School board’s first action in facilities project will close Wiley after this year

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education (BOE) isn’t wasting any time following passage of Issue 81, the bond issue that updates and overhauls facilities throughout the school district.

On Nov. 19—exactly two weeks after the issue passed with 99 percent of the vote—the school board took its first step in implementing the facilities overhaul. It voted to close Wiley Middle School at the end of this school year, so the Wiley building and adjacent property can be prepared for use by Cleveland Heights High School staff and students while renovations are taking place at Heights High. Modular classrooms will be added to the temporary campus.

“We are starting on a path that will revitalize and modernize our schools, and transform our community,” said Ron Register, board president, in a release provided by Angee Shaker, the district’s communications director. “With this great opportunity also come changes, some of which can be difficult. The closure of Wiley, while clearly the right choice for this district, will still continued on page 7

Ari Klein retires as Cleveland Heights scoutmaster

Jan Rassiger

It is difficult to measure the impact of Boy Scout Troop 22 on the Cleveland Heights community during the 25 years Ari Klein has served as scoutmaster. Klein is retiring from Troop 22, though he will continue to impact the community as a nationally board-certified math teacher at Cleveland Heights High School and as president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, AFT. His tenure as scoutmaster was celebrated on Nov. 2 by the families of the hundreds of Boy scouts whose lives he has helped shape.

The number of boys who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout—51 since Klein became scoutmaster in 1988—attests to the leadership style Klein established, with the boys themselves leading the organization through a system of patrol and assistant patrol leaders under the guidance of a senior patrol leader.

“He constantly pushed them to become leaders, to be self-reliant, to develop a sense of integrity,” said one mother. “When I look at how my own two sons have fared, I know that Ari is behind a lot of their success as men.”

Zachary Zipper, who earned Eagle Scout rank in 2011, described Klein’s impact: “Without Ari, I would never have learned how to plan and carry out tasks efficiently. I learned how to be a proper leader. I also learned how to succeed even when faced with adversity. Ari made the troop a safe place for all the scouts to

2013 election brings new faces to CH Council, familiar ones to UH

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights City Council will have two new members in 2014. Newcomer Jeff Coryell, who previously ran for council in 2011, garnered the most votes (6,126). Incumbents Cheryl Stephens and Janine Boyd. Newly elected CH City Council members Jeff Coryell and Melissa Yasinow, re-elected members Jason Stein, Cheryl Stephens and Janine Boyd.

was elected to an unexpired two-year term to Cleveland Heights City Council. She also will be sworn in on Jan. 6.

“I am honored to have received an extraordinary level of support in the election,” said Jeff Coryell. “I look forward to working hard to help renew our city’s legacy of diversity, innovation, leadership and progressive values.”

“I am truly honored and humbled to have been elected, and am grateful to
Give a gift to your community this holiday season: shop local

Deanna Bremer Fisher

I often hear how much people enjoy reading the Heights Observer and how much they feel it is needed because of the recent contraction in local news coverage by other media. I explain that the Observer is something different—we have no writing staff, and we don’t cover news the way traditional media does; we rely on contributions from Heights residents. We print the articles our residents write and submit—about what they believe is newsworthy.

Another thing that makes the Observer unique is the unwavering support of our local business community. Each month, we decide how many pages we are able to print based on the amount of advertising support we have. When we began publishing the Observer in April 2008, we printed 16 pages. We are now able to print 28 pages, and occasionally more, almost every month.

The majority of our community’s businesses are independent and locally owned. They know they are reaching you with their advertising, but they also recognize that supporting the Observer is good for the community.

The holiday season will make or break the year for many of our local merchants. According to the National Retail Federation, Americans will spend $801 per shopper between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31. With Black Friday, Super Saturday, and Cyber Monday, our independent businesses face lots of competition from national chains, big box stores and online retailers who benefit from international branding power, major economies of scale and an antiquated tax law that enables online retailers to sell items without charging sales tax (consumers are supposed to report those purchases on their tax returns, but seldom do).

Several studies show that if more of the dollars Americans spend on holiday shopping were spent at locally owned, independent businesses, they would generate far more economic benefit in local communities than money spent at chains or businesses outside of the community. In one such study, the strategic planning firm Civic Economics (www.civiceconomics.com) calculated that for every $100 spent at a local business in Chicago’s Andersonville neighborhood, $68 re-circulated in the local economy—as compared with just $43 for $100 spent at a chain store in the same neighborhood.

This holiday season, we ask you to join FutureHeights in shopping local first. Take a look at our advertisers and see what they have to offer. Many local retailers will take the time to assist you in selecting just the right item, and several offer gift wrapping and delivery service.

Last month’s Observer printed a holiday gift guide that showcased a variety of items offered by our local merchants at a variety of prices. You can view the gift guide online at www.heightsobserver.org.

Another opportunity to see what’s available locally is to participate in the ninth annual FutureHeights Online Auction. FutureHeights is the nonprofit that publishes the Heights Observer, and the auction is the organization’s largest fundraiser to support its community-building programs and operations. Now through Dec. 8, visit www.BiddingForGood.com/FutureHeights to see unique items donated by our local business community. There’s some really cool stuff to bid on, such as two six-month grocery packages from Zagaria’s and a loaf of bread a month from The Stone Oven, to name just a few.

Still don’t know what to get? Consider a gift card to your favorite local restaurant or retail store.

If you appreciate the Observer, then please join FutureHeights in giving our local merchants preference whenever you make a purchase. Doing so is one of the biggest gifts that you can give to your community—and yourself—this holiday season.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.
an uncluttered appearance of the street. Other municipalities issue parking passes to residents, and this would help regulate the number of cars that could be parked on the street. Additionally, technological infrastructure needs to be upgraded to utilize online reservation services, which would minimize the hassle and cost associated with the current program.

Michael Lucke
Cleveland Heights

Rohal brothers served UH for a combined 69 years

To the Editor:
It has been a long run, and a good run. On October 24, 2013, Patrolman Dennis W. Rohal retired from the University Heights Police Department with 28 years of dedicated, professional service. This closed the book on nearly 44 years of continuous service by the Rohal brothers, starting in 1970. James B. Rohal, former deputy chief, retired in 2011 after 44 years with the department.

It was an honor and privilege to serve the fine citizens of this city. University Heights was like our second home. We have seen the city stand strong with exceptional employees, civic-minded politicians, and involved, caring residents and business people. We have laughed and cried with the city and would not change any of our experiences. We will miss the daily interactions with everyone. We both served to the best of our abilities, and hold the city and its people close to our hearts.

The Rohals are thankful to have served in a profession we enjoyed immensely. University Heights is an excellent city in which to work, live and raise families, and prosper in business. We wish the city continued success and bid farewell to those we served.

Dennis W. Rohal
Parma

James B. Rohal
Broadview Heights

Walmart’s throw-away attitude

To the Editor:
It is nice of you all to put a positive spin on the news feed about the new store. We do not need another sad turn. I commend Cleveland Heights for maintaining its portion of the country club green and I hope that the Millikin School complex in the old Severance estate will become a green space as well. We do not need more places to shop. Let us refurbish and maintain those parts of the world that we have already designated as asphalt rather than tear into more of our remaining brown and green space.

Robin Van Lear
Cleveland Heights

CH-UH community elects a new school board member

To the Editor:
Congratulations to Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education members Ron Register, current board president, who has served on the board since January 2002, and Kal Zucker, who has served on the board since January 2006, on their re-election to serve on the board.

Eric Silverman was elected to serve a new four-year term starting January 2014. He previously served as a board member from January 1999 to December 2011.

Karen Jones’ term ends on Dec. 31. Jones decided not to run again. Register, Zucker and Silverman will serve with board members Eric Coble and Nancy Peppler.

Angee Shaker
Director of Communications for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District

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Cleveland Hts. Community Center

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Cleveland Heights voters proclaim corporations are not people, money is not speech

To the Editor:

Cleveland Heights voters decisively passed a local ordinance on Nov. 5, instructing the city to inform federal and state elected officials that Cleveland Heights voters want a U.S. constitutional amendment ending constitutional rights for corporations and overturning the legal doctrine of money being considered equivalent to speech.

The measure, Issue 32, passed with more than 77 percent of the vote. More than 3,000 citizens signed petitions circulated by Cleveland Heights Move to Amend volunteers to place the grassroots initiative on the ballot.

The voters of this city have said they’re tired of not being heard, of politicians spending their time chasing big corporate donors and working for them instead of us. That is its time to go beyond apathy and cynicism and do something to fight back. Cleveland Heights joins the hundreds of other cities across the country that are part of the movement to say that only humans are people and have constitutional rights.

Similar ballot measures passed in Brevickville and Newburgh Heights last year, and in Defiance on Nov. 5. City councils in Athens, Oberlin, Barberton and Fremont have passed similar resolutions. Petition drives are underway in several other Ohio municipalities. More than 500 communities nationwide have enacted either council resolutions or ballot initiatives with equivalent language, as part of a campaign organized by the national Move to Amend coalition, which was launched following the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United v. FEC decision of 2010.

Issue 32, titled Political Influence by Corporate Entities, also calls for an annual city-sponsored public hearing each January, to examine the impact of political influence by corporate entities and big money in elections. Cleveland Heights Move to Amend will immediately contact city officials to begin planning for that event, which will be open to the entire community.

Sally Hanley
Cleveland Heights
[Hanley is the spokesperson for Cleveland Heights Move to Amend]

Heights Arts announces a double adoption

To the Editor:

Heights Arts and the City of Cleveland Heights have new additions to our families. This summer, Heights Arts participated in the Play Me, I’m Yours street piano project, thanks to the generous donation of an upright piano by Cleveland Heights residents Faith and Brendan Gill. The piano was placed in the mini-park beside our gallery on Lee Road for passers-by to play. As the seasons changed, we knew that the piano would need a new home before the weather took its toll, and as its original purpose was to spark imagination and creativity outdoors, it was not a viable option for our indoor performance needs.

Finding a new home for the piano, dubbed Close Encounters, was not an easy task. We agonized over the possibility of its surrender to the junkyard. When we were about to give up, Tanisha Briley, newly appointed city manager, asked how the city and Heights Arts could work together on a project. Our piano leaped to mind and, thankfully, Briley and Susanna Nierman O’Neil, vice city manager, had the answer—the city would adopt our piano and place it in the Community Center where it will continue to be available to the public, and where it can brighten peoples’ days with its vibrant colors and beautiful tunes.

I shared this happy news with Jeff Coryell, newly elected city council member, and at the same time lamented the absence of a piano in our gallery. He connected me with Laura Marks, who knew of a family that was looking for a new home for a baby grand piano, and we are so pleased that Heights Arts is its new home. Stop by our Holiday Store and admire its beauty and look forward to concerts presented right here in the gallery. While you’re at it, enjoy the works of more than 70 regional artists—the best gifts one can give.

Rachel Bernstein
Executive Director of Heights Arts

The future of Cleveland Heights?

To the Editor:

There is something wrong in Cleveland Heights and it needs to change. I have some ideas.

When I began my group, Citizens Leadership, five months ago, the biggest complaint was the unresponsiveness of city council and decision making. I thought attending council meetings would enlighten me on city hall machinations. I also wanted to learn about the decision-making process on issues that affect my existence as a resident of Cleveland Heights. My hopes were to share what I learned with my fellow residents and to offer some suggestions should I or my cohorts have any. The idyll was an informed citizenry working arm and arm with city hall. Silly girl!

My attempts at understanding all that I could have been met with suspicion, defensiveness, or silence. That attitude, sadly, rubbed off on a few within the ranks of those who work tirelessly within the walls of city hall. Gladly, there has been some softening and responsiveness to my queries since my initial foray into enlightenment. Nevertheless, when attempts at understanding how council and the city works are rebuffed, one does have to ask “why?” Only then did I begin to pay more attention to city finances and how our taxes are divvied out. I also became more erudite about the law. No surprise that the defensiveness turned to anger.

My view has been that we are part of one large community: the City of Cleveland Heights. However, what I have learned is that we are not. We are factions; factions that hold differing views against each other. All see the world through the keyhole of their faction. I also wanted to learn about the decision-making process at city hall and reduction in services. I thought at attending council meetings would enlighten me on city hall machinations. I also wanted to learn about the decision-making process on issues that affect my existence as a resident of Cleveland Heights. My hopes were to share what I learned with my fellow residents and to offer some suggestions should I or my cohorts have any. The idyll was an informed citizenry working arm and arm with city hall. Silly girl!

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My view has been that we are part of one large community: the City of Cleveland Heights. However, what I have learned is that we are not. We are factions; factions that hold a rampant “us-against-them” view. That view pits the power elite against the citizenry, city hall against the residents, key businesses against the smaller ones, neighborhoods against neighborhoods, and groups of school supporters with differing views against each other. All see the outcomes of the decision-making process at city hall and elections as a winner-take-all.
all scenario, which doesn’t bode well for building a strong community.

Again, silly me! I thought winners are winners, but we work together under the new order. Not here in Cleveland Heights. My hopes for change with each new council only found the winners hungering down behind closed doors. I have hope [for] our newly elected council, but you can’t beat the inevitable: a stranglehold on decision making by the power elite and closed doors to everyone else. You have my attention right away.

I am still in awe of the willingness that we can work together and share information and ideas. Everyone needs to recognize that the city can’t do it right away. It faces with only its resources. All of us need to pitch in—but out in the open!

It’s frustrating that mild support does not lead to a change for the better. Frustratingly, that mild support does not take down the walls, share information and ideas. Everyone needs to recognize that the city cannot address all the ills and ideas. Everyone needs to recognize that the city cannot address all the ills and ideas. Everyone needs to recognize that the city cannot address all the ills and ideas.

The role of the new council will be to select a mayor. According to the city charter, Cleveland Heights–City Council is to select a mayor from among its members every two years.

Edward Kelley, who has served as the city’s mayor since 1997, did not run for re-election to council and will retire from office when his term expires at the end of 2013. The five members elected to council this fall, as well as returning members Dennis Wilcox and Mary Dunbar, are potential mayoral candidates.

In University Heights, voters re-elected Mayor Susan Infeld, who ran unopposed. Current council members Susan Pardee, Mike Wiseman and Phil Ertel were re-elected with 1,542, 1,316 and 1,297 votes respectively. Nancy English, former clerk of council for the city, ran unopposed for a two-year term and was elected to city council.

The mayor and council members will be sworn in at the first 2014 University Heights City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 6. A reception for their families and friends will proceed the meeting at 7 p.m.

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

He has led an effort among Greater Cleveland scout leaders and sponsoring organizations to protest the homophobic stance of the Boy Scouts of America.

Jan Ryssetig was a Troop 22 parent for six years beginning in the mid-1990s. Her son Matteo and bushand, Bill, camped with Troop 22 month after month and year after year. Matteo carried the rank of Eagle Scout in 2000.

Eagle Scout and other Troop 22 projects have improved and supported community institutions, including Beaumont School, the CH-UH Public Library, Dobama Theatre, Homewood Residence, Heights Parent Center, Ruffing Montessori School, Shaker Lakes, the Heights Rockefeller Building, the East 57 Street Pier, Church of the Savior, Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland Heights High School, Coventry playground, Doan Brook Trail, Interc Aleveland Heights, Shaker Heights Library, McGregor Home and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Troop 22 scouts have rehabbed and painted private homes; recycled; helped annually at the Kiwanas Pancake Breakfast; and supported the Interfaith Hospitality Network at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, the troop’s sponsoring organization and site of its regular Monday night meetings.

Klein modeled justice advocacy for the scouts by making Troop 22 a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout, and a model scout and Eagle Scout.

Ari Klein continued from page 1

Cleveland Heights residents,” said Melissa Yasienko: “I look forward to serving them.”

Yasienko said that while she will spend her first several weeks in council getting to know her fellow members and learning the ropes, she does have one initiative that she would like to bring to the attention right away.

“Cleveland Heights needs an expanded human rights ordinance to protect members of the LGBT community from discrimination across the city,” she said. “While Cleveland Heights enacted a Domestic Partner Registry in 2003 and has an ordinance that prohibits discrimination on the basis of LGBT status in city hiring, it needs to be expanded citywide.”

“With the Gay Games coming to Cleveland in 2014,” she continued, “I want to be sure that the City of Cleveland Heights is welcoming community.”

Coryell said that he also supports “an inclusive human rights ordinance that prohibits discrimination by private employers and in places of public accommodation against members of the LGBT community.”

One of the first orders of business for the new council will be to select a mayor.

After 25 years as scoutmaster, Ari Klein is retiring.
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Public school supporters are more than fair-weather friends

Susie Kasser

The Saturday before the election was cold and rainy. Volunteers from my neighborhood dutifully filed into my kitchen to pick up their walk lists for the final lit drop, which would encourage voters to fund the renovation of three Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools.

Our team included a retired graphic designer and medical engineer, a substitute teacher, a Montessori parent, a substitute teacher, a Montessori parent, a substitute teacher, a substitute teacher, the word, lost sleep, greeted voters, gave their time and knees to get out donated money, posted 1,200 signs, up at meetings, toured the high school, studied the need, asked hard questions, searched their consciences, made phone calls, wrote letters, donated money, posted 1,200 signs, gave their time and knees to get out the word, lost sleep, greeted voters, voted and, in the end, celebrated. Along the way they made new friends, gained respect for new leaders, and knew they had helped shape the future.

Community involvement isn’t complicated, but it is the essence of democracy, the source of progress, and it floats my boat! On the road to shaping your community, you connect with people who share your goals and concerns.

Invest enough time and effort in the collective search for solutions to community needs and you will end up with deep roots and ownership of the place you live. Involvement creates community, the essence of good living.

Our community has willing foot soldiers and dedicated leaders.

Tabor became involved at the start of the process to plan for facilities and stuck with it for three years. When it was time to mount a campaign, he stepped forward to lead, gave up a lot of fun outings with his family, and took the weight of the outcome personally.

He attended weekly campaign meetings, attended dozens of school and community events so he could talk to anyone who would talk to him about the plan; addressed religious congregations, political groups, seniors and PTAs; answered more than 2,500 e-mails; and walked the streets, rain or shine. When he stopped in to pick up his walk list he said, “This is so much fun.”

Tabor, like so many activists, was willing to sacrifice his personal time to benefit the common good. I admire his understanding of activism:

• You have to support things you believe in.
• Nothing gets done from the side-lines.
• You have to be willing to get your hands dirty (e.g., dropping lit in the rain).
• You will get tired and frustrated.
• You will be happy and elated.
• You will make a difference in your community.
• You will make friends for life.

I am forever grateful to live in a community with engaged citizens like Tabor and the people who showed up at my house in the rain to trudge through the community in hopes of convincing their neighbors to vote yes.

I thank them for working for this important cause—and for so many others. It is the reason I live here. It is something to celebrate.

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

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Life Enrichment Center. For information, and to suggest program topics, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-397-0366 or info@universityheights.com.

Dec. 5: Victor Messacca of University Heights and Lisa Peng of Laurel School—champion debaters who have earned honors in tournaments at The City Club of Cleveland—will debate the resolution: In the United States criminal justice system, truth-seeking ought to take precedence over attorney/client privilege.

Dec. 12: A Gregory Moore, chair of the history and political science department at Notre Dame College, and director of its Center for Intelligence Studies, is also one of 30 member-experts of a multinational commission. He’ll discuss the commission’s work, making a case for the role of human understanding in international peacekeeping missions, and redefining the role of the UN.

Dec. 19: Mary Beth Gotri, manager of the General Electric Company’s Lighting Institute at Nela Park in East Cleveland, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of GE’s headquarters there with a presentation on its history, featuring Norman Rockwell images of its products through the years.

Dec. 26: No meeting today. Best wishes for the holidays!

Universities City Council

Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 21, 2013

All council members were present.

Leaf pickup
Leaf pickup began Oct. 15 and will continue until Dec. 15.

Emergency notification
Residents will need to sign up again for the emergency notification phone system. Although the new system is the same provider, phone numbers cannot be transferred.

New park

The park committee is continuing to meet to discuss options for the new park at the former site of the Fuchs Mischazi School.

Washington/Baintree Tree Pruning
Council approved an agreement with Yale Tree Service of Chardon for the 2013–14 Washington/ Baintree Tree Pruning and Removal project, with a bid of $13,497. Five bids were received to provide necessary care to 338 designated trees in the northeast quadrant of the city.

Funding for street paving
Council authorized the mayor to seek funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission State Public Works Program to pave Washington Boulevard and Shirley Road along the block in front of city hall and extending from Miramar Boulevard to Belvoir Boulevard. Washington Boulevard has been paved in 1994. The project cost is $600,000.

Nuisance abatement penalties
Council approved changing the penalty from 5 percent of the contractor’s fee for nuisance abatement to a flat fee of $100 for the first offense in a calendar year and $500 for each subsequent offense. Council Members Wiseman and Sims voted no, stating that a penalty of $100 for the first offense was excessive and didn’t allow for mistakes and misunderstandings.

Major trash removal
Council unanimously approved changing the penalty from 2 percent of the contractor’s fee for major trash removal (beyond what a scooter can carry) to a flat fee of $300 for the first offense in a calendar year and $500 for each subsequent offense. There are times when people who move away leave an excessive amount of trash behind, including large pieces of furniture in the driveway or yard. The fine is intended to encourage residents to rent a dumpster or hire a hauling service.

Sales of shopping centers

Law Director Anthony J. Coyne noted that Inland Retail Properties of Amherst and the University Square shopping center and bought the Cedar Center shopping center.

IWW Observer: Wendy Dunnings

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

All council members were present.

Dennis Rohal
James Rohal, brother of Patrolman Dennis Rohal, read the letter he submitted to [local press] about his brother’s service to the City of University Heights. The mayor presented Dennis Rohal, who recently retired, with a city proclamation and a county prosecutor’s certificate. The police chief gave Rohal a frame containing various medals, patches and badges.

Loss of two firefighters

One of the council’s main accomplishments was discussing two sad events. A fellow firefighter in Cleveland, William Walsh, was killed and another, Shaun Purdum from Shaker Heights, lost his battle with muscular dystrophy.

Health services
Council approved a contract with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for $53,073 for health services that University Heights does not have.

Accounting principles

Council approved a new calendar contract with James G. Zupka to perform the 2013 and 2014 generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) conversion of the city’s financial statements from cash basis to accrual basis.

New garage roof
Council approved a contract with Southwest Companies for $8,745 to build a new roof on one of the city’s garages. The city received three estimates and has used this company in the past.

Police work

The police chief acknowledged the volunteer work of the police auxiliary on Halloween and during the recent snowstorm.

Yard waste

The rules and regulations for yard waste are posted on the website for residents to reference. Sometimes yard waste is not put on the curb correctly and the city cannot pick it up.

IWW Observer: Michele Weiss

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

These meeting summaries are abstracted from IWW observers’ written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an email to mbarnes9515@comcast.net. You can also search “lwv-chuh observer reports” as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observations and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters. Cuyahoga County. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

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Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 21, 2013
All council members present.

Bicycle Friendly Community award
Resident Joy Henderson, vice president of the Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC), presented to the city the League of American Bicyclists’ Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award. The award recognizes the city and HBC have made together toward making Cleveland Heights more bike and pedestrian friendly. She gave special thanks to Richard Wang, planning director; Mary Dunbar, council member; public school physical education teachers; and city staff. Henderson also spoke in praise of the ordinance establishing a Transportation Advisory Committee to be introduced this evening.

Transportation Advisory Committee
Council approved an ordinance establishing a Transportation Advisory Committee and prescribing the composition and duties of the committee. Members will be recruited soon from various constituencies of Cleveland Heights residents and businesses, as well as city staff and the Regional Transit Authority. The committee will meet once a quarter and submit an annual report to council.

Contractual authority change
Council amended city code language regarding contracts to authorize the city manager to enter into agreements involving expenditures of $50,000 or less without the need for council approval.

Vehicle and equipment purchases
Council authorized the purchase of equipment for the Department of Public Works, including a front loader refuse truck with an auto loader system for $265,771.60, plus $4,534 for the lift system, and a point line snowplow trailer for $918.

Council also approved the purchase of a 2014 International tow truck for the police department at a price not to exceed $93,300 from Rush Truck Centers.

Sewer overflow project
Council authorized application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funds for the Fairmount Boulevard Sanitary Sewer Overflow Relief Sewer Project. This project will correct five places where the sanitary sewers overflow into the storm sewers and thence into Lake Erie.

Vacant business structures
Council amended the city code to renumber and amend sections regarding standards for business occupancies and to enact a new section entitled “Maintenance of Vacant Business Structures.” This is a complex ordinance designed to impose additional standards for vacant business structures, to reduce the burden and blight that can occur.

Council also amended an additional section of the same code to prohibit the boarding up of a structure for more than 14 days without approval of the building commissioner.

Nuisance properties
Council declared two vacant properties to be nuisances and authorized abatement. These properties are:

• 3300 East Overlook Road, owned by Phoenix Properties. Estimated cost for asbestos survey, racing and cleaning is $20,500.

November 4, 2013
All council members present.

Citizen comments
Storm cleanup. Resident Joanne Orefice commented about the city’s failure to clean up two treeless lawns following the last storm, and urged the city to do more preventive tree trimming. She felt different parts of the city received different treatment and proposed that council be elected by district and not at large.

In other news. Resident Beverly Forster followed up on a letter sent to the city manager with concerns about the way the city handled an injured deer.

BMV audit
Council authorized a contract with Deloitte M. Phillips to provide Ohio Motor Vehicle records for 2013 and 2014, to identify mistakes in the taxing district assigned to vehicles owned by city residents. In the past, the audit has uncovered several mistakes, the correction of which enhanced registration revenue to Cleveland Heights.

Sale of public land
Council authorized the sale of a small sliver of public land to the adjacent neighbor at 2040 Hanover Road. The sale was [in the amount of] $1, with closing costs paid by the buyer.

Council also approved the sale of city-owned property at 1572 Rydalmont Road for $120,000, and a $5,000 no-interest loan for down payment assistance to the buyer. The house was rehabilitated with Neighborhood Stabilization funds.

Cedar Lee Theatre loan
The Cedar Lee Theatre Co. Inc. received a loan of $25,000 to restore its marquee. The five-year loan, at 2 percent interest, is from the Economic Development Loan Fund Program.

HOME funds
Council authorized receipt of $193,765 in federal Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds to support housing rehabilitation and buyer-assistance activities in Cleveland Heights. The city will also receive $6,008 to administer the funds. The city applied for the funds as part of a consortium of communities under the auspices of Cuyahoga County.

Code changes align with state law
In order to conform to state law, council amended sections of the city code regarding traffic and general offenses.

DW Observer: Susan Kassow

Please note: YouTube videos of Cleveland Heights City Council meetings may be accessed at youtube.com/clevelandheights.

Looking for a historical event? Check out this website for more information on the city's past:
www.heightsobserver.org

See disclaimer on page 7.
Chef Jonathon Sawyer puts down roots in Cleveland Heights

James Henke

At 33 years old, Cleveland Heights resident Jonathon Sawyer, the chef and owner of the Greenhouse Tavern and other Cleveland-area restaurants, has been involved in the food industry for almost two decades.

Sawyer, who was born in Chicago and moved to Strongsville when he was in first grade, got his first restaurant job when he was 13. “I wanted to get a job, and my older brother was working at a restaurant in Strongsville called Mad Cactus, so I applied and started out as a dishwasher,” he said. “But within six months I was cooking.”

Sawyer graduated from Strongsville High School and decided to attend the University of Dayton to study industrial engineering, despite his love of cooking. “During my sophomore year, we had to go out and work a trial job,” he said. “So I started working at this engineering firm in Dayton, and I just couldn’t do it.” He left Dayton and began studying at the Pennsylvania Institute of Culinary Arts in Pittsburgh. After graduating, he got a job at the Biltmore Hotel in Miami. In 2002 he moved again, this time to New York City, where he began working at Kitchen 22 with Chef Charlie Palmer.

When Sawyer and his wife, Amelia, were about to have their first child, they decided to come back to Cleveland. Palmer had introduced him to Michael Symon, and Sawyer became the chef de cuisine at Symon’s restaurant, Lolita, in Tremont. A Greek investor then convinced Symon and Sawyer to open a modern Greek restaurant in New York City, so Sawyer moved back to New York, where he became executive chef at Parea. The restaurant received a two-star review in The New York Times and five stars from Time Out New York. In 2007, when he and his wife had their second child, they came back to Cleveland.

The first restaurant Sawyer opened here was Bar Cento, on West 25th Street in Ohio City, in partnership with Sam McNulty. The following year, in 2008, he opened the Greenhouse Tavern on East Fourth Street, downtown. The restaurant’s menu is patterned after a French bistro, and virtually all of the food comes from within 50 miles of Cleveland. Also significant is that virtually everything in the restaurant is made from recycled materials, and it was the first restaurant certified green in Ohio. Sawyer was named Best New Chef by Food & Wine magazine in 2010, and Greenhouse was named the Best New Restaurant by Bon Appetit magazine in 2009.

Sawyer has since opened two Noodlecat restaurants, one on Euclid Avenue just down the street from Public Square and one at the West Side Market. He is also planning a new Northern Italian restaurant called Trentina. He would not disclose the location, but said he is hoping to have it open by next year.

Despite all of his restaurant work, Sawyer loves his family life. He lives on Kenilworth Road near Euclid Heights Boulevard, not far from Michael Symon and another Cleveland Heights chef, Doug Katz. He moved here from Shaker Heights a little over a year ago, and said he loves what Cleveland Heights has to offer. “It’s the only pedestrian neighborhood that the East Side has,” said Sawyer. “You don’t need to use a car. We can bike up to Lee Road or down to Little Italy, and we can walk to Coventry or Cedar Fairmount.” In fact, Sawyer no longer has a car. He prefers to bike downtown to his restaurants, though he recently bought a motorcycle that he can also use.

His favorite neighborhood restaurants include Tommy’s and Vero Bistro. He also loves the Grog Shop and the new Phoenix Coffee shop on Coventry, and he considers On the Rise to be the best bakery in Ohio.

Catchers, Sawyer’s son, is now eight, and Louisville, his daughter, is six. “We love to do activities based on food and the arts,” he said. “We go to the art museum, MOCA, Severance Hall. We just love doing those kinds of things.” Sawyer has two dogs—Potato, 10, and Vito, 11—and he also keeps chicken. In addition to opening his new restaurant, Sawyer plans to release a new book next year. It’s called Noodle Kids, and it’s about families cooking together.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

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Cuyahoga Arts & Culture awards grants to Heights organizations

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Nov. 18, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) announced that it will invest $1,891,002 in grants to 159 arts and culture organizations in Cuyahoga County next year. The grant awards include $105,653 to eight Heights-based organizations.

“Cuyahoga County residents demonstrated extraordinary support for our county's arts and cultural heritage in 2006 when they approved a dedicated source of public funds for creative activities in our community,” said Sari Feldman, president of the CAC Board of Trustees. “Cuyahoga Arts & Culture takes our responsibility to invest those dollars in exceptional arts and cultural organizations very seriously. Our goal is to support the regional economy through strategic investment in a vibrant arts community.”

CAC made the grants through its 2014 Project Support (PSI and PSII) and its 2014 Project Support for Units of Government programs. These project-specific awards go to organizations that conduct specific arts or cultural programs to benefit the community.

Heights Observer December 1, 2013

This project-specific awards go to organizations that conduct specific arts or cultural programs to benefit the community.

Fest Cleveland, which received $20,154 for its project called “Fleeing CityMusic Cleveland, which received $4,400 for its Creativity Express program; Reaching Heights, which received $4,510 for the Heights Summer Music Camp; and Western Reserve Chorale, which received $4,415 for its presentation of Mozart’s Requiem.”

The City of Cleveland Heights received $16,698 for the 2014 Cain Park Arts Festival.

The CAC was approved by Cuyahoga County voters in 2006 and, since 2007, it has invested more than $57 million dollars in 237 local organizations presenting arts and cultural activities in Cuyahoga County. For more information, visit www.cacgrants.org.

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

Heights group provides hope to women trapped in global sex trade

Carol Pearson

Although Sr. Anthonia Ugheighele has worked with Nigerian women caught in the horror of human trafficking and prostitution in Italy for 13 years, their suffering still brings her to tears.

In November, she took the podium to accept an award from International Partners in Mission (IPM). She began by describing her first encounter with the international criminal enterprise that promises jobs to impoverished girls and women in Nigeria, sends them on a harrowing passage across North Africa and the Mediterranean Sea, and then traps them in Europe’s sex trade.

“To see women like me,” she began, then paused. “I saw human beings treated like objects,” she continued. Women were stacked like blocks of wood and hidden under cargo in the back of trucks. Sometimes women were even sent across the Mediterranean in a sea vessel without an experienced sailor; instead one woman is given instructions on navigating to Europe.

Their plight moved her congregation in Benin City, Nigeria, to send Ugheighele and two colleagues to Castel Volturno, Italy, a hub of the sex trade.

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“What an adventure! Women ask you to send them,” Sr. Anthonia’s letter began. “They want you to send them to Europe to work. They say they do not want to go back to Nigeria.”

In the past, Nigerians had migrated to Italy to work in agriculture. By the 1990s, prostitution rings run by Nigerian and Italian crime organizations sprang up.

Most traffickers in Castel Volturno are Nigerian women—madams. To recruit, they travel to Nigeria, where girls are less valued than boys and often seen as burdens to their families. The madams entice them with tales of schooling and good jobs. Sometimes, families urge the women to leave so that they can begin sending money home.

Not a single woman participating in Speranza II/Project Hope has returned to the streets, Ugheighele told IPM staff, donors and partners at the award luncheon. “We are grateful to all of you who have helped IPM to be able to give life and hope to these women again. This is a thing of joy to us.”

For more information about IPM’s work with children, women and youth, visit www.ipmconnect.org.

Carol Pearson is a freelance writer and IPM volunteer.
Barry Henkin, a Heights High hall-of-famer, brought his enormous spirit and encouraging outlook back to his alma mater on Nov. 16 as a special guest at the second annual Resource Fair for Students with Disabilities and Learning Challenges.

The event was co-sponsored by Reaching Heights, as part of its Exceptional Children’s Advocacy Group (ECAG) initiative, and by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. Families were invited to attend educational presentations and meet community partners to learn more about programming and support services.

Henkin made good use of his time at the event. He sold copies of his new autobiography and spoke to parents and students who stopped at his table at the fair.

“Barry understands the value of meaningful work. [He] stressed the need to help guide students with disabilities toward employment, and helped show parents the importance of future planning,” said Krista Hawthorne, assistant director of Reaching Heights. “He was positive and reassuring to everyone he spoke to.”

As with many civil rights issues, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—didn’t become law until 1990, a decade after Henkin graduated from high school. With no children, they felt it essential to have a plan in place as they grew older. “We wanted to make decisions under our own power,” says Don.

Deciding where they’d spend their later years was easy. “There was no question—Judson was it,” says Don. “We continue to enjoy the things we’ve always loved to do,” adds Dottie. “We’re practically in the same Cleveland Heights neighborhood where we lived before.”

“This is Smart Living™ defined at Judson Park. Interested in learning more? Call (216) 791-2004 to arrange for a tour today.

To read more about the Kuhns, visit www.judsonsmartliving.org/Kuhns

University Circle played a pivotal role in Don and Dottie Kuhn’s lives together.

The couple, now residents of Judson Park, met in 1974 while attending an Audubon Society meeting at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

“The rest is history—we’ve been together ever since,” says Dottie.

With no children, they felt it essential to have a plan in place as they grew older. “We wanted to make decisions under our own power,” says Don.

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“The transition was seamless,” continues Don. “Judson was home from day one!”

This is Smart Living™ defined at Judson Park. Interested in learning more? Call (216) 791-2004 to arrange for a tour today.
Eat for art at 14th annual Tommy’s New Year’s Day pancake breakfast

Rachel Bernstein

Tommy’s restaurant, at 1824 Coventry Road, has hosted a New Year’s Day benefit pancake breakfast for Heights Arts since 2001, when owner Tom Fello first offered to help raise funds for the Coventry Arch located at the intersection of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. This year’s breakfast will take place Wednesday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. (Dine in, or order to go.

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Fello makes pancakes with all the fixings, and volunteers serve, bus tables and wash dishes. Some volunteers have helped out for all 14 years. The event is sponsored by Tommy’s, Mac’s Backs and Big Fun.

This is Heights Arts biggest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds from the all-you-can-eat breakfast, plus all tips and raffle ticket sales—featuring items from Big Fun, Simply Charming, and other local independent businesses—will benefit the nonprofit art organization.

Heights Arts has had a long, creative relationship with Coventry Village, a quarter-mile stretch of independent businesses that features benches, street signs and fences by local artists—including Raymond Bugelski and Brinsley Tyrrell—which enliven the Coventry streetscape.

While waiting for a table, one can browse next door at Mac’s Backs, 1820 Coventry Road. Half of all Mac’s Backs purchases will also be donated to Heights Arts. Ron the Flower Clown returns again this year, to amaze children of all ages with his unique balloon creations.

All in all, a perfect first day of 2014: good food, good books, and balloon art among friends. It’s all for a great cause—sustaining Heights Arts, a nonprofit organization that imagines and inspires creativity in the community.

For more information, call 216-371-3457 or e-mail heightsarts@heightsarts.org (put “Tommy’s” in the subject line).

Rachel Bernstein is the executive director of Heights Arts.

Racial disparities in suburban housing market still exist according to HCC study

Sue Nigro

Martha Goble, interim director of the Heights Community Congress (HCC), said the organization released a new study: Racial Disparities in the Cleveland Suburban Home Sales Market, 2008-2013, at the Ohio Fair Lending Conference at Trinity Commons on Nov. 1.

Ralph Day, who prepared the study and presented its findings at the conference, said that the study draws on data compiled from real estate audits conducted by HCC from 2008 to 2013, and compares the results to those of the St. Ann Audit conducted in 1972 in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland. The St. Ann Audit established that “steering” and other forms of differential treatment guided black home seekers into integrated neighborhoods, and white home seekers away from those neighborhoods.

Both Goble and Day agree that, despite progress over the past 40 years in the Cleveland suburban housing market, the HCC audits reveal that discrimination against black homebuyers still persists. In addition to the comprehensive study, HCC offers several recommendations to assist communities, real estate agents and prospective homebuyers. The recommendations offer specific positive actions that can accomplish the goal of the Federal Fair Housing Act in Cleveland. Equal treatment requires planning and preparation so that a level of service, and the amount of information given, is delivered uniformly to all.

Goble said that HCC will continue to actively monitor home sales in the local communities as mandated by the Fair Housing Act, and she suggested that regularly scheduled diversity programming offered by HCC can assist both real estate agents and homebuyers.

For more information, contact HCC at 216-321-6775.

Sue Nigro is a member of the Heights Community Congress Board of Directors.

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School in Liberia is open and growing

John Luttermoser

A project that originated in Cleveland Heights is bringing education and hope to a remote part of West Africa. The Dougbe River Presbyterian School is the first school in Grand Gedeh County, Liberia, the birthplace of Isaac Monah, an elder at Noble Road Presbyterian Church.

The school opened in November 2012 and now has 130 students: 69 girls and 61 boys, from kindergarten through seventh grade. Most walk about a mile and a half from one of two villages that donated 150 acres of land for the campus midway between the villages.

Monah realized the need for a school in 2007, when he visited his home village in Twarbo Region for the first time since he fled from a civil war 17 years earlier. His refugee journey took him to Ghana, where he finished high school, at the age of 23, before coming to the United States and landing a job at the Cleveland Clinic.

Last May, six months after the Dougbe school opened, Monah finally had the opportunity to see his dream in action. “I felt like it was something the whole community was celebrating,” he said. “Not only that the school was open, but that it brought the whole community together.”

What has happened in Twarbo is the result of partnerships with organizations ranging from elementary schools and small congregations to the United Nations Mission in Liberia and Welthungerhilfe, a German hunger-aid agency that spent $180 million in 39 countries last year.

In Cleveland Heights, contributions came from Noble and Roxboro elementary schools, as well as Berkshire Lutheran Church, Church of the Saviour, Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Forest Hill Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Hope Lutheran Church and Noble Road Presbyterian Church.

The Dougbe School is growing rapidly, as eager parents send their children to live with relatives in Sayuo and Buway, the two villages in Twarbo Region that are close to the campus.

Students of the Covenant Choir & the CWRU Orchestra & Concert Choir Christmas Cookie Reception Cache Resale Shop 11-3pm

Advent Workshop
December 1 · 11AM
Workshop & 10,000 Villages
Holiday CircleFest
Carol Sing
December 8 · 4PM
Join the Covenant Choir & the CWRU Orchestra & Concert Choir Christmas Cookie Reception Cache Resale Shop 11-3pm

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The children eat breakfast and lunch at school. Some live in Sayuo or Buway during the week and walk several miles home for the weekend. Eventually, the plan for the school calls for the construction of dormitories to enable children from a wider area to attend.

The staff of seven teachers, all Liberians, is led by the principal, Bob Nueita, who moved across the country from the town of Gharnga to take the job. This fall, Twarbo Region residents, eager to make the teachers feel welcome, built simple houses for them on campus.

The school is helping to lead a wave of development that is improving the standard of living in Grand Gedeh’s Konobo district, which includes Twarbo Region. Solar generators at the school are producing the first electricity in Twarbo. Welthungerhilfe installed hand-pump wells, including one behind a Dougbe River classroom building, around the district. Welthungerhilfe is also building concrete-and-metal bridges throughout Konobo to replace the wooden planks that repeatedly rotted.

Tiyatien Health, known in the United States as Last Mile Health, is training Konobo villagers to provide health care in the region, including at the school. In October, cell phone service returned to the area after the tower in Zieh Town, the city that is Konobo’s hub, had been inoperative for several years.

The school recently held a fund-raising event at Rockefeller’s restaurant. For more information or to donate to the school, contact Noble Road Presbyterian Church at 216-382-0660, or use a PayPal link on the school’s website, www.drpsl.com.

John Luttermoser is the secretary of the general board for the Dougbe River Presbyterian School.
Local Heights holiday events for senior adults and their families

On Dec. 3 the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) will host a breakfast and a concert featuring a trio from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Breakfast begins at 10 a.m. and the concert begins at 11 a.m. (One Monticello Blvd, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-7777)

Another event on Dec. 3 (2-3:30 p.m.), at the Homewood Residence at Rockefeller Gardens, is “Treasure the Memories.” Guests will create a treasure chest with remembrances of departed loved ones to keep them close at heart during the holidays. 13131 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, 885-708-0075

An Advent Festival will be held at Church of the Saviour on Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring free trade merchandise. (2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-8880)

A community shopping event to benefit the Shaker Lakes Nature Center will be held at Ten Thousand Villages on Dec. 12, from 6-8 p.m. Fifteen percent of the net sales will be donated to the Nature Center. The store features handmade and fair trade gifts from around the world. (2425 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-375-1050)

At 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14, Fairmount Presbyterian Church will host a performance by the Choir of Clare College from Cambridge, England. The choir will sing Advent songs as part of its U.S. tour. Admission is $1 (2575 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 216-321-5800)

Cleveland Heights poet laureate Kathleen Cerveny will read the Dylan Thomas classic A Child’s Christmas in Wate in the Meeting Room at the Coventry Village Library on Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (1925 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-3470)

On Dec. 14 and 18, at 6:30 p.m., the movie theater at Severance Center will telecast live performances by the Metropolitan Opera of Verdi’s Falstaff on big screens. Admission is $22 for seniors, $18 for children, and $24 for all others. (3402 Mayfield Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-291-3942)

The 114th annual Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will be held at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center Dec. 14 through Jan. 5. This is the longest-running citizen science survey in the world. It provides critical data on bird population trends. Bird walks will be held on Dec. 21 and 28, from 8-9 a.m., to locate and identify local resident winter birds. (6600 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, 216-321-9932)

A Holiday Centerpiece Workshop will be held at the Cleveland Heights SAC on Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m. A hot lunch and entertainment will be provided. Admission is $15 and non-members are welcome.

Also on Dec. 19, the Heights Youth Theatre will perform the Ohio premiere of “A Little Princess” at the Wiley Middle School auditorium, at 2 p.m. The musical is based on Frances Burnett’s children’s novel, as well as on the 1939 Shirley Temple film. Admission is $9 for seniors and children under 6, and $10 for all others. (2181 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, 216-392-1383)

The Noble Road Presbyterian Church invites the community to its yearly Advent Festival on Dec. 22. It starts at 11:30 a.m. with a silent auction, followed by an Advent Community Meal. The festival will include other activities, as well. (2780 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-382-0660)

On Dec. 25, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage will offer its annual Chinese Food and a Movie Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event includes two films and a kosher Chinese buffet. Movies are free with museum admission ($10 for seniors, $9 for children 5-11, free for children under 5, and $12 for all others). Registration for the buffet, which is $12 for everyone, is required by Dec. 20. (3930 Richmond Road, Beachwood, 216-993-0757)

The Cleveland Heights SAC is holding a New Year’s Day party on Jan. 1, starting at noon. A hot lunch and entertainment will be provided. Admission is $12 and advance registration is required.

On Jan. 15, the Mandel Jewish Community Center (JCC) will host an intergenerational winter sing-along with children from the center’s preschool. The JCC also provides free live musical entertainment at the Warrensville Community Apartments in Cleveland Heights on Sundays from 1-2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. A hot lunch is available for $1. Pre-registration is required for lunch. (3500 Warrensville Center Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-331-0350, ext. 1210)

From December through February many local churches will be offering free meals to those in need. For dates and locations please call SAC at 216-691-7377 or go to www.lovinghands-group.com.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through www.LovingHandsGroup.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or Judith@LovingHandsGroup.com.
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HYT celebrates 60th season with ‘Peter Pan’

Mary Patton

In celebration of its 60th season, and in time for the holiday season, Heights Youth Theatre (HYT) invites the Heights community to meet “Peter Pan” again, for the first time. The art of an old Victorian house is transformed into Neverland by a little boy, his imagination, and the timeless story of the boy who never grew up.

Come fly with Peter, Wendy, Michael, Tinker Bell and John as they go on adventures with Lost Boys, Indians and pirates in ways you may have never seen before.

HYT describes the production as a “Peter Pan” for a new generation, featuring familiar songs, such as “Tender Shepherd,” “I’ve Gotta Crow,” “I Won’t Grow Up,” “I’m Flying” and “Never Never Land.”

Directed by Nathan Motta, with music directed by Joanna Li, “Peter Pan” features a cast of local students in first through 12th grades, along with professional musicians playing the whimsical score.

Cast members include: Katie Wilkinson (Peter Pan), Eliza Sindelar (Wendy), Jared Shapiro (John), Colin Frothingham (Michael), Gus Mahoney (Captain Hook), Becca Chaney (Tiger Lilly), Sydney Stolzman (Slightly), Grace Wilkinson (Toodles), Halle Dray (Carly), Kevin LaMonica (Nibs), Brian Tiohey (1st Twin), Spencer Skok (2nd Twin), Sara Fedor (Smee), Grey Flint-Vrettos (Starkey), Emily Jenks (Ceecco), Carolina Manfredi (Noodler) and Corey Grubar (Mullins).

All performances take place at Wiley Middle School Auditorium, 2811 Miramar Blvd., University Heights. Show dates are Fridays, Dec. 6 and 20, at 7 p.m.; Saturdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, at 2 p.m.; and Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $10 general admission, and $9 for seniors and children under 6. The box office opens 45 minutes prior to each show. Call 216-780-2235 for ticket and group seating information. For more details, visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

Mary Patton of University Heights is a PR consultant and Heights Youth Theatre Advisory Board member.

Heights High senior captures karate gold in Italy

Joy Henderson

Heights High senior Chance Zurub won three gold medals at the World Kickboxing Council’s World Championships in Taranto, Italy, held Oct. 14–19.

Zurub won individual events for sparring and continuous sparring, and the three-person team sparring competition.

“This was his third time participating at the world competition, but the first time he won three gold medals. He competes in the 16 and 17-year-old group for contestants weighing under 132 pounds.”

Zurub plans to attend college next fall and is applying to several schools in Ohio.

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

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Lake Erie Ink students explore two sides of a story

Melissa DeWater

This fall at Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth (LEI), students in the Ink Spot after-school program explored different perspectives and the two sides of a story through the creation of two-voiced poems.

Ink Spot participants worked individually or with a partner to create poetry that illustrates contrasting perspectives on a particular subject. Most participants chose to work with a partner in creating their two-voiced poems. The process brought students together to discuss their different perspectives on a topic, and to consider their own ideas in relation to those of another person.

Creative writing activities at the Ink Spot prompt young writers to think of new ideas and explore them through writing. The two-voiced poems gave students the opportunity to explore multiple perspectives and the implications of these perspectives as they composed their pieces. As a result, students explored two sides of themselves, and society, in ways that they might not have considered previously.

The Ink Spot encourages students to write creatively, and to explore through writing their relationships with family and friends, as well as their connections to society, core values, culture and religion.

These real-life relationships are explored or exemplified through the students’ creative expression.

To enroll your child in Ink Spot programs, or for information about volunteering, call 216-320-4757, or visit www.lakeerieink.org.

Dewey’s Pizza, 2194 Lee Road, will hold a fundraiser to support LEI on Monday, Dec. 16. Dewey’s will donate a percentage of both dine-in and takeout orders to LEI.

Melissa DeWater is an intern at Lake Erie Ink.

Rich and Poor
By Mills and Nijah, 4th Grade

Dresses

Interviews
Dressing and teas
Fancy dinner’s ready
I’m full already

What a long day
Working in the fields
Hunting with dog
Johnny cake ready
Starving to the bone

Elbow patches and new collars
Hems, waists and sleeves adjusted; jackets tapered

Restyling of your favorite old clothes

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Cleveland Heights (In the Rockefeller Building)
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Lake erie ink students explore two sides of a story

Happy Boy/Sad Girl
By Manny and Meyani

I am a happy boy.

I am a boy with emotions. I am happy because I have straight A’s.

I get to go outside All the time
Because of my A’s.

I can’t watch TV I can’t watch TV or play video games because it rottens my brain.

I must always practice My math when I get home
I met someone in class, And I helped them get A’s.

The next day we Had a test, we Got it back!
Then we both Got straight A’s.

I am a sad girl.

I am a girl with emotions. I am sad because I have D’s and F’s.

I can’t go out unless I Get my grades up.

I don’t watch TV or play video games because it rottens my brain.

I must always practice my math when I get home.
I met someone in class, Today I met someone In class, and he helped Me get an A.

The next day we had a test, we Got it back!
Then we both got straight A’s.

Hessler on the Heights
3rd Annual For The Holidays
2174 Lee Rd. Cleveland Heights OH, 44118
Melissa DeWater

Lake Erie Ink: a writing space for youth

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Hems, waists and sleeves adjusted; jackets tapered

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A Holocaust survivor shares her story

Joy Henderson

Recently, four Heights High students from Mark Sack’s Lessons of the Holocaust class delivered thank-you notes to Holocaust survivor Gita Frankel, in appreciation for her school presentation on Oct. 24. Frankel spoke to the class about her life story and her experiences during the Holocaust. Frankel and her family were held in the Lodz ghetto in German-occupied Poland.

“The students were particularly touched when she told us about seeing her father shot by the Nazis, and about holding her brother in her arms as he died of malnutrition,” said Sack. Frankel also told the students about her experiences on a forced march, as the Germans fled from the Russians at the end of the war.

“While admitting that these presentations are physically and emotionally draining, and are followed by nightmares, Mrs. Frankel insists on taking advantage of each day that she is physically strong to share her story with young people,” said Sack. “She told the students that we have to be vigilant against discrimination and oppression of any kind.”

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

School bike clubs

Heights Bicycle Coalition

The Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) sponsored after-school bike clubs this fall for third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Canterbury and Fairfax elementary schools. Club activities included weekly rides of three to five miles on side streets, with a snack at the halfway stop.

HBC volunteers Sarah O’Keeffe, Jeff Sugarman—with bike dog Chipper—Mitch Pilon and PTA members help school PE teachers Julie Lustig and Alice Stratton run the clubs.

The goal of the clubs is to teach children bike safety and the rules of the road. The clubs also encourage students to get out and enjoy the fresh air.

An exciting highlight of the school cycling program was the Oct. 2 bike rodeo at Canterbury. The bicycle division of the Cleveland Heights Police Department demonstrated bike riding skills, including balance and proper braking to the 33 students in attendance.

“We hope to continue to grow the after-school program for next year,” said Sarah O’Keeffe, lead HBC volunteer. The clubs served more than 40 students in the last two years.

Interested in having an after-school bike club in your school? Contact Sarah O’Keeffe at sarabeo-keeffe@gmail.com.

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

continued from page 1

as evidenced by recent operating levies, which earned 57 percent approval in 2011 and 55.2 percent in 2007.

“There is a clear understanding among people that this is something we need to do, even though it is expensive,” said Patrick Mullen, co-chair of Citizens for Heights Schools, the group created to promote the bond issue. “Other districts are improving their facilities. Our facilities need repair. In many ways, it would cost us more to do nothing.”

“On behalf of the students, teachers, faculty, staff and this board, we are extremely grateful for our community’s support of public education and our students,” said Ron Register, in a press release.

Register, who has served on the school board since 2002, was one of two incumbents who were re-elected to serve another four-year term. Kal Zucker, who has served since 2006, was also re-elected.

Eric Silverman, who had previously served on the school board in 2002, was one of two incumbents who were re-elected to serve another four-year term. Kal Zucker, who has served since 2006, was also re-elected.

Eric Silverman, who had previously served on the school board in the 1990s and on the CH-UH Public Library Board, and is president of the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation, edged out first-time candidate Allen Wilkinson for the third seat.

Silverman served on the Lay Facilities Committee (LFC), which developed the comprehensive school facilities plan that the bond will fund, and Wilkinson served on the Sustainability Working Group, one of four LFC subcommittees.

The school district has already begun the process of selecting architectural and construction management firms for the project. The CH-UH Board of Education created an Evaluation Committee to interview and evaluate the top candidates from the district’s Request for Qualifications process this month.

“As we move forward to fully implement the plan that we put forward to the voters, we will put a community-led Bond Accountability Committee in place to ensure accountability, transparency and financial oversight,” said Register.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of the Heights Observer. She served on the CH-UH City School District’s Lay Facilities Committee.

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Cleveland Heights Bike Officer Andy Watkins leads a bike skills workshop at the Canterbury Bike Rodeo. Students also practiced bicycling skills in the school parking lot.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 15, 2013

All board members were present.

Options program

Brian Williams, coordinator of alternative programming, gave a presentation about the Options program at Taylor Academy—an alternative to expulsion. The two-year program serves students who make poor education choices or lack motivation. Both morning and afternoon sessions provide small classes, blended instruction, choices, and self-paced learning. During the 2011–12 school year, 130 students graduated in grades 10 through 12 participated in the program and 26 graduated. There was a 91 percent reduction in discipline problems. During the 2012–13 school year, 69 percent of students facing expulsion participated, and 49 students graduated. The students must have completed ninth grade in the Heights system, and then be referred to this program. The program offers a nurturing and safe experience. The vision statement is to create an environment that allows students to explore the true power that lies within them. The students’ goals are respect, self-respect, confidence, vision, preparation, and determination.

Summer school opportunities

Summer school principals for elementary and middle schools presented a report on summer school opportunities. Camp Jumpstart was for kindergarten-age students who teachers recommended to participate in a language program where letter identification, sound and phonics were included. A physical education program connected to reading was also included during a morning program. The program was funded by Title 1 monies and cost about $56,118.98. The principal recommended that first- and second-graders be added, and that the kindergarten program be continued.

The summer bridge program for fifth-graders transitioning to sixth grade included reading, math, writing, team building, and humanities. Mondays were fun days. The program had 197 students: 46 sixth-graders, 58 seventh-graders, and 83 eighth-graders. The cost was $79,345.72, with letter identification, sound and phonics classes. The pre-algebra class provided help to single-gender classes and hands-on science classes. The pre-algebra class provided help to students transitioning to sixth grade.

Summer school classes included reading, math, writing, team building and humanities. Fridays were fun days. The program had 175 students: 46 sixth-graders, 58 seventh-graders, and 61 eighth-graders. The cost was $79,345.72, averaging $453.40 per student. There were single-gender classes and hands-on science classes. The pre-algebra class provided help to students transitioning to sixth grade. The principal recommended the continuation of this program.

Bond issue management

Stephen Shergalis, director of business services, explained that if the bond issue passes, there must be a single point person from the administration (the owner’s representative) who, for the 12-year project period, would be the liaison with the contractor, control project schedules, and assist in managing the bond issue, which would be more than $100 million.

Fraud

The state audited for 2012 uncovered fraud by a former employee who had stolen a check and was immediately caught and fired.

Future levy

Due to a reduction of state revenue for the schools, a levy of 4.5 mills was mentioned for the future.

LWV Observer: Lillian House.

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

All board members were present.

National Merit students

Superintendent Nyalage McDaniell recognized two National Merit Commended students, Sara Shore and Benjamin Spier. These students scored in the top 5 percent on the test. The superintendent also recognized two National Merit Semifinalists, Marissa Lariviere and Kevin Lasseter. These students scored in the top 1 percent on the test.

Field trip

The board approved a field trip for Cleveland Heights High School Symphonic Winds, Symphonic and Jazz Ensembles to Columbus, Cincinnati and Ashland, Feb. 27 to March 1.

 Equivalent education

The second reading of board policy on equivalent education outside the schools was presented.

Evaluation of teachers on limited contracts

The board heard the first reading of the repeal of board policy on evaluation of teachers on limited contracts.

MSAN student conference

Students from MSAN (Minority Student Achievement Network) reported on the conference they attended and the action plan they developed.

Race to the Top

Joseph Micheller, director of curriculum and instruction, reported on the fourth year of Race to the Top.

Option program

Representatives from Making a Difference Consultants reported on their involvement in the Options program.

Donations

The board accepted donations to five different schools totaling close to $4,000.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

For expanded postings of meeting summaries online, visit www.heightsobserver.org.
Ruffing Montessori receives sustainability award

Debra Mitchell

The City of Cleveland Heights recently recognized Ruffing Montessori School with a Community Improvement Award for sustainability.

Mayor Edward Kelley congratulated Ruffing for taking an environmentally respectful approach to exterior improvements at its Fairmount Boulevard campus this fall.

Head of School Gordon Maas said, “We’re thrilled to be recognized for our efforts. As a green school, it is common practice for us to consider the most sustainable approach to anything we undertake, from harvesting rainwater to teaching students about the impact of stormwater on our community.”

Ruffing’s recently completed Stormwater Learning Lab showcases a number of sustainable stormwater management practices, including a permeable pavement driveway, bioretention cells for collecting stormwater, a cistern and a hand pump used for watering gardens. The project was encouraged and supported by the Ohio EPA.

Ruffing also made other improvements. Columns mark a new pedestrian gateway that aligns with the school crosswalk at Fairmount Boulevard, and a new stamped concrete sidewalk extends from the public sidewalk to the school’s main entrance.

Decorative trench drains demonstrate the flow of rainwater through a clear downspout to bioretention cells, while a new bike path wraps around the school’s historic stone wall and leads to a bike parking pad. Plans are in place for custom bike racks created by a local artist, and Ruffing has commissioned a tile artist to create colorful signage for its north-facing wall and the school’s vehicular entrance.

Ruffing Montessori School is the second-oldest Montessori school in the United States, and one of the largest in the Cleveland area. Founded in 1939, Ruffing’s mission is to educate young people to their fullest potential, instilling a sense of personal independence and social responsibility. The school has been LEED-certified since 2010.

To learn more about Ruffing Montessori School and its environmentally sustainable practices, call 216-321-7571.

Debra Mitchell, director of finance and operations at Ruffing Montessori School, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband, David, and two children. She is active in her neighborhood and church.

Wiley and Canterbury schools receive grant to fund IB activities

Camilla Welsch

Wiley Middle and Canterbury Elementary schools received a $5,000 Global Competency Grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation (www.mhjfs.org) on Oct. 11, to fund International Baccalaureate (IB) activities.

At Wiley, the grant monies will go towards funding the schoolwide “WATER Initiative”—an inquiry-based project—where students collect rain water in barrels (donated by the Avon Lake Water Department) and use purchased chemical lab kits to learn about the process of water purification.

For the global collaboration part of the initiative, Wiley students send self-made and labeled plastic bottles and PUR packets (sponsored by Proctor & Gamble) to distill water, as well as other parcels of necessities, to Wiley’s sister school in Liberia.

At Canterbury, the monies will go towards funding two concerts within the Canterbury Concert Series, which annually celebrates diverse, global artists in our community.

Desiree Caliguire-Maier, IB coordinator for Wiley and Canterbury, presented at the statewide Ohio Global Institute this summer.

Those who presented qualified for the Global Competency grant monies.

“This grant gives schools and their communities an opportunity to focus on excellence in teaching and/or deep learning for students with the theme of educating for global competencies,” said Caliguire-Maier.

Camilla Welsch is the communications and community engagement department assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Local History Collection sheds light on library’s past

Julia Murphy

For many, December is a month of reflection: the cold weather can make us nostalgic, and the end of the year prompts us to look back at the year that has just passed, and perhaps look at old photo albums, too. For Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, December means carefully sifting through old library photos and documents to piece together its Local History Collection. This collection consists of documents and photographs that go back nearly 100 years and cover library events, buildings and people.

Heights Libraries plans to establish a permanent location for the collection in 2014. For now, the physical ephemera of the collection are not available for public research, but hundreds of photos can be accessed online through the Cleveland Memory Project at www.clevelandmemory.org. Heights Libraries has partnered with this project, created by the Libraries at Cleveland State University, to contribute to the online database of historical photos, e-books, and even video and sound recordings.

The library’s portion of the collection includes photos of Halloween parties in 1974, card catalogs, Memorial Day parades, a “Critter Show” in 1978, the 1920s book mobile, first computers and library building demolitions.

Bill Rubin, adult services librarian, is now leading the project to digitize the Local History Collection, to make it accessible online. “What’s great about putting this information online is that crowdsourcing techniques can be used to hone information about these old photographs,” said Rubin. “If people can identify a favorite librarian, their Great Aunt Irma or themselves as small children, I would love to hear from them.” Rubin can be contacted at wrubin@heightslibrary.org.

The photos provide a vivid account of how the library has changed: the branches no longer have shelves of phonebooks from around the country. Santa Claus doesn’t visit the library in December and card catalogs are now extinct. But these photos also show what hasn’t changed: the Coventry Village Library has remained true to its 1926 form, with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. Follow Heights Libraries on Twitter @HeightLibr to see a new photo from the Local History Collection every week, and keep your eyes peeled for #ThrowbackThursday. To learn about the archiving process, visit www.heightslibrary.org for volunteer opportunities with the Cleveland Memory Project.

Julia Murphy is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.
Heights Libraries earns top rating from Library Journal

Sheryl Banks

For the fifth consecutive year, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library system has received a five-star rating in Library Journal’s 2013 Index of Public Library Service. The five-star rating is the highest possible rating, given to the top U.S. libraries each year.

Library Journal, a publication with a national circulation of 100,000, reports library-related news with an emphasis on public libraries. It began publishing its index in 2008, and Heights Libraries has earned a five-star rating each year since 2009.

The index categorizes libraries by year-round circulation, and rates them on four criteria: circulation, visits, program attendance and Internet terminal use (public computers).

Heights Libraries circulation was 31.4 per capita in its service area, meaning that 31.5 items circled for every resident in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Visits per capita averaged 18.8, program attendance averaged 0.6 per capita and public computer use was 5.2 per capita.

“This shows what we’ve known all along: people in our community are using the library regularly,” said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. “For many customers we’ve become that third place,’ the place besides work and home where they like to be. We are always busy, and I don’t see that trend reversing anytime soon.”

Levin continued, “Our community depends on us more than ever for everything from free entertainment with books and DVDs and fun programs, to more crucial things like access to the Internet, employment and business resources, free computer classes, and facilities for important community events like the political debates sponsored by the area League of Women Voters.”

Library systems that receive three or more stars in the index are designated as “star” libraries. Other Cuyahoga County libraries to receive this designation include Cleveland Public (four stars), Cuyahoga County (five stars) and Lakewood (four stars).

Thirty-two Ohio libraries were named “star” libraries, second only to New York’s 37. “One reason for this superb showing in our state is the continued support for libraries from the state of Ohio,” said Levin.

The entire report on star libraries can be found at Library Journal’s website, lj.libraryjournal.com.

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 21, 2013

Board Member Ron Holland, secretary, was absent.

Hazel Drake retires after 18 years of service

The board accepted the retirement of Hazel J. Drake, collection services assistant, who retired on Sept. 30, after 18 years of service. Special note was made of her caring and effervescent nature, an asset in providing excellent customer service.

UH Library renovation community comment

Community input meetings for the University Heights Library renovation are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the University Heights Library; Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at Geotry Elementary School, Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. at Whole Foods at Cedar Center; Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Dolan Auditorium at John Carroll University; and Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Happenings program at the University Heights Library.

Public Service Report highlights for September

• Library @ Home service will provide books to customers via postal delivery and will include return postage.
• Aurora Martinez, University Heights librarian, gave staff training sessions on assisting customers with information regarding the Affordable Care Act.
• The 1st Cedar-Covington Author Series talk [presented collaboratively by Apple- tree books, Coventry Village Library and Mac’s Backs/Books on Coventry] featured Kathleen Cerveny, the current Cleveland Heights poet laureate.
• Constance Dickerson, Noble Neighborhood librarian, met with the resettlement coordinator from US Together to begin a tutoring program for the Nepalese refugees in the neighborhood. The group will use the Teen Room computers on Wednesday and Friday mornings and will focus on basic Internet and employment skills.
• Logan Broadbent, member of the U.S. National Boomerang Team, presented a program about the history of the boomerang and worldwide competitions. He also performed gravity-defying boomerang activities.

The training department began a new Computer Basics series that replaces the former Connect Ohio series. The newer series has been rewritten to be more hands-on and Web-based.

• Zahri Sutarwala, adult services associate, presented a talk about his book Space Journeys: Taste and Trade in the Islamic World.

Guests enjoyed Middle Eastern pastries from Aladdin’s and Moroccan mint tea.

The Library Afterschool Fun program expanded from two to four days a week. The 14 programs attracted 285 kids. The two additional days feature Wii gaming, LEGO’s and other free-form activities. A by-product [of the program] has been better noise control and behavior in the children’s area.

LH O Observer: Anne S. McFarland

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

See disclaimer on page 7
Creative neighbors: Susan Skove

Peggy Spaulth

A popular stereotype paints artists as disorganized, unconventional, arrogant, opinionated, sporadic, impractical about day-to-day life, and sometimes fueling their creativity with drugs or alcohol. Hovering over their chaotic lives is their Art—brilliant writings or paintings or films that transcend their tawdry lives. So goes the movie version of the Artist.

Brilliant Hemingways and Van Goghs thankfully exist, but more artists are sober, organized, hardworking, practical, well-trained and inspired people who get up every morning and work at their art. Crack open a front door on a conventional tree-lined, residential street and you may find someone like artist Susan Skove.

Well-known as a painter of inspired silk scarves sold nationally in museum shops and galleries, Skove’s creative yet functional approach to life has incubated coffee shops and a Montessori school, as well.

“When I paint,” Skove said, “I’m interested in being in the moment. There is a sense of a small intimate world and also all possibilities available. So, whether I am following my own flight of fancy or working with a museum’s request, I have this interest as my entry into the work.”

Skove is a home-grown artist who attended the arts-rich Heights schools before training at the Cooper School of Art, where she specialized in oil painting and life drawing. After graduation, she remained at Cooper, teaching drawing and design for the fine artist. Subsequently she redirected her creative energy toward studying ceramics at Cleveland State University before throwing herself into the coffee shop business. Skove was a managing director of the groundbreaking Arabica coffee shops in the 1980s, where she developed a previously unknown talent as an entrepreneur.

When her daughter was born, Skove’s interest turned to providing a creative education. With her penchant for throwing herself wholeheartedly into a project and her demonstrated business sense, Skove and a partner founded Forest Hills Montessori School.

After Skove’s son was born, a friend invited the Skove family to Vermont for a late summer vacation. This friend, who had first known Skove as an artist, handed her a glass of wine and a paint brush, taught her the technique of painting on silk, and launched Skove into the medium that has fascinated her for the past 22 years.

Today, Skove gets up every morning and goes to work in her brightly lit home studio, only a half-mile from where she grew up. Her approach to everything in her environment is creative and well-crafted. Every cup of coffee is made with skill. Every inch of her home reflects her passion for color and pattern. Like Monet, she created a garden that inspires her work. Skove has shared her creative life with husband Tom, a lawyer with a past as keyboardist with Mr. Stress’ Blues Band. Their daughter, Lily, choreographer and filmmaker, lives in L.A. and son, Sam, a recent college graduate, is a budding, adventurous journalist.

Skove is holding her annual holiday sale in her home studio, 2224 North Saint James Parkway, Dec. 5 (2–6 p.m.), Dec. 6 (4–8 p.m.) and Dec. 7 (2–6 p.m.), and by appointment. For information, contact Skove at 216-932-1662 or susan-skove@gmail.com.

Year-round, Skove’s scarves, wall paintings and lavender sachets can be found locally at Heights Arts, 2173 Lee Road; Dancing Sheep, 12712 Larchmere Blvd.; and the Cleveland Museum of Art gift store. Her creations can also be found locally at Heights Arts, 2173 Lee Road; Dancing Sheep, 12712 Larchmere Blvd.; and the Cleveland Museum of Art gift store. Her creations can also be found in the museum shops of New York’s Museum of Art and Design, the Grand Rapids Museum, The Toledo Museum of Art, the Renwick Gallery, and Albright-Knox Art Gallery, among others.

Read more about Skove at www.skovsilk.com.

Peggy Spaulth is the former director of Heights Arts.
The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, will be performing at Fairmount Presbyterian Church on Dec. 14.

Margi Griebling-Haigh

The Choir of Clare College of Cambridge University, England, is coming to Cleveland Heights on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m., to perform a holiday concert at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Admission is free.

This small choir of 29 students enjoys a reputation as one of the top mixed-voice collegiate choirs in the world. Selected by competitive auditions, these talented young singers perform with the clear sonority and delicate expressiveness that has made British chapel choirs famous throughout the world.

Dedicated and enthusiastic, the singers learn vast amounts of music each term, leading choral evensong services three times a week in the college chapel. They quickly become confident sight-readers, as rehearsals are brief and intense, and there is little time for mistakes.

Individual singers have multiple chances to sing solos throughout the year, in chapel, on tour, and on recordings. The group also has two gifted organ scholars, who take turns singing when not accompanying the choir.

Clare College, founded in 1326, is the second oldest, and now one of the most musically renowned, of the 31 colleges that make up Cambridge University. Given the long history of the university—the choir’s founding in 1971 seems relatively recent.

John Rutter, the choir’s second director, held the post briefly before demand for his compositions became too great. Still actively involved, Rutter often uses his discerning ear in the producer’s booth during recording sessions, and continues to compose, especially for the choir. This U.S. tour will include the world premiere of Christ is the Morning Star.

Timothy Brown, whose 30-year tenure raised the choir to international standing, succeeded Rutter. Since 2010, Graham Ross, Clare College fellow, principal conductor of the Dmitri Ensemble, and former member of the choir, has directed the group. This tour marks the choir’s first visit to the United States under Ross’s direction.

Before coming to Cleveland Heights, the choir will perform in Princeton, N.J.; Boston; Concord, N.H.; St. Johnsbury, Vt.; and Cincinnati. The tour coincides with the release of a new CD, “Veni Emmanuel,” on the Harmonia Mundi label, the first in an ongoing series of music for the church year. The “Veni Emmanuel” concert program and CD feature music for Advent, that special period of expectation and mystery leading up to Christmas.

Touring is nothing new for the choir, which keeps an active recording and broadcasting schedule, and has performed on almost every continent. Its debut recording, with Graham Ross, of choral works by Imogen Holst, was hailed as “thrilling” and “immaculate,” and earned Le Choix de France Musique and Diapason d’Or. It was short-listed for a 2013 Gramophone Award.

Currently choir-in-residence for the Aurora Orchestra, with a repertoire including Bach’s St. John Passion and B Minor Mass, and Benjamin Britten’s Rejoice in the Lamb, the singers recently toured and recorded an all-Handel program with the European Union Baroque Orchestra.

Margi Griebling-Haigh, a resident of Cleveland Heights, is a freelance composer, oboist and artist.
Four artists link art with life in show

Mary Krogness

Artists Kathleen McKenna (figurative works and still life), Joel Hauserman (photographs), Amy Fishbach (handmade books) and Candice Dangerfield (photography and mixed media) will exhibit their work in a new show at the South Wing Gallery at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2547 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, on view from Dec. 6 to March 1.

Join the artists at the opening reception on Friday, Dec. 6, 5–7 p.m. The artists receive all proceeds from the sale of their work.

Kathleen McKenna captures everything from the architecture of delicate hydrangeas and the luminescence of incandescent lightbulbs to the rollicking bold colors and flittering streamers of the fanciful Parade the Circle.

As a child, McKenna drew in bed under the light of a reading lamp. As she became more courageous, her palette became more colorful, and replaced the quiet tones that had dominated her earlier work. Through many years of painting portraits, still life and figurative work, she continues to watch her work evolve. McKenna recalled one day, many years ago, her grandmother chided her to stop staring. “But staring is the cornerstone of my work!” said McKenna.

Starting with a Brownie camera, self-taught photographer Joel Hauserman learned to shoot stunning black-and-white photographs. His urban landscapes reflect his attention to the beauty found in the stillness and straight lines of a building. This artist responds to the way a building looks in different light.

“Light is everything,” he said. Hauserman, who teaches at Notre Dame College, was commissioned to photograph a series of four large photos of the historic Sullman bank building. His photographs reflect his attention to the beauty found in the stillness and straight lines of a building. This artist responds to the way a building looks in different light.

Amy Fishbach, a spirited woman who makes one-of-a-kind miniature books full of wonder and wit, is both an artist and award-winning art teacher. She basks in the pleasure of her art and doesn’t worry about the slim revenue she makes from hours—even days—of work.

Her signature piece is a tiny walnut prayer book. Fishbach drills, sands, stitches and varnishes. Her arms and hands ache. “I don’t sit around eating bonbons!” she said.

Since early childhood, Candice Dangerfield, who also teaches art, has been immersed in the arts, in particular photography, painting, drawing and mixed media. “We are inspired by and inseparable from nature,” she said. Her work can capture a transient moment such as billowy clouds and vibrant skies that suddenly become dark and ominous. She uses diverse media to create the effects she seeks. Through art, she seeks and finds the spiritual, which she called “the core of my art and my life.”

St. Paul’s parishioner Gretchen Larson noted, “This gallery gives not only seasoned artists a place to exhibit their art, but [provides] an ideal venue for new and promising artists.”

Visit the gallery weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.stpaulscleveland.org.

Mary Krogness is a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

(216) 392-1335
elclaslpavers@sbcglobal.net

St. Alban’s Episcopal Community

Worship

Wednesday, December 4, 11 and 18
6pm – Agape Community Meal (students welcome!)
7pm – Neo Monastic Evening Prayer

Sunday

10am – Community Eucharist December 1, 8, 15 and 29
Sunday, December 22, 10 a.m. – Lessons and Carols
Tuesday, December 24, 10 p.m. – Carols;
11 pm – Christmas Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25, 10 a.m. – Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 24, 10 p.m. – Christmas Service

Compline & Evensong

5 p.m. December 1 at St. Paul’s
5 p.m. December 8, 15, 22 and 29 at St. Alban’s

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

Christmas Events

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd.
Shaker Heights OH 44118, 216-972-7480

December 7 at 8 pm
Apollo’s Fire Sacrum Mysterium

December 10 at 7:30 pm
Burning River Brass

December 14 at 8 pm
Apollo’s Fire, Christmas Vespers

December 15 at 4 pm
Festival of Lessons and Carols

www.firstbaptistcleveland.org
Sunday Services: 9:00 am and 11:15 am

December 22 at 11:15 am
Christmas Music from Handel’s Messiah

December 24 at 7 pm
Christmas Navitivy Pageant with live animals

December 24
10:30 pm
Christmas Music in the Sanctuary
11:00 pm
Candlelight Service
CityMusic Cleveland brings Viennese New Year’s tradition to the Heights

David Barach

Each New Year’s morning since 1939, the Vienna Philharmonic has performed a world-famous concert, broadcast internationally from the ornately gilded Großer Saal of the Musikverein. Each program is different, but the music typically includes waltzes, polkas, and operettas from the Strauss family—Johann Strauss I, Johann Strauss II, Josef Strauss and Eduard Strauss—with additional music from other composers. It always concludes with Strauss II’s famous “Blue Danube Waltz,” followed by Strauss I’s rollicking “Radetzky March” finale, during which audience members clap the music forward with the bass drum.

Watching this televised concert has become a family tradition across Europe, and more recently worldwide, is free, and no tickets are required. At intermission, the audience will be able to mingle at a reception hosted by the musicians, which will include free refreshments provided by community members.

Stefan Willich, a German national and world-renowned conductor, will direct the program. Willich, who has a background in medicine, is founder and conductor of the World Doctor’s Orchestra.

Soloists are Jack Sute, second trumpet with the Cleveland Orchestra, and Stacey Mastrian, soprano.

CityMusic Cleveland will also perform the concert at other venues in Greater Cleveland, Dec. 5–7. For more information on the program and performance schedule, visit www.citymusicleveland.org.

David Barach is executive manager of CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra.

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Tommy Tune to perform in benefit at Nighttown

Tommy Tune’s Dec. 4 performance at Nighttown will benefit Cedar Fairmount SID.

Kaye Lowe
Nighttown will host a benefit for the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District’s streetscape plan, featuring Tommy Tune, on Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Actor, dancer, singer, theater director, producer and choreographer Thomas James “Tommy” Tune has won nine Tony Awards and the National Medal of Arts. He will perform a “tapiography show,” covering his half century on stage and on screen.

Tickets, which include a 6 p.m. cocktail party and premium seating for the 7 p.m. performance, are $100 ($40 is tax deductible).

For more information and tickets, contact the Cedar Fairmount SID at 216-791-3172.

Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

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Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.
Cedar Fairmount shops offer holiday activities

Kaye Lowe

Cedar Fairmount merchants are planning various events and activities to inspire residents to get into the holiday spirit, and to benefit the community.

Abstract Hair Salon will collect nonperishable food for the Cleveland Food Bank during the months of November and December. Patrons who donate nonperishable food items will be eligible for extra customer rewards. The food will be delivered in January to help restock the food bank after the busy holiday season.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m., nine-time Tony award-winner Tommy Tune will perform at Nighttown to benefit Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District's streetscape project.

Tickets, which include a 6 p.m. cocktail party and premium seating, are $100 (40 tax deductible). Call the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID) at 216-791-3772 for tickets.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, from 2–4 p.m., Appletree Books will host children's writer Kelly Tooman, author of The Birthday Triplets, and illustrator Lynn (Schlegal) Tooman-Czer.

Also on Dec. 18, Santa Claus will appear at Dave's Market, and carolers will be singing throughout the district. Appletree Books will also be selling newly found Pearce Bates prints. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of your own masterpiece. Class price of $85 includes one house with a maximum of two children or adults per house.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Class dates and times are Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15, from 3–4 p.m., or Tuesdays, Dec. 10 and 17, from 5–6 p.m. Call 216-321-8585 to reserve a space.

Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Jessica Mitchell, marketing director at Bremec Garden Centers; Mike Goyner of the HRRC board of directors; and Arthur Richwine, general manager of Bremec on the Heights.

Jessica Mitchell

Bremec on the Heights, a Cleveland Heights fixture since opening in 2009, will now stay open year-round. To celebrate the change, Bremec will hold a one-day fundraiser for the Cleveland Heights-based Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) on Dec. 11.

Previously, Bremec closed at the end of its annual Christmas tree sale. The decision to stay open year-round recognizes the evolving needs of urban/suburban homeowners for everything from landscaping materials to garden décor to organic gardening resources.

The HRRC fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A portion of every purchase made with a voucher that day, including all holiday merchandise, will be donated to HRRC in support of its mission to empower homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities. Vouchers are available in advance from HRRC or at Bremec On the Heights on Dec. 11, where HRRC trustees and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and help customers.

Bremec on the Heights appreciates the tremendous support it has received from the Heights community, and looks forward to many more years of helping customers keep their homes and gardens looking fantastic.

Jessica Mitchell is marketing director at Bremec Garden Centers.

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The Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District decorates for the holidays to welcome shoppers.
New wine café opens on Fairmount

James Henke

For many years, Gia Ilijasic and her fiancé, Jim Patsch, had dreamed of opening a restaurant. Finally, on Nov. 5, that dream came true. The couple opened Gigi’s on Fairmount, located in the Fairmount Taylor Business District in Cleveland Heights, in a space formerly occupied by a flower shop and a furniture store.

Gigi’s—the name is taken from the nickname that Ilijasic’s family gave her—is a beautiful “wine café” that has a full bar menu and also serves soups, salads, panini sandwiches and “small bites,” including olives, cheese and charcuterie. Bruschetta boards are the house specialty. Patrons can pick four items from a list that includes smoked salmon, prosciutto, house-made chicken-liver pâté and house-made trout pâté.

“We wanted to create a place that has healthy, affordable, good food that mixes with wine,” Ilijasic said.

Jesse Mendoza, who was formerly at Luxe Kitchen and Lounge in Gordon Square, is Gigi’s chef. All of the restaurant’s bread and pastries are from The Stone Oven, and most of the food is local and organic.

Both Ilijasic and Patsch said one of their primary goals is to serve the neighborhood. “We want to fulfill the wants and wishes of the community,” Ilijasic said. If someone comes in and wants a specific wine or liquor that Gigi’s doesn’t carry, they will order it so it will be there the next time that customer stops by. “Everyone’s a VIP,” Ilijasic said.

Though the restaurant seats only about 45 people, it has a charming look. Large mirrors adorn both side walls, and there’s a photo at one end of the room that shows Patsch’s parents on their wedding day. On another wall is a photo of Ilijasic’s mother at age 14. The ceiling is covered with gorgeous chandeliers.

In addition to the food and wine, Gigi’s is offering live music on Saturday nights and will hold wine tastings on the first Monday of every month. When the weather warms up, Ilijasic and Patsch plan to install patio tables in front of the restaurant.

Ilijasic said she has been interested in the restaurant business since she was studying fashion design at Arizona State University in Phoenix. While in college, she worked at a restaurant called Rox and. Later, she moved to New York City where she worked at Table d’Hote.

Patsch attended Ohio University, where he was a theater major. After graduation, he spent about 20 years in the financial world. “I always had a passion for the restaurant business,” he said. “I’ve worked at several restaurants over the years.”

The couple, who live on Torrington Road in Shaker Heights, met nine years ago and hope to marry in the not-too-distant future.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.