Section of Cedar Road to become ‘Jason West Road’

Deanna Bremner Fisher

At its Dec. 16 meeting, Cleveland Heights City Council passed a resolution to name a section of Cedar Road from Coventry Road to Lee Road “Jason West Road” to honor the memory of Cleveland Heights Investigator Jason D. West, who was killed in the line of duty on May 26, 2007.

The resolution, which was introduced by Council Member Janine Boyd, recognized West for his dedication and devotion to the community he served as a police officer. It read, “This dedication is to be a daily reminder to our community and to all who pass by that we will never forget and we will always honor the ultimate sacrifice of Investigator Jason West.”

Boyd said she began working on the legislation after being approached in late 2012 by police officers and residents at a fundraiser for the Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship, which was established in his memory and is awarded each year to a Heights senior who plans to pursue a career in law enforcement or criminal justice. She investigated several roads before selecting the section of Cedar Road, which is close to West’s home.

Susanna Niermann O’Neil, assistant city manager, said that the city plans to install signage on both sides of the intersections of Cedar and Coventry roads, Cedar Road and Cottage Grove Drive, and Cedar and Lee roads. The signage will be installed in the spring and the city plans to hold an unveiling ceremony. “Because Cedar Road is a county road,” she said, “the city must send a copy of the legislation to the county before signage can be installed.”

“City council and staff—those who worked with him—have wanted to do this for a long time,” said O’Neil. “We are grateful for the work of all of our police, and Jason was such a wonderful person.”

Boyd said she is looking forward to holding the unveiling ceremony with West’s family and friends. “I hope our police officers know that we are grateful for them, the commitment they make, and the risks that they take for us. We miss Jason and Tom [Officer Thomas F. Patton] and hope their families never forget and we will always honor the ultimate sacrifice of Investigator Jason West.”

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library will expand its Sunday hours in 2014 by opening the University Heights Library on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. Heights libraries will fund the additional hours at the University Heights Library by closing the Coventry Village Library on Fridays—a day with relatively low circulation rates compared to the other three libraries in the system.

The new hours will begin on Sunday, Jan. 5. “We conducted an extensive community survey last February, and an issue that came up with our customers was a desire for more hours, especially on Sundays,” said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. “So we analyzed our circulation rates and our budget, and found a way to better serve our customers’ needs while keeping our budget balanced.”

Heights Libraries decided to increase hours at the University Heights Library because it is the second most-heavily used of its four branches (behind the Lee Road Library), with the second highest circulation rates compared to the other three libraries in the system.

Two Heights libraries to change hours

Sheryl Banks

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Heights Libraries decided to increase hours at the University Heights Library because it is the second most-heavily used of its four branches (behind the Lee Road Library), with the second highest circulation rates and second highest population of patrons living near, and using, the branch.

In 2009, Heights Libraries had to cut Sunday hours at three of its four branches when the State of Ohio drastically reduced public library funding. The Lee Road Library remained open on Sundays, but the Coventry Village, Noble Neighborhood, and University Heights Libraries closed.

“We can’t wait to offer our customers the greater access they’ve... continued on page 4
I’m sure you’ve had plenty of invitations this holiday season. But before you settle down upon a more comfortable place in a new year, let me extend one more invitation: Become an observer in 2014. We welcome submissions from all community members—no previous writing experience is required. The Heights Observer has no writing staff; it exists to publish your stories. The Observer brings people together on important issues. It creates networks in our community and strengthens our capacity to remain vibrant in the future. Consider adding your voice to the diversity of voices in the newspaper.

Here are a few simple guidelines to get you started:

1. Write about the hyper-local. The Heights Observer is and has been for those who live and work in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Consider interviewing a local resident, store owner or community leader, or show how a story affects people living and working in the Heights.

2. Submit a story, not a press release. We have no writing staff to follow up on a press release. Occasionally we have an intern or a volunteer willing to accept an assignment, but mostly we rely on you to decide what your neighbors should know and then to send us the story in a print-ready format.

3. Give us the news up front. Tell us the who, what, where and when in the first paragraph or two. Tell us what is newsworthy about your story and what you want readers to know.

4. Be succinct. Make every effort to stay within the word limit, and follow other guidelines in our online Style Guide. We publish several types of stories—news, features, opinion, announcements for upcoming events, and letters to the editor—in our limited space each month. Please keep feature articles (stories that profile a person or explore a particular subject) and opinion pieces to 600 words. Limit news items to 400 words, and keep letters to the editor to 220 words. Know this is not always possible, but you’ll help our volunteer editors tremendously if you stay within these limits.

5. Keep your observations out of your story (unless it is an opinion piece or letter to the editor). Quoting the opinions of others adds color to a news story, but be sure to attribute those views to a specific person. You should disclose any relationship you have to the story in the short bio that you attach to the end of your article.

6. Submit original work only. This may go without saying, but when you submit a story to the Member Center, we trust that the work is your own.

7. Be fair, accurate and civil—always in opinion pieces. We hope that this publication will create dialogue around issues that are important to Heights residents. Following this guideline will encourage conversations and build community.

8. Provide a photo. Photographs can help tell your story. It’s great to see people we know engaged in activities around the community. Photos must be high resolution, a minimum of 350 KB to reproduce well in print. Suggest a caption, name the people in the photo, and let us know who took the picture. Be sure you have permission to use it.

9. Respect our deadlines, so we can stay organized and sane. We publish monthly deadlines at www.heightsobserver.org/read/become-an-observer/. A story submitted by the deadline has a better chance of inclusion in the print edition.

To submit a story, go to www.heightsobserver.org, select Member Center in the left-hand column, and create an account. Then select Submit New Story and paste the text of your story, and hit Submit. If you would like to discuss a story idea before writing it, call me at 216-320-1423, or contact our editor, Kim Sergio Inglis, at city.editor@heightsobserver.org.

Take a look at our monthly deadlines and Style Guide by selecting Become an Observer on the home page. Don’t worry that your story is not good enough. We can help polish your story.

I look forward to reading your story in an upcoming issue of the Heights Observer.

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

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Heights Observer is a non-profit news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and community improvement. FutureHeights is funded by its publisher and staff, or of the Heights Observer, gener-
To the Editor,

I have traveled all over the county, and the state, and I have never seen law enforcement with such disregard of the law than the Cleveland Heights police. Let me begin by saying that I have the highest respect for people who put their lives in danger to protect others.

Over many years, I have seen police in Cleveland Heights park illegally, run red lights, even write tickets to legally parked vehicles. I have posted pictures and videos of all my accusations at saferheights.wordpress.com.

I think we all feel upset when we see officers running red lights, turning on emergency lights when there is no emergency, and parking illegally. Why should police have special privileges to break the law?

I spoke a year ago with the assis-tant chief of police. Since then, I have requested several meetings more recently, and my requests remain unanswered. When I spoke to him last year, he told me that they do park throughout the city for deterrence. In the meantime, the FBI reports that incidents of "violent crime" in 2012 were 600 percent higher than 2007 (FBI Uniform Crime Report 2007-12). Where have the police been during this crime increase? They have been "deterring crime" by running red lights; parking in fire zones, at unpaid meters on their break, in front of fire hydrants, and in bus zones.

The concerns for the safety of residents still go unanswered by the po-lice administration. Are the Cleveland Heights police making the city more safe, or are they putting the residents, travelers and visitors in more unnecessary danger?

Let me end by asking this: Who polices the police? I have been to city council twice to express my concerns, and there has been no executive or legislative action since. With no other options, the people must rise up and police our own police. We must police them at the ballot box. We must ask city candidates how they plan to combat police misconduct, and vote for those who will do something. We must send letters to the mayor and council members.

Studies show that when people trust the police the crime rates drop. Let's get these brave women and men out of the fire lanes where they put people in danger, and into the street lanes to bring down the skyrocket-ing crime. The time has come for the mayor and council to rein in police misconduct, so that we can begin to trust the police more.

Joshua Schaffer
Mayfield Heights

Police should follow traffic laws

THE COMMON GOOD

Sue Kaster

I prefer to ignore charter schools. I know good people who work in them and use them. Charters don’t have to have much to do with my school district. How much good can they do? How much harm?

Rigor, choice, fraud, profit-seeking and failure pushed me to learn more. Because charter schools are funded with public funds, I thought I would go to the heart of the matter and "follow the money." I turned to Bill Phillis, a longtime advocate of reforming school funding in Ohio, for an explanation of the system that now uses state tax dollars to fund two different kinds of public schools. I am troubled by what I learned.

The Ohio Constitution requires the state to provide all children a thorough and efficient education. In carrying out that responsibility, the state legislature funds and regulates schools. In 1988 the legislature cre-a ted "community schools," its name for charters, and began a dual system of publicly funded schools with ma-jor differences in funding, regulation and oversight. Today there are more than 900 charters in Ohio, using close to $1 billion in state funding.

The funding mechanism is costly to traditional public schools. Public resources flow from schools that are governed by an elected school board—and are expected to adhere to state regulations covering financial oversight, teacher qualification and accountability, and educational programs—to loosely governed and deregulated charter schools.

Each year, the legislature deter-mines the funding level for charter students and those in traditional public schools. According to a 2013 Department of Education report, the funding level for every charter student was set at $5,732. By con-trast, state funding for traditional public school students is specific to the school district they attend, based on the property wealth of each dis-trict. Because I live in the Cleveland Heights–University Heights City School District, I thought I’d focus on its funding. According to CH-UH treasurer Scott Gainer, our per-pupil allocation in 2012-13 was $1,741, or just 30 percent of the amount promised to charter students.

Not only do charter students receive more state funds than their public school peers, but the difference comes out of the per-pupil contributions for public school students. This is how it works: The state creates a pot of mon-ey for each school district that will pay for both charter and traditional students who reside in that district. While the state promised $5,732 to charter students living in Cleveland Heights, it put only $1,741 in the pot for each of those students. This is the same amount that is added to the pot for each of the 5,787 public school students who live in the district.

When it is time to pay for char-ter students, the state subtracts the guaranteed amount—$5,732—for each student and sends it to their charter school. Public school kids get what is left. The $4,000 shortfall for each charter student comes out of what was put in the pot for the public school students. In 2012-13, about $2.3 million was sent to pay for 372 Cleveland Heights charter school students, even though they brought only 30 percent of that money into the pot. In effect, traditional public school students subsidize 70 percent of the cost of charter school students.

To add insult to injury, once the money passes out of public hands to the charter, there is no elected school board to be held accountable for how it is used.

The state legislature has been loath to increase resources for its public schools, but when it comes to charter schools they do not hold back, at a sizeable reduction to local school district budgets. How does that make public schools better?

As I see it, the legislature has created a dual system for delivering education. Those systems receive different levels of state support, operate with different expectations, and are governed by different rules. Charter schools—no matter their quality—op-erate without adequate safeguards to protect public funds and undermine authentic public schools by draining away resources and children. This is wrong.

Ohio’s charter schools are not harmless. The system encourages waste through inefficiency and lax oversight. Creating two systems that follow dramatically different rules makes no sense. It endangers public education, violates public trust and undermines education pursued as a common good.

Our elected officials need to end their reckless use of public resources and fulfill their obligation to create an effective system of common schools, the bedrock institution of our democrac- y.

I am glad I finally decided to learn more.

Susie Kaster is a longtime resident of Cleve-land Heights, former director of Reaching Heights, and serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

Ohio’s dual system of publicly funded schools

HEIGHTS NEWS

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Peace
University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 18, 2013
All council members were present.

Income target areas
Mayor Infeld announced that Cuyahoga County is updating its Income Target Areas. The county maintains a list of areas with low to moderate household incomes that might benefit from grant opportunities.

Cement pricing
Council approved obtaining bids for cement pricing for a new city sidewalk and apron program. The intent is to secure a standard price for concrete per foot that can be offered to residents who need to replace sidewalk blocks and driveway aprons. The city would not recommend nor endorse the contractor, but would offer the information to residents. This would help residents secure a reasonable price from a licensed contractor.

Grass abatement program
Council approved obtaining bids for the grass abatement program. The city periodically hires a contractor to mow the lawn at a home, usually one that is empty or fenced. In the current contract, which has ended, contractors bill property owners and then the county if there is no payment. The county then places a lien on the property tax bill. In the new version, the city will take over billing the county and pay the contractor directly. This should increase the number and quality of contractors willing to provide grass abatement for the city.

Municipal tax reform bill
Finance Director Larry Heiser reported the Municipal tax reform bill number and quality of contractors willing to bid on a five-year loss option. The issue is still opposed in the Ohio House and is expected to pass in the Senate. The bill will have a modest effect on the Finance Director.

Wiley Middle School’s closing
On Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., the school district will hold a meeting in the Heights High Social Room to discuss closing Wiley Middle School and how the district will relocate students to Madison and Roxboro middle schools next school year.

Grass abatement
At the next meeting, Councilwoman Frankie Wiseman has been appointed following the death of a councilman. Wiseman ran for and was elected for one year to fill the seat being vacated by Frank Goldberg. Therefore, Wiseman will resume his duties as councilman on Jan. 1.

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Fire department
Council approved the purchase of three buy garage doors for the fire department at a cost of $12,209. The building commissioner obtained three bids and recommended Acton Door as offering the lowest price. The company has done other jobs for the city. This door is more energy efficient and has a clear glass. Shaker Heights and Boardbridge fire departments have similar style doors.

Grass abatement
Council authorized a change order in the amount of $8,410.50 for the Fuchs Mizrachi building demolition because a crawl space was filled with pipes and asbestos was found during the demolition.

Search for fire chief
The search has opened for a new fire chief, and many resumes have been submitted.

Tree trimming
Councilwoman Goldberg asked about tree trimming. The service director said that the arborist looks at every tree and determines how to prune the tree to ensure the strongest growth and safety. A suggestion was made to identify the city newsletter and publicize the planting of trees where there was the most pruning.

Donkun Donuts
The building commissioner stated that Donkun Donuts will break ground in early spring.

School facilities oversight
Councilwoman Sue Fardess said the school district budget oversight committee for the facilities renovation is being formed, and [any] resident [who] wants to participate should contact Judy Mitchell or查看[the information] on the [district] website at www.chuh.org.

WVW Observer: Michelle Weiss.

Look for larger, more frequent, and expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. These meeting summaries are abstracted from WVW observer writer’s reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse, and Maryann Barnes. To receive a weekly update of LwV reports, send an email to info@lwv-cuh.org to join Google groups using “lwv-cuh observer reports” as a search phrase. These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

WVW Observer: Michelle Weiss.

Library
Libraries are part of the community’s lifeblood. They are the fountain of knowledge, the place where we gather to read, study, and learn. They are the heart of the community, providing a place for people of all ages to come together and share ideas. The Heights Library is a wonderful example of this. It offers a wide range of services and resources, from books and magazines to study rooms and computer labs. It is a place where people can come to relax, learn, and connect with others. The Heights Library is more than just a place to borrow books; it is a place where people can come together to learn, grow, and be part of the community.

Shop local!

GROG SHOP continued from page 1

I was also the author of several books, including biographies of Tom Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley. “I am very committed to Cleveland Heights,” Blackman said. “Rock clubs usually don’t last 20 years, so I am very connected to this city. I am vested in this community. It’s my home.”

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 Tom Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.

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Shop local!
UH honors three for service
Kim Sergio Inglis
University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld named outgoing Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg and volunteer magistrate Robert Walton University Heights’s 2013 Public Servant and Citizen of the Year, respectively, for the work they have done on behalf of the city.

This year’s UH Employee of the Year is Scott Rudyk, a 24-year employee of the city and head mechanic in the service department. He was selected for that honor by a vote of city employees.

At the UH City Council meeting on Dec. 17, Infeld presented Goldberg and Walton with official proclamations honoring their achievements. Rudyk was honored at the city’s employee appreciation event on Dec. 16.

“Frankie Goldberg has served the community as an elected official for 12 years; eight years as a councilwoman, and as vice mayor for four years,” said Infeld. “Frankie is a strong advocate for the residents of University Heights and is very well-liked.”

“Each year, Infeld chooses a University Heights resident to honor as Citizen of the Year. The resolution honoring Frankie Goldberg was chosen to serve as vice mayor in January 2009. She left council at the end of 2013 because of term limits. Frankie will be missed by all of us very much,” said Rudyk. “Scott is well-liked by his fellow employees and interacts with nearly every employee . . . in his role of overseeing the vehicle fleet. He is responsible for the maintenance of all city vehicles and has done a tremendous job.”

In honoring Goldberg, Infeld noted her “record of advocacy on behalf of the city’s at-risk children, “encouraging them to get good grades in school, ordering community service . . . and “generously (giving) his time to the community in a way to make a difference in the lives of children who need guidance.”

Honorees Robert Walton and Frankie Goldberg.

Infield said of Rudyk, “Scott is an innovative guidance he provides to the Juvenile Diversion program of University Heights, and a criminal defense attorney, cited the community as an elected official for 12 years; eight years as a councilwoman, and as vice mayor for four years,” said Infeld. “Frankie is a strong advocate for the residents of University Heights and is very well-liked.”

“For several years, Robert Walton has served as the volunteer magistrate for the Juvenile Diversion program of University Heights,” Infield explained. “He generously donates his time to at-risk first-offender youths in our community who have committed a nonviolent crime.”

Each year, Infeld chooses a University Heights resident to honor as Citizen of the Year. The resolution honoring Walton, a 28-year resident of the city and a criminal defense attorney, cited the “innovative guidance” he provides to the city’s at-risk children, “encouraging them to make a difference in the lives of children who need guidance.”

In fielding Goldberg, Infeld noted her “record of advocacy on behalf of residents and community issues,” and her service as chair of city council’s building, recreation and safety committees.

First elected to UH City Council in November 2001, and re-elected twice, Goldberg was chosen to serve as vice mayor in January 2009. She left council at the end of 2013 because of term limits. “Frankie will be missed by all of us who have served with her,” said Infeld.

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

Meals on Wheels seeks volunteers to package or deliver meals to University Heights residents
Victoria Bauer
Meals on Wheels, a program that delivers fresh meals to seniors and those with disabilities, seeks volunteers to package and deliver meals.

Volunteers assist program staff by filling containers with hot and cold food, and then placing the containers in a heater or cooler for delivery. Each Heights route has between 5 and 9 clients. Volunteers deliver the food to the door of each home on a pre-assigned route and, if invited in, spend a few minutes visiting with the recipient.

Volunteers are urgently needed for the Meals on Wheels Shaker Heights office, which serves University Heights, Shaker Heights and Beachwood. Those who sign up can volunteer just once a week, or as many days as they are available to help.

A volunteer can either pack meals, deliver meals, or both. Each day requires about a two-hour commitment, from about 10 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers are also needed to serve on the Meals on Wheels Board of Trustees, assist with newsletters, mailings and fundraising.

For more information, contact the Shaker Heights office at 216-991-6797 or www.shakerauthershakerauthers.com.

For information about volunteering with Meals on Wheels in Cleveland Heights, contact the Cleveland Heights office at 216-382-5697.

Victoria Bauer is a member of the Shaker Heights Meals on Wheels Board of Trustees.

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In May 2013, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) awarded the City of Cleveland Heights a consultant to help develop a school travel plan. A public hearing to review a draft of the plan is set for Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers at Cleveland Heights City Hall, with questions and answers to follow. Residents interested in the effort to improve safe walking and biking to school are encouraged to attend, learn about the plan, and provide input.

A school travel plan is required in order for the city to apply for Safe Routes to School grants, which in turn are used to fund infrastructure improvements and educational programs. Infrastructure might include improved traffic signals for crossing busy streets, while education programs support safety education for walking and bicycling.

In November, the consultant surveyed parents at Oxford, Canterbury and Roxboro elementary schools, Monticello Middle School and the Hebrew Academy to identify attitudes and concerns about students walking or biking to school. Teachers were asked to tally actual modes of transportation that students used to get to school.

In December, the consultant and traffic engineers met with city and school personnel and observed dismissal at the schools selected for the study. While studying every Cleveland Heights and University Heights school, there would have been desirable, program requirements limited the number, and the sample chosen is geographically diverse.

Cleveland Heights will finalize its school travel plan following the public hearing on Jan. 16. The city then will be able to apply, in March, for Safe Routes to School funds.

The application to ODOT for a consultant to help in developing a Cleveland Heights school travel plan was supported by the city, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City District, Heights Bicycle Coalition and the Hebrew Academy. Findings are expected to apply to all schools in the city.

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

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Outgoing CH Mayor Kelley to run for County Council

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Dec. 3, Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward J. Kelley announced his decision to run for Cuyahoga County Council. Kelley did not seek re-election to Cleveland Heights City Council and his term there ended on Dec. 31.

Kelley will run for the District 10 seat currently occupied by Julian Rogers, who announced his resignation from county council on Nov. 20. Rogers resigned to take a position with Cleveland State University, and his resignation is effective Jan. 3.

"Julian Rogers has represented us well," said Kelley, in a press release. "I will continue his commitment to public service, adding my own experience and understanding of the need for regional solutions. I know this will be a spirited campaign, and I welcome the opportunity to participate.

"My experience as an elected official involved issues affecting the poor and less fortunate, regional issues, housing, infrastructure and economic development initiatives, and the ongoing needs of our seniors and young people," continued Kelley. "I know firsthand the challenges of this district and the creative solutions needed to go forward. I look forward to working with my district colleagues and all the elected officials representing District 10 to solve problems together. I commit to doing all that I can to strengthen Cuyahoga County and improve the lives of our citizens. I am honored to have served the residents of Cleveland Heights, the most diverse city in the United States, and will be honored to expand this service to the county."

District 10 includes the cities of Bratenahl, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, University Heights and Cleveland’s 10th and 11th wards. According to a recent Cleveland.com article, the process for replacing an elected official under the Cuyahoga County’s new charter government is unclear. According to the charter, Democratic Party precinct members from District 10 will have 30 days from the date of resignation to pick someone to fill the vacant seat temporarily until the general election in November 2014.

However, in order for the person they choose to be eligible to run for the seat in November, he or she must file as a partisan candidate by Feb. 3 in order to qualify for the May 2014 primary election—only five days after the resignation date.

Kelley served on Cleveland Heights Council from 1993 to 2013, serving as mayor for 16 years. Currently, he is director of administration for the law firm Kelley & Ferraro. Kelley served on the RTA Board of Trustees for 10 years. His other board service includes the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, the Shaker Lakes Nature Center and the Senior Transportation Connection.

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

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Heights Youth Club going green in 2014

Louise Khayat

Discarded plastic bottles, cans and litter on Washington Boulevard between Lee and Grosvener roads will be harder to spot in 2014, thanks to an initiative planned by the Heights Youth Club (HYC).

The Keystone Tigers, an HYC teen service group, plans to go green and clear trash from the curbs and tree lawns along that stretch of road, weekly, bi-weekly, or as often as needed.

“We hope to start in January,” said Roscoe Morgan, HYC director. “First, the plan has to go before city council for a vote, because there is no adopt-a-street program currently in Cleveland Heights.”

The teens are also making a conscientious effort to print less, and use e-mail more.

Morgan said the club is excited to have this opportunity and, if it gets the green light, looks forward to making it a success.

“This kind of work not only benefits our neighborhoods but our youth, their future and our future,” said Morgan.

The Heights Youth Club is a non-profit organization serving Cleveland Heights youth. Donations to support its projects are welcome, and can be sent to Heights Youth Club, 2065 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 44118.

Louise Khayat is the administrator for the Heights Youth Club Board of Directors.
The Nature Center Good Neighbor Litter Patrol recently cleared 10 bags of garbage from the perimeter of the property.

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes initiates Good Neighbor Litter Patrol

Lisa Fredrickson

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes launched a new initiative in December, the Good Neighbor Litter Patrol. In the spirit of the holidays, the patrol was organized as an opportunity to show appreciation for and give back to the community.

The Good Neighbor Litter Patrol is led by Kay Carlson, executive director, and consists of local high school students, staff and additional volunteers who will meet every Thursday, from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., throughout the year. The Litter Patrol will remove all trash and debris from the perimeter of the Nature Center, contributing to the tranquility of the area for visitors, commuters and nearby residents.

“The Litter Patrol initiative is all about being a good neighbor,” Carlson said. “We are taking responsibility for keeping our grounds clean, inside and out, while engaging a terrific group of volunteers. It also gives us an opportunity to recycle.”

The Nature Center is known for its hiking and walking trails, natural habitats, birding opportunities and acclaimed environmental education programs. Approximately 40,000 walkers, runners, birders and other nature lovers visit the Nature Center annually, including over 15,000 children who participate in its educational programs each year.

To volunteer for the Good Neighbor Litter Patrol, contact Jessica Brand, volunteer coordinator, at 216-321-5935, ext. 237 or brand@shakerlakes.org. For more information on programs at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, visit www.shakerlakes.org.

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

HRRC HouseMender series offers free advice from experts

Rebecca Stagler

In January, Home Repair Resource Center’s (HRRC) HouseMender University lecture series begins its eighth year.

Launched in 2005, the series provides homeowners with information to help them make good decisions about home repair and improvement projects. Lectures cover how to get quality workmanship when contracting, how to choose materials that best fit a specific situation, and how to decide whether a new technology is likely to meet one’s needs.

Three HouseMender University presentations are planned for this winter:

• Feb. 11: Green Driveways: Permeable presenters are planned for this winter.

Each presentation will run from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at HRRC’s Teaching Center, 2250 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights (two blocks north of Monticello Boulevard).

HouseMender University lectures are free and open to residents of all communities, but reservations are requested. For more information about the series or to reserve a spot, call 216-581-6100, ext. 16.

Becky Stagler has been HRRC’s education coordinator since 1993. Visit www.hrrc-ch.org or call 216-581-6100 for more information on programs and services.

Reaching Heights receives $4,550 grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Patrick Mullen

Reaching Heights, a community nonprofit in Cleveland Heights that supports excellent public education, has been awarded $4,550 by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) for the Heights Summer Music Camp, which will mark its 10th year in June.

Reaching Heights mobilizes local musicians and music educators to create a weeklong, affordable music immersion experience for more than 90 10- to 12-year-olds who participate in the school district’s instrumental music program.

“We are excited to use some of these grant funds to promote attendance at the music camp’s finale concert on June 21, 2014,” said camp director Susie Kaeser. “Parents and campers are both surprised and awestruck by the remarkable quality of the orchestra’s performance, the skills demonstrated by chamber groups that perform in the reception area and from the stage, and the joyful choir. We’re eager to share this concert with an even larger community audience next year!”

CAC made this grant through its 2014 Project Support grant program, which supports Cuyahoga County-based projects that promote public access and encourage the breadth of arts and cultural programming in our community.

Heights Summer Music Camp is a weeklong day camp, where young musicians explore a wide range of musical styles in a variety of ensembles.

They participate in two orchestral rehearsals; work in their instrumental group in a master class and in a sectional rehearsal; participate in a chamber group; and explore a new musical interest such as jazz, African drumming, guitar or choir.

Camper demonstrate their progress in a chamber group recital on Friday, and in a finale concert on Saturday morning, the last day of camp.

Since 1994, Reaching Heights has worked to engage the entire community in supporting excellence in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools in three areas of focus: academic support, music support and community engagement.

To learn more about Heights Summer Music Camp and Reaching Heights, visit www.reachingheights.org or call 216-932-5110.

Patrick Mullen is the executive director of Reaching Heights.

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Heights Observer January 2, 2014 www.heightsobserver.org
Free speech essay contest for high school juniors and seniors

Jewel Moulthrop

The call is out to all high school juniors and seniors. The City Club of Cleveland is sponsoring The Hope and Stanley Adelstein Free Speech Essay Contest, a special opportunity for upper-grade students to shine, and to win generous cash prizes.

The Adelsteins, lifelong residents of Northeast Ohio, are philanthropists and longtime members of The City Club. Stanley joined The City Club in 1941 and served as president of its board of directors. Hope, a retired nurse, joins her husband in their support of free speech, justice and the environmental issues.

The Free Speech Essay Contest gives students an opportunity to explore the complexities of our constitutional right to free speech while building essential writing and critical thinking skills. The contest is open to all juniors and seniors in public, private, parochial, charter and home schools in Cuyahoga and the surrounding counties.

Essays can address the topic “What is the value of free speech in a democratic society?” in any way that exhibits an understanding of the theme. Essays will be judged on clarity of thought, quality of content, originality, and significance of the ideas expressed, and should be no more than 500 words. A panel of judges, selected from The City Club members and the community, will select the winning essays.

More than 20 prizes will be awarded. The first three prizes are $1,000, $500, and $250, respectively. The next 17 winners will each receive $100.

The top three winners will read their essays at a City Club Forum to be broadcast on radio, television, YouTube and The City Club website. The 20 finalists and their guests will be invited to attend a special luncheon and will receive a one-year membership to The City Club and a certificate of recognition.

The deadline for submitting an essay is March 14. All entries must include entrant’s name, age, home address and telephone number, and e-mail address. Entries should include a cover letter, signed by the entrant, that states the following: “This is my original document and does not include any previous composition by another.” Entries should be sent to Free Speech Competition, 850 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, 44114. Entries will be notified by April 15. For more information, contact Arin Miller-Tait at 216-621-0082 or at FreeSpeech@cityclub.org.

Jewel Moulthrop is a Cleveland Heights resident, a member of the Heights Observer’s Editorial Advisory Committee and frequent contributor to the newspaper.

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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

City Club meetings

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

The board approved the Equivalent Education Outside the Schools policy.

Library board interviews

The only agenda item was to interview and appoint a trustee for the Cleveland Heights University Heights Public Library Board. Appointment of trustees for the Heights Library Board is the responsibility of the board of education. The three candidates were Michael Kurtz, James K. Rossa and Kenneth E. Simmons. After each was interviewed, the board of education appointed James K. Rossa to the seven-year term. Rossa has been on the library board for the past two years, filling an unexpired term.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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CH-UH Board of Education

Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 19, 2013

All board members were present.

Equivalence Education Outside the Schools

The board approved the Equivalent Education Outside the Schools policy.

Construction project

Stephen Schepp, director of business services, presented a timeline for the design and construction at Heights High, Monticello Middle School, and Roxboro Middle School. Designer and construction manager interviews are taking place now and will be approved at the Dec. 17 board meeting. The design of the high school project will happen during 2014. In early 2015, bids will be received and the contract awarded.

Construction at the high school will begin June 2015 and continue until July 2017. During the 2014-15 school year, changes will be made to Monticello Middle School, including the addition of modular units, to prepare for its use as a swing school when the high school is moved there.

The design for Roxboro and Monticello middle schools will take place during 2015. Construction on the middle schools will begin in June 2016 and continue until July 2019.

A faculty accountability committee will be appointed to oversee the project. In December 2013, an executive partnering session will take place to set guidelines for the project. This session will include the architects, construction manager, the school board and the administration.

In January 2014, new geographic boundaries for the middle schools will be drawn and approved by the board. Asked if the two middle schools can accommodate all the middle school students, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Celco responded with a definitive “Yes.”

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

DECEMBER 3, 2013

All board members were present.

Library board interviews

The only agenda item was to interview and appoint a trustee for the Cleveland Heights University Heights Public Library Board. Appointment of trustees for the Heights Library Board is the responsibility of the board of education. The three candidates were Michael Kurtz, James K. Rossa and Kenneth E. Simmons. After each was interviewed, the board of education appointed James K. Rossa to the seven-year term. Rossa has been on the library board for the past two years, filling an unexpired term.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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See disclaimer on page 4.
Heights High students have an action plan for achievement

Joy Henderson

Last fall, six Heights High students and three adults attended the national Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Conference in Amherst, Mass. The conference, Take the Road Less Traveled: Courage to Act, included keynote speakers, college tours, workshops and an opportunity for each school team to create an action plan to improve student achievement.

“It was really great to see what other schools are doing and to get ideas about how we can improve,” said Landry Sneed, MSAN student leader at Heights High.

The action plan created by the CH-UH team focused on three issues: providing in-school, peer-to-peer tutoring, developing a diversity course; and improving cultural competency training for teachers.

After returning from the conference, the students started a math tutoring program in the library during periods 3-9. Any student can attend during EOS, an in-school study period.

“We are working with the human relations department to improve our cultural competency training for staff,” said David Peake, MSAN co-advisor.

The group is also working with administrators to create a diversity course for teachers.

“Taking students to the national conference is a way to inspire them to take action,” said Peake.

MSAN student leaders who attended the conference were: Malachi Carlisle, Lexus Hawkins, Raven Jackson, Carl Sims, Landry Sneed and Kelia Todd.

MSAN offers ongoing activities to motivate and inspire students to achieve and be engaged in school.

Weekly after-school Thirsty Thursday events feature guest speakers and always begin with Peake’s question to the group: “Are you thirsty?” The students respond: “Thirsty for change!”

Upcoming MSAN events include a trip to Kent State University for a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and a visit to Detroit’s Museum of African American History.

“We want students to know more about history and democracy and to broaden their networks,” Peake said. “Ultimately, we want students to be comfortable and successful in school.”

MSAN is a 24-member coalition of multiracial, suburban-urban school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate the racial achievement gaps that persist in their districts.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
University Heights library to explore renovation options

Julia Murphy

Built in 1962, the University Heights Library is the second most heavily used branch in the Heights Libraries system, after the Lee Road Library.

Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director, thinks it’s time to consider upgrading the UH Library, and she wants to hear from the community about what that upgrade should include.

“The University Heights branch is bursting at its seams,” said Levin. “The University Heights branch is the second most heavily used library in the Heights Libraries system. Families are welcomed here as the local place where they love this place.

As of yet, there is no time frame for renovations, and Heights Libraries is just starting the process of exploring possibilities and inviting feedback from the community.

Goals for a potential remodel include better access for library visitors of all ages, more efficient and sustainable energy updates, and a comfortable environment with enduring aesthetics.

Last year, the UH Library had around 184,300 visitors and circulated an estimated 187,000 items.

Beginning Jan. 7, the library will expand its hours to open on Sundays, 2-7 p.m.

It hosts an international movie festival and babysitting clinics, and offers expanded programs off site at Whole Foods on Cedar Road, John Carroll University, Purvis Park and Cleveland Heights—University Heights schools.

Julia Murphy is the marketing assistant for the Cleveland Heights—University Heights Public Library.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

All board members were present.

Heights Libraries is again named a five-star system

For the fifth year in a row, the Heights Libraries was awarded five stars (the highest level of distinction) in the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service 2013. The index ranks per capita scores on circulation, visits, program attendance and public Internet use.

Two branch libraries to change hours

The board approved a proposal to provide more Sunday hours in response to customer requests. The University Heights Library will add Sunday hours, from 1-5 p.m. To prevent an increase in the budget, the Coventry Village Library will remain closed on Fridays. This change is for a trial period of one year.

Nancy Levin, library director, said she understands that some public confusion will result, and emphasized that there is no plan to phase out the Coventry Village Library. Circulation data and visitor statistics across the system pointed to Friday closure at Coventry as being the most logical. There is a popular Friday morning story hour at Coventry that will be rescheduled, and Coventry will remain open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. All of the physical improvements planned for Coventry, such as outdoor lighting, interior remodeling and roofing, will continue. The library will begin a publicity campaign to inform the community about the changes that will begin in January.

Board Member Jim Pasch asked for a six-month update on the changes, sooner if public concern warrants it.

Donations

The board accepted three gifts. $500 from the Staff Association to pay for a portion of the picnic table for the Lee Road Library’s children’s sensory garden. $1,809.96 from the Harry Parkman Fund of the Friends, to be used toward technology purchases, and $100 from resident Paula Predos for books.

UH Library visioning

The library is planning a University Heights Library “visioning” process, hopefully without requiring any additional taxpayer dollars. The visioning session dates for community input for the University Heights Library renovation are:

• Thrusday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the University Heights Library; Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at Gearyt Elementary School; Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at Whole Foods on Cedar Center; Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at Dolan Auditorium at John Carroll University; and Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Happenings program at the University Heights Library.

October public service report highlights:

• History of the Heights, a series presented in partnership with the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, presented two programs: “Immigrants and Migrants, the People of Greater Cleveland” and “The Shakers of Cleveland Heights.”

The Heights Library’s annual event, Octoberfest, was attended by master calligrapher Steve Otolowski on “The Glory of the Written Page.” Octoberfest is an annual festival dedicated to advancing the appreciation of book and paper arts. The third program, a workshop led by certified Zentangle teacher Ellen Dabry, “Tangling with Art, Zen and Paper,” was about the method of creating beautiful art using black pens on white paper.

Mary Murphy, circulation manager, met with the Shaker Heights circulation manager and deputy director to share information on position descriptions, scheduling, and best practices to aid Shaker staff as they consider operational changes directed by their board.


Noble Neighborhood library staff is working with Heights Community Gardens Network and Food Not Lawns to make plans for the Noble Neighborhood library garden. Noble Elementary School may be able to provide student volunteers. Diana White and Sam Lapides submitted a proposal to the Subaru Garden Grant for funding.

Noble Neighborhood library also participated in Octoverfest with Melissa O’Grady’s program, “Book About Me,” where children made their own books.

The Heights Branches’ weekly Senior Citizen Happenings programs featured Conrie Rebich of Ten Thousand Villages; Rachel DeCarlos of Universal Health Care Action Network; and Kenneth Polko, a professor at Notre Dame College.

Lauren Songer started her new music-focused storyline. Kids in Harmony. Average attendance has been 40, for just three programs.

New website design

Sheryl Banks, marketing and community relations manager, demonstrated the website redesign to applause from the board and staff. It will be available for the public soon and is very user-friendly and attractive.

Library brochure

The Heights Library has finished the test for a general library brochure, the first update in a number of years.

Looking for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 4.
Local in-home services for seniors

Judith Eugene

During the winter many people find it difficult to get out of the house to do errands and socialize with friends. Those with limited mobility are unable to get out any time of the year. Fortunately, there are local companies that bring their services to people’s homes.

Amy Roth, a Heights-area dressmaker and tailor, will come to your home to pick up your mending and tailoring. With more than 40 years of couture experience, Roth can alter your clothing to make garments easier to put on and take off. “It’s called adaptive sewing,” said Roth. “I can replace buttons with snaps or Velcro.” Roth also makes comfort and convenience items for seniors, such as wedge pillows for back pain, and privacy curtains to create a sleeping area on the first floor of your house. Call Amy Roth at 216-904-4786.

Spa On Wheels For Seniors is a mobile service caring for feet and nails. Owner Wanda Ragins is a licensed manicurist and pedicurist with nine years of experience. She cleans the feet, clips and shapes the toe and finger nails and removes dry skin. Ragins specializes in conditions common to older feet and hands, such as corns, calluses, long nails, yellowed or thick nails, fungus and dry skin. “Many seniors are embarrassed to have someone else see the condition of their feet,” said Ragins, “But I tell them it’s OK, sometimes it just gets too hard to care for your own feet.” To schedule an appointment, call 330-348-1922.

Vets On Wheels (VOW), a mobile veterinary service, comes to your home to provide medical care for pets. Staff provide medications, vaccinations, disease testing, wellness screening and nail trimming. They also treat skin diseases and ear problems, and provide nutritional guidance. VOW is a program of One Health Organization, a nonprofit group dedicated to the health of people, animals and the environment. VOW offers discounts for low-income seniors. Founder Dr. Anna van Heeckeren said, “Many seniors have trouble affording health care for both themselves and their animals. Our discounts help ease this burden.” To reach Vets on Wheels for services, call 216-920-5371 or visit www.mebmedical.org.

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 Library. For information, and to suggest program topics, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-937-0316 or info@universityheights.org.

Jan. 9: Stephen Cory, director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program at Cleveland State University, charts the spread of Islam across the world, and explores the history and achievements of Islamic culture highlighting the Mediterranean region, Africa and Asia.

Jan. 16: Jan Thrope, a social worker, photojournalist and urban activist, presents “Sights that Hurt and Visions that Heal,” about her quest to find solutions to Cleveland’s poverty and the work of caring people who tackle projects to transform the city.

Jan. 25: Karen Pace, clinical assistant professor of nursing at Cleveland State University, tells of her one-week mission last June to the Dominican Republic. Pace led 16 graduating students, carrying 21 suitcases of medications, and treated 500 patients in remote villages of San Juan de la Magana.

Jan. 30: Mayor Susan Infeld looks back on her first four-year term, and reviews the issues, accomplishments and challenges of service in the City of University Heights. She’ll outline potential projects that could benefit the community in the new year.

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

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Winter Open House
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
5:30-7:30 pm
Heights resident Christine Howey performs her one-person show at CPT

Christine Howey, who was born and raised in Cleveland Heights and still lives in the city, feels as if she’s being reborn as an actor.

Years ago, she was an actor and director at Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights. At that time, she was Richard Howey and performed in more than 20 productions between 1969 and 1984. Among the roles Richard played were Richard Nixon in “An Evening with Richard Nixon” by Gore Vidal and Bitos/Robespierre in “Poor Bito’s” by Jean Anouilh.

Since then, Richard has become Christine. The one-person show she wrote and performs, “Exact Change,” will run at Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT), Jan. 9-31.

“Exact Change” is, in large part, the story of Howey’s transgender journey—one that took place here, in her hometown.

“This play is my attempt to show others what it feels like to struggle with a gender identity conflict,” said Howey. “Most people, gay or straight, don’t have a clue about it.”

The play consists of 40 poems and monologues, many of which are funny and are delivered in a variety of character voices. It begins with pieces that cover a wide range of topics, as Christine searches for her own voice.

Then, for the last hour of the 90-minute production, the focus is on Christine’s transgender odyssey—from birth at St. Luke’s Hospital and school days at Roxboro Elementary to her eventual transition in 1990.

The performance includes video from Christine’s appearance on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” in 2002, as well as photos and videos of Richard/Christine as the years pass.

A shorter version of the play was performed last January at CPT’s Big Box.

“Most people, gay or straight, don’t have a gender identity conflict,” said Howey. “This play is my attempt to show others what it feels like to struggle with a gender identity conflict.”

Talkbacks are scheduled for some of the performances. For details and reservations, contact Cleveland Public Theatre at 216-631-2727 or go to www.cptonline.org.

Stephan Bellamy, a local filmmaker, photographer and writer, has known Howey since the 1970s. They met at Dobama Theatre, where they frequently worked together on shows.
Eric Coble: A playwright’s journey from Dobama to Broadway

While at OU, he met his future wife, Coble’s interest from acting to writing. A playwriting class in grad school turned to acting in his high school for him to illustrate. In Colorado, he started a family. Laursen began to work at University Hospitals as a lab techni-
cian, and Coble drifted into playwriting rather than acting, because he could write in the playpen while watching the kids. Apparently this was a successful strategy for their family, as today their son Trevor is a freshman at Macalester College, daughter Miranda is a junior at Heights High, Laursen is returning to acting and writing, and Coble is about to launch a play on Broadway.

Coble credits Dobama Theatre, founded on Coventry Road in 1960 and now located on Lee Road, with giving him “chance after chance.” His first full production, “Sound-Biting,” was a political comedy launched at Dobama in 1996. In fulfilling its mission to nurture the development of area theater artists, Dobama has produced five Coble plays over the years.” In the two-person play; now headed for Broadway, the woman is in her 80s and in failing health. Ironically, she now knows who and what she is, and resists being pulled from her roots to enter assisted living. She has barricaded herself in her home with Molotov cock-
tails when her youngest son, whom she hasn’t seen in 20 years, climbs a tree to enter the house and intervene.

In spite of having a play on Broad-
way, Coble said, “Cleveland is not a stepping stone. It is home. There is something really meaningful about having an audience that knows me for myself, greets me in the grocery store and has experienced my work over the years.”

“Velocity of Autumn” previews begin April 1, prior to an April 21 opening at Broadway’s Booth Theater. Tickets are available at Tele-
echarge.com.

Peggy Spaulth is the former director of Heights Arts.
Stephanie Trivison has loved music for as long as she can remember. In fact, there is a photo of her taken when she was three years old, and she is standing in front of a microphone, holding a guitar and singing.

Now 27, Trivison, who lives in Cleveland Heights, is the lead singer, guitarist and main songwriter for the band These Knees.

The group, which also includes Eric Piontkowski on bass and backing vocals and Rob Hassing on drums, recently released its debut album, “The Young and the Bright,” a collection of songs that range in style from pop rock to indie rock to singer/songwriter.

Prior to forming These Knees, she recorded two solo EPs, “Stumble” and “Ohio!” She came up with the name These Knees as a result of issues she has with her own knees. "Ever since I was little, my knees have been unreliable," Trivison said. "I even had surgery when I was 19. I've had intermittent problems with my knees for years, but I always bounce back!"

Her band has played at many Cleveland-area music venues, including the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron. These Knees has also played Ingnenuity Fest, the Brite Winter Fest in Akron. These Knees has also played the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron. These Knees has also played in the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron. These Knees has also played in the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron.

In addition, These Knees has played shows in Pittsburgh, Columbus and the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron. These Knees has also played in the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron. These Knees has also played in the Beachland Ballroom, the Grog Shop, Mahal's in Lakewood and Musica in Akron.

Shaker Lakes," said Trivison. "When I now that I live in Cleveland Heights, the troparks, the beaches of Lake Erie and, fishing, I feel like I need a fair amount of alone time to refresh and get centered and grounded," she said. "For me, there's no better way to get that than to connect with nature.

"I'm a big advocate of the Metroparks, the beaches of Lake Erie and, now that I live in Cleveland Heights, the Shaker Lakes," said Trivison. "When I was making my final notes on our new album this summer, I just sat on a dock in Marblehead for hours, headphones on and feeling very connected. I feel like nature is this rejuvenating and inspiring force, and it's something I write about often. It's all throughout 'The Young and the Bright'."

She works in customer service, sales administration and account maintenance. "My role as resident noisemaker is well-known at the company," she said. "I keep a guitar in my office, and if I'm not singing or whistling, something may be wrong!"

In addition to music, Trivison loves nature. "I feel like I need a fair amount of alone time to refresh and get centered and grounded," she said. "For me, there's no better way to get that than to connect with nature.

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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.
When most people think of pizza, they think about the kind of pizza served by the large chains across the U.S. It has a relatively thick crust, with tomato sauce, cheese and maybe sausage or pepperoni. But the pizza at Vero Bistro, located on Cedar Road in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, is quite different. It’s pizza napoletana, or Neapolitan pizza.

Neapolitan pizza is the original style of pizza, first introduced in Naples, Italy, back in the late 18th century. “It was originally street food,” said Marc-Aurele Buholzer, the owner of Vero. “It was basically peasant food.” Neapolitan pizza has a very thin crust, made with super-fine flour. It also features San Marzano tomatoes, which are grown on the volcanic plains south of Mount Vesuvius, and mozzarella cheese. It has to be baked in in a wood-burning oven at 900 degrees for 90 seconds.

Buholzer opened Vero Bistro a little more than a year and a half ago, on June 15, 2012. It’s the same location that La Gelateria formerly occupied.

Buholzer, who is 30 years old and was born in Switzerland, worked at La Gelateria and off and on for about six years. Prior to working there, he worked at Valerio’s in Little Italy. In fact, it was Valerio Iorio who opened La Gelateria in 2002. After a few years, Iorio decided to install a wood-burning oven, which he acquired in Naples, and began serving pizza.

Eventually, Buholzer became the pizzaiola, or the maker of the pizzas.

When La Gelateria closed in 2011, he decided to take over the space. “I put a business plan together, got some money and opened Vero,” he said. He spent about three months remodeling the space, with the idea of focusing on pizza, not gelato. In addition to the pizza, Vero also features small plates, such as marinated olives with crostini, a salami board and a variety of other crostini with cheese and other items. In addition, the menu includes three salads, and the restaurant still offers gelato for dessert.

Buholzer obtained a liquor license this past June, and the restaurant now offers a full menu of Italian wines, as well as various beers. Buholzer, who lives on Woodmere Drive in Cleveland Heights, focuses on using as many locally grown products as possible. He gets many of his ingredients from Farm Share, an organization that connects him with farmers who are all located within 75 miles of Cleveland. His goat cheese comes from the Lake Erie Creamery, and all of his bread is from On the Rise bakery, on Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights.

Vero has received strong support from On the Rise bakery, on Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights. "Doug comes by almost every Sunday," Buholzer said, "and his restaurant Fire had its staff party here."

For the future, Buholzer said the restaurant is “always a work in progress.” He is considering eliminating the gelato from the menu and adding more space for additional seating in the restaurant, which can now accommodate 45 people. Meanwhile, Vero remains a very unique restaurant on the Cleveland scene.

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Vero Bistro serves authentic-style pizza.
White Cloud Pilates celebrates 20 years in Cleveland Heights

Erin Hobey

Troy McCarty, local resident and owner of White Cloud Studio (WCS), is celebrating more than 20 years in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. McCarty began teaching Pilates in 1989, drawing on his professional dance career and his own Pilates training. Since then, he has grown his original Lakewood studio and opened studios in Cleveland Heights and Chagrin Falls. He has 14 coaches and an active teacher training program.

White Cloud Studios boasts a wide range of equipment to accommodate an increasing number of Pilates devotees. WCS has spread Pilates not only throughout Greater Cleveland, but also in Canada, Cuba, Portugal, Italy, England and China by way of McCarty-trained coaches. McCarty named the studio for “the big white clouds in the sky and the way they float so gracefully.”

Many of White Cloud’s clients use Pilates as an alternative to physical therapy. Rose Metzger, a Cleveland Clinic endocrinologist, began Pilates as a last-ditch effort to ease persistent low back pain. “I was a bit apprehensive about Pilates in the beginning, she said. “I wasn’t sure I would like the reformers (exercise equipment), and didn’t want to be limited by having to use them.”

But Metzger put her worry aside, took three introductory classes, followed up with a group class and hasn’t stopped since. “I was surprised at what a complete, whole-body workout I was getting. Classes were tiring, and left me sore all over, but in a really good way. It took a bit of time, but within a few months I started to realize that my back pain was almost gone.”

Each studio prides itself on the staff’s professionalism, ability and accessibility. All White Cloud coaches have had Balanced Body® Pilates training and have apprenticed with McCarty for six months. McCarty ensures that clients receive individualized attention. Raudel Napoles, general manager, adds zest and humor to each workout.

“Raudel keeps me coming back to White Cloud,” said Chastity Embres. “He has a fun personality and his zest and humor to each workout. Raudel Napoles, general manager, adds zest and humor to each workout.”

feel welcomed and cared about, but they also know how to push you to do your best. It’s hard work, but fun at the same time and you see results from each workout.”

Other White Cloud enthusiasts include local college and professional athletes, ballet dancers, and the United Arab Emirates royal family. Most clients visit the studio more than once a week for group classes or for private instruction to complement their other exercise activities.

McCarty has added Saturday morning group classes, as well as new workshops: Pilates Logic and Provoking Motion. He recently produced educational videos, “Pilates Anytime” and “Pilates Fusion,” which will soon be available online for teachers. The December launch of an improved website makes enrolling in classes even easier.

The Cleveland Heights White Cloud studio is located at 2460 Fairmount Blvd. For more information, call 216-221-9998 or go to www.whitecloudstudios.com.

Erin Hobey is a client at White Cloud and a writer living in Shaker Heights.

Hetrick is new Coventry Village Special Improvement District executive director

Michael Peterman

The Coventry Village Special Improvement District (SID) has named Angela Hetrick its new executive director.

After her November appointment to the position, Hetrick’s first task was planning, coordinating and executing the first annual Coventry Village Holiday Day Festival, which took place Dec. 14. The festival featured free holiday events throughout the neighborhood, including appearances by Coventry Claus, Cleveland favorite Mr. Jingeling, and an “Elf” movie marathon at the Centrum Theater.

Steve Presser, the owner of Big Fun and the former Coventry Village SID executive director, said, “We are really excited for Coventry Village to have Angela Hetrick take the position of the executive director. Angie had previously worked with the Coventry Village SID assisting with social media, so most of the merchants already had a good relationship with her. Angie brings great contacts, experience and communication skills to the street. We are all looking forward to a new era for Coventry Village Special Improvement District.”

For more than three years Hetrick has worked as an independent consultant, specializing in marketing, advertising, public relations, event planning, sponsorship sales and social media services. Clients have included a variety of small businesses and nonprofits throughout Greater Cleveland, among them Beachland Ballroom & Tavern, Jakprints, Luxe Kitchen & Lounge, Berea Animal Rescue, City Buddha, Public Square Group, Lottery League and Cleveland Food Truck Operators Coalition. Before establishing her consulting business, Hetrick worked at WKYS-TV and at Alternative Press, the Cleveland-based national music magazine.

Michael Peterman has been a managing member of Covent Yard for more than 30 years, president of the CVSID Board of Trustees, and CEO of North Pointe Realty Inc.
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Longtime family restaurateurs open Joey’s on Lee Road

James Henke

Will Leonetti and his brother, Michael Leonetti, are the owners of Joey’s Bistro Bar Italiano, the new restaurant located at 2195 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights’s Cedar Lee Business District. The two brothers also own Joey’s Restaurant in Solon, and they formerly owned Joey’s Restaurant in Chagrin Falls, which burned down in November 2011.

The two brothers come from a family that has a long history in the Cleveland-area food business. “Our family has been in the food and restaurant business for more than 100 years,” Michael said.

“Our great-grandparents originally had fruit and vegetable stands in the West Side Market back in the early 1900s,” Michael explained. “Our great-grandfather was the first person to bring pizza to Cleveland.”

Their grandfather was Michael Geraci, who opened Geraci’s Restaurant in University Heights back in 1926. That restaurant is still owned by the Leonetti’s mother and her two sisters. Their father, Joe Leonetti, also ran several restaurants, including Joey’s in Chagrin Falls, the Gathering in Bainbridge and Leonetti’s by the Falls.

The Leonetti brothers grew up in Bainbridge and attended Kenston High School. Michael, who’s now 36 and lives in Chagrin Falls, attended The Ohio State University, where he majored in hospitality management. Will, who’s 34 years old and lives in Chesterland, had planned to attend Ohio State. Instead, in 1997, he and his brother took over the business when their father decided to turn his restaurants over to his sons.

The new Joey’s is slightly different from the Joey’s in Solon and the one that was in Chagrin Falls.

“The restaurant business is changing,” Michael said. “The trend is no longer families going out for a meal, but it’s now more people going out by themselves, or couples going out on a date, or people going out with one or two friends. So we wanted to create a place where someone can sit down at the bar, have some good food and a drink, and get out of here for $20.”

Because of that, the restaurant’s focus is on large appetizers, such as the Eggplant Napoleon, which consists of breaded eggplant, ricotta, spinach, pesto and balsamic glaze. Another house specialty is the Black and Blue Risotto Fritters, made with bacon, blue cheese, hot peppers and breaded ricotto. Like almost all of the appetizers and salads on the menu, those items are priced under $10.

Other house specialties are the pizza and the pasta. The pasta dishes include Pasta Puttanesca and Chicken Florentine. Joey’s offers several daily specials, including various seafood and meat dishes, and all of the items on the menu are available gluten-free.

“One of the reasons we chose to open a restaurant in Cleveland Heights was because we wanted to be in a more urban location,” Michael said. “We were attracted to the idea of being in a high-traffic urban area. But Cleveland Heights also has great neighborhoods, and we really want to serve the people who live around here. We want this to be a gathering place for them.”

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.