the two youngest members of the orchestra’s first violin section, Ying Fu and Katherine Bormann; and Isabel Trautwein presenting an epic Bach solo sonata.

Salute to the Original Cleveland Quartet, on Sunday, Mar. 24, at 3 p.m., is a rare concert bringing together Donald Weilerstein and Peter Salaff of the original Cleveland Quartet playing Bartok duets. The concert is rounded out with the Cavani Quartet, with pianist Vivian Weilerstein and Cleveland Orchestra members Tanya Ell on cello, and Isabel Trautwein on violin. The Weilersteins, former Heights residents, are traveling from Boston to perform.

The final concert of the season, Schubertiade, on Saturday, May 11, at 8 p.m., features the Omni Quartet, joined by soprano Jung Oh, violinist Isabel Trautwein, clarinetist Robert Woolfrey and pianist Rafael Skorka. Violinist Alicia Koelz hosts this all-Schubert program, including the heart-wrenching G-major quartet string quartet, the last one he wrote before dying so very young.

Close Encounters offers a rare opportunity to experience chamber music where it’s meant to be heard: in intimate venues. Reservations are absolutely necessary because seating is limited. Call 216-371-3457 or visit www.heightsarts.org/music.

Peggy Spaeth, executive director of Heights Arts, has been transformed by experiencing classical music up close.

THE CITY BALLET OF CLEVELAND TO HOLD ANNUAL HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

City Ballet of Cleveland to hold annual holiday performances

Heights Observer Contributor

The City Ballet of Cleveland (formerly Cleveland City Dance Company), a nonprofit dance company based in a studio at Shaker Square, has announced its annual “Winter Wonderland and The Nutcracker (Act II)” performance.

An original production of the traditional holiday ballet will include performances by guest artists Mark Orloski, formerly of Cleveland San Jose Ballet; Gary Lenington, currently with GroundWorks Dance Theater; and Teresa Bonvissuto.

Performances are Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. at Tri-C’s Eastern Campus. Advance reserve tickets sold at the studio, at 13108 Shaker Square, are $15 for adults and $10 for seniors and children under 12. Tickets purchased at the theater the day of the shows are all $20. For information, call 216-295-2222.

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

Ruffing Montessori School


For more information, please visit ruffingmontessori.net.

Open Houses:

Sunday, November 4, 2012, 2-4 pm
Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 5:30-7:30 pm
Librarians are Matchmakers

Anna Register

If you’ve found that the books, movies or music that you’ve picked out at the library just isn’t quite what you were hoping for, then the Cleveland Heights-University Public Library Matchmakers can help.

Matchmakers is a group of librarians specially trained to help customers find materials that they would probably love but just can’t seem to locate on their own.

Similar to other matching services, such as eHarmony and Pandora, Heights Libraries’ Matchmakers can build a list of recommendations based on a patron’s likes, dislikes and interests.

“The program actually started 15 years ago,” said Becky Katzenmeyer, adult services librarian. “We try to help people find things they would like to read, listen or watch when they don’t know what to go next.”

Formerly known as R.A.T.S. (Readers Advisory Team Services), the original program was a means to connect patrons with only books. Library staff recently decided to expand their advisory services to include movies, books on tape and CD, and music. Customers can visit in person, call, or e-mail the Matchmakers with requests for recommendations at any time.

The Matchmakers team consists of about 10 core members, but all Heights librarians are tapped for suggestions.

“Some librarians have genres that they are better versed in than others, so we consult with one another. Our youth services department provides a matchmaker service that specializes in child and teen literature, for instance. It’s been a long time since I was a teenager, so I like to ask our teen librarians about that collection,” said Katzenmeyer, laughing.

Matchmakers also provide recommendations through their blogs, which can be found at heightslibrary.org/page/blogs. These are geared toward each writer’s areas of expertise. The Matchmakers team has future plans to expand through online resources, such as Facebook and discussion boards.

If you can’t figure out what your next good read is going to be, want to catch up on the latest music trends, or watch some new and exciting films, contact the Matchmakers team by e-mailing matchmakers@heightslibrary.org to receive your personalized list of suggestions.

For additional information on this program and others offered by Heights Libraries, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Anna Register is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Public Library.

Cleveland Heights-University Public Library Board Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 24, 2012
All board members were present.

New policy for use of quiet study rooms
For the first time, these rooms are to be reserved. If there are no reservations, walk-ins will be accommodated. In addition, the period of use of the rooms will be limited to two hours unless there are no reservations.

Nancy Zelman appointed an adult services librarian
Nancy Zelman came to the library in 1993 as a part-time circulation assistant and later was able to use the library’s tuition reimbursement program to obtain her master’s degree in library and information science in 2008.

Review of Materials Evaluation and Selection Policy
This major document of board policy is accessible on the library’s website under Board and Policies. Director Nancy Levin pointed out the reconsideration form attached to the policy. This form is used if a patron questions the inclusion or exclusion of specific material. Those forms go directly to Levin, who confers with the board about them.

Public Services Report highlights for August
There will be a partnership with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights elementary schools to provide monthly story time during the after-care program.

At the Lee Road Library, the Dream Big Summer Reading Program registered 581 participants, and 120 parents and children attended the final party. Kids could add drawings of their dreams to the eight-foot-long Dream Cloud created by Shannon Hornsby and Henry Drak.

The Own the Night summer reading program at Lee Road Library had 63 participants.

The Lee Road Library adult summer reading program had 361 total submissions—a record high. Ten weekly prizes were awarded through random drawing, with the grand prize of a $300 gift card to AppleTree Books.

Conway Village Library’s summer reading programs included 52 children, 5 teens and 57 adults.

Noble Neighborhood Library’s summer reading programs included 240 children, 14 teens and 92 adults.

The University Heights Library’s summer reading programs included 160 children, 28 teens and 233 adults.

The first Little Free Library was installed on the lawn of Anna Butera, former children’s librarian. Ice cream from Sweelee Fry was served to Noble neighborhood residents at the celebration while they donated and borrowed books.

The University Heights Library held a Summer Olympics for school-aged children, and 34 participants earned unique UH gold medals.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightslibrary.org. See disclaimer on page 8.
Learning is both fun and multidimensional for the fourth graders in Joe Mendes’s class at Gearity Professional Development School. They recently read Seedfolks, by Paul Fleischman, a story set in Cleveland about a small urban community that turns a vacant lot into a garden and reaps more than just vegetables.

After reading the book, the class watched an interview with Fleischman. Mendes then asked his students to write short plays about people and gardening. He chose two of the plays to perform: “The Garden,” by Grace Mangano, and “The Mystery Mole,” by Mackenzie Hollis.

As they prepared for the first play, several students made signs for the characters—King Bean, Queen Carrot, Pea and Old Man. Others gathered colored paper for carrot and pea costumes, and one student made deer antlers out of rulers and wire.

When the costumes were ready, Mendes spent a few minutes helping students visualize the performance space, imagine an audience’s reactions, and consider their own feelings about performing in front of an audience. “It can be kind of scary,” he said, “and you may feel nervous, but if you say your lines with your full effort, everyone will love it.”

When asked how she felt about this project, Grace replied, “I always wanted to do a school play. Sometimes I can be shy, but it will be fun. One of my favorite things to do is act.”

After a quick demonstration of using a hand-held microphone, each student tried it once. They practiced a curtain call following the instructions: “Head back, take a breath, lean forward and consider their own feelings about performing in front of an audience. “It can be kind of scary” he said, “and you may feel nervous, but if you say your lines with your full effort, everyone will love it.”

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SCENE

Judith Eugene

According to the AARP, around 71 percent of people over the age of 45 prefer to stay in their homes as they age rather than moving to long-term care. As we age, however, it is common to experience declines in our physical abilities. This can result in falls and possibly severe or fatal injuries. Taking precautions to reduce the risk of falls will increase one’s ability to remain at home.

In general, move furniture to create clear walking paths; remove clutter from stairs and landings; repair broken, uneven steps, and lose handrails; keep exterior stairs and walkways clear; keep rock salt by each door to remove winter ice; install a shelf and hooks inside the door for keys, coats, handbags, and other items.

In the living room, make sure you can get into and out of your lounge chair with ease, and replace glass table tops with wood so they are easier to see and less fragile.

Move the kitchen items you use most often to lower shelves in the cabinets to reduce the need for a stool; replace heavy dishes and pots with lighter ones; use a stool with a high, sturdy handrail (never step on a chair or cupboard shelf); create a sitting area for food preparation.

Place nonslip mats or self-sticking strips in the tub or shower floor; keep soap, shampoo and towel in easy reach from the tub or shower stall; install sturdy grab bars (never use towel racks for support); and remove bath rugs.

In the bedroom, keep your cane or walker next to the bed at night, with flat slip-on shoes (avoid slipppers); keep a telephone, lamp, flashlight and eyeglasses within easy reach of the bed; make sure that the bed is a comfortable height for getting in and out; keep a portable toilet or urinal near the bed if you have difficulty getting to the bathroom; and sit down when dressing.

Tape down all electrical cords; apply nonslip mats or double-stick tape to backs of throw rugs; repair carpet and flooring that is loose, torn or curling at the edges; clean spills and drips immediately; and put nightlights in the bedroom, hallway and bathroom (also stairs and kitchen, if needed).
Find something for everyone on your list at the many independent merchants in the Heights. Most will gift wrap or ship your items, too. Here are some of our favorites (see more online at www.heightsalumni.org):

STOCKING STUFFERS ($10 or LESS)

Bugle Bead Bracelets, 12 colors available. ($3.65, Simply Charming)

Sticky Notes by Anne Taintor, available in a variety of designs. ($4.00, Simply Charming)

Blue Cottage Cards, handmade festive holiday greeting cards from area artist Delyla Deling. ($4.50, Mac’s Backs)

Change Purse, available in a variety of designs. ($4.50, Simply Charming)

Candy Cane Soap, peppermint-scented soap from India. ($4.50, Ten Thousand Villages)

Humorous Cocktail Napkins. ($3.50, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights)

Temporary Finger Puppet Tattoos. Monster, Safari, Farm and Fairy Tale themes available. ($3.50 for a pack of 20, Sunbeam–A Shop for Children)

Ghiradelli Peppermint Bark in milk or dark chocolate. ($3.65, Simply Charming)

Bling Pen, available in a variety of colors. ($3.65, Simply Charming)

Journal, available in a variety of designs. ($7.00, Simply-Charming)

Machine-washable Crochet Yoghurt Rattles from Bangladesh. ($8.00, Revive Fair Trade)

Outrageous Hippos, carved dark Kari stone from Kenya. ($8.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

Potter's Pouty Note Pad Set, available in two designs. ($8.75, Simply Charming)

Ice Screams Ice Tray. Dishwasher-safe silicone tray includes 12 expressionistic renderings of Edvard Munch’s ‘The Scream.’ ($9.00, Big Fun)

My Friend Dahmer by Derf. Okay, not the usual kind of gift book, but essential on the graphic novel nation. (Books $16.50, set of 8 Doodle Sticks $8.50, Sunbeam–A Shop for Children)

Sweet Memories: Interactive Conversation Cards from Niel Slavin. Conversation prompts to get your elders talking about their personal history. ($17.95, Mac’s Backs)

Ice Creams Ice Tray. Dishwasher-safe silicon tray includes 12 expressionistic renderings of Edvard Munch’s ‘The Scream.’ ($9.00, Big Fun)

Field leather adjustable rings. ($9.00, Blush Boutique)

Picked Winetopper. In a pickle about how to preserve your pinot? Well, get this gherkin working and your problems are solved! ($9.50, Big Fun)

Flower Bean Post Earrings, five colors available. ($9.50, Simply-Charming)

Pick Your Nose Party Cups. When you tip your head to take a drink, you get an instant nose job, and a guffaw from the crowd ($9.50, Blush Boutique)

Revive Inspiration Bracelet, assorted. Reads “Be the change you wish to see in the world” or “Re- vive your Style, Revive your Soul!” ($9.90, Blush Boutique)

The Larry B LED Pocket Work Light has a rotating magnetic clip for hands-free use. ($9.99, Heights Hardware)

Gonimos, handmade vehicles made by children in Africa. ($10.00, Ten Thousand Villages)


Cotton and Felt Flowers Zippered Pouch. ($14.00, Simply Charming)

Hip Flask with Martini Cocktail Napkins and two Silver Martini Glasses ($14.50, $5.00 and $12.00, Simply Charming)

Teen 500 Book Jewelry: Think Big Book, Petite Bird Post Earrings and Feather Necklace. ($14.95, $11.50 and $13.00, Simply Charming)

Sweetie Fry Gift Cards. Each card comes with free mini greeting card and envelope for a personalized note. ($15.00 and up, Sweetie Fry)

Scent of Christmas Decorative Fragrances. ($15.00, Simply Charming)

Imagination Books, reusable coloring books with laminated pages designed to spark a child’s imagination. (Books $16.50, set of 8 Doodle Sticks $8.50, Sunbeam–A Shop for Children)

Sweat Memories: Interactive Conversation Cards from Niel Slavin. Conversation prompts to get your elders talking about their personal history. ($17.95, Mac’s Backs)

My Friend Dahmer by Derf. Okay, not the usual kind of gift book, but essential on the graphic novel nation. (Books $16.50, set of 8 Doodle Sticks $8.50, Sunbeam–A Shop for Children)

Photo Books. (Starting at $19.00, Cedar Center MotoPhoto)

Ecoart World Map, 100 illustrations including the Eight Wonders of the World, the Solar System, Cloud Formations and Varieties of Terrains. ($19.50, Sunbeam–A Shop for Children)

Rust Belt Chic, edited by Sickie Pippsmenn and Anne Trebek. Essays about what it means to be a Clevelanders. ($19.95, Mac’s Backs)

2012 Holiday Gift Guide

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

12th Annual Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation Cocktail Party

Thursday, November 8 – 7 to 10 p.m.
Rockefeller’s at The Heights Rockefeller Building | Mayfield & Lee $15 in advance – $25 at the door | Cash Bar
Join alumni, friends and partygoers over awesome appetizers and decadent desserts, while bidding on silent auction items. Try your luck with raffle tickets to win an Apple iPad or 40” TV!

For tickets or more information call 216-397-3871 or visit www.heightsalumni.org
GIFTS UNDER $50 (CONTINUED)

The Auto Emissions Bible by Sam Bell, owner of the Lusty Wrench, and Ralph Rimbaugh, who combined have more than 80 years of auto repair experience. ($21.95, online and at local bookstores)

Candy Ray Flush Pig with a Porcelain Cup and Saucer Giftboxed Set with the letter “P” and “pig.” Both available in a variety of styles. ($22.50 and $28.50, Simply Charming)

Not by the Israel My Parents Promised Me by Harvey Pekar and JT Waldman and Harvey Pekar’s Cleveland by Harvey Pekar and Joseph Remnant. The last two books Pekar completed before he died, illustrated by terrific young artists. ($24.99 and $21.99, Mac’s Backs)

Holiday Cookies Gift Box. Assortment of cookies, including ROYGBIV, brownies, nut bars, biscotti, macarons. ($24 for 18 pcs., $46 for 36 pcs., Luna Bakery Cafe)

Cashmere Scarves. Great variety for both men and women. ($25.00, Passport to Peru)

An Unexpected Life: A Mother and Son’s Story of Love, Determination, Autism and Art by Debra Chwast. The story of Debra Chwast and her son Seth, accompanied by Seth’s colorfully vivid paintings. ($77.95, Mac’s Backs)

Wedding Ring Box. This solid white oak is the perfect way to present a ring or keep it safe while doing the dishes, working in the garden, or roughing up commoners for their pocket change. ($28.00, www.etsy.com)

Burgundy Twist Basket. Handmade beauty from Ugandan traditional artisans. ($29.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

Crazy fleece-lined leggens. ($30.00, Blush Boutique) 7

Gemstone drop earrings. ($30.00-$45.00, Bluish Boutique)

Metal Frame. ($39.99, Cedar Center MotoPhoto)

Photo Statuettes. ($32.95-$49.99, Cedar Center MotoPhoto)

In the Kitchen With Cleveland’s Favorite Chefs, edited by Maria Isabella, featuring recipes from nearly three dozen Cleveland area chefs for fabulous meals in an hour. ($35.00, Mac’s Backs)

Shellac/GelColor Manicure. ($35.00, Quadina’s Barber & Dream Spa)

Tagua Gems begin with a tagua nut, sculpted and carved into all sorts of shapes. ($39.99, Heights Hardware)

SE Redline High-Power LED Flashlight. As good as comparable $100+ models used by law enforcement. ($39.99, Heights Hardware)

Silk Holiday Tree. ($42, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights)

Kites Art Glass. Trees of Enchantment, Witch Balls or Fairy Balls. [Under $50.00, Passport to Peru] 11

Photo frames in many styles—oak, leather, acrylic, gold or silver leaf—something for every decor and taste. [Under $50.00, Wood Trader]

Photo-enhanced T-shirts, mugs and calendars. [Under $50.00, Cedar Center MotoPhoto]

Four Yoga classes to get healthy and centered. ($54.00, www.livinghandyoga.com)

Paisley Cotton Robe from India. ($58.00, Quadina’s Barber & Dream Spa)

Relax Treatment to reduce stress and promote healing. ($60.00, www.livinghandyoga.com)

One hour of life-enrichment activities for senior adults. ($60.00 in Heights-area, www.livinghandy group.com)

Fomagrame Men’s Ring Box, carved, engraved, damasked, stained, mailed, painted, shellacked and beeswaxed white oak. ($65.00, www.etsy.com)

Canvas Gallery Wraps. ($65.00, Cedar Center MotoPhoto)

Phoenix Coast Vase from Habron. ($68.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

Eco-friendly, water-resistant market backpack. ($70.00, Blush Boutique) 14

Sterling Necklace with Amazonzite beads and matching earrings. ($71.00 and $66.00, Simply Charming)

Sauvinos Shearing Slippers for men, dad or the kids. ($70.00–$80.00, Passport to Peru) 12

One-Hour Home Makeover with an interior decorator. ($75.00, www.juliathreeneedledesigns.com)

Hand-painted Trays, heat and water resistant, 12” x 15” ($75.00, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights)

Tree of Life Serving Platter from Habron. ($78.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

Magnetic Magnifiers, strong magnets safely embedded in each plastic piece so you can create hundreds of two-dimensional designs. ($84.00, Sunbeam-A Shop for Children)

Tree of Dreams Wall Hanging from India ($84.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

Decorated Ceramic Cheese Plate with Four Cheese Knives and a Covered Ceramic Cheese Plate. ($86.00 and $48.00, Simply Charming)

Fanfare Reverse-Painted Tray, a painting technique from the Middle Ages. ($99.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

QBDS Men’s Signature Package. 50-minute Swedish Relaxation Massage, our Signature Men’s Hot and Barber Shave. ($125.00, Quentin’s Barber & Dream Spa)

Minneapolis Shearing Slippers for men, dad or the kids. ($70.00–$80.00, Passport to Peru) 12

One-Hour Home Makeover with an interior decorator. ($75.00, www.juliathreeneedledesigns.com)

Hand-painted Trays, heat and water resistant, 12” x 15” ($75.00, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights)

Tree of Life Serving Platter from Habron. ($78.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING
A basket of gift cards from several of our wonderful Heights restaurants. Everyone enjoys a night out to dinner. (Various Heights restaurants)
A gift certificate from the Lusty Wrench, eco-conscious car repair. Issued in any desired denomination. (Lusty Wrench)
Peace Dove, handmade in Haiti. ($34.00, Ten Thousand Villages)
Salt Crystal Lamp from Pakistan's Punjab province, releases negative ions to help reduce indoor air pollutants. ($44.00, Ten Thousand Villages)

Mariposa Cheese Board. ($154, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights)
12 Yoga Classes to help with those New Year’s resolutions. ($162, www.lovinghandsyoga.com)
Camaro. ($189.00 and up, Cedar Center MotoPhoto)
15” Digital Photo Frame. ($199.00, Cedar Center MotoPhoto)
Djembe Drum from Burkina Faso. ($295.00, Ten Thousand Villages)
Noah’s Ark, one-of-a-kind pieces from Cameroon, West Africa. ($235.00, Ten Thousand Villages)
Dragon Gong, hand-pounded and etched with dragons. ($225.00, Ten Thousand Villages)
Golden Horizons Alpaca Throw from Peru and Bolivia. ($195.00, Ten Thousand Villages)
Eco-Leather Sleek Purse, handcrafted in India. ($175.00, Ten Thousand Villages)
Tree of Hope Wall Hanging from Haiti ($185, Ten Thousand Villages)
Velvet Jacket with Floral Appliques. (More than $150.00, Blush Boutique)
Dream Day of Beauty Spa Package, European Four-Layer Facial, Dream Pedicure, Swedish Relaxation Massage and a Dream Spa Manicure. ($249.00, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)
Old Gringo Cowboy Boots, each style is unique and handcrafted. ($460.00–$520.00, Passport to Peru)

Square Platter with interchangeable charms for every occasion and holiday. (Platter and one charm $34; additional charms $12 each, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights)
80-Minute Swedish Relaxation Massage. For the person who has everything but just needs a little me time. ($100, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)
Ashtamangal Singing Bowl, magical humming sound from a singing bowl touches deep and comforts. ($110, Ten Thousand Villages)
Gjaltema Sterling Silver and Abalone Shell Necklace. ($600.00, Blush Boutique)

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Rainforest Car Wash

Monthly Unlimited Ultimate Wash Pass - $30
Pre-paid Ultimate Wash Book - $40
Motorcars Extra Value Book - $25

Our express wash is a great low cost alternative to just get your car cleaned up and back on the road. Featuring de-ionized water and a spot free rinse. Plus a special hand applied bug cleaner.

You can receive the same savings of a monthly plan without the commitment. Each of the 5 car wash vouchers can be used independently. Treat someone in your life to a great gift, or simply wash your other vehicle as well.

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Buy One, Get One Wiper Blades
Save $500 on service contract
25% OFF any detail package
$250 OFF any 2012 Vehicle Purchase

The Ultimate Wash is just that. Including several upgrades over the Express Wash including the pressure washing prep station, triple foam polish, wheel & tire scrubbing and a RainX treatment.

Ultimate Wash - $15
One could say that the Heights area has been good to Stan Harris. With his laser-sharp focus on helping people manage the risks of everyday life, Harris has been helping clients since 1988.

“I help people manage the unexpected and plan for their dreams,” said Harris, who on this day sits comfortably in his office above Starbucks on Cedar Road, which he’s occupied for more than 21 years.

“We have over 100 products that we can offer our clients and we like to build relationships,” he said.

In fact, Heights residents make up 80 percent of Harris’s business.

“State Farm has the best combination of price, product and service in the industry. Our financial strength and name recognition help me and it’s worked well in this community,” he said.

His serve-local strategy has been a successful formula for longevity in a business that has seen substantial changes over the past few decades. Harris’s wife, Laura, handles the life insurance portion of the business.

“We do a survey every two years to get a response from clients about how they feel about us,” said Laura Harris. “We’re accessible, reliable, dependable, knowledgeable and available 24/7.”

A strong bond between Stan and Laura enabled them to successfully balance the pressures of mixing matrimony and medicine cabinet preparation and business.

“It was challenging at first. We had to learn how to work together and I had to understand how he runs the business,” said Laura. “I bring fresh eyes to understand how he runs the business and it’s worked well.”

Looking ahead to the future, Stan Harris sees even more opportunity to capitalize on the community that has been responsible for so much of his success.

“We look for growth. We don’t put a percentage on how much. The more people I can help educate, the more I want to do that,” he said. “A lot of people in Cleveland Heights recognize who the Stan Harris Insurance Agency is.”

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

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**Heights Observer November 1, 2012**

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www.heightsobserver.org
Simon’s Auto Service to expand

Frank Tescone

Simon’s Auto Services, a fixture at Lee Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard for 40 years, is embarking on a major renovation that will replace the current three-bay shop with a six-bay facility. The expansion will have space for 18 cars to be stored overnight and will include a waiting room.

The shop, which faces Lee Road, will remain open during construction. The new building will be north and west of the shop, facing Euclid Heights Boulevard. When it is complete, the old shop will be cleared for parking. The entire space will be landscaped. Owner Simon Daher says construction is likely to begin sometime next year.

Daher, who runs the shop along with his brother, Steve, cites increased business and the need to store new equipment as the reasons for expansion.

Daher’s father Aref, and a partner, opened the shop in 1972 as A&M Auto Repair. He learned his trade repairing Pepsi-Cola trucks in his home country of Lebanon. A&M Auto Repair functioned as a full-service station until the early 1990’s.

Simon Daher grew up on Hampshire Road in Coventry Village. He started working at the shop when he was 13. He likes Cleveland Heights because “you enjoy working for people that you know.” He also appreciates its diversity, “you enjoy working for people that you know.”

Daher says he can compete with dealers because they charge a lot for service done at Simon’s.”

Daher attributes the success of Simon’s to repeat business, word of mouth, and Google reviews. “Two to three people a week come in based on these reviews,” he said.

Daher says he can compete with dealers because they charge a lot for packaged services that your car might not need. Any service done at Simon’s is reported on Car Fax. He explains that the Magnuson-Moss Act of 1975 forces dealers to honor warranties even if required services are completed outside the dealership.

Daher says the biggest change in car repair since he started is that it is now difficult for people to repair their own cars. Today, a scanning tool is used to diagnose problems. It costs $4,000 plus $1,500 vehicle. “It’s challenging and it’s different every day,” he said.

As for the future, Daher says cars will be driving themselves. The Google car “is computer controlled and that’s where it’s all going.” He says Ford is working on a car that will bring you back into your own lane if you fall asleep. Acura has a car that will slam on the brakes if you are coming up too fast on an object and will pull the seatbelt to wake you up if you fall asleep. These features are limited to expensive cars, but eventually will be standard.

Daher says car mechanics will be needed, but they will have to go to school and purchase and program equipment for these new features. Daher is no Luddite when it comes to high tech car repair.

Frank Tescone teaches writing and literature at the University of Mount Union and lives in Cleveland Heights.

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Community engagement is the ethos of Dewey’s Pizza

Richard Stewart

What began in 1998 as a single pizza store in the Oakley Square neighborhood of Cincinnati has blossomed into 16 stores spanning two states. Dewey’s Pizza in the Heights opened on Lee Road in 2005, joining the growing number of restaurants on the street.

Known for its youthful feel, family-friendly atmosphere and quality pizza, the restaurant took over the location formerly inhabited by Chuck’s Diner. Dave Igel, managing partner of the pizza chain, said that local ties factored into the decision to open on Lee.

“Our owner, Andrew Dewitt, had some friends up here. He was familiar with Northern Ohio, and it’s an area we wanted to be in, so we decided to move to Cleveland Heights,” said Igel.

Readers of the Heights Observer recently voted Dewey’s as Best Pizza in the Heights, an honor Igel relishes. “One of the best things that I take from [the award] is that it’s voted on just by the people of the community that we operate in,” he said.

Though Dewey’s has been around for just seven years, it feels like a quintessential Cleveland Heights gathering place and is crowded most nights of the week. It has become popular with young families, and it’s easy to run into a familiar face there. Igel says that is no accident.

“One of our strong points is the fact that we’re involved in multiple communities through our restaurants. One of our missions is always to be part of the community that we’re in and to integrate ourselves, because that’s the very basis of what we do as a community restaurant,” said Igel. “One of our strongest forms of local advertising is our involvement with charities and business organizations. It’s something that we take great pride in and something that’s a definite focus of what we do.”

In fact, Igel credits the community engagement ethos of Dewey’s Pizza, in large part, to the overall success of the company.

“Part of the success is knowing that this is the kind of atmosphere that we want to create; this is the way we want to do business,” said Igel. “I’m sure we would probably make more money if we opened in the middle of Beachwood Mall, but you gotta make your money in a way you’re happy with.”

Igel credits Dewey’s employees with much of the restaurant’s success.

“The most important people are those who make the food and wait on the tables. They represent our company and our culture to everyone who has a chance to come in and try us,” said Igel.

Igel’s mantra is that Dewey’s is more than a pizzeria. It is a responsible corporate citizen that cares deeply about the communities in which it operates.

“Just recently we gave the store a little facelift—new awnings, signage and planters. For us it’s a good thing to make our restaurant look great, but it also contributes to the overall look and aesthetic of the community. We hope to continue to work within the community to not only build our business, but also to build our relationships and be here for as long as we possibly can,” said Igel.

Dewey’s goal is simple: keep serving great food.

“In seven years I’ve watched kids grow up here in front of my eyes,” said Igel, “and I always say I look forward to when the kid I saw come in when he was three-years-old comes in with his own three-year-old. That’s our goal in the long term—continued success, growth and expansion, especially in the Cleveland area.”

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

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

2012 Award Winners, Finalists and Nominees!

- **Best New Business**
  - Sweetie Fry*
  - The Wine Spot
  - The BottleHouse Brewery

- **Best Pizza**
  - Dewey’s Pizza*
  - Marotta’s
  - Gerard’s

- **Best Curb Appeal**
  - Anatolia Café*
  - The Tavern Company
  - Luna Bakery & Café

- **Best Ethnic Eats**
  - Anatolia Café*
  - Café Tandor
  - Aladdin’s

- **Best Coffee**
  - Phoenix Coffee*
  - Starbucks
  - Stone Oven

- **Best Place for Fashion**
  - Revive Fair Trade
  - Blush Boutique
  - American Apparel

- **Best Place to Express Your Spirituality**
  - Atma Center*
  - Communion of Saints Parish
  - Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland
  - Fairmount Presbyterian Church

- **Best Place to Get in Shape**
  - CH Community Center*
  - Jazzercise
  - Atma Center

- **Best Barber Shop**
  - Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa*
  - Crazy Mullets
  - Adam Barbershop

- **Best Salon or Spa**
  - Shawn Paul Salon*
  - Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa
  - Crazy Mullets

- **Best Place for an Oil Change**
  - Washington & Lee Service*
  - Alternative Solutions
  - The Lusty Wrench
  - Simon’s Auto

- **Best Place to Take a Date**
  - Cedar Lee Theatre*
  - Nighttown
  - Taste

- **Best Place for a Sandwich**
  - Stone Oven*
  - Melt Bar & Grilled
  - The Tavern Company
  - Tommy’s

- **Best Contractor**
  - Skettle Electric*
  - The Beard Group
  - Monroe Constructs
  - Reilly Painting & Contracting

- **Best Place to Study**
  - Heights Libraries*
  - Lee Road Library
  - Phoenix Coffee
  - Starbucks

- **Best Heights Spirit**
  - CH-UH Schools*
  - Big Fun, Steve Presser
  - Tommy’s, Tom Fello

- **Best Place for Music**
  - The Grog Shop*
  - Nighttown
  - Cain Park

- **Best Bar, Pub or Tavern**
  - Brennan’s Colony*
  - The Tavern Company
  - The BottleHouse Brewery

- **Best Place to Take Your Kids**
  - Sweetie Fry*
  - Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park
  - Heights Libraries

- **Best UH Business**
  - Bialy’s Bagels*
  - Whole Foods Market
  - Geraci’s

- **Best CH Business**
  - The Tavern Company*
  - Tommy’s
  - Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa
  - Ten Thousand Villages

- **Board Choice Award**
  - Academy Music*

*Winner of the category