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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Written by volunteers for Cleveland Heights and University Heights • Read more at www.heightsobserver.org

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Motorcars repurposes former Pontiac dealership

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The once-vacant Pontiac building on Mayfield Road has a new tenant, and, if the Gile family can bring its full vision to fruition, it will soon have several more. Built in the 1950s, the spare modern structure had served as a car dealership and then an auto sales office, before former owner Lee Seidman donated it to University Hospitals in 2010. It then sat vacant, awaiting a new use.

The Giles, owners of Motorcars Honda and Toyota, purchased the building in June and quickly set to work envisioning a future for it that includes not only an auto-oriented business—a mobility van-conversion outlet—but also smaller-scale restaurants and retail space that would enhance the neighborhood.

Motorcars has invested more than \$250,000 in the structure so far, including a new roof, tile, walls, parking lot and



The former Arthur Pontiac building at 3077 Mayfield Road is now the site of Motorcars Mobility.

lighting.

The proposed mix of uses requires a zoning variance and a conditional use permit from the city, both of which the city has granted. Motorcars Mobility, with Curt Mason as its general manager, had its soft opening in August. Technicians will start training on Sept. 1, and the business will have its official launch soon thereafter.

According to Trevor Gile, general manager of Motorcars Honda, Motorcars Mobility will have the largest

showroom of any mobility center in the country, with its closest competitors located in Mentor and Akron. The Giles believe that this location, near the Veterans Administration Hospital, the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, is a winner.

Gile said that once the mobility business is firmly in place, Motorcars will work on building out the rest of the building with restaurants and retail. "We are planning a drive-through gourmet coffee and donut shop," he said. "We also want to offer organic, healthy lunch options for families who are using the Rec Center or patrons who are having their car serviced. Medical devices and accessories are a possible retail addition to the mobility business." He said a rooftop deck would be his ultimate dream.

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Acclaimed sculptor David Deming makes his home in Cleveland Heights

James Henke

On Aug. 2, the Cleveland Indians unveiled a new statue of Jim Thome, the team's all-time home-run leader, at Progressive Field. The statue was designed and sculpted by Cleveland Heights resident David Deming.

Deming, 71, has an international reputation as a fine sculptor, and has been involved in the art world for more than five decades.

He grew up in Lakewood and attended Lakewood High. While in high school, Deming focused on both sports—he was captain of the wrestling team and also ran track—and art. On weekends, he attended classes at the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA), and, after graduating from high school, got his bachelor of fine arts degree from the institute in 1967. Deming then taught classes at Boston University for a year, before moving on to the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., where he earned a master's degree in fine arts. "When it comes to sculpture, Cranbrook is like the Harvard



David Deming in his studio in Lakewood.

or Yale of art schools," Deming said.

After graduating from Cranbrook in 1970, Deming got a job on the faculty of the University of Texas in El Paso. "I really didn't like El Paso very much," he said. "So one time I took a trip to Austin, and I thought, 'Wow, that's where I want to be!'"

After spending only a year in El Paso, he landed a faculty position at the University of Texas in Austin. Deming remained at the university for 26 years and, during that time, served as chairman of the fine arts department and

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Remembering former Heights resident and principal John McDonald

Pamela Mattson McDonald

Dr. John Leo "Jack" McDonald, 89, died on Aug. 8, at his residence in Chagrin Falls. He had formerly lived in Cleveland Heights.

McDonald was born Nov. 5, 1924 in Cleveland, the first of two children of Anna Marie Koeppl McDonald and Leo Winibald McDonald.

McDonald graduated from Hunter College and Case Western Reserve University, and completed two Ph.D.s, in fine arts and education. He was employed by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City before returning to Cleveland in 1952 to teach sixth grade at Canterbury Elementary School, in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. In 1970, McDonald became principal of Roxboro Elementary School. He retired in 1984.

McDonald was a member of the Cleveland Heights Historical Society. In 2000, he joined the Cleveland Heights Landmarks Commission and quickly made himself known as the resident expert on the architectural and social history of the Fairmount Boulevard neighborhood. During his tenure on the Landmarks Commission, nine properties were listed as Cleveland Heights landmarks, including the William R. Jearvons House, the Joseph R. and Elizabeth Nutt/St. Ann Convent House, and the

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Deliver to addressee or current resident

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'Art of the Home' HCC tour set for Sept. 21

Erin Henninger

Just as fall begins to sweep its striking palette of colors across Northeast Ohio, the 37th annual Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour curates an exhibit of the cozy comforts of home juxtaposed with exquisite garden grandeur.

The self-guided tour of seven homes and three gardens takes place Sunday, Sept. 21, from noon to 6 p.m., and includes refreshment stops at two Lee Road locations, The Wine Spot and Heights Arts, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Heights Heritage Home &

Garden Tour is sponsored by Heights Community Congress (HCC), and the 2014 tour theme, Art of the Home, is a tribute to Cleveland Heights's legacy of artistic and historic homes, in a community with a strong background in, and recognition as, "home to the arts."

Each home and garden on the tour presents a gallery of the unique architecture, style and personality of a diverse community painted with historic elegance, modern sophistication and touches of eclectic whimsy.

Highlights of this year's tour stops include:



The traditional elegance of this home is an example of center-hall Colonial architecture.

• A sparkling 1924 classic English cottage with crisp details, glistening chandeliers, historic furniture and a stunning ballroom of mirrored glass. Note the fine craftsmanship in this artful renovation.

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Letters Policy

The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to: www.heightsobserver.org/members or e-mail: info@futureheights.org

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The other things FutureHeights does—and will do



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

Well into its seventh year, the *Heights Observer* has achieved a basic level of sustainability—it has repeatable operating processes in place, and brings in roughly the same amount of money each month that it costs to produce.

It's a fragile balance that would fall apart quickly without the efforts of a large group of volunteers and a core of part-time employees/contractors, who perform the daily tasks you can't expect people to do for free 77 months in a row, and counting.

Distributing nearly 120,000 print copies a year at more than 250 Cleveland Heights and University Heights locations, and serving 227,000 website pages to 63,000 people in 99,000 visits over the past 12 months, the *Observer* is the best known program of the nonprofit FutureHeights.

But it's not the only one.

At the FutureHeights annual meeting late last month, Executive Director Deanna Bremer Fisher outlined the organization's other activities. Here are just a few:

- Hosted a speaker series on topics including community organizing, community gardens, safe winter sidewalks and a candidate forum;

- Presented the inaugural Heights Music Hop, and the annual Best of the Heights awards;
- Served as a fiscal agent for numerous small community organizations so that they could operate as if they had full nonprofit status—which is increasingly costly and regulated;
- Co-hosted welcome events for new residents, highlighting some of the many fascinating people who call the Heights home;
- Provided technical assistance to some of our highly valued business districts;
- Participated actively in a range of local planning initiatives.

All of these activities, including publishing the *Heights Observer*, seek to support a sense of community—and they point to what's next.

Over the coming years, FutureHeights plans to implement what it's calling a community capacity-building program. It will help to strengthen existing community groups and encourage new ones to form so that our problems, needs and desires can be identified, not at a regional or city level, but neighborhood by neighborhood and block by block.

If it sounds highfalutin and theoretical, be assured, it's not. Cleveland Heights has a long history of community groups that do this—block clubs and neighborhood associations. The tradition in University Heights isn't as strong, perhaps because it's a much smaller city. But the discipline of neighborhood planning—listening, analyzing data, identifying priorities and creating

action steps—has grown more technical over the years. The issues we face have become tougher, too. More and more, existing community groups need support and expertise.

FutureHeights doesn't plan to provide this by working alone. It hopes to work cooperatively with Cleveland Heights's new administration; it's begun raising funds to do the work; and it already has partnerships with some of the Heights's most active community groups.

Over 11 years, FutureHeights has built technical and collaborative networks to help our neighborhoods take charge of their own destinies.

With the *Observer* achieving self-sustenance, FutureHeights has more capacity to help others increase theirs. As a proud member of the organization and a former board member, I'm pleased to invite you to help in any way you can. Visit www.futureheights.org to learn more and become a member.

Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum, a former member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, is co-chairman of the Heights Observer, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development.

Beating a dead turkey

To the Editor:

Yes, again, I write about the turkey of a project planned for Turkey Ridge along Edgemoor Road.

I attended the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission hearing on Aug. 12 regarding the high-end condos planned for this parcel because of my intent to address, yet again, my concerns about the landslide potential of this hillside.

During his presentation to the commission, the geotechnical engineer hired by the developer—the same engineer who, in a 2006 report, described the previous landslides on that hill—actually admitted the possibility of landslides. He assured the commission that such landslides will only occur between the condo piers and further down the hill. Hence, those proposed, fabulously ugly condos on their caisson perches will remain damage-free when a landslide happens!

When I pointed out that the landslide location and depth of soil presented a danger to those living at the bottom of the hill, the planning commission chair joked that it didn't matter because it would be entering Cleveland, hence it wasn't the city's concern.

Yes, a joke, I know. But his comments afterward proved that, in fact, it was no joke.

I wanted to know: who will bear the liability for bodily or property damage from a possible landslide? Silly me for attempting to tap, at least, into their financial concerns—but no, the chair assured us that the skilled legal teams for the city and the developer will protect them from liability. Good to know. But what about those living at the base of this hill, who may lose their homes, garages, or health should a landslide occur? No problem, as long as the city and the developer have the liability issue in order!

City leaders, who include members

continued on page 3

About the Observer

The *Heights Observer* is not an ordinary newspaper; it is a nonprofit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

The *Observer* has no writing staff; it is written by you—the readers.

Individuals throughout the community decide what stories they want to write, then submit them for publication. Anyone in University Heights or Cleveland Heights is welcome to contribute regularly, occasionally or even just once.

Is there something you think should be covered in the *Heights Observer*? If so, please write it on your own, or with friends, neighbors or colleagues. Our volunteer editors will make sure it's ready to publish and contact you with any questions.

If you're writing a news article, it should be clear and factual. If you want to express an opinion, submit it as a letter to the editor or an opinion piece. Either way, make sure it's about something specific to our two cities.

- To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org and click on "Member Center" at the left.
- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail info@futureheights.org.

Articles to be considered for the October issue must be submitted by Sept. 9. But don't wait that long; we publish articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

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ART OF THE HOME

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12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM

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For more details or to order tickets on-line visit: www.HeightsCongress.org

Heights Libraries levy campaign kicks into gear

Abby Botnick and Louisa Oliver

Did you know that there two election days this fall?

First, on Thursday, Sept. 18, our Heights Libraries will hold a Sesame Street Block party at the Lee Road Library. At the block party, a close election between Cookie Monster and Oscar the Grouch will be decided by your votes. It will be a great time for kids and families, and we expect some of our local elected leaders to join us and help count the votes!

Probably less exciting, but arguably more important to our libraries, will be what happens on Election Day, Nov. 4, when this community will vote on a small operating levy that protects the Heights Libraries.

Library supporters have been

answering questions at local community events, like the Cedar Fairmount Summer Festival. I encourage you to chat with our volunteers next time you encounter us out in the community, and learn why it's important to protect our Heights Libraries.

This operating levy protects the responsible financial foundation that has kept service levels so high. We think the Heights Libraries have made smart and responsible financial decisions. In recent years, more than \$1 million has been cut from the budget, with minimal service impact, and Heights Libraries won the State of Ohio Auditor Award with Distinction. The network of four library branches is convenient, efficient, and exceptional, rated among the top library systems in the country for excellent service,

facilities and staff.

Unfortunately, state budget cuts have hit local communities hard in recent years. State funding to libraries has fallen to 1996 levels and is expected to continue to decline. Heights Libraries' service demand is growing, but the budget is shrinking. In 2013 alone, Heights Libraries served more than 1 million visitors; lent nearly 2 million books, videos, magazines and more; had more than 300,000 individual public uses of library computers; and ran 3,000 library programs.

Without this levy, our Heights Libraries could be forced to make additional cutbacks. With the passage of this levy, we can protect important services—and it could mean even more:

- Restoration of Sunday hours is a top priority that this issue will support.

- We can ensure all branches remain open.

- We can ensure continued or enhanced computer access.

It's up to us to take care of these community assets for today and tomorrow. So the next time you encounter a campaign volunteer, please approach him or her with your questions and concerns. Perhaps after casting a vote for Cookie Monster or Oscar at the Sesame Street Block Party, you can stop by the campaign tent and discuss casting a vote for our community's future.

Abby Botnick and Louisa Oliver are co-chairing the Library Levy Campaign. Botnick is a member of the library board and Oliver is president of the Friends of Heights Libraries.

Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Citizens Police Academy - an inside look at CHPD

I've been vocal enough about the city's approach to public safety that I really had no choice when the Cleveland Heights Police Department announced it would launch its own Citizens Police Academy. I applied a few weeks ago and—after a successful criminal background check—Police Chief Jeff Robertson told me himself that I'd been accepted.

Then he said something about my getting to wear the chew suit during the K-9 demonstration. It was a joke.

I think.

Citizens Police Academy is not a new idea; they do it in Shaker Heights and a few other nearby suburbs. The goal is to give a group of interested citizens an inside look at how the police department operates. As Robertson told the 20 members of the first class on Monday, "It's to see what the city is like through *our* eyes."

Each class will become part of an alumni group, which Robertson hopes will provide an ever-larger pool of residents to support good communication and good policing throughout the city. . . .

Here are some things I learned the first evening:

- If 36 hours sounds like a lot of time to spend sitting in the old fire house



at Noble Road and Monticello Boulevard, it's nothing compared to what real police trainees get. The police curriculum is standardized by the state at more than 600 hours. Trainees come for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week for about 5 months. . . .

- Our academy trains police officers for 130 jurisdictions, including Shaker Heights, University Heights, South Euclid, Parma, Hunting Valley, Lorain, Cleveland Clinic and RTA to name a few. It also accepts "open enrollment" trainees who don't already have a police job but . . .

—Bob Rosenbaum

Citizens Police Academy - Part II

Most of the 9 hours of training covered so far in three sessions of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy have been on the dull school-book fundamentals that police officers need to know.

Stuff like the definition of crime, the nuance between jurisdiction and venue, and the four *culpable mental states* as recognized and defined by Ohio law: *purposely, knowingly, recklessly* and *negligently*.

Each of the 20 "Citizen Cadets" received a hefty volume of the handbook of Ohio Criminal Law and Motor



Vehicle Code, which Cpt. Geoffrey Barnard, commander of the CH Police Academy (he also happens to be a lawyer) quickly showed us how to use.

Its main effect was to draw out a litany of "what if" questions that would have done any 2nd-grade class proud while constantly threatening to derail the schedule.

But by the 4th and 5th hour of this two-day discussion, things started to get real. Brad Sudyk, deputy chief of police and also a lawyer, went over the laws governing arrest and the use of force—lethal and non-lethal.

We learned there are 3 types of police encounters:

- Consensual encounters, when an officer engages a citizen in conversation;
- Investigative detentions, when an officer has *reasonable articulable suspicion* that a crime has occurred or may occur;
- Arrest, when an officer can demonstrate probable cause that the individual has committed a crime or plans to do so.

We also learned that force—everything from physical restraint to use of a gun—is justified in only two broad circumstances . . .

—Bob Rosenbaum

Click on the QR codes or go to blogs.heightsobserver.org to read these blogs in their entirety.

LETTER continued from page 2

of the planning commission, are supposed to protect the safety, welfare and health of the residents in this city. City Council is certainly aware of this duty because, for the immediate safety of city residents, it has passed all legislation as an emergency measure for the past eight to nine months!

One requirement before the planning commission can approve zoning changes is that those changes pose no threat to safety, welfare or health of residents. Yet, the potential for harming others, including those who live adjacent to Turkey Ridge, is not viewed as a threat.

So while the chair of the commission spoke, toward the end of hearing, of his trust in city leaders, one has to ask just what kind of "trust" is he referring to?

It certainly isn't the kind of trust where city leaders will protect or respect residents or taxpayers. The approval of this turkey of a plan by yet another group of city leaders demonstrates that, here in Cleveland Heights, it is OK: to ignore or minimize a real threat to the safety of people; to keep secret and hidden from public scrutiny a soils report that is required and used by every other city before continuing the planning of a development; to support a Community Reinvestment Area in one of the most affluent neighborhoods in the city; to continually drive development that suits only the developer and comforts council members in their misguided and desperate efforts to find more revenue streams.

Diane Hallum
Cleveland Heights

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How to encourage more bicycling in the Heights

Marc Lefkowitz

I would like to see how Cleveland Heights looks when 4,500 people are riding bikes. We will certainly be healthier, wealthier and maybe happier than being stuck in traffic.

Does this express the sentiments of the 1 percent? In Cleveland Heights, the 1 percent are those the 2010 census counted as bike commuters—that's 450 people. It doesn't count kids who bike to school or spandex-clad weekend warriors—just the adult weekday bike commuters.

Cycling experts estimated that 60 percent of adults identify themselves as interested in the idea of bike commuting, but are concerned about riding close to cars. So, how do we get that 60 percent to consider riding a bike for transportation—especially to commute?

I put this question to a couple of seasoned cyclists who live in Cleveland Heights. I also asked my wife, who is trying to ride a bike even if it means, for now, taking it on the back of a car to the Towpath Trail.

"A key element for many cyclists is to separate bikes from cars," said Joy Henderson, a board member of the Heights Bicycle Coalition. "More people consider riding when they see a space that is just for them."

Cities like Portland, Ore., Madison, Wis., Denver, New York and Minneapolis,



Mom and daughter riding in a buffered bike lane in Austin, Texas.

where bike lanes are becoming more abundant, are seeing more adult riders. Boldness is what it takes to ride on streets without a designated space like a bike lane. So, why are people afraid to ask for what they need to be safe on the road?

"Because we're asking to share their space when it 'belongs' to the car," Henderson said, "and we're asking very timidly. 'Please, can I have five inches,' when we need five feet."

Resident Tom Ligman thinks it would be "just ducky" if the city installed protected bike lanes—with physical barriers between cars and bikes—but he'd settle for more policing of those driving above the speed limit.

"People still go 40 mph on my street, which is residential and a dead end," said Ligman. "We've become entrenched as

a car city, and ultimately that's bad for everyone. It's excessively wasteful to take a couple tons of metal with us if we're going to the store to pick up a candy bar."

When Ligman started biking from the Cedar Lee neighborhood to his job in University Circle four years ago, there were even fewer bike lanes and sharrows—bike symbols painted on the road to remind motorists to share the road with bicyclists. There is a growing body of evidence that sharrows do little to make the 60 percent feel comfortable bicycling on the road.

My wife, Corrie Slawson, said over morning coffee, "A (lane) line makes a difference to me. Even where there isn't enough space to put in a bike lane, a (painted) line is better than sharrows because it tells the cars where to be.

There's less to be confused about."

She points to Cleveland Heights's experiment with a painted shoulder on Lee Road south of the library as an example. Indeed, cheers to the city for that and its recent addition of a "buffered" bike lane on Edgemoor Road, too. Having about 10 feet of pavement makes the grind up that hill a welcome site to me and many other bike commuters.

Ligman swears there are more bikes on the streets as a result of the attention the city is paying to its natural bike network—long residential streets like Edgemoor Road, and Washington and Meadowbrook boulevards—where cars and bikes are more or less moving at equal speeds. They provide nice east-west access across Cleveland Heights. He hopes more cars are paying attention, too, as cyclists start to use the roads.

"Things are getting better every year as far as cars paying attention, and infrastructure showing up," Ligman said. "I'd like to see some of the four-lane roads, like Fairmount, Shaker and Van Aken, divided up differently. We don't have to use extra space for bike lanes, but we could calm traffic."

Marc Lefkowitz is a 21-year resident of Cleveland Heights. He co-chairs the city's Transportation Advisory Committee, and he is the web editor of GreenCityBlueLake (www.gcb.org) at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

PONTIAC continued from page 1

"It's been a vacant corner for so long between the Medusa building and the day-care center," he said. "Many people come to the Rec Center for hockey and other sporting events. We'll have

the same style in frontage that we have in our other businesses. We'll make the area around it look nice. We want to bring people into the Heights and have them stay and shop."

The Giles' investment in the Pontiac building is the latest in a series of improvements that the family has made in the last several years on Mayfield Road. In 2012, the Giles renovated the front façade and expanded service at Motorcars Toyota.

Motorcars Honda, which is located on the site of the former Cleveland Heights City Hall and incorporates the former building's doorway, is currently undergoing a \$3.5 million renovation and expansion. The Giles recently purchased about a half-acre of land that had been owned by the city, just north of the building.

Planned improvements include a front façade renovation, restoration of the historic doorway, new landscaping, a new lounge for Platinum customers,

and an expanded service center that will feature a state-of-the-art quick-service assembly line. Construction of the expansion will start in September and will take from nine months to a year to complete.

Gile said that the new assembly line will be only the second of its kind in the country. "It will enable Motorcars to do quick tests in five places and do quick jobs, such as balancing and rotating tires," he said. "It will be more efficient. It should take less than 25 minutes to get through."

Gile said that the new Platinum Lounge will have an elevator to an outside seating area. The lounge will also feature a play area for patrons' kids that will include rubber floors and a Build-a-Bear machine.

Chuck Gile, president of Motorcars Toyota and Trevor's father, said that a market study completed by Honda in 2010 indicated that the Heights-based company should move closer to I-271. "For two years, we looked at other areas, but we like Cleveland Heights and wanted to stay here," he said. "Our

dealership is on 2.25 acres, which is small, and additional land is needed to meet the amount of land [required] to sell and repair cars to meet Honda's expectations. The conveyor system will have five stations on an assembly line, and each station will be the equivalent of 3.5 service bays."

Motorcars recently changed all of its lights to LED, which has drastically reduced its lighting costs. The firm will meet with the city's Planning Commission on Sept. 10 to discuss adding solar panels to the east parking lot (at Mayfield and Superior roads). Two arches of panels will cover that lot. Trevor Gile said that 65 percent of the business's energy costs will be serviced by the panels.

"We want to be the greenest, most efficient dealer in the country," he said. "The panels will also protect cars from the snow and rain."

Kara Hamley O'Donnell, a planner with the City of Cleveland Heights, said that the Motorcars Honda investment would have a positive effect on neighboring property values. "We are retaining a major employer and have increased income and property taxes with 18 more employees, she said. "An additional \$668,000 in payroll is projected with this addition."

To the Gile family, investing in its Motorcars businesses demonstrates its commitment to the community. "This has been our home," said Trevor Gile. "We've enjoyed being a part of this community and all that it has to offer, such as Cain Park. We've built good relationships here."

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

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Summer changes the starting line



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

How did you spend your summer vacation? It is a wonderful back-to-school conversation prompt. It turns out that the answer to that question has significant implications for children and the advantages that they bring to school in the fall.

My summer reading included Malcolm Gladwell's 2008 publication, *Outliers*, where he explores what makes some people more successful than others. He is adamant that our belief in superior ability and hard work as the only explanations for success is wrong. Over and over he shows how "outliers," those people who appear to be exceptional, find success because of their own assets but also because of external opportunities and advantages.

I was particularly intrigued by his exploration of the well-documented academic achievement gap between children of means and poor children. The gap is troubling and has been a rationale for school reform. It is confounding and extremely difficult to close. Gladwell reminds us that typical explanations for the gap point to differences in intellectual ability, lack of effort, poor parenting or some failing by educators. He offers another explanation: what kids do during the summer.

Citing research by Karl Alexander on test-score differences between socioeconomic classes of elementary schoolchildren in the Baltimore public schools, he establishes that the gap grows from relatively narrow in first grade to wide by fifth grade. The wealthiest first-graders have a 32-point advantage over their poor classmates; by fifth grade the gap has nearly doubled.

The researchers tested performance at the beginning and end of the school year every year for five years and added up the total gain. This made it possible to gauge growth caused by the school experience. It turns out that over the five years poor kids learned more from their school experience than wealthier kids. Schools made a big difference, but they did not close the gap.

To see if it might explain the growing gap, the researchers looked at changes in reading scores after summer vacation: Bingo! The numbers jumped out. Each year, reading scores at the end of the summer grew for wealthy children, while scores for poor children declined for the first two grades and increased modestly after that. The cumulative difference was a total gain over five years of .26 points for poor children compared to a 52.49-point gain for those from high-income families. "Poor kids may outlearn rich kids during the school year," Gladwell observed, "but during the summer, they fall far behind."

Children are always learning. Schools provide one opportunity, but

the kinds of opportunities available outside of school are not equally available to all children. Wealthier families can offer children wonderful enrichment through travel, outings and enrollment in enrichment programs. This is one of the important ways in which economic status contributes to differences in school performance. It isn't about ability. It is about opportunity.

In the last few years, summer opportunities for youth have grown in our community. Lake Erie Ink invites kids to write and the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp engages them in music. Open Doors and the Heights Youth Club have wonderful structured opportunities that enrich, develop and strengthen our children. And there are a broad variety of experiences offered through religious congregations, city government, and multiple cultural and arts institutions.

These opportunities are wonderful, but widespread access, regardless of economic status, is still a challenge. Gladwell points out that parents have different ideas about how much they should program their children and push them into these enrichment opportunities. Differences in parenting traditions affect the use of these opportunities, and, of course, financial ability can stymie access to structured enrichment and family-centered adventures.

If, as Gladwell argues, access to enrichment is relevant to academic success and affects the achievement gap, we need to look more broadly for solutions. It is time to end our prejudices about intellectual ability and human potential, parents' commitment to their children, and educator quality. We need to abandon the narrative of success as evidence that some people are more worthy than others. We need to acknowledge that privilege is powerful.

If we want to equalize educational outcomes, we need to find ways to level the playing field—especially the part that is defined by economics. That includes during the summer and other out-of-school times.

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

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Why is UH mayor urging new tax if \$2.2 million 'surplus monies' are real?



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

Mayor Infeld wants to impose a \$1.8 million tax increase on the taxpayers of University Heights. But at the same time, she says we have \$2.2 million in "surplus monies." What?

The question is obvious. If we have surplus monies, why do we need a tax increase? Did Mayor Infeld generate the "surplus monies" by cutting basic municipal services the citizens expect?

Forget we elected Susan Infeld mayor on her campaign promise—"It is imperative that the city government delivers additional services to residents at no additional cost."

Forget the new \$1.8 million bond tax hike Infeld is urging—for the most expensive little neighborhood park, per capita, in Ohio.

Forget the mayor has no budget for the extra new police and fire expenditures we will spend when Wiley Middle School converts to the interim high school.

Forget the private property Infeld rushed into buying from Fuchs Mizrachi with "surplus monies," at a price tag of more than \$800,000—so far—for a neighborhood park.

If voters pass the new tax for Mayor Infeld's park, a family of four will have to cough up about an additional \$880 in taxes. While census estimates show increasing population for Ohio, UH population has been steadily declining since the mayor took office. There will be fewer shoulders to bear the tax burden.

It appears the mayor's sources of "surplus monies" come from cuts in basic municipal services:

- Police Department – Infeld cut this department from 30 police, who respond to calls and patrol our streets to keep them safe,

to only 25 since she took office. "Surplus monies" or cuts to our services?

- Fire Department – Infeld cut this department from 29 down to 25 since she took office. "Surplus monies" or cuts to our services?

- Emergency Medical Service – Infeld cut the EMS team from three responders to two. Both Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights say three are needed. And this spring, for some reason, it appears that one of our two ambulances started responding at noticeably higher frequency on EMS runs to noncontiguous East Cleveland, putting one ambulance further afield than is our custom. "Surplus monies" or cuts to our services?

- Streets and curbs – Ours are in need of repair and replacement since Infeld took office. "Surplus monies" or cuts to our services?

- Rusted out garbage trucks – The UH city seal on rusted trucks? "Surplus monies" or cuts to our services?

- Tennis courts and swimming pool – The mayor's continued neglect of Purvis Park tennis courts make them unusable by adult players. The swimming pool is aging. A rainy-day fund has yet to be established. City Hall's "kicking the can down the road" philosophy of deferred maintenance is costly. "Surplus monies" or cuts to our services?

Why, if we have all these "surplus monies," do we have to pass a new bond issue tax for a very expensive little neighborhood park while the mayor cuts basic services we pay to receive?

There are no "surplus monies" in University Heights.

There are only cuts in municipal services to one of the highest taxed cities in Ohio.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, president of Noah's Landing, LLC and a 30-year resident of University Heights. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

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University Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 14, 2014
All council members were present.

Bonds for park

With one dissenting vote, council approved submitting to the electors the issuance of \$1.8 million in bonds for improving the city's park and recreational facilities by constructing and equipping a public park area and related improvements. Councilman Mark Wiseman voted no.

Public comments

Mayor Susan Infeld cited a number of resident e-mails supporting the new park.

Resident Anita Kazarian criticized council for asking residents to decide the issue on the fall ballot and for writing a poorly worded resolution. She asked council to vote no on the park and leave the property as open green space as was originally implied.

Mary Ebner of South Belvoir Boulevard said she felt the city would be foolish not to make use of this green space that will benefit everyone in the community.

Resident Yanina Muzis asked council to clearly explain the costs for the entire project and suggested that residents be given options from which to choose.

Architectural cost estimates

Rachel Schwarz from Braun & Steidl presented a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs for a [park] proposal based on citizen input from five open meetings with residents, but she noted that these were not specific design drawings and were, therefore, just estimates. Residents wanted a gazebo, a play area, and accessible walking trails. Estimates were based on Braun & Steidl's prior experience with designing parks and adjusted for projected construction costs for 2015, and included an additional amount for unforeseen contingencies. Site amenities include the gazebo, which can be bought in various sizes, and two 14-by-14-foot concrete slab picnic pavilions. Lighting can be powered either by electricity or solar. There are also bike racks, trash receptacles, workout stations along the asphalt walkway, a poured rubber surface for the play area, fencing, signage for general information and for ADA compliance, and a proposed monument.

[After the meeting Wiseman explained his dissenting vote to the LWV Observer. He said he felt [that council] had insufficiently reviewed the costs. He favors the park but feels it could have waited until 2015 to allow more inquiry.]

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28, 2014
Councilwoman Adele Zucker was absent.

Meritech contract

Council tabled legislation authorizing a contract for professional services for computer support, network security and network upgrades after Councilman Wiseman inquired about a connection between city hall and Meritech. Finance Director Larry Heiser acknowledged that his assistant is the sister of the sales rep for Meritech, but explained that his assistant had no role in the contract decision. The city worked at length with another vendor before determining that it was not a good fit, and it has had prior, satisfactory business with Meritech.

Law Director Anthony Coyne offered to look into the issue to determine if there was any possibility of a conflict of interest. Council voted unanimously to table the decision pending the outcome of his investigation.

Bond issue for park

With one dissenting vote, council approved a resolution determining to proceed with the submission to the electors of the question of issuing \$1.8 million in bonds for the purpose of improving the city's park and recreational facilities by constructing and equipping a

public park area and related improvements, and declaring an emergency.

At the request of Councilman Wiseman, Pamela Hanover, bond counsel for Squire Patton Boggs, was present to answer questions and explain the process. This bond will incur a cost to homeowners of 7 cents on every \$100 of taxable value of a home. A home with a market value of \$100,000 has a taxable value of \$35,000. The amount of the bond has to be certified by the Cuyahoga County fiscal officer. The language of the bond issue was written by Squire Patton Boggs and is mostly determined by statute. The issue was presented on emergency so that the next steps could be taken immediately. The final language needs to be presented to the board of elections by Aug. 6. Wiseman voted no to presenting the resolution on emergency, and also voted no to the resolution itself.

Vendor payments

No council member was willing to make a motion requested by the mayor to authorize her to pay various vendors. Mayor Infeld explained that Law Director Coyne had ascertained that she was not authorized to pay any vendors to whom payments will eventually exceed \$5,000. Councilman Steven Sims noted that council had clearly agreed that the mayor should continue with business as usual until the finance committee had the opportunity to review the regulations. Coyne maintained that the city code was unclear and that invoices that aggregate to more than \$5,000 are implied contracts. He said it would be prudent to approve these in the course of business until the charter language can be clarified.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lww-chuh 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.

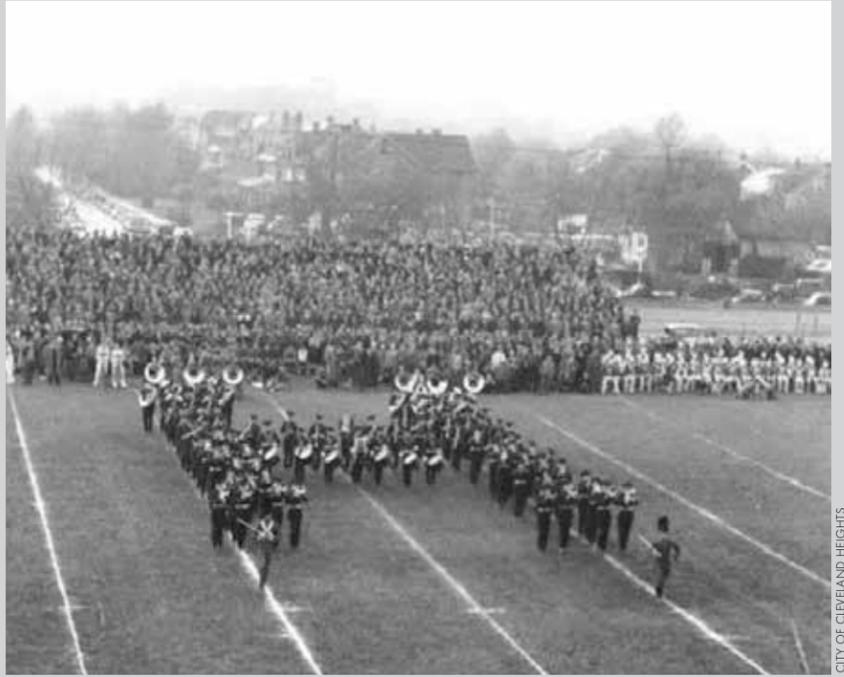
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|---------------|---|
| 23 Sept. 2014 | Wu Han, <i>piano</i>
Philip Setzer, <i>violin</i>
David Finckel, <i>cello</i> |
| 21 Oct. 2014 | Belcea Quartet |
| 2 Dec. 2014 | Juilliard String Quartet |
| 13 Jan. 2015 | Chamber Music Society
of Lincoln Center |
| 24 Feb. 2015 | Jerusalem Quartet |
| 10 March 2015 | Steven Isserlis, <i>cello</i>
Robert Levin, <i>fortepiano</i> |
| 21 April 2015 | Ian Bostridge, <i>tenor</i>
Wenwen Du, <i>piano</i> |
| 3 May 2015 | Young Artists Showcase |



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Heights historical photo of the month



"Give me an H!" The Cleveland Heights High School band performs on its home field during a 1936 football game. East Derbyshire Road can be seen in the background.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. For more information, and to view additional historical images, visit www.chhistory.org or www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical.

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ART OF THE HOME continued from page 1

- A 1954 dwelling presenting contemporary architecture and artworks—including glass pieces by Dale Chihuly, among others. An original dome-shaped skylight and windows stretching the entire perimeter of the living area put one with nature throughout the home.
- A tastefully restored 1914 home presents original stately character while incorporating modern luxuries. Explore the grand entry with curved ceiling, enviable closet/dressing room and spectacular views from the dining room's curved wall of windows.
- An enchanting carriage house built between 1899 and 1900, and converted into a living space in 1910, blends rustic with refined. The master bedroom features walls of original barn siding, and opens up to a spacious deck.
- A 2005 townhouse on an adaptive reuse property maintains the historic Tudor-style of the neighborhood, with touches of modern flair. Soaring windows illuminate regional and folk art

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



JULY 21, 2014

All council members were present.

2015 tax budget hearing

A tax budget hearing was held before the regular council meeting. The proposed 2015 budget contains just under \$42 million in revenue. A balanced budget will be submitted to Cuyahoga County and later forwarded to the state of Ohio. There was no public comment on the budget. City Manager Tanisha Briley presented background on the budget's development and noted the city's efforts to contain costs and offset declining revenue.

Later, during the regular meeting, council approved the 2015 tax budget and authorized its submission to Cuyahoga County. A copy of the proposed 2015 tax budget is available for inspection by the general public at the office of the director of finance at City Hall. Before the vote, Mayor Dennis Wilcox noted that the state's budget has been balanced and a surplus created because of cuts in local government funds and the elimination of the inheritance tax. The city has lost \$2.5 million [in funding] in each of the last two years. Wilcox recognized the city's efforts to respond to this, but additional revenue is needed.

Commission on Aging appointments

Council reappointed four members to the Commission on Aging for terms ending June 30, 2015: Clarendia Allen, Helen Anderson, Eleanor McBride and Jody Taslitz. It also appointed two additional members for terms ending June 30, 2016: Shirley Bingham LeCompte and Carol Whitlach.

Architectural Board of Review appointments

Council reappointed two members to the Architectural Board of Review for terms ending Dec. 31, 2016: Mark Fremont and Terry Saylor.

Parks and recreation 2014-15 fall/winter season

Use regulations and rates for admission and other services for the Cleveland Heights Community Center and parks for the 2014-15 fall/winter season were heard on first reading. This ordinance, which is re-enacted annually, is based on a review of users and rates, and includes a few rate reductions as well as several increases. The public is invited to comment.

Admission tax exemption

Council approved a city code change exempting from admission taxes small businesses that present entertainment and hold 150 people or less.

CDBG reallocation

Council authorized the reprogramming and reallocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in order to serve important community development projects. This legislation transfers \$4,250 from the Community Development Administration Fund to the Fair Housing Activities Fund.

Water meter tampering

Council established a \$500 fee for tampering with water meters and a Water Review Board to hear any appeals of these fees.

Three properties declared nuisances

Council declared the following properties to be nuisances and authorized abatement: 3360 Berkeley Road

3553 Cummings Road
3571 Woodridge Road

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

AUGUST 6, 2014

All council members were present.

Public comments

Resident Marjorie Clark asked about city plans to manage deer [and noted that] while coyotes seem to be reducing the population, they are a threat to pets. She proposed that the city offer people free fencing to keep out deer and try birth control. Susanna Niermann O'Neil, assistant city manager, explained that the city is working with other communities to survey deer population size. At this time, no plans exist for controlling the population.

City manager purchases

Niermann O'Neil reported on 10 checks, in amounts ranging from \$13,500 to \$45,000, written by the city manager for services rendered. These included purchases of fuel, oil, electricity, sidewalk repairs, HVAC replacement at Fire Station 7, and the Arlo Guthrie concert at Cain Park. [The city manager has the authority to write checks up to \$50,000 without council approval.]

Fall/winter recreation regulations

Council approved the rates and regulations for recreation programs starting this fall. This covers the ice rink, recreation center, and youth and adult sports leagues. Council extended eligibility to the families of people who work in the city, and raised the fee for adult passes to use the field house at the recreation center.

Community Improvement Awards

Nominations for Community Improvement Awards will be accepted until Labor Day. Residents can visit the city website to nominate a neighbor who is doing a great job of maintaining his or her home.

Cedar Road resurfacing in 2017

Council authorized a contract with CT Consultants to provide design and bidding services for the 2017 resurfacing of Cedar Road. The fees will depend on the actual cost of construction, which has not yet been defined. Council approved fees not to exceed \$166,500 without written authorization by the city manager.

Outstanding Neighbor Award

Council Member Jason Stein recognized Chris Riethmiller of Montford Road as the August winner of Stein's "Outstanding Neighbor Award."

Commission on Aging appointees

Council appointed five residents to serve on the Commission on Aging for terms ending May 31, 2018: Jeanne Diamond, Paul Henfield, Dolores Spence, Joan McKinstry and Joan Organ.

LWV Observer: Susie Kaeser.

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

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See disclaimer on page 7.



This tastefully restored 1914 home presents original stately character while incorporating modern luxuries.

from travels both local and abroad.

- A tranquil courtyard garden maximizes space and interest with a clever mix of pots for varied texture and height. Find cool shade and a soothing fountain amid ferns and climbing hydrangea set against a backdrop of mature evergreens.

The 2014 Home & Garden Tour offers a rare opportunity to visit these Heights masterpieces, and proceeds benefit HCC's fair housing and diversity programs. Ticket holders will receive a detailed tour map and background information on each location.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the tour, and can be purchased online at www.heightscongress.org, or at several locations in Cleveland Heights. For details, visit HCC's website or call the HCC office at 216-321-6775.

To kick off the tour, HCC also will host a preview party the evening of Saturday, Sept. 20 at the College Club. Preview party guests will promptly board Lolly the Trolley for a sneak peak at a selection of tour homes, as well as an exclusive tour—available only to Saturday preview party guests—of the home of famed Cleveland architect Peter van Dijk and his wife, Bobbi. Festivities include a champagne toast at the van Dijk home as well as a brief reading by Meredith Holmes, Cleveland Heights

poet laureate and honorary chair of the 2014 Heights Heritage Home & Garden tour.

Trolleys will return to the College Club around 8:30 p.m., where guests can enjoy cocktails, hearty hors d'oeuvres, live music, dancing and a silent auction. Tickets for the preview party, which include tickets to the Sunday tour, and are offered at the Hallmark (\$500 per couple; includes a print signed by Peter van Dijk) and Platinum (\$300 per couple) levels, are limited and are on sale now. For more information, or to purchase preview party tickets, call the HCC office or visit its website.

Heights Community Congress is an advocate of social justice, a monitor of fair housing practices and a facilitator for building strong diverse communities. Each year, HCC sponsors the Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour as its primary fundraising event. Since 1977, HCC has featured more than 300 Cleveland Heights homes, which have attracted visitors from throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond.

HCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all proceeds and donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Erin Henninger is a Cleveland resident and co-chair of the 2014 Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour.

CH joins regional healthcare program

Noreen Fox

The City of Cleveland Heights has entered into an agreement to join the Cuyahoga County Healthcare Regionalization Program. The program provides eligible political subdivisions with the opportunity to obtain favorable group rates for health care benefits for their employees.

"The ability to stabilize health care costs while at the same time maintaining existing benefits for our employees presented a great opportunity for us," said City Manager Tanisha R. Briley. "Staff worked closely with county officials over the last few months to evaluate the offer to be absolutely certain that this was the right way to go."

There are currently 10 other local municipalities participating in the program. Cleveland Heights, with 420 full-time employees, will be the largest city to join the program. The contract begins Sept. 1 and ends Dec. 31, 2016.

Cleveland Heights has sought other efficiencies through partnerships, as evidenced by the joint fire dispatch service

with the cities of Shaker Heights and University Heights, a shared salt-storage facility, shared solid-waste transfer services, county contracted health and sanitary-sewer services, and income tax collection through the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA). The Healthcare Regionalization Program is another cooperative arrangement to add to the list.

"We will continue to find ways to reduce expenses while maintaining service levels for our residents," said Mayor Dennis Wilcox. "Partnerships help, but we are still a long way from making up the nearly \$2.5 million dollars we've lost to the state's drastic cuts in funding to cities."

Cleveland Heights spent \$5.1 million in 2013, and \$5.4 million is budgeted in 2014 for healthcare for employees. Savings are estimated to be between \$400,000 and \$450,000 for the first 16 months in the regional program. New rates will be established for the last year of the agreement.

Noreen Fox is the public relations coordinator for the City of Cleveland Heights.

DEMING continued from page 1

then as dean of its College of Fine Arts.

While in Texas, Deming built a strong reputation as a sculptor. He began to get work all over the United States, as well as in other countries such as Japan and Italy. "Even though I was teaching, I was always motivated to be in the studio, producing my own art work," he said.

Deming returned to Greater Cleveland in 1998, after being named the president of CIA. When he came back to his hometown, he moved to Cleveland Heights. "My wife said we should move to Lakewood," he said, "and I told her, 'No. We're moving to Cleveland Heights!'" Deming recalled, "I drew a circle around the institute and told my realtor that I wanted a house that was no more than five minutes away from CIA." He and his wife, Ann, live on Roxboro Road. They are the parents of three children: Matthew, 45; Lisa, 44; and Michael, 40.

Though they share the same last name, David Deming said he is not related to Grant and Barton Deming, brothers who developed much of the west side of Cleveland Heights during the early 1900s. "I did think it would be great to live on Demington Drive," he said. "But that didn't happen!"

Deming loves the diversity of Cleveland Heights, and he likes the fact that, in the neighborhood where he lives, the people all take great care of their homes. "I have terrific neighbors," he said. He also likes the proximity of Cleveland Heights to University Circle.

Deming spent 12 years as the president of CIA before retiring in 2010. "I told them that when I turned 67, I was



Deming with his sculpture of 1998 Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams, who played for the University of Texas and then played for Miami in the NFL.

going to walk away," he said. "I wanted to be in my studio full time. I love having that time uninterrupted." His studio is located on Athens Avenue in Lakewood.

In addition to the Thome statue, Deming has made many pieces of art that can be seen around the Cleveland area. He created a statue of former Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones that's in University Circle, and he sculpted a statue of former *Plain Dealer* music writer Jane Scott that's in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. In addition, he will soon be working on another statue for the Indians. That one will be of Larry Doby, who

was the first African-American player in the American League. It will be unveiled at Progressive Field next summer.

Deming remains very focused on his sculpting. "I work anywhere from 10 to 12 hours a day, every day," he said. "Then, if my wife needs me at home for something, I drive back to Cleveland Heights from Lakewood. I'm just very highly motivated to be working in my studio."

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.

South African bishop to preach at St. Paul's

Kim Fry

The Rt. Rev. Margaret Vertue, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of False Bay, South Africa, will preach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Sunday, Sept. 7, at the 9 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. She will also lead the Forum at 10 a.m.

St. Paul's enjoys a special relationship with two parishes in the Diocese of False Bay—St. Clare of Assisi in Ocean View and St. Matthew's Chapelry in Masiphumelele.

Parishioners Mary and Rich Nardar began this partnership in mission to Masiphumelele when they traveled there in 2002. They returned each subsequent year, for three months, until 2012.

Over the years, the partner churches have sent their members, including their youth groups, on numerous exchange visits. St. Paul's also helped establish two foster homes in the Diocese of False Bay.

Bishop Vertue is one of only two female Anglican bishops in Africa. During this, her first, visit to the United States, she will take part in the consecration of the Rev. Alan Gates, St. Paul's former rector, as bishop of Massachusetts on Sept. 13.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights. Learn more at www.stpauls-church.org.

Kim Fry is the director of communications at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

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IPM's 40th anniversary will draw experts and celebrities from around the world

Raluca Besliu

What does a renowned television host and travel writer have in common with the mother of a 2014 Academy Award winner recently featured on a *Vogue* magazine cover?

Rick Steves, host of public television's "Rick Steves' Europe" and public radio's "Travel with Rick Steves," and Dorothy Nyong'o, director of the Africa Cancer Foundation and mother of Lupita Nyong'o of Kenya, who won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her work in "12 Years a Slave," are among the speakers and panelists coming to Northeast Ohio in October to celebrate the 40th anniversary of IPM (International Partners in Mission). The nonprofit organization is headquartered in the historic Rockefeller Building in Cleveland Heights.

IPM works with women, children and youths across borders of faith, culture and economic circumstances to build justice, peace and hope. What sets IPM apart from many agencies that provide international assistance is its emphasis on partnership—it supports programs initiated by program participants themselves to tackle problems identified by them and community-based organizations, improve living standards and address social injustices.

Since its founding in 1974, IPM, which moved 13 years ago to Cleveland Heights, has joined with 306 grassroots organizations to implement 348 Project Partner initiatives in more than 40 countries, primarily in Africa, Asia

and Latin America. In 2013 alone, IPM helped 60,000 of the world's most marginalized people by facilitating technical training and providing financial assistance to 60 projects in 20 countries.

One example of IPM's tremendous work around the world is the Kandula Community Project in Machados, Kenya, where, with donor support, IPM has purchased land and helped fund the construction of a primary school, which now supports a growing enrollment. This year IPM is continuing its work by helping to finish school toilets, connecting a pipeline to provide running water, and mobilizing resources to expand the school and establish a food program. In addition, through the Kandula Community project, IPM has provided training in basket weaving to women as an income-generating activity to help support their families.

Apart from supporting local projects, IPM offers an immersion experience program that provides short-term trips to IPM-supported communities. Participants engage with residents and learn about the projects. More than 1,600 people, including many residents of Greater Cleveland, have participated since the trips began in 2003.

From Oct. 13 through Oct. 17, IPM will host a weeklong series of public luncheon and evening presentations in the Cleveland area featuring national and international experts and IPM Project Partners. In addition to Nyong'o and Steves, who has written the books *Travel as a Political Act* and *Europe Through the Back Door*, participants include Jay Friedlander, director of a sustainable business program at College of the Atlantic in Maine, and Judith Ranger Smith, executive director of Jimmy Buffett's Singing for Change Foundation. About 10 of IPM's Project Partners from various countries will be panelists for the evening events.

On Oct. 16, IPM will host its 12th annual gala and fundraiser Namaste! One Night for One World, which will feature world music and dance, a variety of foods and wines, a silent auction and fair-trade handcrafts from around the world.

To find out more about IPM, its work, the immersion experiences or upcoming events and ticket prices, contact Raluca Besliu at rbesliu@ipmconnect.org or at 216-932-4082.

Raluca Besliu is a member of the IPM staff.



Jerusalem artichokes make an attractive edible landscape.

Home permaculture design course begins Sept. 18 at HRRC

Tom Gibson

Starting in September, an eight-week Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) class will teach the principles of landscape architecture and permaculture to help attendees improve the green functioning and aesthetics of their homes and yards.

Taught by a permaculturist and a garden designer, the course will meet once a week on Thursday evenings, Sept. 18 through Nov. 6, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Instructors will cover how to: keep water on-site (reducing water bills); improve soil without chemicals; attract pollinators and other beneficial insects; incorporate permanent edible plants and native plants into the landscape; and more.

Participants will be encouraged to explore their own sites and apply what they learn to create a plan they can implement, to add beauty and value to their properties.

The class will meet at the HRRC Teaching Center, 2520 Noble Road, in Cleveland Heights. The cost of the class is \$175 per family, for up to two members of the same household, and class size is limited to 12. To register, e-mail instructors Tom Gibson (granvillegibson@gmail.com) or Elsa Johnson (elsanvic@gmail.com).

Tom Gibson, co-instructor of the HRRC course, received his permaculture design certificate in 2010 and helped build a permaculture garden at the First Unitarian Church in Shaker Heights. Elsa Johnson, the other co-instructor, has a master's degree in landscape architecture and has designed many gardens that appear on various tours.

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Scout installs rain barrels at Disciples Christian Church

Ronald Werman

When Joshua Ritchey heard a presentation at his church, Disciples Christian Church, about working to become an environmentally friendly “Green Chalice” congregation, he wondered how he could help.

A Life Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, Ritchey is on his way to earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Perhaps he could craft an Eagle project that would contribute to the church’s efforts, he thought.

With the encouragement of Mark Ritchey, his father and scoutmaster, and his Troop 461, Ritchey decided on a rain barrel installation.

He found the planning and approval process challenging. He drew up the plans and took photos to get approval from the troop committee and the church board. A detailed PowerPoint presentation to the church board resulted in approval and also inspired individual church members to contribute funds to the project.

On Aug. 9, Ritchey and Troop 461 members installed the 350-gallon rain



Scouts from Troop 461 cut pipes for a rain barrel at Disciples Christian Church.



Life Scout Joshua Ritchey standing by one of the 350-gallon rain barrels installed as his Eagle project at Disciples Christian Church.

barrels at the church. “The project went according to plan, no one got hurt and we finished the project on time,” Ritchey said.

As a result, Ritchey is closer to

achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and Disciples Christian Church is a little greener.

Disciples Christian Church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road in Cleveland

Heights. For information, visit www.discipleschristian.org.

Ronald Werman is an elder and communications chairperson of Disciples Christian Church.

Authors to share their thoughts on living and working in the Heights at Oct. 5 event

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Three Heights civic organizations will host Welcome Home: Heights Authors, the second in a series celebrating some of the amazing people who call the Heights home, on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2-4 p.m., at Nighttown, 12387 Cedar Road.

The free event will feature a panel discussion by Heights authors about why they like living and working in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Panelists include children’s book author Tricia Springstubb, whose *What Happened on Fox Street* was an Indie 2010 Pick of the Year; James Henke, a former writer and editor for *Rolling Stone* magazine and author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley; and poet George Bilgere, winner of a 2003 Cleveland Arts Prize and 2014 Creative Workforce Fellowship, whose work has been frequently featured on Garrison Keillor’s “Prairie Home Companion” on National Public Radio.

“This is a great opportunity for both longtime residents and newcomers to meet some of our outstanding authors and find out what attracts them to the Heights,” said Clare Taft, board president of FutureHeights, one of the presenting organizations. “They can also learn about the two cities’ civic and cultural assets, meet neighbors and feel at home.”

Participants can enjoy com-



plementary nibbles and a cash bar. Longtime residents are encouraged to bring a new neighbor. Door prizes donated by Mac’s Backs and Appletree Books will be given out to new residents. Appletree will also offer works by Heights authors for sale during the event.

Civic leaders, including city and school officials, will be on hand to welcome residents and provide information. Heights schools, businesses, cultural institutions and other organizations will also have materials available.

The event is presented by the Friends of the Heights Libraries, FutureHeights and Reaching Heights. It is sponsored by Motorcars, realtor Susan Delaney of Howard Hanna, DVUV, and Keller National.

To RSVP, visit <http://heightsauthors.eventbrite.com>, send an e-mail to info@futureheights.org or call one of the three presenting organizations.

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

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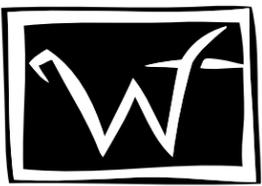
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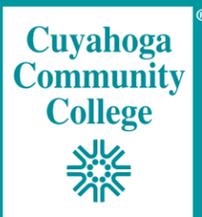

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MCDONALD continued from page 1

Grant W. Deming House and Carriage House.

According to Kara Hamley O'Donnell, Cleveland Heights city planner, McDonald's memory was impressive, and included childhood memories of Cleveland Heights, and stories of the families who had inhabited the city's grand homes and the architects who designed them. He also had great memories of working at Roxboro Elementary School and recalled standing up to remodelers when the school district planned to gut the building's lovely auditorium, saving it for future generations.

McDonald was also one of the founding members of the Historic Fairmount Association. His interest in gardens and community service inspired him and his partner, Arden Smay, to organize an annual fall leaf collection for Carmel of the Holy Family OCD.

McDonald loved art, gardens and architecture for the serenity they brought to a chaotic world. His home was a museum, and his collection encompassed work from the High Renaissance to the Romantic period. In the 1990s, McDonald and Smay's house was featured on HGTV's "Dream Drives," a program showcasing homes of historical and design distinction, for its architecture and fine arts collection.



Principal John McDonald sits behind his desk at Roxboro Elementary School.

He leaves partner Arden Willis Smay of Tarentum, Pa.; brother Robert Bruce McDonald of Chagrin Falls; nieces Pamela Mattson McDonald of Astoria, Ore., and Nancy McDonald Meinken of Green Oaks, Ill.; and nephew Robert Scott McDonald of West Seattle, Wash.. He also leaves a grandniece, Alex Meinken of Miami, Fla., and grandnephew, Christopher Meinken of Chicago, Ill.

Pamela Mattson McDonald is John McDonald's niece.

Book release party benefits Heights Libraries

Sheryl Banks

On Sunday, Sept. 7, at 4 p.m., critically acclaimed local author Thrity Umrigar will celebrate the release of her latest novel, *The Story Hour*, with a benefit for the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries (FFHL) at The Wine Spot.

"In addition to providing the world with another wonderful novel, Thrity has made sure the local community will benefit from this book," said Sue Pardee, FFHL president. "She offered to work with Suzanne DeGaetano, owner of Mac's Backs Books on Coventry, and the Heights Libraries to donate proceeds from a book release party to the fund." Mac's Backs is sponsoring the event.

Pat Gray, manager of the Coventry branch of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, arranged to have the party benefit FFHL, a year-old endowment that benefits the independent local library system. "Thrity and Suzanne came to me and said they

wanted to help the library," Gray said. "It doesn't get much better than that."

The book release party will take place at The Wine Spot, 2271 Lee

Road in Cleveland Heights, and will feature food from Café Tandoor and wine samples to accompany Umrigar's remarks about her new book. FFHL will receive profits from ticket sales and a portion of the proceeds from books sold at the party.

Tickets are \$50 and are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/tbrityffhl>.

Kirkus Reviews calls *The Story Hour* "a forceful examination of identity, cultural isolation and the power of storytelling," and calls Umrigar "an impressive writer (who) delivers another smart, compulsively readable work."

The Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries was established in 2013 by the Heights Libraries Board of Trustees as a 501(c)3 organization that is entrusted to administration by the Cleveland Foundation.

Individuals and organizations can contribute to the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries as a tribute to a friend, to memorialize a loved one, or to honor a special occasion. Contact the fund at director@heightslibrary.org or 216-932-3600.

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



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Heights Youth Club encompasses scholarship, fun and responsibility

Mary Krogness

The Heights Youth Club (HYC) offers Heights students in grades one through 12 a smorgasbord of after-school activities, five days a week, 3-7:30 p.m. The club's young people aspire to excel in school, and bring their book bags to the club with plans to do their homework—with the help of volunteer tutors, if need be—during the club's Power Hour.

Roscoe Morgan, executive director of HYC, stated proudly that 50 percent of those students who come to the club with serious intentions about school make the honor or merit rolls. Morgan, who leads with a firm hand and wearing a broad smile, said, "I have the honor of coming to work for the students. A privilege. I learn and grow every day."

Mr. Morgan—and make no mistake, it is Mr. Morgan to the kids—is the adult who stands at the front door to greet HYC members when the club opens, and again when it closes.

On the first day of school, an avalanche of activities is already in full swing, including the Keystone Club (teen leadership), Torch Club (teen leadership), Sparks Room (math and reading enhancement for ages six through ten), game room activities (ping pong, pool, foosball), science club, Smart Girls and Smart Moves (a girls' awareness club), gym activities, arts and crafts, nutrition and Power Hour (homework). Then comes a hot, nutritious supper of perhaps cheese tortellini, carrots and fruit cup; or meatloaf and gravy, broccoli, cauliflower and sweet potatoes, provided by the Cleveland Food Bank for about 70 hungry girls and boys.

It's easy to register a Cleveland Heights or University Heights student as an HYC member: The appropriate adult (parent, grandparent, legal guardian or foster parent) should fill out the HYC application form, and then pay the \$10 registration fee for a one-year membership for the child.

Members—even if they've aged out of HYC—come back for more. They willingly reach out to the community, broadening their horizons while helping those in need. Cameron Steele, now a junior staff member, joined the club when it opened in 2007. Steele said, "I drifted from basketball to pingpong, then to being a serious student." Once a wild little kid who decided to turn his



Members of Heights Youth Club visit University Circle.

life around, Steele came every day and now plans to attend Youngstown State University to study criminal justice.

Nia Rollins, 12, said, "I get to see my friends." She paused and grinned, adding, "I do like to have fun, but still I know when to be serious and mature." Rollins enjoys helping the younger children with their homework, and also finds pleasure in working to coordinate activities. At one time this perky pre-teen misbehaved and talked back to staff. When asked if she comes to HYC every day, she answered, "Sure do! I feel good and appreciated here."

Being a better communicator to help prevent teen suicide is a major focus of 15-year-old Aaron Hemphill's life. This serious Heights High junior has been a solid HYC member since he was six. A member of the Keystone Club, Hemphill talks intensely about an HYC fair, Saving Us, that provided teens with advice about what to look for in troubled friends and classmates—depression, being withdrawn and letting schoolwork slide. He attended a conference in California, where Boys and Girls' Club alumni spoke about staying with positive people and in positive places. "Coming to HYC has turned me into a leader," said Hemphill.

Shania English's older brother influenced her to attend HYC. High on her list is its art program. "Fun Friday," she said, "is when you can do anything—paint with watercolors or use chalk." She dreams of becoming a fashion designer.

Kyren Carroll, nine, relishes playing pool with his brother, Meurice, and said, "It's good to get my homework done here, because you can get help and do it fast!"

Mary Krogness, a former Cleveland Heights resident, is the author of two books and a television series for PBS.

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Heights Music Hop seeks volunteers for Oct. 11 event



Greg Bonanno

Do you enjoy music? Do you enjoy working with local merchants? Do you enjoy volunteering?

On Oct. 11, Lee Road will once again be filled with free music at the second annual Heights Music Hop, and volunteers are needed to welcome people to the Cedar Lee Business District, help bands move gear, staff tables, and help set up and tear down. Volunteer perks include a T-shirt and free admission to the official after-party at The BottleHouse.

The Heights Music Hop will serve as one of the kick-off locations for Cleveland Beer Week (Oct. 10-18), and includes more bands and venues than last year's inaugural event.

FutureHeights presents this free community-building event, offering attendees the opportunity to hear a

variety of musical styles throughout the Cedar Lee Business District. Last year's debut event drew more than 1,000 people to the Cedar Lee neighborhood to enjoy the rich culture and unique character of the Heights and its local talent.

Heights Music Hop is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and by Motorcars, Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, realtor Susan Delaney of Howard Hanna, DVUV, and Keller National.

Attendees can purchase Cleveland Beer Week tasting passports for the opportunity to sample small-batch collaboration beers specially brewed by Northeast Ohio breweries. Learn more at www.clevelandbeerweek.org.

Visit www.heightsmusichop.com/volunteer to learn more, and sign up to volunteer. You can also contact the planning committee at heightsmusicshop@futureheights.org or 216-320-1423.

To be the first to learn about the bands, venues, and surprises for this year's event, follow the event on Twitter @heightsmusicshop or like its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/heightsmusicshop.

Greg Bonanno is the chair of the Heights Music Hop Committee and a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

Roots of American Music benefit



Roots of American Music, the Cleveland Heights-based nonprofit, held a benefit on Demington Drive on Aug. 9. The organization takes local musicians into schools throughout Northeast Ohio and teaches the students about music and other subjects, using the music. The benefit featured some great musicians, including longtime Cleveland musician Charlie Mosbrook (pictured) and the Godot Quartet.

On Oct. 25, Roots of American Music will host a benefit for education at the Grop Shop. The Halloween-themed event will feature Faith and Whiskey as the headlining band. For more information about Roots of American Music, and a full list of upcoming events, visit www.rootsofamericanmusic.org.

Sept. 13 clam bake to benefit HRRC



HRRC celebrated its first clam bake fundraiser in 2013.

Becky Stager

Come and celebrate fall with a Clam Bake fundraiser for Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), the Cleveland Heights nonprofit. The event will be held on the grounds of the McGregor Home, 14900 Private Drive, East Cleveland, on Saturday, Sept. 13, 5-9 p.m. Patrons will enjoy a relaxing evening filled with fun and fellowship, festive music, an auction of unique items and enticing experiences, and—of course—a delicious, traditional clam bake.

"This is our second year doing the clam bake," said Mike Gaynier, HRRC's interim director, "and we hope to significantly increase the money raised to support our programs to assist

homebuyers, homeowners and seniors who need our help and expertise with challenging situations. The event raised over \$6,000 last year for HRRC, was loads of fun, and the food and setting is terrific!"

Tickets are \$60 per person. You can make a reservation by sending a check to Home Repair Resource Center, 2520 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121, or by calling HRRC (216-381-6100) to reserve a spot, and then paying at the door. All proceeds will benefit HRRC.

Becky Stager has been HRRC's home repair education coordinator since 1989. Visit www.hrhc-ch.org or call 216-381-6100 for more information on programs and services.

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HRRC's plumbing and heating classes for women start Oct. 1

Becky Stager

There's nothing more irritating than hearing a dripping faucet or a "ghost flush" in the middle of the night—especially when these plumbing repairs are so easy.

Participants in Home Repair Resource Center's (HRRC) Home How-To women's repair course will learn to do basic repairs like these, and will gain a better understanding of their plumbing and heating systems.

Women can enroll now in the upcoming "Plumbing and Heating" module, consisting of eight workshops held on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., from Oct. 1 through Nov. 19.

Participants will learn to repair toilets and faucets, snake drains, connect copper and plastic water pipes and plastic drain lines, install and maintain water heaters, and more.

There will be ample opportunities to practice using the tools and techniques involved in many common plumbing and heating projects. No

previous experience is required.

Regular tuition for the eight-class module is \$120 for Cleveland Heights residents, and \$150 for nonresidents, with reduced rates for low-income participants. A \$20 early-bird discount will apply to applications received by Sept. 5. The course emphasizes small-group instruction, and enrollment is limited to 18 women.

HRRC's Home How-To women's repair course comprises four modules (home maintenance, carpentry, electrical, and plumbing) that can be taken in sequence or individually.

Classes are held at HRRC's Learning Center, 2520 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights. For more information, visit www.hrcc-ch.org/programs/home-how-to-for-women or call 216-381-6100, ext. 16.

Becky Stager has been HRRC's home repair education coordinator since 1989. Visit www.hrcc-ch.org or call 216-381-6100 for more information on programs and services.



Ann McCulloh, Virginia McGrew and Leslie Oliver, participants in last year's HRRC plumbing and heating course, practice working with plastic drain pipe.



Find out who's Best of the Heights Sept. 23

Deanna Bremer Fisher

From May through August, Heights residents voted for their favorite Heights businesses in 22 categories, including Best New Business. Each year, FutureHeights—a nonprofit dedicated to promoting civic engagement in the Heights through information, education, and advocacy, and the publisher of the *Heights Observer* community news—conducts the Best of the Heights survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally owned businesses here in the Heights, and their contributions to the local economy.

"Heights residents recognize how lucky they are to have such an amazing diversity of independent businesses in our community, and want to show their appreciation," said Clare Taft, president of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

Find out who came out on top at the Best of the Heights awards celebration on Tuesday Sept. 23 at Tucker Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd. The event will include music, nibbles by Soho Kitchen & Bar, beer and wine. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Purchase tickets at <https://2014botha.eventbrite.com>. For more information, call 216-320-1423 or visit www.futureheights.org.

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



"Judson staff goes the extra mile for my mom. She's so much happier now!"

—Amy Zipp, daughter of Judson assisted living resident Ruth Rogers

Amy Zipp has peace of mind and more since her mom Ruth Rogers moved to assisted living at Judson. "I know someone's got her back," she says.

As they explored myriad options, Judson stood out. "The staff has the utmost respect for the residents," says Amy. "They went out of their way to get to know my mom personally. This brings her joy and a better quality of life."

Living in Cleveland Heights, Amy visits her mom frequently for outings in University Circle. "Having all of the cultural attractions at her doorstep makes it easy for my daughters and me to create new memories with mom. We also bring our dog, Maggie to visit and she's a real hit with everyone!"

Back at Judson, Ruth feels right at home. "Mom's made a lot of new friends," smiles Amy. "Her group is the 'wild' table at meals—always laughing."

For more about how Judson's assisted living program can offer you peace of mind, please call (216) 791-2004 today.

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Visit www.judsonsmartliving.org and click Assisted Living

Nature Center's annual Hike & Run is Sept. 21

Lisa Fredrickson

The 10th annual Shaker Lakes Hike & Run, with 5K and 10K races and nature hikes, is set for Sunday, Sept. 21. This fun family event offers three hikes, a 5K race and—new this year—a 10K race and “Lakes to Lake” hike options.

The 5K and 10K races take runners on streets and paths through the scenic Shaker parklands, including the dirt path along North Park Boulevard, giving runners a beautiful view of lower Shaker Lake. The race is managed by HMA Promotions, and awards will be given to overall winners as well as winners of several age categories.

Hike & Run offers three different guided hikes of various lengths. A one-mile, pet-friendly family hike leads participants through the forest, marsh and demonstration prairie within the grounds of the Nature Center at Shaker



Approximately 150 runners participated in last year's Shaker Lakes Hike & Run 5K race.

Lakes. This hike is the only time pets are allowed on the Nature Center trails. A four-mile hike takes hikers through the Shaker parklands and scenic Doan Brook gorge. The vigorous Lakes to Lake hike from the Nature Center to Lake Erie, led by the Cleveland Hiking Club, can be completed in one of three

ways: 1) complete the entire 12-mile hike to the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve and back; 2) return to the Nature Center by shuttle after hiking six miles to the Gordon Boat Ramp; or 3) continuing through the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve for a nine-mile hike.

Refreshments follow the races and hikes, including delicious smoothies from Yonanas, and all registrants receive a T-shirt.

Proceeds from Hike & Run benefit the Jenny Goldman Memorial Nature Outreach Fund that underwrites environmental education for underserved urban youth.

Kay Carlson, executive director of the Nature Center, explained the program concept: “Since its inception, the Jenny Goldman program has played an important role in the education and lives of thousands of disadvantaged schoolchildren in Cleveland. Volumes of research indicate that when children have positive connections to nature, they are exponentially more likely to exhibit positive environmental behaviors as adults relating to energy consumption, recycling, lawn care and other environmentally friendly practices.”

Hikes are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12, scouts and school club members. Hikes depart the Nature Center at 9 a.m. The cost for the 5K and 10K races is \$20 with pre-registration by Sept. 19, and \$25 on race day. Both races begin at 9:15 a.m. To register, visit www.hmapromotions.net or stop by the Nature Center at 2600 South Park Blvd. in Shaker Heights. For more information, call the Nature Center at 216-321-5935 or visit www.shakerlakes.org.

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



The grass roots of the rolling revolution

LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Is it a revolution? Yes, a fun-loving, fender-equipped, wind-through-your-hair rolling revolution. More people are riding their bikes. They are going to work, school, the dollar store and the coffee shop.

How is this happening? Regionally, the work is being driven by many organizations and leaders. Here in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, the Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) plays a small role in advocating, educating and encouraging in the cycling arena (visit www.bikesintheheights.org). HBC organized three years ago to help make CH-UH more bicycle friendly. Cycling advocates in Shaker Heights recently formed Bike Shaker and are working on the same mission in their city.

While working on our own communities can bring results, collaborating is also important. Last spring, the two organizations produced a regional bike map and they continue to keep in touch about other possible joint projects.

Working locally does bring change, but a larger organization with a larger reach has emerged as well. Bike Cleveland (www.bikecleveland.org) formed in 2011 and works to improve cycling infrastructure and policy in Cleveland, and is a valuable regional advocacy group that is a strong and consistent voice for cycling.

Perhaps the most powerful aspect of Bike Cleveland is that it has funding and membership to support two staff members. The organization promotes cycling in many ways and is the go-to resource for bicycle issues for government officials, business and other nonprofits.

If you want to be part of the cycling revolution, join and support these groups. A single bicycle on the road is not powerful, but a large peloton (that's bicycle-ese for a group of cyclists), can make real change.

The Heights Bicycle Coalition was formed in 2010 to make the Heights more bicycle friendly. The group's mission is to educate and encourage citizens to use bicycles as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation. And... to have fun!

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Fall Open House

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2-4 pm

District unveils proposed design for new CHHS exterior

Kim Sergio Inglis

On Aug. 19, architects hired by the Cleveland-Heights University Heights City School District unveiled their proposed new design for the exterior of Cleveland Heights High School.

The design calls for the removal of the 1959 science wing addition, to reveal the historic façade on the school's Cedar Road side, which has been hidden from view for decades, and the construction of two new wings on the east and west sides of the building's historic core.

As proposed by the architectural firm Balog, Steines, Hendricks & Manchester, the new additions are designed to complement, and will not block, the original façade, which will be restored.

The Aug. 19 meeting was the second in a series of public meetings regarding the schematic design phase of the district's Heights High facilities project. The district planned the series of meetings to provide opportunities for members of the community to see proposed plans and ask questions.

The next schematic design phase public meeting is scheduled for Sept. 16, and a fourth meeting, set for Sept. 30, has been added. Both meetings will take place at the Delisle Center, 14780 Superior Road, at 7 p.m. Plans for the Sept. 16 meeting anticipate that the final schematic design package will be



The renovated Heights High will reveal the historic facade from Cedar Road.



Cleveland Heights High School as it appeared from Cedar Road in the late 1930s.



The demolition of the 1959 science wing will reveal the clock tower and historic facade of Heights High.

presented, and the construction team, from the firm Gilbane/Ozanne, will present a cost estimate for the design's construction.

For more information about the district's Sept. 16 and Sept. 30 meetings, and to see additional exterior and interior site and floor plans, visit www.chub.org.

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

Millikin building sold to Mosdos Ohr Hatorah



The Millikin building.

Angee Shaker

After years of negotiations and discussions, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has agreed to sell most of the former Millikin Elementary School property to local private K-8 school Mosdos Ohr Hatorah.

The sale was approved by the Board of Education at its Aug. 19 work session. The board agreed to sell the Millikin building to Mosdos for \$650,000. The sale does not include the adjacent stables property, which the district will retain.

The sales agreement is subject to several contingencies:

- The district must obtain an easement from the stable property to Severance Circle.
- The district must identify or obtain alternative space for its tradespeople who currently work out of the Millikin facility.
- Mosdos must obtain a conditional use permit from the City of Cleveland Heights to use the property as a nonpublic school.
- Mosdos must obtain financing on satisfactory terms from the City of Cleveland Heights.

"We are very happy to finally ar-

rive at an agreement with Mosdos that benefits their community, our school district and the Millikin neighborhood," said CH-UH Board President Ron Register. "We have been discussing how to make the best use of this property for nearly 10 years, and Mosdos has been interested in the facility for nearly as long. The difficulties inherent in any real estate negotiation, compounded by the economic upheaval of the recession, have meant that this process has taken longer than anticipated. However, we have now come to a fair price and an agreement that works for everyone, and we are especially glad that this building will be put to its intended and former use: educating children."

Kal Zucker, board member, said, "Privatization of public land should always be given careful thought. I'm proud of my colleagues, both past and present, for the depth of thought and gravity they have all shown this issue. The City of Cleveland Heights has advocated for Mosdos to acquire this property for quite some time; we have approved this deal in a show of good will to the City of Cleveland Heights. I hope they, and all of you, will remember this spirit and this gesture as we work together to create the future."

The district and Mosdos agreed to address and resolve the contingencies within 120 days. After the sale is finalized, the board is committed to using the proceeds to enhance [its] facilities plans where appropriate.

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



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New athletic stadium debuts Sept. 13 with ceremony before football season-opener

Angee Shaker

The newly constructed Cleveland Heights High School stadium will be officially opened to the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration just prior to the first home football game of this season, on Saturday, Sept. 13.

“We are so excited to present this brand-new stadium to the community,” said Talisa L. Dixon, CH-UH superintendent. “Our residents approved Phase I of our Master Facilities Plan in 2013, and while a great deal of work is taking place within our school buildings, the new stadium and field may be the first visible change that some residents have seen. We’re thrilled that this first visible project has turned out so well, and this community will see an immediate benefit from it.”

The ceremony and celebration will



A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Heights High athletic stadium will take place on Sept. 13 before the opening football game against Glenville.

begin at 2 p.m. on Sept. 13 with the opening of the Tiger Tailgate Area, where food trucks, concessions and face-painting will be open for business.

At 3 p.m., the ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on the field, with brief remarks from Dixon; Ron Register, board president; Zoraba Q Ross, new CHHS administrative principal; and Jeff Rotsky, head football coach.

The ribbon will be cut by a group of student-athlete leaders, and then the marching band and cheerleaders will help to excite the crowd and attendees as the Heights Tigers football team battles the Glenville Tarblooders, starting at 4 p.m.

Fans will notice many improvements and upgrades from the old stadium. The new field is made of

synthetic turf, which will allow the field to be enjoyed for far more than just football games, as is currently the case. Lacrosse, cheerleading and field hockey teams will be able to use the field, as will gym classes.

In response to concerns raised by several community members, the field uses Envirofill synthetic turf, which is a safer alternative to the more common base of tire-derived crumb rubber.

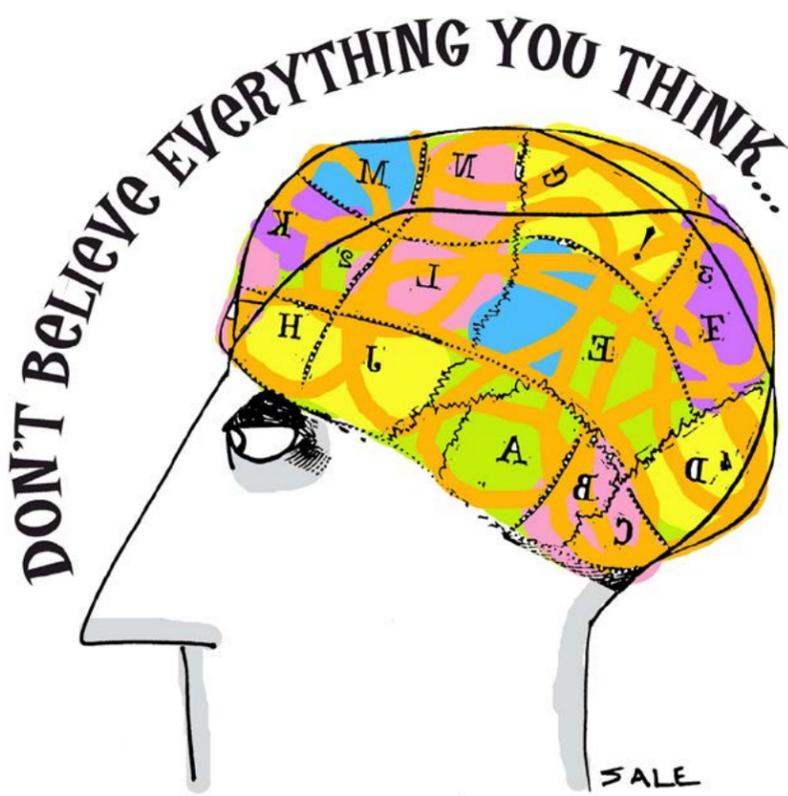
The stadium also features new grandstands and visiting stands, a new track, a new exterior fence and landscaping, a press box and restrooms. The new stadium increases capacity from the previous 1,000 seats to 2,500 seats, 500 of which will be on the visiting team’s side.

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

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Heights administrative principal brings broad experience to role

Joy Henderson

In early August, Zoraba Q Ross became the new administrative principal at Heights High. His experience as a Columbus-area high school principal and athletic director, administrator in the city’s recreation department and assistant director for the King Arts Complex during its \$1.6 million renovation project gives him a unique set of skills to lead the school.

His varied background sets the tone for his approach to and view of education. “There are three key components to all great schools—academics, arts and athletics,” Ross said. “I am thrilled to be in a school with strong programs in all three.”

Ross acknowledges his sense of urgency about improving the overall academic performance of the school. “There are many students doing quite well here, but we have far too many who are underperforming. We must address that and help those students re-engage in school and succeed,” said Ross.

One of his major responsibilities will be as an instructional leader to support the small schools principals and teachers and increase the success level for more students. Ross will also help evaluate the small school structure and guide the transition from the current Heights High building to a temporary location during the upcoming building renovation. He recently toured the former Wiley Middle School, which will house Heights High for two years, beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

“Remodeling a school is a big deal,” he said. “When I was involved in the renovation of the King Arts Complex, I learned that if you keep your eye on



Zoraba Ross (second from right) discusses the first day of school with (from left) REAL Principal Alisa Lawson-McKinnie, Legacy Counselor Michael Dixon and Mosaic Counselor Haethem Rasu.

the prize, the updated building is well worth the short-term inconvenience.”

Ross, who has a teenage daughter, said, “I have very high expectations for students, just as I have for my own child. The school is here to educate and guide students, to support healthy behaviors and habits, not just to punish.”

In case you are wondering about Ross’s name, his father gave him his name and the middle initial, Q, does not stand for anything. It is his middle name. “That always made me unique,” he said.

Ross grew up in Marion, 50 miles north of Columbus. He attended The Ohio State University and was captain of the track team. He has a master’s of education in education administration from Ashland University.

Ross is the founder of Breakfast with a Purpose, a professional development organization of K-12 African-American administrators working to improve student achievement. He is on the Ohio Athletic Association’s Principal Advisory Board and is chair of the Shumate Council at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus.

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

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Beaumont School students participate in Project YESS

Anna Beyerle

Four girls from Beaumont School were among the 14 students who sailed on a tall ship for a weeklong voyage at the end of July.

They left on July 27 from Milwaukee, Wis., on the S/V Denis Sullivan and returned on Aug. 2.

Since 2010, when the program began, Beaumont has had students on board. Another Beaumont student was among the three ambassador leaders.

The program is called Project YESS, Youth Empowered to Succeed Through Sailing. Its goals are for students to develop leadership, confidence and courage as crew on a tall ship. Project YESS was developed by the Rotary

Club of Cleveland and funded by the Cleveland Rotary Foundation and other corporate, individual and foundation supporters. The project helps students, ages 14-17, by providing direction, developing community, and opening their eyes to career opportunities in the Great Lakes region.

"We absolutely treasure and appreciate the partnership we have with Beaumont," said Rotary club member Eileen Smotzer, who is in charge of the project. "We celebrate the fact that our Beaumont participants have been truly engaged leaders who model energy, intelligence, and enthusiasm to their YESS teammates year after year."

YESS students develop teamwork,

leadership, safety and navigational skills during a six-session land-based curriculum. Graduates then apply what they have learned to navigate a historic ship to its destination.

All costs, including curriculum materials, meals, transportation, and a berth on the ship, are covered.

Male and female chaperones accompany the students. This year's female chaperone was a Beaumont alumna, who sailed on three Project YESS trips during her time as a Beaumont student.

Anna Beyerle is the public relations and marketing manager at Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights.



COURTESY ANNA BEYERLE

Beaumont students Ana Maria Vargas '15, Molly Cogan '15, Crista Keiley '17 and Mary Martin '16 aboard the Denis Sullivan.

Micheller leaves school district after 17 years; replacement named

Angee Shaker

Joseph Micheller, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District's director of curriculum and instruction, left the district at the end of July to become executive director of new school development for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Sandy Womack replaced Micheller.

Micheller has been with the district for 17 years. Prior to taking on the responsibilities of curriculum and instruction, Micheller held the positions of director of educational services, interim assistant superintendent, and director of special programming and compliance.

"Dr. Micheller managed to be both the district historian and futurist. His contributions to this district have been enormous and the initiatives he put into place will continue to have a terrific impact on our students for decades to come. We will miss him very much," said recently retired former superintendent Nylajeane R. McDaniel.

Micheller spearheaded several district initiatives, including the Ohio High School Transformation Initiative, One-to-One Teaching and Learning with Technology, and implementing CH-UH's Race to the Top Scope of Work.

Most recently, Micheller coordinated the International Baccalaureate partnership at seven CH-UH schools, implemented a science/technology/engineering and mathematics (STEM) focus at Boulevard and Gearity elementary schools, and implemented the project-based and inquiry-focused instructional models at the high school.

Micheller stated he was most proud of the district's partnership with John Carroll University: "Who would have thought we would create a professional development school, a cutting edge teacher leader program that was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents and accepted by the Ohio Department of Education, and now an Early College Program where 18 of our 10th-grade students are on campus this summer taking their first college course? Our partnership with JCU is



Dr. Joseph Micheller

COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Sandy Womack

COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

a great example of the power of institutional collaboration and commitment."

Before coming to CH-UH, Micheller served as superintendent of the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, assistant superintendent for the Brunswick City Schools, and as a middle school social studies

teacher with the East Cleveland City Schools. Micheller was awarded Cleveland State University's Alumni Special Achievement Award in 2009, and John Carroll University's Distinguished Educator Award in 2012.

Sandy Womack, the district's new director of curriculum and instruction, most recently served as the principal at the Altitude Academy at Crenshaw in the Canton City Schools. He held several positions with Canton City Schools, including principal of Hartford Middle School from 2008-13. While there, he improved the state's academic ranking of the school from Academic Emergency to Effective, by 2011. He has also served as a teacher in Canton, Akron, Alliance and Columbus, and in Cleveland's public schools.

"Mr. Womack is bringing his passion, skills and 15 years of administrative, directorial and educational leadership experience to the Heights. Our children, staff and community will benefit and I can't wait for him to get started," said Talisa L. Dixon, superintendent.

Womack earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education at Mount Union College and his master's degree from The University of Akron. He is completing his doctorate in educational leadership at Ashland University.

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

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

JULY 15, 2014
All board members were present.

McDaniel's last meeting

This was Superintendent Nylajeon McDaniel's last meeting. The board members thanked her for her service as interim superintendent.

Fundraising campaign

In response to a request from Board Member Eric Silverman, McDaniel asked Sue Pardee, the district's coordinator of school improvement and federal programs, and a grant professional, to explore a facilities fundraising initiative. She noted that the Lakewood,

Brunswick and Avon school districts have successfully raised funds from either private or corporate sponsors, with a naming-rights option.

New curriculum and instruction director

Joseph Micheller, the curriculum and instruction director, is retiring. The new superintendent, Talisa Dixon, introduced his replacement, Sandy Womack, who is from the Canton school system.

Work session on facilities

The community Facilities Accountability Committee has established subcommittees to address certification, relocation of the various schools, safety and security, architectural preservation, the need for a swimming pool, private fundraising, community engagement, maintenance of the renovation schedules, and follow-up on changes.

The architects presented the first set of schematic drawings of changes for all floors of the high school, including the Washington Boulevard and Cedar Road levels. Goals in this initial design phase are to renovate and reflect the history of the building; ensure accessibility for all; be environmentally responsible; and consider security, public programs and access, and traffic patterns. The floor plan must provide access for all, be flexible, be open to the community, be adjustable for future expansion, provide for good student circulation, and maximize collaboration of the teachers and staff. Other considerations are: [reflecting] the community's values, access to technology, energy efficiency, and architectural aesthetics. Other parameters include zoning, sensitivity to the neighborhood, the existing football stadium, daylight, stormwater, safety and security, an appropriate budget, and the project guidelines.

The board commented on the square footage of areas such as the physical education facilities, pool, music rooms and classrooms. Relocation of parking, the physical area required for parking, and the number of parking spaces were also discussed. The board requested clarification concerning areas of public access. There was much discussion of preserving the 1926 façade of the building, as well as some of the other areas of the school. Silverman said he was unhappy with the drawings, claiming the 1926 building style was not being considered.

Six community members commented on these initial drawings as to their scale, the loading dock, media café, culinary program, office space, square footage given to athletics, the possibility of a freestanding pool, the auditorium, corridors, and the science classrooms. Due to the lateness of the [hour], the architect promised to address these



community concerns online. One community speaker said that the facilities committee has not responded to the community's questions in a timely fashion.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

AUGUST 5, 2014

Board member Eric Coble was absent.

New superintendent reception

Before the meeting there was a reception for Talisa L. Dixon, the new superintendent. Board President Ron Register expressed how pleased he was to have her join the district.

Scott Smith

The board thanked Scott Smith, a member of the Fuel and Bus Committee, for saving money through the Ohio Schools Council Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Reaching Heights new offices

Krista Hawthorne, the new executive director of Reaching Heights, announced the organization's move into new offices at the Coventry School building, and explained what Reaching Heights does for the district.

Achievement gap

Bob Ivory of The Ivory Educational Consulting Group explained a program called "Student of Promise" that helps close the achievement gap.

Tiger Up program

Kristin Hughes, director of athletics, presented the Tiger Up program, to enhance the culture and attitude of the students.

Drug testing

Jeffrey Johnston, director of student services, discussed a drug-testing program, the details of which will be developed with parents, students and staff.

Parking spaces

The board authorized a nonbinding proposal to lease parking spaces from University Square for teacher parking while Wiley is being used as a high school.

Football stadium

The grand opening of the new football stadium will be Sept. 13.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohen.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.

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Seniors are eligible for special discounts

SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

One of the perks of becoming a senior adult is that one becomes eligible for special discounts offered by many local businesses and organizations.

The Ohio Department of Aging administers the Golden Buckeye program, giving seniors access to discounts at more than 20,000 businesses throughout the state. Seniors age 60 or older, and any disabled adult over the age of 18, is eligible for this free program.

State residents who hold a current Ohio driver's license or state ID card automatically receive a Golden Buckeye card the month of their 60th birthday. Other eligible residents may apply for the card at any CH-UH library or at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center.

For more information on the Golden Buckeye Program, call 800-422-1976 or visit www.aging.ohio.gov/

goldenbuckeye.

The following businesses offer a 10 percent discount for Golden Buckeye cardholders: Tommy's restaurant at 1824 Coventry Road (216-321-7757), Boston Market at 2184 Warrensville Center Road (216-321-2219) and Wendy's at 13246 Cedar Road (216-371-3402).

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History offers cardholders a \$2 discount on admission (216-231-4600).

The Golden Buckeye card also provides access to prescription drug discounts through the "Ohio's Best Rx" program. Call 866-923-7879, or visit www.ohiobestrx.org, for more information.

Other local businesses and organizations offering discounts for seniors include the Cedar Lee Theatre (\$3 discount on shows after 3 p.m.; 216-321-5411), Bremec on the Heights (10 percent discount; 216-932-0039), Cleveland Heights Community Center (\$20 discount on a 30-day pass, \$121 discount on a one-year pass; 216-691-7373), Atma

Center (10 percent discount on a class pass for 5, 15 or 30 classes; 216-371-9760), Cumberland pool (\$10 discount on a season pass; 216-691-7265), and Purvis Park pool (\$25 discount on a recreation pass; 216-382-4720).

Museums and performance halls offering discounts to seniors include the Cleveland Play House (discount varies by show; 216-241-6000), the Great Lakes Science Center (\$1 discount on admission, additional savings for groups of 10 or more; 216-694-2000), the Cleveland Museum of Art special exhibitions (20 percent discount; 216-421-7350), and the Steamship William G. Mather Maritime Museum (\$1 discount; 216-694-2000).

Membership in AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) also gives seniors access to discounts too numerous to list here. Get more information by visiting www.aarp.org or calling 888-687-2277.

Low-income seniors may be eligible for discounts on gas and electric utilities through the Home Energy

Assistance Program administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency. Call 800-282-0880 or visit www.development.ohio.gov/is/is_heap.htm for information.

In addition, the Ohio Department of Taxation offers discounts on property taxes for low-income seniors. Contact the department at 800-282-1780.

Please note that the above list may not be exhaustive, and there may be other discounts available of which the writer is unaware.

Please also note that the amount and availability of these discounts may change. Call ahead to verify the discount, and ask what proof of eligibility is required.

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.lovingbandsgroup.com. She may be reached at 216-408-5578 or judith@lovingbandsgroup.com.

Correction to Senior Scene column

In the July Senior Scene column, the executive director of The Homewood Residence at Rockefeller Gardens should have been listed as Cheryl Walker. As a matter of clarification, Kensington Place, The Concord and Huntington Green are "all-ages" apartment buildings; the first two offer the convenience of an elevator for seniors, and the latter offers special activities for seniors. Warrensville Community Apartments is home to a branch of the Jewish Community Center. In addition, the Superior Schoolhouse is used for occasional events by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society.

HRRC's Senior Expo set for Sept. 16

Becky Stager

Wesley Walker, coordinator of senior repair programs for Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), talks to older residents about their housing concerns all the time. He urges them to consider whether their current home is the best option for them now and in the future. But, changing one's living situation is difficult, and there are several factors that should go into making that decision. Walker usually asks the following questions:

- Considering all the costs, including repairs and maintenance on your current home, what type of housing

will best fit your budget?

- Can your current home be modified—to fit a wheelchair, for example—if and when you experience changes in mobility?
- What support services are available to help you remain independent, and are those services affordable?
- What would be involved in selling your current home, or leaving it for your children?
- What are the differences among alternative types of housing, including senior apartments, independent living and assisted-living facilities?

If you want the answers to questions like these, you're invited to attend HRRC's second annual Senior Expo on Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (in the Community Center at

One Monticello Blvd.). The expo will provide information to help seniors make housing decisions that are right for them.

The expo will offer presentations on a variety of issues concerning senior housing. Maggie Calkins, a leading expert in senior living environments, will be the keynote speaker. Advice tables staffed by resource professionals will be there to provide information to seniors and their families.

The Senior Expo is free and open to residents of all communities; no reservations are required. HRRC hopes to see you there.

Becky Stager has been HRRC's home repair education coordinator since 1989. Visit www.hrcc-ch.org or call 216-381-6100 for more information on programs and services.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. 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 216-397-0336 or info@universityheights.com. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205 or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

Sept. 4: Mickie McGraw, pioneer art therapist, contracted polio in 1953, at the age of 11. She studied art and then counseling, and helped establish the country's first art therapy studio. She will discuss her decades of transformative and healing work with disabled patients.

Sept. 11: Erin Huber, founder and executive director of Drink Local, Drink Tap, will speak about the work

of this nonprofit organization that encourages people to understand how they can use water in more sustainable ways. Her documentary, "Making Waves from Cleveland to Uganda," grew out of her experience of meeting a Ugandan teacher who dramatized the urgency of addressing global water issues.

Sept. 18: In 2004, John and Karen Godt started Hope for Honduras Children Foundation, to supply food and medicine, build schools, teach English and inspire hope, in a land of gut-wrenching Third World poverty. They'll describe how, in its first decade "the foundation has touched the lives of hundreds upon hundreds of abandoned Honduran orphans and other young children," through the efforts of countless volunteers from America.

Sept. 25: In observance of Rosh Hashanah, there is no talk scheduled for this date.

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Library aims to get the community 'On the Same Page'

Julia Murphy

This fall, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, along with Heights Community Congress (HCC), the CH-UH City School District, Reaching Heights, Mac's Backs and Lake Erie Ink, will present "On the Same Page," a communitywide initiative centered on Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, winner of the 2007 National Book Award.

"The idea is to engage the community around one book and to facilitate conversation about it through programs, book clubs, museum visits, and other community events," said Sam Lapides, special projects coordinator for the library.

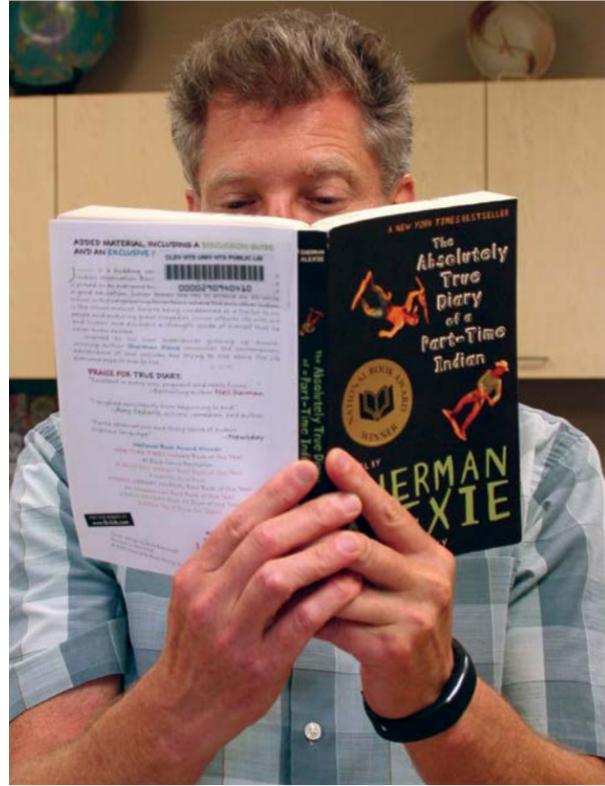
The event will kick off with a free screening of Alexie's "Smoke Signals" at the Cedar Lee Theatre on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m., supported by HCC. This independent film, like Alexie's book,

is about young life on a contemporary American Indian reservation.

The goal of "On the Same Page" is to revitalize the role of reading in people's lives by making it a social event. When people have the common ground of having read the same book, the shared experience can be a catalyst for conversations.

"We chose Alexie's book because we think it will appeal to a wide audience. It's great for young people and adults alike, and is both funny and moving," said Lapides. "We are planning lots of programs around the theme of indigenous and Native American cultures, but the book is also a coming-of-age story that addresses universal themes such as identity, race and bullying."

"A collaboration of this scale hasn't happened for quite a few years, so it should be interesting to see what people think of the book and how the sentiment works its way into our lives," said Lapides. "It's not just about



Victor Cimperman, graphic designer for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, gets on the same page by reading Alexie's book.

reading the book, but about engaging with history, art, films and other people."

Community members are invited to get involved, and can start by checking out the book from a Heights Libraries branch, or buying it from a local bookseller, and starting the discussion on their own.

More programs can be found in the fall issue of the library's *Check Us Out* program guide, and at www.heights-library.org.

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

What's going on at your library?

Kids are going back to school, but what about the rest of us? This fall, Heights Libraries offers programs to help keep minds sharp and neighbors connected.

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Home Grown Food: Seed Saving. Mari Keating of Food Not Lawns, Cleveland will lead a workshop on harvesting seeds from crops grown at home. Learn how to turn your garden into its own renewable resource. Registration began Aug. 31.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Thursday, Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m.

Sesame Street Block Party. Celebrate Sesame Street's 45th anniversary by experiencing firsthand a place "where the air is sweet." We'll play games, meet people in our neighborhood, and take a nostalgic look back at a show that enriches and educates us all. Families

register for 30-minute time slots, and each registration should specify the number of people in the group. Space is limited, so please arrive early. Registration begins Sept. 4.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Fall Harvest. Community members have worked hard to help the library start a community garden, and now it's time to enjoy the fruits and vegetables of all that labor. Join in a night of harvesting and tasting. Registration begins Sept. 1.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Monday, Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m.

Kid Engineering: Toothpicks and Marshmallows. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade, along with an adult assistant, are invited to hear stories about buildings and get busy on their own toothpick and marshmallow creations. Registration begins Sept. 15.

Mon. - Thurs. : 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
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Library increases access to free computer classes with Mobile Classroom

Sheryl Banks

This fall, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library's Training Department will take its Lee Road Library computer classes on the road with a new Mobile Classroom. The Mobile Classroom is exactly what it sounds like—a computer classroom on wheels that will allow Heights Libraries to expand computer class instruction to all of its branches and into the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community as well.

The classroom comprises 10 student laptops, 10 student iPads, mice, a projector, and a portable projection screen that are transported using rolling cases specifically designed for the equipment. It can be set up quickly with the use of tables and chairs provided by the teaching site.

"The idea to create the classroom was born from a desire to expand the reach of our computer classes," said Jackie Mayse, Heights Libraries technology trainer. "Each year we provide computer instruction to thousands of customers in the Lee Road Library computer classroom, but we've always wished we could teach classes at every branch, and now we can. Our goal is to make technology instruction more accessible to our customers at a

wider variety of locations in the community."

The expansion will start with Computer Basics classes at the Coventry Village, Noble Neighborhood and University Heights libraries in the fall, and continue in December with the class "Working with Digital Images" at the Senior Activity Center at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. This will be the first computer class offered outside the library. Plans are already underway to offer more classes at the Senior Activity Center in early 2015.

The library plans to continue expanding computer class offerings at different community venues, and is also considering expanding the audience for the classes to include teens and children. Currently, classes are only offered to adults.

"We are excited because this has never been done before, and will make our instruction more accessible," said Mayse.

The library's free computer class schedule can be found in the fall issue of the *Check Us Out* program guide or on the library's website, www.heights-library.org.

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



Heights Libraries Technology Trainer Jackie Mayse with several items from the new Mobile Classroom.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



JULY 21, 2014

Board members Rick Ortmeier, secretary, and Jeffrey Eummer were absent.

Library levy on November ballot

The CH-UH City School District approved placing a 2.2 mill continuous operating levy for the library on the Nov. 4 ballot. Library Trustee Abby Botnick and Friends of Heights Libraries President Louisa Oliver have volunteered to head the library's campaign committee and residents Lois Gross and Jeff Ackroyd will serve as treasurers.

Community book read

Heights Libraries joins a number of community agencies in sponsoring a community book read: On the Same Page. The chosen title is *The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie. The kick-off event on Sept. 17 is a showing of Alexie's film "Smoke Signals" at the Cedar Lee Theatre. The library will offer fall programs based on the themes of the book.

Library foundation book launch party

The Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries will host a book launch party for Thrity Umrigar's newest novel, *The Story Hour*, at The Wine Spot on Sunday, Sept. 7, 4-7 p.m. Mac's Backs will co-sponsor the event. Umrigar, currently an assistant professor of creative writing at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), was born and raised in Bombay.

June public service report

Among the highlights included are:

- Coventry Village Library has a new Wednesday morning story hour, Baby Bonanza, with a growing audience.

- Noble Neighborhood Library's Mary Looby brought the summer reading program to Toddle Inn preschool and Hannah's House Child Development Center, to reach children who may not be able to visit the library.
- The City Fresh Farmers' Market is again open on Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m., at Coventry Village Library.
- Michael Clune, author and CWRU professor, read from his book *White Out: the Secret Life of Heroin*, and spoke to an audience ranging from young adults to seniors. WCPN's "Sound of Applause" highlighted this program, which drew first-time visitors to Noble Neighborhood Library.
- The Little Learners program explored the science of sound, and 17 children made their presence known by making some noise.
- University Heights Library's front beds now feature native and edible plants, installed by Finley Landscaping. Mari Keating of Food Not Lawns Cleveland filled the front planters with cherry tomato plants, herbs and other edibles. Customers have given positive feedback.
- Pam Spangler, University Heights youth services librarian, purchased three new interactive cube toys for the children's area and created a StoryWalk. The walk was displayed at the Touch a Truck event at Purvis Park.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 7.



Lenora Cruz-Price begins client Elaine's final phase of service at Lenora's Healthy Hair Clinic.

Lee Road salon offers multicultural service

Jeremy Gutow

After 25 years in the Noble Nela neighborhood, Lenora's Healthy Hair Clinic relocated in February to 2207 Lee Road, in the Cedar Lee Business District, where it continues to offer healthy hair care with a "clinical" approach. The salon offers the services of seven licensed cosmetologists, a manicurist and an esthetician. Owner Lenora Cruz-Price regularly consults with, and refers clients to, dermatologist Faith Durden as part of her salon's focus on healthy hair.

Cruz-Price describes her salon as a "teaching salon with a clinical approach" and said relocating it was important, to accommodate the business's multicultural client base and to expand availability of its services to other communities.

Cruz-Price sees "multicultural beauty environments" as the newest trend in hair salons, and says of the trend, "It's about time." Cruz-Price noted, "The fact that so many salons are still either 'white' or 'black' is a sad commentary. Our staff is racially mixed, so any man or woman of any culture who walks in can feel comfortable and know they'll be successfully serviced."

The team regularly attends advanced training classes to learn the latest approaches in establishing and maintaining healthy hair, and the salon's apprentice training program enables the team be united in its approach to healthy hair. Clients receive prescriptive conditioning and a consultation at each visit, and those who have medical conditions, and may need hair

additions, receive specialty hair and scalp treatments as well as special hair prosthetics.

Salon employees pride themselves on pursuing education opportunities related to hair care, and beyond. Cruz-Price has worked as an instructor at Cleveland Heights High School and Miami Jacobs College, and was dean of cosmetology at Remington College, where she managed the cosmetology program for more than five years.

Cruz-Price has a B.A. in education (Notre Dame College) and an M.B.A. (Indiana Wesleyan); Jeremy Gutow, salon manager, has a B.A. in interpersonal communications and art history; Melissa Marshall, front desk coordinator, recently graduated with a B.A. in health sciences; Kiairis Dixon is working toward a degree in public relations; Tania Clark is earning a liberal arts degree; Natasha Crawford recently graduated from Remington College; and Deidre Gunter, the "on call" facial and massage expert, is advancing her esthetician studies.

Cruz-Price said that her salon has been recognized by *Essence* magazine as one of the top 100 salons in the United States, Canada, Caribbean and Great Britain, and that her goal is "to welcome everyone to experience healthy hair in a positive, serene and multicultural environment."

For more information, visit www.lenorashealthyhairclinic.com or call 216-202-3099.

Jeremy Gutow is the salon manager at Lenora's Healthy Hair Clinic.

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What I did and didn't learn at Heights High



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

I told my father that when I grew up, I wanted to get a job thinking. He said, "Good luck." But, really, that's what my jobs as a writer and a musician are—thinking. The writing and performing parts come last, after a lot of thinking.

That conversation with my father took place 50 years ago this month, in September 1964. It was a sunny Sunday following my first week of high school, at Heights High, and I started out with some vague notion of trying a little harder that year to stop being such a terrible student.

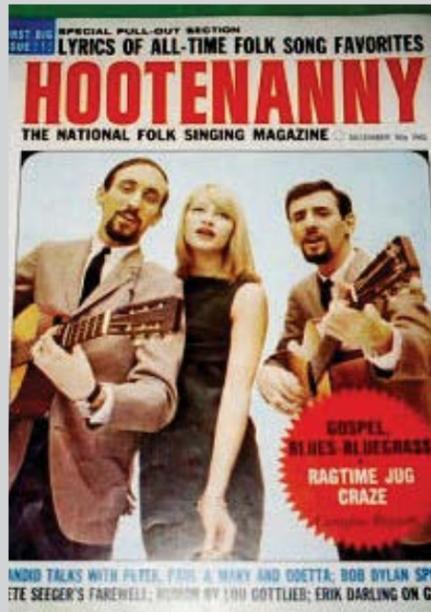
I sat down in my room to read a chapter in my history textbook, about which I was then supposed to write a paper. I read the chapter and then started on the paper, by which I mean I started thinking about it. But my eyes fell on a magazine I'd recently purchased called *Hootenanny*, about folk music and musicians.

What caught my eye was a photo of a beautiful and talented folksinger named Carolyn Hester, who was one of the first female folk stars. She was

also responsible for Bob Dylan getting signed to Columbia Records. I started reading the magazine and decided, as I always did, around that time every year, that I didn't really care about the homework assignment, or school, and I picked up my guitar and started working on a song I was writing.

When my father came home and checked on my progress, we had this discussion—the one that ended with him saying, "Good luck." During that conversation, I made my monthly suggestion that I might be better off quitting school and working on my music career. I had been playing music professionally since the age of 13 or so, and I'd been asking about quitting school since the seventh grade. I always knew what the answer was going to be, every time, until I turned 18 and became legally allowed to quit school, which I did.

But I didn't quit on my 18th birthday, in late May 1967. I waited a couple of weeks. I waited until all of the Heights Choir activities—the concert, the recording, the awards dinner—were over. Because also in September 1964, I discovered Heights High's vocal music department and decided I wanted, or, actually, needed to participate in it. And later, when I got into the Heights Choir, that changed my life forever. It was the one and only reason I ever entered the school building. And I had to keep my grades at a C level to



A *Hootenanny* magazine from the early 1960s.

stay in Choir. And I also had to not do all of the things most of my friends were doing.

The Choir's director, Clair T. McElfresh, whom we all called Mac, was not only a dynamic and inspiring director and teacher (if a little crazy at times, like all great high school choral directors), but he was also one of only two teachers in all of my 13 years of school who actually encouraged me to do, well . . . anything—in this case, music. (My ninth-grade English teacher, Mrs. Bossinger, encouraged me to continue writing.)

A year after I left Heights, I was working in the music business in New

York. I'm still in the music business. And I'm also a writer—sitting around thinking. I write a lot about music and musicians, and, ironically, several years ago, I wrote about Carolyn Hester and have since become friends with her.

A few years ago, I tracked Mac down—he was semi-retired and living in Florida—and I called him. We talked on the phone for 45 minutes, and I got the opportunity to thank him for saving my life. I'm happy about that for several reasons, one of which is that Mac died a few months ago.

My experience is not unique, though. I think that every year some kid, or more than one kid, at Heights High who is not too engaged or interested in doing schoolwork, is inspired enough by something like music, visual art, or drama to stay in school.

Heights High has always excelled in its music and art instruction. I was lucky to have benefitted from it. That's why, about 15 years ago, I saved the Heights High Vocal Music Department. But that's another story. I should start thinking about that one.

David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Live, an author, and a professional musician and comedian.

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Heights' Got Talent finals captivate Cain Park

James Henke

The first Heights' Got Talent contest took place on Sunday, Aug. 18, at the Evans Amphitheater at Cain Park. It was a huge success, and all of the 16 finalists who took part in the show were, indeed, very talented.

The competition was sponsored by Motorcars, the Cleveland Heights-based Toyota and Honda dealer, and Trevor Gile, the general manager of Motorcars Honda and the son of Motorcars owner Chuck Gile, came up with the idea last September. The contest was based on "America's Got Talent," and performers wishing to take part in the show had to live in Northeast Ohio and had to submit videos to Motorcars. More than 50 artists entered the contest, and their videos were posted on a website, where the initial round of voting took place. The top 16 vote-getters made it to the finals.

The finalists covered all age groups, with the youngest being 10 and the oldest, 76, and included singers, bands, dancers and acrobats. A group of judges—me; Chuck Gile; Tommy Fello, the owner of Tommy's restaurant; Jeff Robertson, the Cleveland Heights police chief; and Allan Licht, a vocal and piano teacher and record pro-



The Stockdale Family Band won the Heights' Got Talent show on Aug. 18 at Cain Park.

ducer—determined the winners. "It was a very, very well-run event," Licht said. "It was a great community event that showcased amazing talent. It was very inspiring."

The first-place winner was the Stockdale Family Band. The group comprises three brothers—Charles Stockdale, 24, who plays mandolin; Jacob Stockdale, 22, who plays fiddle, and James Stockdale, 18, who plays

bass—and their father, Tim Stockdale, who plays guitar. The band is based in Bolivar, near Canton, and its music is a blend of bluegrass and gospel. The group has released four CDs. "It was great fun," Charles Stockdale said. "We didn't expect to win at all, and there was a lot of great talent there."

The second-place winner was 80s Meets Modern, a trio of two dancers and a DJ. As the DJ played music, the other two members danced around the stage, with some amazing and often humorous moves. Jacob Stockdale said the trio was one of his favorite groups. "They commanded the stage," he said. "They had great stage presence."

Ana Noel, a 10-year-old girl from Willoughby, finished in third place. An acrobat, she was amazing, doing flips and jumps all over the stage.

Three other performers also got honorable mentions: Danielle Apple, a singer who attends the Boston Conservatory; Maryann Kusner, a singer who's a junior at Mayfield High School, and Maddy Wanke, a 13-year-old vocalist from Richmond Heights.

The first-place winner took home

\$1,000, with the second- and third-place finishers receiving \$500 and \$250, respectively.

In addition to the performers, the show included a terrific emcee, Rick Smith Jr. A Cleveland resident, Smith is a magician and illusionist who has appeared on numerous TV shows over the years. He did some terrific card tricks, including throwing a playing card from the stage all the way across the audience, into the grass behind the amphitheater.

Overall, it was a tremendous event and a wonderful evening at Cain Park. "Motorcars is very thankful to the City of Cleveland Heights and to the Cain Park staff," said Christy Hurles, a marketing associate at Motorcars and one of the event's main organizers. "The Cain Park staff was more than accommodating, and they went above and beyond the call of duty to help us pull this off."

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.

WRC announces its 2014-15 season



COURTESY WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

The Western Reserve Chorale performs in collaboration with the R. Nathaniel Dett Concert Choir from the Cleveland School of the Arts in March 2014.

Gina Ventre and David Gilson

The Western Reserve Chorale's (WRC) 2014-15 season will feature an Ohio premiere and Act II of its popular program "For Love of Shakespeare."

For its December concert, WRC, under the direction of David Gilson, will share music of the holiday season, featuring the "Christmas Cantata" by English composer Geoffrey Bush, along with traditional favorites.

In March, the group will present the Ohio premiere of Karl Jenkins's "The Peacemakers," a multi-movement work composed in 2011 for choir, youth choir and orchestra.

Dedicated "to the memory of all those who lost their lives during armed conflict," the work is set to music texts by Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr., the Dalai Lama, Albert Schweitzer, Anne Frank and others.

WRC's June concert continues an eclectic program first performed in its 2012-13 season, "For Love of Shakespeare." Act II will highlight selections from numerous settings of

the Bard's words from the past four centuries.

In its 23rd season, WRC is a non-profit group of amateur and professional singers, many of whom are Heights residents, dedicated to bringing high-quality performances of choral music to Greater Cleveland, with support from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

WRC welcomes individuals who love singing to join the group for the coming season. Rehearsals are held September to June, on Tuesday evenings, 7:15-9:30 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights.

For more information, visit www.westernreservechorale.org, or call 216-791-0061.

WRC conductor David Gilson, a Cleveland Heights resident, also serves as director of music for the United Methodist Church of Cleveland in Chagrin Falls and on the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music. Gina Ventre, a University Heights resident, is a WRC member and serves on the organization's board.

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St. Paul's renames art gallery in honor of Nick White

Mary Krogness

Alan M. Gates, former rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, recently renamed the South Wing Gallery in honor of Nicholson B. White, who led St. Paul's from 1983 to 2002.

White, who served on the original gallery committee and exhibited his photographs there in 1992, was instrumental in creating an art gallery at St. Paul's in 1990. He had envisioned the gallery as a gift to the community, for public use. It is therefore fitting that the gallery is now called the Nicholson B. White Gallery.

White enlisted the help of Cleveland architect William H. Collins, a St. Paul's parishioner, to design what White described as "a gallery and rotunda, a magnificent space, which would be in perfect proportion with the original church."

Collins recalled sleepless nights thinking about creating a space that would "echo the rest of the building." He said it was his biggest challenge. The stone that Collins chose was key to the beauty of the addition. The original stone vendor was still in business, and the Indiana limestone from the same quarry used in the nave of the original church was still available. Collins smiled when he recalled that, by dealing directly with the vendor, he saved the church \$22,000.

"The whole time I was designing the gallery, I wanted to ensure the flow, and blend it with the existing building. This space had to be functional and



Nick White, former rector of St. Paul's, in the church's sanctuary.

be a place where people would like to gather. People have to be in the picture," he said.

Collins' imagination was fully at work. The gallery could not be merely a hallway off of which were classrooms, but a welcoming entry from the newly created semicircular driveway into a space that overlooked a courtyard and garden—the focal point of which was Emily Parkman's bronze sculpture of a mother pelican with her two youngsters overlooking a shallow pond.

Part of the plan included a rotunda, which Collins said would "make a state-

ment," adding, "height was needed to go with the rest of the building." In its simplicity, the rotunda features an archway and clerestory windows, enabling viewers to see the church's tower.

Four imposing stone bas reliefs, with the motif of grapes and grape leaves mingled with flowers, originally on an exterior wall of the church, now grace the rotunda. A wood sculpture with the same motif, dedicated to architect John Justin Carr, complements the west wall of the rotunda.

Nick White laughed as he retold the story of a commanding capstone over the entrance to the gallery. The

apostrophe was omitted in St. Paul's, but was fixed by the stonemason who discovered the error.

White applauded the work of Barbara Collins, founder and leader, for 20 years, of what became known as the South Wing Gallery. White described Collins, wife of the gallery's architect, as "a whiz as the curator." She had a knack for finding innovative artists and bringing them and their work into the church for the whole community to enjoy. Ed Stevens, a parishioner and early member of the gallery committee, recalled Barbara Collins finding not only exemplary pieces of religious art, but also artists like the one who painted on automobile hoods. And, indeed, those hoods of cars hung on the walls of the then-new South Wing Gallery.

The late Sally Morley and her husband, John, generously donated funds, in honor of their children, to build the gallery.

Beginning on Sept. 12, Emily Felderman, textiles; Joyce Jentoft, wearable art; Suzan Kraus, collage and mixed media; Chris Weigand, acrylics; and Irwin Weinberger, acrylics, will exhibit their work in the Nicholson B. White Gallery and rotunda. The opening reception takes place Sept. 12, 5-7 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is at 2747 Fairmount Blvd. The gallery is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mary Krogness, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, is the author of two books and a PBS television series.

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