Canterbury House is the latest in a string of investments in Cedar Taylor district

James Henke

Changes are coming to the Cedar Taylor Business District, including streetscape improvements and expansion of Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa. One of the biggest changes is the renovation of what used to be called the CT Building, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Cedar and Taylor roads. In 2013, New York-based CPR Properties purchased the building, which houses 25 apartments, and six retail stores on the street level.

CPR—which stands for Community, Preservation and Revitalization—invests in apartment buildings in neglected areas of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and renovates them. According to its website, the company is motivated by the “desire young people have to live, work and create communities in authentic places with robust historical connections.”

N o a h Smith, one of the owners of CPR, said he was attracted to the Cedar Taylor neighborhood because of its proximity to the Cedar Lee neighborhood, and because of many of the stores and restaurants nearby, including Melt, across Cedar Road from the building, and Whole Foods, further east on Cedar. The company paid $475,000 for the building, which was under foreclosure. CPR will rename the building the Canterbury House. According to Smith, the name came about after he purchased some paintings that had been hanging at a restaurant in Cincinnati. “All of the photos of the restaurant are of the Canterbury House.”

Understanding crime in Cleveland Heights: First in a series

Bob Rosenbaum

Late in 2014, the Cleveland Heights Police Department began posting information about local crime rates on the city’s website (http://bit.do/crimestats).

“Communication between the police and the citizens we serve is essential,” explained Cleveland Heights Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson. “Along with our Facebook and Twitter feeds, Meet Your Police meetings, and other community outreach efforts, such as the Citizen’s Police Academy, the posting and ease of access to these statistics continues my commitment to transparency.”

Now, the Heights Observer is working with the police department to amplify and interpret the data to eventually foster a better understanding of public safety issues in Cleveland Heights.

Reports in this series will be published at least once per quarter—and perhaps more often, depending on time constraints at the police department and availability of officers.

Over the years, city residents have questioned the accuracy of crime statistics reported here. When Robertson took over as the police chief at the beginning of 2011, one of his first initiatives was to update the technology and processes used to collect and understand crime data.

“The major overhaul was in our records management system,” Robertson said. “We’re using the same vendor [TAC Compart, based in Northeast Ohio] but it’s a more advanced system. It required us to learn it from the bottom up—train everyone, from dispatchers to officers to the records bureau—on how to use it.”

The new system began accepting data in March 2011. Once it was run smoothly, data from the first two months was run in January. By February, 2011, one of his first initiatives was to update the technology and processes used to collect and understand crime data.

“Cheers.”

Petes’ Tavern hopes to continue without Pete

Brenda M. May

P e t e Harris, owner of Petes’ Tavern at 1318 Warrensville Center Road, lost his battle with cancer on Dec. 8. Peter G. Harris was born in South Euclid, grew up in Cleveland Heights and attended Noble Elementary School and Monticello Junior High School. He graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1975 and The Ohio State University in 1979.

He patronized the Cleveland Orchestra and was a member of the Cleveland Museum of Art. He had a tender spot for animals, and supported the Animal Protective League and adopted rescued dogs. Harris worked at the former Turkey Ridge Tavern on Coventry Road and at Bob’s on Mayfield Road before he bought his bar, the former Faragher’s, with his father in 1977. The deal included his father’s requirement that his son stop drinking. Harris was sober for 15 years, which drew comparisons between him and Sam Malone, the sobered bar owner of the TV show “Cheers.”

Tom Owens, a long-time friend and patron, recalled, “I met him in ninth grade when several of us were playing King of the Hill on a snow pile. He continued on page 8

Pete Harris at his bar in 2008.

A n artist’s rendering of the new lobby window that will identify the Canterbury House.

Heights community loses Tony Smith

Carla Bailey

L on gtime Cleveland Heights resident Anthony E. “Tony” Smith, known for his involvement in the Heights community and his ownership of Cleveland-area Popeye’s franchises, died in his Cleveland Heights home on Nov. 29 at age 53.

Smith and his wife, Vanessa L. Whiting, opened their first restaurant in 1990, a Dock’s Great Fish in Cleveland.

Five years later, they became Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen franchisees and opened their first Cleveland location eventually owning 16 locations in Northeast Ohio.

Smith’s children, Taylor, Lorin and Tony II, attended Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle schools, and nephew Dan attended Heights High.

“I have seen Tony’s generosity and kindness. He was a great advocate and supporter of the CH-UH schools,” said Katura Simmons, CH-UH PTA president. “Many times we called on Tony to help us out in a pinch with a school or community event and, without hesitation, he would come through, often going above and beyond to make sure that we had a great event.”

While Smith was a great supporter of school and community volunteers, he also contributed in many official ways to the CH-UH community.

Noah Smith, one of the owners of CPR, said he was attracted to the Cedar Taylor neighborhood because of its proximity to the Cedar Lee neighborhood, and because of many of the stores and restaurants nearby, including Melt, across Cedar Road from the building, and Whole Foods, further east on Cedar. The company paid $475,000 for the building, which was under foreclosure. CPR will rename the building the Canterbury House.
Concern about crime in Cleveland Heights is in the air. Some argue the city is falling apart; others say it's fine. So we have too many police and they're too aggressive; others want to see more on the street.

Common among residents is the desire for more information. We want to know the nature and number of crimes; who is committing them; where they are happening; how they're being solved; and how they're being prevented.

That's the essence of the "Understanding crime in Cleveland Heights" project that begins on page 1 of this issue.

Under the Heights Observer banner, I've been working directly with the Cleveland Heights Police Department to present crime statistics to the public on a quarterly basis. This month's initial report details how the numbers are processed and what they represent.

To its credit, the CHPD has been publishing these numbers on its website in 2014; they are already available to anyone anywhere.

The Observer's role is to make these reports more visible, and to add understanding and context when appropriate.

The information presented here and in the Voorhees Outcomes (CREDO) released a new national survey that found national Public School Foundation has no writing staff; it has volunteer editors who make sure it's ready for publication. Volunteer editors will make sure it's ready for publication.

The Heights Observer is a nonprofit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

It is a citizen-based news source and is a nonprofit publication of FutureHeights, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

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.

So, we're asking you to understand that 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 regardless of occasion, especially even once something is happening. There is 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 newspaper article, it should be as specific and detailed as possible. 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 submit a submission of any kind, go to www.futureheights.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.

We are looking forward to considering for the February issue must be submitted by Jan. 12. 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 every Tuesday.
School choice and thriving children

Christie Yonkers

We are a region rich with school choice. We choose between private/independent, Montessori, religious, charter and neighborhood public schools, all within our community. My first- and fourth-grade daughters are thriving in their school and getting the very best of these options. Here’s why:

• They are in small classes of 18-21 kids.
• They have amazing, committed, experienced teachers. My first-grader’s two teachers each has 24-plus years of experience, and each of my fourth-grader’s teachers has more than 15 years of experience.
• A few years ago, when my older daughter was slower to pick up reading, she was moved to an ELA (English and Language Arts) group with only seven other classmates, learning 90-plus minutes per day from the most skilled ELA teacher in her school, until she quickly got on track.
• My daughters have had weekly Spanish classes starting in kindergarten.
• Our school has a phenomenal music program including (free!) orchestras with weekly lessons for fourth- and fifth-graders.
• The on-site activities available after school every day of the week are too numerous to list, but my daughters have experienced modern dance, tumbling, karate and pottery.
• Our school is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.
• An International Baccalaureate Council charged with carrying out these IB values.

A really lovely benefit of this diversity is that there is no expectation of sameness. I hear stories from friends (and remember my own) about the prevalence of cliques, social competition, and bullying for girls in more homogenous schools. My daughters have not experienced any such “mean girl” behavior at Fairfax, and individuality is expected and celebrated. Further, the community of parents is phenomenally supportive of one another. I find them to be an especially compassionate, intelligent, engaged and committed group of humans.

Fairfax Elementary School has been my family’s school home for five years now, and I am pleased to share that my daughters are the very best choice for us!

Bill Rubin founded Appletree Books

To the Editor:

I was glad to read the article in the Heights Observer (December issue) about Appletree Books, with its new owners and renovation.

The article contained an error though—Jane Kessler did not found the business.

Bill Rubin founded Appletree Books in 1985 (I believe that was the year). Frequently his mother helped in the store, and I knew her through PTA.

I used to take the Monticello bus that went down to University Station and walk from Euclid Heights Boulevard over to the store and catch the next bus back. He started such a wonderful business.

He sold the business to Jane when she retired from her first occupation. Bill is now the branch manager of the Mayfield branch of the Cuyahoga County Library System.

I wanted to be sure that Bill Rubin received his proper recognition as founder.

Donalee S. Poduska

Cleveland Heights
Embracing technology will help local businesses attract more local customers

Jim Simpson

Local businesses are challenged because of the economy, increased costs, less traffic, online competitors and a lack of resources. However, as one of many business-to-business solutions providers of a variety of tools that would assist them to overcome these issues, [I consider it] common knowledge to us collectively that local merchants don’t respond to efforts to address these matters. In fact, it isn’t cost effective for us to repeatedly and fruitlessly offer a new tool to businesses, that only costs them $59 and is proven to work, so we have no choice but to go to chains or go out of business ourselves. Locals don’t take calls or take the time necessary because they don’t have the time or energy and they—and the community—suffer for it.

It’s true that local merchants have difficulty playing on a level playing field with regional and national chains that have been more able to afford staffing, technology and marketing using new marketing tools such as digital, social media, mobile, text and so on cost effectively. Also true, however, is that the “buy local” mantra sometimes is used too often to remind people to shop local at local merchants that have not made enough effort to update their product offerings, provide easy access via mobile, communicate easily and directly in a cost-effective manner with local customers using text, e-mails and mobile messaging, and offering delivery, etc., when those—and other—improvements are now so affordable, effective and easy to implement.

I’ve also seen these issues on a personal level when I shop locally with pizza operators, sub shops, retail, service, fashion, personal services and other business types that see as much as 40 or 50 percent and more of chain orders going online. Even large churches are taking advantage of the opportunities I’ve mentioned, while small ones hesitate. Google favors locals, and while small ones hesitate, a variety of tools that would assist businesses attract more local customers

Jim Simpson has started or operated service, tech, events, financial, health insurance and digital e-commerce businesses from 1 to 1,200 employees both locally and with locations in the top 45 U.S. markets. He currently operates LocalMobil.com, in Cleveland Heights.
Hope is critical for success

If we want more children to flourish, solutions need to include forces that aren’t regulated: parents, children and opportunity. This is not about blame. It simply recognizes that if children are to engage in school in ways that are most rewarding, then many non-school factors must be part of the solution.

As much as I am a true believer in the power of education to change lives, the capacity of every child to learn, and the sanctity of the universal commitment offered by public education, getting better results for a lot more children will depend on more than schools. We need a much more robust effort to mobilize resources and change conditions beyond the school to achieve this end.

There are steep barriers to this approach. First, as long as public policy encourages privatization, parents will be encouraged to choose what is best for them rather than create what is good for everyone. Choice encourages segregation and weakens the fabric created when people work together for the common good. Choice takes resources away from public schools, undermines civic responsibility and makes it more difficult for everyone to succeed.

Second, as long as our economy excludes large numbers of people, it extinguishes hope for a brighter future for children. Without hope, it is hard for parents to embrace and communicate high expectations—why would they set their children up to be left out? Nationally, 55 percent of children who attend public school are left out? Nationally, 55 percent of children who attend public school are living in poverty. This reality affects too many children and creates barriers that should not go unattended.

My ancestors have gone to college since the 19th century. My grandfather and his five siblings were part of a prosperous farm family that became the first college-going generation. Education opened doors for their lives, which supported the family tradition of attending college. Because of this cycle of opportunity, I grew up with the expectation of education, getting better results.

What parents communicate to their children about their worth and potential, about prospects for their lives and about the importance of school, as well as the example parents set with their own lives, help shape motivation and engagement. Parental expectations affect what children do in school.

We focus on schools because they are publicly funded and governed—and accountable—but it isn’t fair to hold them accountable for results that they alone do not control.

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.
University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 17, 2014
All council members were present

Debate on executive session
Councilman Mark Wiseman objected to a motion for an executive session to discuss imminent litigation. He argued that the threat of litigation didn’t mean that there would be litigation. The possible litigation stems from council’s withdrawal of an Ord. 20 approval vote on a zoning variance. (Mayor Susan Infeld had exercised a vote to break a tie, which led to approval.) However, at the following meeting, council, citing the city code, called her vote into question and ruled that the request for variance had not passed. Mayor Infeld explained to council that she and the law director had received information that needed to be discussed in executive session. Council approved the executive session with council members Wiseman and Pamela Cameron voting no.

After the executive session, which occurred late in the meeting, council reconsidered and approved the planning commission recommendation to change the zoning for properties on Cedar Road owned by Larry Weiser, who plans to establish a business there. Wiseman and Councilman Steven Sims voted no.

Public health services
Council approved a 2013 contract for public health services with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Police video maintenance
Council authorized a maintenance agreement with L3 Communications Mobile-Vision for a police department video system. Police are required to record all interrogations. The current service contract is expiring and needs to be renewed at a cost of $3,565. The system is reaching the end of its projected lifespan and will need to be replaced. The mayor noted that two vendor contracts (this one with L3 Communications Mobile-Vision and an earlier one with CompManagement) had been approved at this meeting. She asked council members to confirm that the process was clear for approval of vendor contracts, and asked whether they had any questions. She confirmed that all contracts are public records and can be accessed at city hall.

Sale of property
A motion to authorize the mayor to post a legal notice to sell city-owned property located at 2240 Jackson Blvd. was tabled. At a prior meeting, council had voted to split the property into two halves and allow purchase by the two neighboring property owners. However, the mayor is required to post the property for sale instead of automatically allowing purchase by the two neighbors. Because council had already voted to split the property, it was decided that the legal notice should be revised to reflect the offer of two half lots for sale.

New park
Council authorized the mayor to advertise RFPs (request for quotes) for design services for the new park on Fenwick Road.

WJW Observer: Wendy Deuring

DECEMBER 1, 2014
Councilman Steven Sims was absent.

Wiley construction
Council approved the planning commission’s recommendation to accept the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District’s application to convert Wiley Middle School into a swing space to accommodate high school and middle schools students for four years, with several conditions. A discussion was held based on a resident’s comments. During restricted times, Miramar Boulevard would not be a through street in order to minimize congestion. Vice Mayor Susan Fawcett abstained from voting, as she was an employee of the school district. Councilwoman Pamela Cameron, who has two children attending the high school, said she was upset by talk of “thuggery” and safety concerns. Councilman Mark Wiseman said he was in favor of the motion and wants to focus on the students and what will benefit them.

Paperless council
The technology committee is recommending purchase of 16 iPad Air tablets and 16 keyboards along with software to establish a paperless council. The annual savings of paper, copier, clerk time and police delivery time would be around $1,000 annually. Tablet use would only be allowed in a Wi-Fi area so that the city does not incur data charges. Councilwoman Cameron asked about other paper items, such as those for the planning commission, but Nancy English, technology committee chair, stated that for now it would be only for council use. The decision was made to put this expenditure into the 2015 budget.

Community engagement committee
The governmental affairs committee wants to create a special committee for community engagement with the goal to improve communication between officials and residents. This would amend the charter of the current committee, which is for all purposes defunct because no meetings have been held in anyone’s memory. The mayor was concerned that this new committee would not have citizens nor the mayor as part of the committee. Councilman Wiseman stated that the goal is for citizens and that the idea will be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

WJW Observer: Michele Weiss

Go to www.heightsobserver.org for news, events, and public meetings summaries online. These meeting summaries are posted as soon as they are available. The summaries are available for members of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

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

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Noble Neighbors partners with CWRU to assess neighborhoods

Brenda H. May

Noble Neighbors will partner with Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to complete a community assessment in the spring. The survey area will include the five census tracts in Cleveland Heights that abut Noble Road. These are in the northern end of the city, north of Mayfield Road and east of Taylor Road.

The study will be led by Mark Chupp, professor at CWRU’s Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) and associate at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development. For the property survey portion of the assessment, students in Chupp’s macro practice skills course will partner with residents in the Noble area to conduct a sidewalk visual survey of each property, record its use and condition, and note any special features of the more than 4,000 lots in the district. When the data is recorded into a geographic information system (GIS) format, residents, city planners and investors will have access to information on Noble-area assets and development opportunities.

The survey is part of a larger community assessment conducted by MSASS that will run on foot through housing, retail, safety, and children and youth. Focus groups composed of Noble Neighbors members and other community stakeholders will provide MSASS researchers with personal stories about the neighborhoods, to complement the students’ statistical research.

Noble Neighbors hosted Chupp, project designer Brenda Mathias (a 2014 MSASS graduate), and project leader and graduate student Nina Holzer at its November meeting. The three introduced the project to the group and described a community assessment completed by them in 2014 for the North Coventry district. Chupp explained the importance of community-assessment skills for social workers. Although most social workers engage clients in individual or small-group settings away from their homes, he explained, it is critical for them to understand the environmental context that affects their clients’ lives. This project gives future social workers some of the skills needed to understand neighborhood context.

At the upcoming Noble Neighbors meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 3, to be held at 7 p.m. at Noble Road Presbyterian Church, 18 students will join Chupp and Holzer as they kick off the project. Attendees will be trained for the survey process, sign up for tasks and join focus groups. The results will be presented at a Noble Neighbors meeting in April. Visit www.nobleneighbor.org to follow the project’s progress and learn how to participate.

The City of Cleveland Heights has supported the project with maps, historical data and technical assistance, and will use data from the report for planning and development purposes. FutureHeights will also participate. Chupp, a FutureHeights board member, is leading the project, and staff and volunteers will participate in survey planning and the focus groups. Results will be published in the Heights Observer. FutureHeights will also include the Noble neighborhood in its newly funded Community Capacity-Building program. The year-old Noble Neighbors organization seeks to work with other leaders in other parts of town to further strengthen all the neighborhoods of Cleveland Heights.

Brenda H. May is one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors. She has lived in the Noble area for 30 years.
Violent crime in Cleveland Heights: Jan.–Oct. (lower is better)

Serious property crime in Cleveland Heights: Jan.–Oct. (lower is better)

A statistical decline in burglaries is an example of how the CHPD is applying its increased emphasis on accurate crime reporting, according to Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson. In 2011, there were 318 burglaries reported for the full year. That’s the same year an undercover Crime Suppression Team was established. Its job, Robertson said, is to understand current crime trends; follow up quickly and aggressively on reports of upward-trending crimes; investigate and arrest offenders; recover property; and provide ongoing feedback about the case to victims.

What’s in the charts

The data provided here represents all serious crimes reported in Cleveland Heights from Jan. 1 through Oct. 30, 2014. Full-year data will be reported here when it becomes available through the CHPD’s data management process.

These crime reports are not subjective. According to Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson, they adhere to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines—a regimented, clearly defined set of rules for classifying and reporting crime that has been updated continuously since being introduced in 1930.

The purpose of the UCR codes is to create a barometer to identify whether crime is trending up or down. The FBI’s UCR website cautions that the information is not reliable for comparing the crime rate of one city with another, due to important differences between locales, such as population density and distance from an urban center.

Further, though the FBI doesn’t come out and say it, not all agencies are consistent in the care they take when reporting crime data (see sidebar: Commitment to UCR on page 9).

The charts here do not represent every call to service that comes into the police department, nor do they account for every crime that takes place in the city. Rather, they represent all serious crimes as defined in Part I of the UCR guidelines: violent crimes against people—murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault; and serious crimes against property—burglary, theft, auto theft and arson.

The less serious and more numerous Part II crimes—such as trespassing, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, sexual imposition, public intoxication, drunk driving and many more—are not collected by the FBI because law enforcement agencies as a rule don’t have resources to track them as carefully.

FBI continued from page 7

was relentless and a lot of fun. That’s how he was later in life, too. When I was in the hospital he came all the way to Southwest General to visit me a few times. He visited me again when I was in rehab at McGregor. He was the perfect bar owner.”

Allen Moore reminisced, “The first time I walked into Pete’s it had a very relaxing atmosphere. It’s a great place to bring people if you just want to see people and have a beer.”

Stephanie Combes, bartender and cook for six years, hopes to continue the business as Pete’s Tavern. “People call us Cheers all the time,” she said, referring to the neighborhood bar feel as well. “The toy train on the corner of the bar was the last thing he bought for the bar,” said Moore. “Yeah, Pete was Pete.”

Harris leaves behind his sister, Polly Harris (Michael Tracy), of Westerville, Ohio; his nephew, Alexander Harris Tracy (Kristen) of Columbus, Ohio; his two dogs, Red and Mitch; and many devoted friends and patrons of Pete’s Tavern.

Donations in his memory may be directed to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) or the Cleveland Animal Protective League (www.clevelandapl.org).

Brenda H. May is one of the Noble Neighbor leaders. She has lived in the Noble area for 30 years. Contact her at nobleneighbor@gmail.com.
Commitment to UCR

When Jeffrey Robertson became police chief in Cleveland Heights at the beginning of 2011, he committed the department to a high level of competence in applying UCR standards.

“It is [my] responsibility . . . to structure the department and its resources to effectively address criminal activity that has occurred or may occur,” Robertson said. “One tool in doing this is to have accurate data to see if our . . . resources are being effectively used in the prevention of crime. To do this without accurate, reliable crime data would not be possible.”

However, UCR standards can be complex and difficult to apply. Doing it well requires training and organization.

In October 2014, the CHPD hosted a UCR workshop, presented by Ed Claughton of PRI Management Group, a nationally recognized expert in using the UCR system. Thirty-one representatives from police departments across the region attended.

“Because crime statistics are most often the result of problematic reporting systems, user error and misunderstanding of crime reporting processes,” Claughton writes on his website, “Our research has indicated that legitimate instances of intentional downgrading of crime by police are uncommon and usually occur at the reporting officer level, not systematically by the agency in question.”

For instance, while the difference between theft and burglary is clearly defined, applying that definition correctly to a specific incident can be tricky when an officer first shows up at the scene—and it can change as new information is discovered in the first days or even weeks of investigation.

During the workshop, Claughton recommended that at least two people review each police report to assure it has been properly classified for UCR reporting purposes.

In Cleveland Heights, the classification of each crime is reviewed at least four times after the responding officer inputs his or her initial report by the officer in charge of the shift, the detective bureau captain at the time a crime is assigned for investigation, the chief of police through a weekly summary of reports; and the captain in charge of records. It’s reviewed one more time at the end of each month by detective bureau supervisors, who are assigned to oversee UCR compliance for the department.

Percent of crimes cleared in Cleveland Heights: Jan.–Oct. (higher is better)

Clearance rates measure how many crimes are solved. A crime is cleared, by FBI definition, when at least one person has been arrested, charged and turned over for prosecution. On rarer occasions, it may be cleared through exceptional means, in which case the offender(s) has been identified and located and charges prepared, but an arrest cannot be made due to circumstances beyond police control, such as the suspect’s death or a victim’s refusal to cooperate. Recovery of property does not constitute clearance of a crime. The comparison of CHPD’s clearance rate with peer agencies (the striped bar on the chart) is based on the average clearance rate for all agencies in cities of similar size to Cleveland Heights—those with a population of 25,000–49,999 (The 2013 population of Cleveland Heights, according to the U.S. Census, is 45,394.)

“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,” she says. “Her group is the ‘wild’ table at meals—always laughing.”

We also bring our dog, Maggie to visit and she’s a real hit with everyone!”

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

Visit www.judsonsmartliving.org and click Assisted Living

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Visit www.judsonsmartliving.org and click Assisted Living
BottleHouse Brewery to expand brewing capacity

The BottleHouse Brewery, located at 2050 Lee Road, plans to expand its brewing capacity. Installation of new brewing barrels will begin in January, enabling the brewery to meet increasing demand.

“Our current system is a 2.5 barrel system,” said Brian Benchek, owner of the BottleHouse. “We have been doing things on the current system no sane brewery would ever dream of doing on such a tiny system. Every month we sell more beer than the previous month, and we have reached a point where we simply can’t brew any more without setting up cots and moving in.”

Benchek and former business partner Dave Schubert opened the microbrewery in May 2012. They created a family-friendly, laid-back atmosphere where friends can gather for conversation, light music and entertainment.

Local groups are encouraged to use the space, which includes a stage, for gatherings.

“There is a sizable demand for our beers and bottles,” said Benchek, now sole owner of the establishment. “For example, Heinen’s has carried a few of our seasonal beers, and they want to carry our beers regularly. A new system is absolutely necessary to meet this demand.”

Benchek said that, in addition to an increase in quantity, the new system will improve the quality of the beer. “I will now have full control over all the variables that make a good beer,” he said. “Up to now we have been an ale brewery, but now we can start brewing lagers, pilsners and more.”

In July, the BottleHouse became the first full-fledged meadery in the Cleveland area, with only three other meaderies in Ohio. Patti Carlyle is a resident of University Heights and member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 17, 2014
Council Member Janina R. Boyd was absent.

Public comments
Daily Parton Imagination Library: Resident John Davies, representing the Heights Family Foundation, on an early childhood literacy program, said the foundation is bringing the Daily Parton Imagination Library to Cleveland Heights, University Heights and Shaker Heights. Children from birth to five years old can be registered to receive one book per month mailed to their homes. Interested residents can register at www.heightsfamily.org or call 216-307-READ (7323).

Auditor’s award: John Cary, the regional representative for State Auditor David Yost, presented the Auditor of State Award with Distinction to Tom Raguz, finance director, and the finance department for a “clean” audit report. Only the top 5 percent of cities receive this honor.

Phoenix Coffee and coffee rating
Travel and Leisure magazine has named Cleveland the number 16 best coffee city, citing Phoenix Coffee.

County health services
Council renewed an agreement with the Cuyahoga County General Health District for provision of basic public health services to Cleveland Heights at a fee of $180,794 for 2015. Mayor Dennis Wilcox thanked the health district for its work, especially for recent Ebisu training.

Efficiency training
Council authorized application to the Ohio Development Services Agency for grant funding under the Local Government Innovation Fund program to implement employee efficiency training programs. This grant will bring up to $100,000, with no matching funds required.

Norfolk Road fire
Council Member Melissa Yasinow commended the teamwork of the fire, police and public works departments on an early morning fire on Norfolk Road from which a trapped resident was rescued.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

DECEMBER 1, 2014
All council members were present.

Public comments
Police, green space: A Cummings Road resident complained about the rudeness of a police dispatcher when she called the nonemergency police number. A second call resulted in better dispatcher when she called the nonemergency police number. A second call resulted in better
dispatcher when she called the nonemergency police number. A second call resulted in better
treatment from a different dispatcher. She also asked whether a lot across from her home, where a house has been demolished, could be made into a green space. Mayor Dennis Wilcox explained that it depends on the ownership of the lot.

Sidewalk shoveling: A Revere Road resident inquired about sidewalk shoveling regulations especially regarding what constitutes a violation. The mayor noted that the city manager and the planning director visited Lampkin several months ago to assess the noise situation.

Nuisance properties
Council declared the property at 3382 Spangler Road, which is owned by the Bank of America, to be a nuisance and authorized abatement.

Overnight parking permits
In order to provide on-street overnight permit parking, council suspended enforcement of the overnight parking ban for specified portions of Kensington, Hillcrest, Belmar, Glenmont and Eddington roads for the period ending Dec. 31, 2015. This legislation makes no changes from the previous year, as this continues to be requested because of insufficient parking at apartment buildings with few garages.

City budget
Council heard on first reading two pieces of legislation pertinent to the city budget. The first ordinance would amend appropriations and other expenditures for the 2014 fiscal year. The year ending Dec. 12 has slightly higher expenditures than revenue. The second ordinance would make appropriations for expenditures and expenses for the Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015 fiscal year.

Mayor Wilcox noted that the budget entailed countless hours of work, especially to deal with revenue decreases resulting from state and county cuts as well as the elimination of the estate tax. The city work force has been cut by 16 percent while maintaining safety and quality services. He pledged that council is working to present both a balanced budget and excellent services.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 6.
Heights Observer January 1, 2015     www.heightsobserver.org

Jan. 28 forum to explore education quality and reform

Susie Kaeser

What makes a great teacher? Can we measure quality? How to do we populace schools with teachers who meet our expectations and can respond to the needs of our students? What does a test-based evaluation system do to the teaching profession?

These are some of the issues that a panel of teachers and small group conversations will explore at the Myth of Failing Teachers public forum on Jan. 28. The event, sponsored by the Heights Coalition for Public Education, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Social Room at Cleveland Heights High School.

This is the second in a three-part series, sponsored by the Heights Coalition, designed to build community awareness of the issues and limitations of state and federal education policy that mandate high-stakes testing and the privatization of public education. The policies emphasize teacher accountability as the primary route to education reform.

The Heights Coalition for Public Education is a volunteer organization made up of parents, teachers and community members committed to public education. A 12-person steering committee and several event-planning subcommittees are guiding activities.

The coalition grew out of the community reading and discussion of education historian Diane Ravitch’s best-seller, Reign of Error, which is critical of federal policies that encourage privatization of public education, and the controversial use of test scores to make high-stakes decisions.

The coalition is seeking endorsements of its position statement, which can be found at www.chub.net/coalition. The statement calls for equitable funding of public schools, an end to high-stakes testing and greater use of teacher-driven assessment of students to inform instruction, a halt in the transfer of public funds to for-profit charter schools, and trust and investment in teachers as respected professionals.

Co-sponsors of the event include the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Reaching Heights, FutureHeights and the CH-UH PTA Council.

Susie Kaeser is a member of the Heights Coalition for Public Education’s steering committee.

Brennan’s Colony
2299 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

Voted ‘Best of the Heights’
brennanscolony.com 216.371.1010

Science is local: preventing breast cancer

Jenn Lonzer

The early lake-effect snow and frigid temperatures did not temper the enthusiasm of Bert and Marjorie Moyar of Cleveland Heights. The couple opened their home to more than 30 guests on Nov. 19 to support one of their favorite local scientists, Vincent Tuohy of Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute.

Tuohy and his research team, who seek to cure breast cancer through prevention, discussed the development of a vaccine that should be ready for human trials by the end of 2015.

Vaccines have been around for hundreds of years to inoculate against such illnesses as smallpox, diphtheria, measles and polio. Each year, medical researchers tweak the influenza vaccine to help prevent flu epidemics.

When it comes to cancer, however, most research focuses on treatments rather than on prevention. Marjorie Moyar founded Women Who Care About Breast Cancer Coalition to support Tuohy in his development of a breast cancer vaccine. Soon after founding the coalition, Susan Larson joined Moyar as co-chair.

Tuohy began working on breast cancer immuno-prevention in 2002. After more than a decade of cutting edge—and at times controversial—research, he believes his vaccine is ready for human trials. His team has identified both necessary components of the vaccine: the immune target and the adjuvant (or immune irritant) that triggers a reaction to prevent the disease. Specifically, his research shows that the breast cancer vaccine being developed at Cleveland Clinic should be most effective in treating and preventing triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). TNBC refers to tumors that lack the three most common types of hormone receptors, and, therefore, do not respond to hormonal therapies.

With the help of generous donors, women’s organizations, and the Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute, Tuohy has developed a preventive breast cancer vaccine, tested it on animal models, and is in the process of applying for FDA approval for testing in humans.

Scientific discovery and philanthropy of all kinds were discussed in the warmth of the Moyar’s living room. At a time when research funding is hard to come by, scientists can become discouraged. But it was hard to feel discouraged surrounded by people who care about breast cancer. There was singing, laughter, reflection, and an overwhelming sense that prevention is close. For those who gathered on that wintry evening in Cleveland Heights, science is local.

For more information about Vincent Tuohy’s research, or to become involved in Women Who Care About Breast Cancer, go to www.giving.ccf.org, or call Shawna Hofstetter, senior director of development of the Lerner Research Institute, at 216-445-8123.

Jenn Lonzer is a freelance health journalist living in Cleveland Heights, and a member of Women Who Care About Breast Cancer.

Community Forum Discussion
Navigating County Government: What’s Coming?
Sunday, January 18, 2015, 9:30-10:45 am

Newly elected Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish will discuss his ideas on economic development, county operations, and quality of life issues that affect us all. Join us for coffee, conversation, and community.

First Unitarian Church
21600 Shaker Blvd. Shaker Heights
www.firstunitariancleveland.org

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Heights historical photo of the month

The original Cleveland Heights City Hall, located on Mayfield Road near Superior Road, was built in 1924 and torn down in 1986, when a new building opened near Severance Town Center. Motorcars Honda—built on the site of the original city hall—has reincorporated the building’s ornate doorway and front facade into its entrance.

This photo was selected by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to discovering, preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. For more information, and to view additional historical images, visit www.chistory.org or www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical.
Planners seek Heights residents’ opinions on Eastside Greenway

Anna Swanberg

Imagine living close to a trail system that connects neighborhoods throughout eastern Cuyahoga County with employment centers, transit, services and parks. Imagine walking or biking to school, work or the store. Imagine being able to bike to Euclid Creek Reservation to the Shaker Median Trail, or from Rockefeller Park to the North Chagrin Reservation. Imagine the Eastside Greenway.

The Eastside Greenway will increase pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in and between the eastern portion of Cleveland and 18 suburbs, including Cleveland Heights, University Heights, East Cleveland, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Beachwood. Leaders from these municipalities are working alongside planners and other regional organizations, among them the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, LAND studio, the Cleveland Metroparks, RTA, the northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Bike Cleveland, to develop a plan for the greenway that can be used to guide implementation.

With planning currently underway, the project team will host a second round of public meetings to share project updates and solicit feedback from community members in early 2015. The same content will be presented at each of the following meetings:

• Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m.: Hopp Dog at Euclid Tavern, 11645 Euclid Ave.
• Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m.: Beachwood Public Library, 25701 Shaker Blvd.
• Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m.: Waterloo Brew, 17355 Waterloo Road
• Feb. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: University Heights Public Library, 18066 Cedar Road

At the meetings, an overview of the project will be provided, as well as the results of a completed inventory and analysis. Alternative routes for the greenway network will be presented and the project team will solicit feedback on route alignments and route priorities. This feedback will be taken into account as the plan is finalized in the first half of 2015. A third round of public meetings, in which the final greenway plan will be presented to the public, will take place in May. More information on the Eastside Greenway can be found on the project’s website at www.eastsidegreenway.us.

Landscape architect Anna Swanberg is a project manager for LAND studio, a Cleveland-area nonprofit focused on park development, park programming and public art.

Community asked to help preserve Heights High heritage

Michael Bennett

A group of Heights residents is asking school personnel and community members to help preserve the past as the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District moves forward with its Create the Future plans to modernize buildings for the 21st century.

“It is important to honor, appreciate and learn from the past,” said Mazie Adams, a Heights alumna and parent, and member of the CH-UH Archive and Preservation Committee.

“With a building whose core dates to the 1920s, we know there are hidden treasures in nooks and crannies that we hope to spare from the wrecking ball,” said Adams, former executive director of the Lakewood Historical Society.

The committee grew out of community meetings the school district held in spring 2014 during phase 1 of the high school renovation project. Residents were invited to create working groups to offer input on aspects of the Master Facilities Plan.

One group was concerned about the fate of historical and archival material. “I knew some booster groups and the Instrumental Music Department, for example, had important material that would be a shame to lose,” said Ditte Wolin, former president of Band and Orchestra Parent Organization, and a Heights parent and alumna.

Wolin, Adams and other committee members have met with and received support for the project from Alex Abrams, CH-UH principal; and Steve Sagerstal, CH-UH director of business services.

The committee’s work furthers the goals of the $159 million schools renovation project funded by Bond Issue 81, which 59 percent of voters approved in November 2013. The project calls for preserving the core architecture of historic buildings and ensuring that new construction is consistent with the historic design.

The committee is encouraging community members and faculty and staff to record information about potential archival material on a form at http://tinyurl.com/CHHSarchive. Teachers have been asked to box the material for committee members to review at the high school.

For more information, contact Adams at mazie.adams@gmail.com.

The school district may decide to reinstall some items in the renovated high school. All collected items will be under the control of and remain property of the district.

The project must be completed before spring break 2015 to ensure material can be retrieved before construction begins. The committee hopes to duplicate the process at Roxboro and Monticello middle schools before those buildings close for renovations. Due to time constraints, an abbreviated process was implemented at Wiley Middle School.

In addition to Adams and Wolin, the committee includes Michael E. Bennett, Heights parent; Kathy Lawrence, CHHS librarian; Nancy Levin, director, Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library; Kara O’Donnell, Heights parent and City of Cleveland Heights planner/historical preservation specialist; and Eric Silverman, member, CH-UH Board of Education.

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For more information, contact Adams at mazie.adams@gmail.com.

Michael E. Bennett is the parent of two Heights students and a member of the CH-UH Archive and Preservation Committee.
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 more information, and to suggest program topics, contact the UH Office for Senior Services at 216-397-0356 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.

Jan. 8: “Big Chuck” Schoolowski, a legendary TV personality who spent 47 years on WJW Channel 8, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. He’ll reminisce about being hired for a “temporary” position that he wasn’t sure was permanent until he retired in 2007. Schoolowski created hundreds of characters and entertained countless audiences in a television career that started in 1960.

Jan. 17: Rahula Bedlin, associate in research development for International Partners in Mission, works with people across the borders of faith, culture and economic circumstances to build justice, peace and hope around the world. Since its founding in 1974, IPM has joined 306 grassroots organizations to implement 348 Project Partner initiatives in more than 40 countries, primarily in Africa, Asia and Latin America, by providing urgently needed financial assistance and facilitating technical training for the world’s most marginalized people.

Jan. 21: Deborah Osgood is vice president of development and marketing for the Achievement Centers for Children, a nonprofit health and human services agency based in Highland Hills. She’ll describe the work of the organization’s occupational and physical therapists, who care for children and adults with a broad range of disabilities and special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Down syndrome, and other neurological and emotional challenges. Focusing on its clients’ abilities, rather than their disabilities, the Achievement Centers celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

Jan. 29: Appletree Books has two new owners, Lynn Quintreel and Alice Webster, who will take over this revered Heights landmark and destination for book lovers of all ages. Located at 11491 Cedar Road, the store was run for 25 years by Jane Kessler.

Jazzercise.

Senior Citizens-friendly fitness classes are being offered by Jazzercise, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays at South Euclid Methodist Church and at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the University Heights Community Center.

New Year Special Start for $0 Unlimited workouts, No joining fee, Offer expires 1/31/15 (3 months minimum)

Review of fitness classes:

- Pilates, yoga and hip-hop inspired dance moves to great music PLUS core and strength training!
- At-home care, wherever home may be.

Most people think you call hospice when you’re all out of options. That’s not true if you call Hospice of the Western Reserve. As Northern Ohio’s most experienced and most referred hospice provider, we offer more options to personalize care. Our patients and their families live their lives where they choose—at our unique care campuses, at home, at a hospital, at a nursing home or at an assisted living residence. See why more families choose the hospice of choice at hospicewr.org.
Posch steps down after seven years of library service

Sheryl Banks

James J. Posch II stepped down as the president of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board on Dec. 31, ending seven years of service to the library that included two successful levies, the creation of a comprehensive technology plan, and a structure for long-term planning.

"Jim has been the driving force behind the many innovations and modernizations of our fiscal and technological operations," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "He helped the library create a comprehensive map of all technology-based operations, tied them to the staff responsible, the public they serve, and the means for improvement. All of this was incorporated into a long-term financial planning that makes budgeting for innovation much easier."

Posch, whose day job is general partner at the online testing software company Text.Com, has lived in Cleveland Heights for 32 years. He and his wife, Joyce Beaverman, planning director for the City of Shaker Heights, have two children: Ellen, 19, a freshman at Georgia Tech, and Michelle, 16, a junior at Cleveland Heights High School.

It was his appreciation of the library's importance in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community that inspired him to apply to the library board in 2007. "I’m a big user of the library, and I’ve always loved it," said Posch. "During the planning and re-construction of the Lee Road Library in 2005, I was concerned about the anger in the community about the project, especially the bridge. I thought the project was very misunderstood, and I wanted to do something about it."

Recently, Posch worked closely with the Heights Libraries Levy Committee on a campaign that was sufficiently strong to move the levy from a 2.2 mill operating levy that was decisively approved by voters on Nov. 4. "He helped the committees raise over $57,000 thousand and put together almost as many yard signs!" said Levin. "Jim has always been a champion of collaboration and partnerships on the local level, with a clear understanding of the values and purposes of our library; and that understanding made him a powerful leader and advocate. He will be missed."

The incoming board president is Richard Fronk, who previously served as vice president of the Heights Libraries Board of Directors and chair of its Operations Committee.

Heights Libraries welcomes two new members to its board

Julia Murphy

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library announces the appointment of two new board members. Susan Beatty of Cleveland Heights will serve a seven-year term on the board, and Christopher Mentrek of University Heights will serve a five-year term.

A lifelong Clevelander, Beatty moved to Cleveland Heights with her husband 15 years ago. She worked for more than 30 years in education as a teacher, principal and curriculum director in the Mayfield City School District. One of her duties as curriculum director was K-12 literacy, which required her to think critically about the roles of both literature and informational text in learning. This experience and other administrative responsibilities, including working closely with the school board, provided her with insight that she hopes to bring to the library board position.

“I value the contribution the library makes to our community as a center for learning and enrichment,” Beatty said. "The libraries are places where people come together, and where they can access all kinds of media for information and entertainment. It’s a place to grow, intellectually and socially. She hopes to facilitate the continual transformation of the libraries, and help balance traditions and changes to meet the needs of the community.

Christopher Mentrek has lived in University Heights for most of his life. After attending local public schools, he attended the University of Chicago and Cleveland State University, where he studied the physical sciences and education. He works for the Geauga Park District as a naturalist, and has been a library volunteer for several years, helping with the Lee Road Library Children’s Garden, the monarch butterfly-raising project, and large events such as the Sesame Street Block Party and Hobbit Quest.

“I hope to be an advocate for an institution that I’ve enjoyed since my childhood. I hope to help the library continue to meet the needs of the neighborhood, and to ensure that the staff have the resources needed to continue the library’s outstanding work,” said Mentrek. Among his goals is a wish to ensure that the University Heights branch meets the needs of the high school students who will be attending Wiley when it becomes the interim public high school.

Both new trustees were selected for the Heights Libraries board by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education at its Dec. 2 meeting. Ohio law requires that the local school board be the taxing authority for a school district public library; so library trustees are therefore chosen by the school board.

Mentrek’s term is five years (as opposed to the full seven years) because he is filling a position left by former board member Jeffrey Eummer, who stepped down this year after two years.

Laura’s Piano Service

Laura Marks is on an extended retreat. Laura has retained Jason Fronk to serve your piano needs in her absence. He is talented and polite. Please contact Jason at (216) 903-1345 or jasonfronk@gmail.com

Tip of the month

Run a humidifier and place plants near your piano to prevent damage due to low humidity.

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

Heights Observer January 1, 2015 www.heightsobserver.org

SCORECARD measures of success

Highlights of the Balanced Scorecard Measures of Success focused on outreach visits by Peggy Hall, youth services librarian, to the Heights-University Heights Public Library to promote programs in digital literacy to develop language arts programs for pre-K through fifth grade. The students have iPads for reading eBooks, and the library will be involved in a parent component so that parents can use the technology also.

In partnership with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Historical Society, Heights-University Heights Public Library held a Senior Health and Wellness Day with 12 agencies and businesses participating, and with 40 residents in attendance.

The fall session of the Science and Nature Study Group included a hands-on class, and Words as Ritual was a book discussion.

The Coventry Village library and the Coventry Village SID partnered to present Spooky Stories for 15 children under the Coventry F.E.A.C.E. Arch.

Youth services division staff received a new card Readers to Read, with both Noble and Cleveland Heights schools. In addition, they reached out to each grades at Noble Elementary School during the day, and the position of the Noble school librarian was eliminated.

The Star Wars Reads Day on Oct. 19 brought 20 participants to activities including face painting, coloring pages, book giveaways, and a Star Wars character hunt.

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

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The Cleveland Heights High School Auto Tech Program has received accreditation from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The inspection took place in early October and was led by a member of the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, assisted by three local automotive evaluators. The evaluation considers 10 areas of the program, including instruction, equipment and co-op work agreements.

The ASE certification applies to the program and the facility, with the added value of instructor Jeff Porter being an ASE Master Certified Technician. These certifications mean that students in the program are eligible to earn the G1 high school level auto technology certification.

“This ASE national certification ensures that our students leave here prepared,” said Porter. “With that certification, students can attend a technical college or enter the work force.” Heights High students who earn G1 certification often attend auto technology programs at Tri-C West in Parma, Stark State College in North Canton and the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima.

Many technical colleges offer co-op programs for students that combine classwork and paid auto technician work, giving students specific experiential skills needed in the auto industry.

Students with college-level certifications typically earn $20,000–$50,000 a year, and students who enter the field with a high school certification can expect to earn $20,000–$50,000 a year. “The job prospects in auto technology are very good,” said Porter. “Just a few weeks ago, representatives from RTA were here, talking to students about opportunities working on their bus fleet.”

The program certification is good for five years. For this cycle, the process began last spring with a re-writing of the curriculum to meet new industry standards, and a review of the facility. Beginning in the fall, the program will be located at the Delisle Center. Porter and his advisory team have been working with the architects to design a facility that will be even better for his students when the new high school opens in 2017.

Local auto technology experts who served as members of the evaluation team are Carl Allambry, Advanced Auto Care owner/technician; Michael Bell, Motorcars Toyota technician; and Sam Bell, Lusty Wrench owner/technician.

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

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www.heightsobserver.org

Joy Henderson

HONORS and AP classes.

Imani Smith suggested a strategy that has helped her in the AP literature class. “I am in a group chat with several students and we helped each other with a Socratic seminar journal assignment,” she said. “I ended up doing great on the assignment because of the work that we did together.”

The panelists suggested finding an adult or student mentor in the building who could encourage and support students in their honors and AP coursework.

Kruppman talked about the encouragement that she received from Peake when she wanted to drop AP economics. “He talked me out of it and now I am glad he did,” she said. Gray talked about her Spanish teacher who encourages her to succeed in AP courses.

Shawn Washington and Nate Williams are the other MSAN co-advisors. All students who are enrolled in at least one honors or AP course are welcome to join MSAN.

The mission of MSAN is to understand and change school practices and structures that keep racial achievement gaps in place, while improving the achievement of all students. The 28 suburban-urban school districts in the network work to understand and eliminate achievement and opportunity gaps in their schools. For more information visit www.msan.wceruw.org.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
Heights High students explore sustainable fishing practices

Joy Henderson

We frequently hear the word sustainability, but do we know what it means? Heights High students in Jim Miller’s environmental science class are learning about sustainability by researching fishing practices across the globe. Their areas of study include Lake Erie, the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, and the Kinabatangan River in Malaysia. At the beginning of the project, students learned the definition of sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without limiting the ability of people, other species, and future generations to survive.

“My goal is to teach the concept of sustainability by using fishing practices as an example,” said Miller. “It was really exciting to see the students relating their research to the classroom experiences.” Working in small groups on several projects, the students researched fishing practices in a specific area, produced a public service announcement about the consequences of different fishing practices, delivered a presentation with scientific facts about fishing practices, consulted with an expert in an organization specializing in fishing practices, wrote a 2–3 page research summary, created a fishing-related sculpture with recycled materials and built a replica of a shrimp-fishing trap used in Malaysia’s Kinabatangan River.

Miller brings firsthand expertise to this topic. Last summer, he spent nearly three weeks in Malaysia, on the island of Borneo, with Miami University’s Earth Expeditions graduate program. He has completed six Earth Expeditions programs and received his master’s degree through the university’s Global Field Program in 2011.

“I think the best part of going on these expeditions is being able to bring my knowledge and experiences back to the classroom,” said Miller.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
Barbara Claas turns bottles into blooms

Mary Ryan

After a pretty nice fall—but one with not quite enough sunshine to hold us over until next spring—Heights Arts is taking back the light from Jan. 16 to Feb. 28 with the aptly named Light Show, a new exhibition in its gallery at 2175 Lee Road.

Organized by Cleveland Heights artist and founding Heights Arts board member Sharon Grossman, Light Show presents nine contemporary Northeast Ohio artists who work with materials, processes and visual languages that speak to the theme of light. Works include neon sculpture, photography, glass, furniture and jewelry, as well as the more abstract translucency: “As we hunker down in January, surrounded by grey skies and dirty snow, this exhibition helps us find solace in light,” said Grossman. “Although all artists work with light, these pieces are about light—luminance, re- duced by a can’s color and texture. “I don’t drink any of that!” she exclaimed. She finds the designs, colors, and materials of beverage cans inspir ing, and is amazed at the engineering of plastic beverage bottles. Claas also uses copper electrical wire, bottle caps, water-based acrylic paints, and glues. Her art supply store is most often Home Depot.

One of the reasons that Claas’ work is so naturalistic is that she is a biolo gist and gardener. Although her degree is in zoology, not botany, scientific departments are not relevant in her native plant garden where she houses mason bees on the garage to pollinate the sour cherry tree. Nectar guides, sometimes only visible to humans under ultraviolet light, are one of many flower features incorporated in her pieces. “I love flowers,” she said. Claas has been involved in ar t-making since childhood but, like many practical parents, her mother advised her “You will starve” if she chose it as a livelihood. While finish ing her graduate degree in biology at Bielefeld University in her native Germany, Claas met her American husband. They have lived in Cleve land Heights since 1998, first stopping off in Nashville before Dean took a position at CSU.

Claas’ beautiful work is carried by Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road. There’s something simple and perfect about that: discarded single-use materials found on Lee Road, transformed on a nearby street, and offered for purchase as art objects back on Lee Road.

Illuminating Heights Arts exhibition opens Jan. 16

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Barney Taxel, as a rule, works methodically. Whether he’s adjusting lights in his Midtown studio or traipsing through the snow in Lake View Cemetery, Taxel’s photographic process builds infinitesimally and deliberately toward an exacting final product. Light, shadow, texture and framing are evaluated and adjusted, working purposefully toward a single, perfect photo.

Taxel’s new book, The Lake View Cemetery: Photographs from Cleveland’s Historic Landmark, is the culmination of more than 10 years worth of photographic construction. Published by University of Akron Press ($62.95, October 2014), the 230-page book pairs Barney’s photography with text by his wife, Laura Taxel, an award-winning journalist and co-author of Cleveland’s West Side Market: 100 Years & Still Cooking, among other books.

Alternating black-and-white with color photographs throughout its pages, the book reproduces the lives of those interred at Lake View Cemetery since its establishment in 1869—some lively, others solemn.

As Laura writes in the introduction, “It is a place filled with stories of those interred at Lake View Cemetery on their own, the book in separate sections, for only a day or until the end of the season, ‘It is a place filled with stories of those interred at Lake View Cemetery since its establishment in 1869—some lively, others solemn.’”

As Laura writes in the introduction, “It is a place filled with stories of those interred at Lake View Cemetery since its establishment in 1869—some lively, others solemn.” How appropriate that book’s introductory photograph is of the grave of Raymond Johnson Chapman, the Indians ballplayer killed by a wayward football in 1915—a man who, for an instant, lived a life of advantage and was beaten by the odds.

The Taxels cover the history of the park in full, juxtaposing historical excerpts with relevant photographs, and also illustrate what The Lake View Cemetery is in the present. The book documents the gaiety of weddings held on the cemetery grounds, and warm summer evenings and crisp winter mornings.

Taxel’s images even capture other photographers wandering through, training their lenses on natural and artificial monuments alike. Turning the book’s pages is much like an exploration of the cemetery itself—‘at times brooding, at other times joyful, and occasionally sobering.’

The book’s most striking images follow the same pattern of commingling melancholy and hope. Daffodil Hill in bloom, the weathered, weeping green Angel of Death Victorious, and the ornate Tiffany glass of the Wade Memorial Chapel are all captured in crisp, supple balance by the photographer’s lens and contextualized with the writer’s pen.

For readers inclined to explore the cemetery on their own, the book includes a meticulously cross-referenced index and map to enable visitors to find their way to the sites rendered on the page. Arranged in sections around both specific locations and general themes, Laura Taxel’s research brings forth the cemetery’s rich history through both document-based research and interviews.

In a section titled “The Voices of Lake View,” Lake View docent Wayne Bifano describes the cemetery’s appeal—a place of rest for both the famous and the everyman, worthy of exploration in words, photographs and firsthand experience.

“When I was a kid, my father would bring me there with him,” recalled Bifano. “We lived in Little Italy and we used to walk, but after we moved out to Geauga County, he’d say, ‘Hop in the truck kid, we’re going to paradise.’”

Sheehan Hanann is an editorial assistant at Cleveland Magazine and Inside Business Magazine, and a resident of University Circle. He worked as an intern for a summer in Barney Taxel’s studio and was a student of bis at Case Western Reserve University. He has no financial stake in The Lake View Cemetery book.

Loretta Dahlstrom
Inlet Dance Theatre, a regional professional contemporary dance company, will present a weekend of dance activity at Church of the Saviour in January.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Inlet company members will present a sacred dance workshop in the Great Hall. The workshop is open to anyone with an interest in sacred dance and how it can be incorporated into a worship setting. No prior dance experience is necessary; however, participants should come to the workshop prepared to move. The cost of the workshop is $20. Register by Jan. 5 via the church website, www.chsaviour.org.

Then, on Sunday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m., Inlet will present an hour-long, family-friendly performance in the Great Hall, followed by a reception with the dancers in the church parlor. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children 18 and under and can be purchased on the church’s website.

Church of the Saviour is located at 377 Lee Road, one block north of Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights. For more information, call the church at 216-321-8880 or e-mail office@chsaviour.org.

Loretta Dahlstrom is an administrative assistant at Church of the Saviour.
This 1969 Moby Grape song has been playing in my head a lot lately. It starts with the words “Changes, circles spinning. Can’t tell the ending from the beginning.”

Many other popular songs carry the same message—like Joni Mitchell’s “Circle Game” and “Circle of Life” from “The Lion King”—because while the experience is one that’s common to most of us, it’s also still sort of a phenomenon: the realization that a lot of our important occasions repeat in different (or, sometimes, the same) ways; that some significant life-cycle events eventually come “full-circle.”

During all the years I worked full-time as a rock musician, I had to work various day jobs to be able to afford my so-called “full-time” music career. Those jobs always involved food—cooking in restaurants and for catering companies, in a hospital kitchen, and cooking in restaurants and for catering services. Those jobs always involved food—cooking in restaurants and for catering companies, in a hospital kitchen, and cooking in restaurants and for catering services.

So when my friends Billy and Michele Buckholtz opened the Murray Hill Market—a place very much like Rocco’s Market—in Little Italy four years ago, I started cooking there. It was soon after I’d signed with a publisher to write a book, and at a time when much of the freelance magazine writing I had been doing disappeared due to the economy. Billy Buckholtz is also a professional musician (a founding member of the 40-year-old band Wild Horses), and one who, like me, started playing professionally at an early age. That’s how I met him: We both played at places like Faragher’s, a folk club on Taylor Road near Cain Park, and at Lava Cave, the folk club in University Circle, when I was in school at Heights High. And he was in junior high at Wiley.

So here I am, in 2015, working in a place very much like Rocco’s Market, three or four mornings a week (with a guy I knew from my early years in music, and with whom I later played music), and then going home to write, and, often, rehearsing or performing music at night. It’s as if nothing has changed. Except that this time around I’m a grandfather—of a few weeks ago.

And that’s another full-circle event: This guy who used to be a baby—my son—now has a baby of his own. I know this has been happening for millions of years, but it’s the first time it has happened to me. As the Beatles sang: “La la, how the life goes on.”

It was only a few years ago that my son was swimming on the Heights High swim team, with some thoughts swimming in his head of one day becoming the team’s head coach. But what were the chances of that dream becoming reality? I guess the chances were actually pretty good, because this year he is the team’s head coach.

What’s next? Maybe someday I’ll become a great-grandparent, like my mother is now. “Changes, circles spinning. Can’t tell the ending from the beginning.”

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. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop-music history.
**Quintana’s celebrates expansion**

Alex and Dawn Quintana, along with their children, Gabriella and John, celebrated the opening of their expanded space with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 8. The Heights High Barbershop performed as friends and family enjoyed tours of the new space and free parlor-style hand treatments. Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa now occupies two storefronts next door to each other, 2200 and 2190 South Taylor Road. The spa, which had occupied the upper floor of 2200, now occupies the adjacent storefront. Next, the Quintana’s plan to renovate the upper floor of 2200 to house expanded services for the barber shop.

**Local partnership helps small businesses thrive**

Katie Van Dyke

In July 2013, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) opened an office in the Lee Road Library. Staffed by Monte Ahuja College of Business and the Cleveland State University jointly funded the build-out of the library, the City of Cleveland Heights housed an SBDC office at city hall. The in-kind services provided by the city helped establish the center’s presence.

Before the office opened at the library, the City of Cleveland Heights collaborated with the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC), a work-space dedicated to business and creative endeavors for entrepreneurs.

In a spirit of collaboration, Heights Libraries, the city and Cleveland State University jointly funded the build-out of 15,000 square feet of flex space, along with office furniture and computer equipment to establish HKIC.

“The City of Cleveland Heights is committed to helping small business thrive in our community,” said Mayor Dennis Wilcox. “These amenities solve a problem for many of the entrepreneurs whose age or economic status had previously been a barrier to starting a business. The library also offers access to business databases, periodicals, free Wi-Fi, easy parking, and space to work and meet.”

In addition to partnering with Heights Libraries, SBDC collaborates with many local entrepreneurial resources, including economic development directors, special improvement districts, community development corporations, LaunchHouse, Cleveland Culinary Launch Kitchen, Economic Community Development Institute, and local bankers.

One successful collaboration is Clairfait Holdings, the maker of skin-care products. The company moved to Cleveland Heights in 2014. SBDC facilitated Clairfait identifying funding sources, commercial real estate options, and opportunities for networking with members of the Cleveland business community.

Katie Van Dyke is director of the Ohio Small Business Development Center.
Young entrepreneur puts his mark on The Fairmount

Jake Orosz

Next moves to a new location on Coventry

James Henke

The Fairmount

Next, the Ohio-based clothing-store chain has moved its Cleveland Heights shop to a new location on Coventry Road. The store, which was at the north end of Coventry, next to Avalon Exchange, is now at 182 Coventry Road, between Big Fun and Coventry Cats, in the space that was previously occupied by the Sleep Source mattress store.

Though the old Next store had a street-level entrance, shoppers had to go downstairs into the basement to get to the actual store. “We wanted to get out of the basement and get up on the street level,” said Robert Rosenthal, who is the men’s apparel buyer for the chain. “We were always a little hidden in the old location.”

Rosenthal said he thought that the old location had more of a vintage feel. “We wanted to create something that had a more contemporary feel to it and that was more related to our brand,” he said. “We also wanted to create some excitement.”

In addition to moving to a new location, Next is also changing the items it carries in the store. It previously sold both men’s and women’s clothing, but the new store stocks only men’s clothing. “It’s a very contemporary men’s clothing store and sneaker boutique,” Rosenthal said. He noted that men’s clothing always outsold women’s clothing, but the new store will sell only men’s items.

The new store opened in 2010. “We love Coventry,” Rosenthal said. “It’s a great place to have a store, and the people there are all great. We are just trying to send out a different brand message.”

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Jayne Sestak is a 27-year resident of Forest Hill, and a silent partner in The Fairmount. She is the daughter of photographer Jim Sestak, whose work will be featured at The Fairmount this winter, and mother of Jake Orosz.

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Pacific East expands its Coventry restaurant

Pacific East, the Japanese restaurant located at the north end of Coventry Road near Mayfield Road, has expanded. Last month, the restaurant took over the space previously occupied by Talmer Bank and Trust, which closed its Coventry branch last fall.

“We just didn’t have enough space,” said Freeman Ngo, who owns Pacific East with his wife, Susan. “There were always people waiting in line to get tables, and we couldn’t seat large groups.” With the new space, the restaurant can now seat about 100 people, while previously it could only seat about 70. This is the restaurant’s second expansion; a couple of years ago, the owners took over the adjacent space on Coventry Road.

Ngo, who’s 45 years old, was born in Malaysia. He and his family moved to New York City about 20 years ago. Then, in 1999, he moved to Cleveland. His wife’s cousin owned Hissho Sushi, which operates sushi bars at Heinen’s and Market District grocery stores, and Ngo started working for that company. In 2002, he decided to open Pacific East. “I always wanted to have my own restaurant, and we finally found the space,” he said.

The restaurant has won numerous awards over the years, including Cleveland Magazine’s Silver Spoon award. It is also regularly included on the Plain Dealer’s A-List of best restaurants, and both Scene magazine and Northern Ohio Live have given it numerous best-restaurant awards.

According to Ngo, Pacific East’s sushi selection is the largest in this part of Ohio, and it’s the only restaurant in the state that offers Malaysian foods. “We’re the only restaurant in this region that serves bluefin tuna,” Ngo said. “We also serve yellowfin and big-eye tuna.” He added that the Malaysian food blends different cultures, such as Chinese, Indian and Thai, which makes it special, and that the restaurant only uses premium, short-grain rice and pure rice vinegar, which is imported from Japan.

Pacific East also serves some live items, including scallops, clams and sea urchins. “We only use the highest-quality foods,” Ngo said. “Some of the products come from the Cleveland area, and our main supplier is an Indonesian company called True World, which has its U.S. headquarters in New Jersey.”

The restaurant was so successful that, seven years ago, Ngo and his wife opened a second Pacific East at the Eton Collection on Chagrin Boulevard in Woodmere.

The family lives in Mayfield Heights, and Ngo and his wife have two children, Norman, who’s 14 years old, and Heidi, 12. “Norman is on his school’s soccer team, and he plays trombone in the band,” Ngo said. “Heidi loves to ice skate.”

Meanwhile, Ngo is very excited about the expansion. “We really needed to be able to accommodate more people,” he said. “And now we can.”

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.

Stephanie Bayne saved thousands of dollars by starting her college career at Tri-C.

Stephanie chose Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) for its convenience and affordable tuition. Her credits transferred seamlessly to Kent State University, where she began as a junior.

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CH’s Chuck Falk is haircutter to the stars

James Henke

Chuck Falk, manager and master barber at Eddy’s Barbershop on Coventry Road, has become a haircutter to the stars. Over the past few months, Falk has expanded his business, and his clients now include Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel and hip-hop artist G-Eazy.

Falk started cutting Manziel’s hair last July, when the Browns opened their training camp in Berea. One of Manziel’s representatives had contacted Michael Hurley, who owns a clothing store on West 25th Street in Cleveland, and Hurley recommended Falk.

The barber went to the hotel where the players were staying in Berea and cut Manziel’s hair. Since then, he has been cutting Manziel’s hair on a regular basis. “I usually do it before the team heads out of town for a road game, or before they play a game here in Cleveland,” Falk said. But Manziel doesn’t come to Eddy’s. Instead, Falk goes to Manziel’s apartment downtown.

Similarly, G-Eazy’s manager contacted Vince Manzano at Heart Hurley, who owns a clothing store on West 25th Street in Cleveland, and Hurley recommended Falk. “G-Eazy was playing a show at the House of Blues, and his haircutter had left the tour,” Falk said. “So he asked me to come down to the House of Blues and do a handful of haircuts.” The Oakland-based rapper sells VIP tickets to his shows that include a backstage haircut. Falk did the VIP haircuts in Cleveland, then the rapper asked Falk to stay on the road for the rest of the tour. “I went to Detroit, Toronto and Montreal, and I cut hair for G-Eazy, his fans and his crew,” Falk said. He returned to Cleveland just before Eddy’s Barbershop opened on March 27, 2014.

When G-Eazy hit the road for a fall tour this past October, he asked Falk to be the official haircutter. “I did the first 20 days of the tour,” Falk said. “That included shows on the West Coast and in the Southwest part of the country. Then I came back to Cleveland so I could be here at the barbershop.”

On Nov. 12, G-Eazy once again played the House of Blues, and Falk rejoined the rapper for the rest of the tour, which included shows in the Midwest, as well as Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Oakland, Calif. “G-Eazy had about 20 people on the road with him, including the production, sound and lighting people,” Falk said. “And I was not only cutting hair, but was a glorified stagehand, unloading equipment and helping them set up the stage.”

The fall tour again included haircuts for people who bought VIP tickets, and Falk set up a small barbershop backstage at each venue. “W e had an eight-foot-by-twenty-foot barbershop there.”

Meanwhile, business is great at Eddy’s Barbershop. When the shop opened, Falk was the only barber. Since then, two more barbers—Ryan Hardwick and Bobby Bushay—have joined the team, and Falk said he might be adding more. The shop also has its fair share of well-known clients, such as Jonathon Sawyer, a Cleveland Heights resident who owns several Cleveland restaurants, including the Greenhouse Tavern, Trentina and Norddeet. Several members of the Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the chefs from Trentina and Flour Restaurant, also get their hair cut at Eddy’s.

“G-Eazy was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Tom Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley.