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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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James Henke

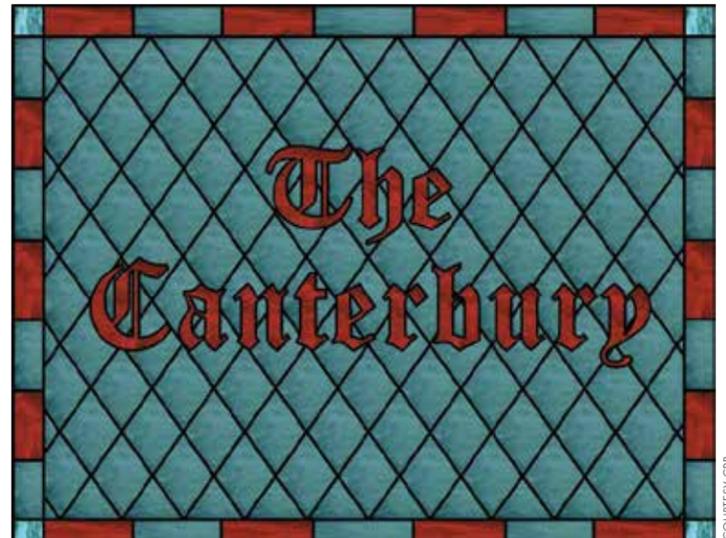
Changes are coming to the Cedar Taylor Business District, including streetscape improvements and expansion of Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa. One of the biggest changes is the renovation of what used to be called the CT Building, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Cedar and Taylor roads. In 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.”

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



An artist's rendering of the new lobby window that will identify the Canterbury House as a unique destination.

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

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Pete's Tavern hopes to continue without Pete

Brenda H. May

Pete Harris, owner of Pete's Tavern at 1318 Warrensville Center Road, lost his battle with cancer on Dec. 6. Peter G. Harris was born in South Euclid,



Pete Harris at his bar in 2008.

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 1997. 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 longtime 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

Heights community loses Tony Smith

Carla Bailey

Longtime Cleveland Heights resident Anthony E. “Tony” Smith, known for his involvement in the Heights community and his ownership of Cleveland-



Tony Smith

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

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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 among *Observer* volunteers.

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 Computer, based in Northeast Ohio] but it's a more advanced system. It required us to learn it from the bottom up—training 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 running smoothly, data from the first two

continued on pages 8 and 9

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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Trying to build a better way to report on crime



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

Concern about crime in Cleveland Heights is in the air. Some argue the city is falling apart; others say it's fine. Some say 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 began

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 barely begins to answer all the questions residents have about crime and public safety. Fuller understanding will unfold over time. But, by publishing crime data regularly, we hope to remove any sense of shame and secrecy about the issue, while encouraging open discussion that leads to a safer and healthier Cleveland Heights.

There's an imperfection baked into this project that some will spot immediately: It relies on data reported by the CHPD itself, and many residents are skeptical of those numbers.

I've spent a lot of time over the past six months getting to know the police chief and the department. I've been given insight into the process by which crimes are coded and reported—and the amount of care that's taken.

Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson has expressed to me, more than once, that having accurate data is central to the way he runs the police department. He uses it for decision-making, setting priorities and allocating resources.

So the data you're seeing hasn't been collected for the publicity; it's used to manage the work of fighting crime. Sharing it with the public is a positive byproduct that Robertson believes is important.

The department hasn't always been run under a philosophy that transparency matters, but, since taking over as chief in 2011, Robertson has consistently pushed it in that direction. No matter how you're predisposed to feel about information provided by the CHPD, this is worth considering.

Still, if you remain skeptical about the numbers, that's healthy. I won't argue further.

We're not going to tell you what to think about the information provided. Whether it's good or bad is for you to decide. If you feel there isn't enough information yet to judge, that's OK too. We will publish the data on an ongoing basis with the idea that it will become more and more meaningful over time.

Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum, a former member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors, is co-chairman of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development. Contact him at brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org.

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 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 each Tuesday.

Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Why I Favor Protesting

In its heart I do not believe humanity wants to be racist, and in the U.S. we have been on a long journey—definable in centuries—proving just how not racist we are. Electing a black man as president is among the civic actions writ large we have taken that show what we are capable of as a society. But while the Congress may establish amendments against slavery, and we may vote as a society in ways that show our anti-racist nature, I think we are still inadvertently very racist. And now we are reacting to the fact that we have allowed a facet of society to continue to get away with racism. . . .

—David Perelman-Hall

Scathing Stanford CREDO Report Shows Ohio Traditional Public Schools Outperform Charters

Charter schools in Ohio are notorious because the state legislature, filled with money from supporters of some of the worst charters, has chosen hardly to regulate the charter school sector at all. On Tuesday, the Stanford Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) released a new study of the academic effectiveness of Ohio's charters (as measured by

standardized test scores).

The report is scathing: "First, recent efforts across Ohio to improve the quality of charter school performance are only dimly discernible in the analysis. Overall performance trends are marginally positive, but the gains that Ohio charter school students receive even in the most recent periods studied still lag the progress of their traditional public school peers . . ."

—Jan Resseger

Photo essay and thoughts on Coventry Village

Robert Brown is a city planning consultant of note. Named a Fellow of the American Institute of City Planners (FAIP) and recipient of APA's national award for excellence in comprehensive planning, he served for a decade as the Director of Planning for the City of Cleveland. . . .

Where does a top urban planner in Northeast Ohio choose to live? For the last dozen years Brown has lived in Cleveland Heights's Coventry Village neighborhood, which he calls "a great neighborhood"—one that "makes residents feel connected to one another. It is a place of 'neighborliness.' It is a place that helps create a sense of community."

In a blog post on his website, Brown

recently put together his thoughts on the physical characteristics that make Coventry Village work, and he paired it with a beautiful photo essay that highlights some of the neighborhood's most important characteristics that many of us have always taken for granted. . . .

—Bob Rosenbaum

Cleveland Heights Chronicles - Part 1

I've lived in Cleveland Heights for 45 years. My husband and I moved into the upstairs of a double on Kensington in the summer of 1969, the summer that the U.S. put a man on the moon. The more difficult challenge was right here on the earth in Cleveland Heights, building an "open and integrated community of the highest quality." (Heights Community Congress Code of Regulations.) But we didn't know that in 1969.

After all these years, living in Cleveland Heights is still "a commitment, not an address," to quote Pat Steinfurth, one of the community's true activists. We're on our third Cleveland Heights address, and I can assure anyone that an active commitment takes an incredible amount of time and effort. . . .

—Anne McFarland

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!) orchestra 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 (IB) candidate with an aim to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better world by striving to be: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers,

balanced and reflective. My older daughter is a proud member of the student Ambassador Council charged with carrying out these IB values.

Based on what I've heard some friends, neighbors and acquaintances saying about our schools, you might not have guessed that my daughters are students at Fairfax Elementary, a public school in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. In addition to their academic development, my girls have experienced more religious, racial, socioeconomic, cultural and lifestyle diversity in their few short years of grade school than most people do in a lifetime.

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 absolutely thriving there. Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools has been the very best choice for us!

Christie Yonkers is a native Clevelander, having grown up on the West Side. She has lived in and loved Cleveland Heights, for more than 10 years. Yonkers is director of foundation relations at Cleveland Clinic.

A correction: 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.

Donalene S. Poduska
Cleveland Heights

TONY SMITH continued from page 1

City School District.

"Tony's contributions to the district were invaluable," said Ron Register, CH-UH Board of Education president. "His work on school levies and in supporting individual students showed the highest commitment that a man can make in his life. We love you Tony and will miss you."

Smith was a member of Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, an active member of the 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland and a trustee emeritus of the Great Lakes Science Center.

Memorial donations are welcome, and may be directed to the Anthony E. Smith Charitable Fund at The Cleveland Foundation.

Donations via credit card can be made through the Cleveland Foundation's website, www.clevelandfoundation.org.

A check or money order made out to The Cleveland Foundation, referencing Anthony E. Smith Charitable Fund on the memo line, should be mailed to:

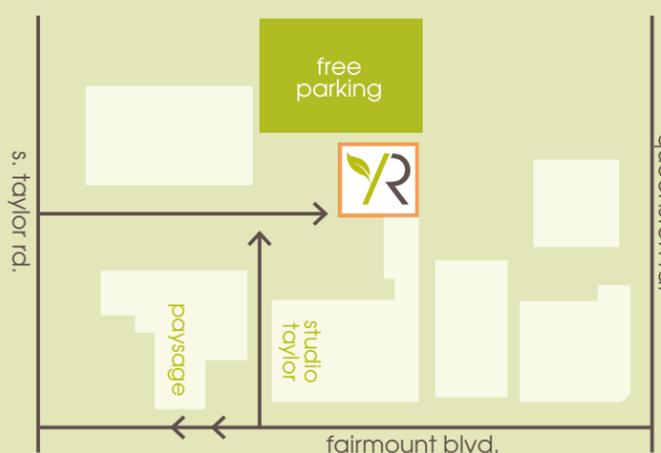
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Carla Bailey is the Heights High PTA president and a volunteer with the AFS Foreign Exchange Student Program.



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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 \$39 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 60 percent of millennials as well as boomers are using their tablets

and phones while they watch TV, and 70 percent never have their devices more than a few feet away 24/7/365, yet [they] still can't access non-chain locals directly when they want to order a sandwich delivery. Plus, too few locals update and optimize SEO [search engine optimization] and websites, or use YouTube videos, etc., so search doesn't help them.

In this area there are plenty of marketing, tech or small business consultants looking for local businesses to work with, while local businesses are themselves going online to order their inventory and/or to purchase non-local marketing assistance, software, SEO, etc., that sends dollars out of the community. To "buy local" goes both ways, and should include business-to-business considerations.

While desktop [computers] are being replaced by mobile devices because they're more affordable, accessible and universally accepted, few local businesses can complete a mobile sale or take a mobile order or benefit from a "share" of a special offer, link or some other free branding message to Facebook. It's not possible to grow a modern business or compete with a simple website, an ad in a mailer, a once-yearly coupon and a cry to "buy local." Digital orders that move phone calls to more accurate online/mobile orders are typically higher sale amounts than phone calls or walk-in orders. Chains are taking more market share while cutting costs in this challenging business environment, and locals will continue to slip until they are willing to meet some of the challenges with solutions that are now affordable to them, such as online ordering, direct digital marketing, mobilized Web apps and social media sharing.

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.

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Hope is critical for success



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

In 1976, by a fluke, my career as a city planner was redirected to focus on the needs of students who did not succeed in our public schools. I became a child advocate. For a decade, I gathered, analyzed and published data that showed the extent to which Ohio public schools failed with these students. I used the data to identify school districts with problems.

It took me a long time to recognize that shaming people with data would not generate solutions.

When my focus turned to finding remedies, I finally found useful and inspiring information. I talked with educators across Ohio who turned around failing students. Despite their successes, they also had broken hearts and deep frustration. Success was never universal and often transitory. It could disappear at any moment when the conditions of life got in the way.

These remarkable people were committed, creative and willing to bend the rules. They believed in their kids, demanded a lot, and encouraged and supported them to own their lives and overcome barriers. A key ingredient of their success was high expectations for students and themselves.

In a recent meeting focused on engaging parents as partners in student achievement, the issue of expectations slipped into the conversation. In response I thought, yes, how do we make sure teachers have high expectations for students? I was taken aback when a parent advocate in the room said, "Many parents have low expectations for their children."

I am so school-centric and conditioned to think of the teacher as the relevant actor that I had to be reminded that parents matter, too, as do students, community values and opportunity.

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.

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 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 and tools for success in school.

There are plenty of people who have been left out of this opportunity cycle. The challenge is to interrupt the negative effects of exclusion and its byproducts: lost hope, constrained expectations and limited resources.

If we are serious about leaving no child behind, we need to build a cycle of hope based on real opportunity.

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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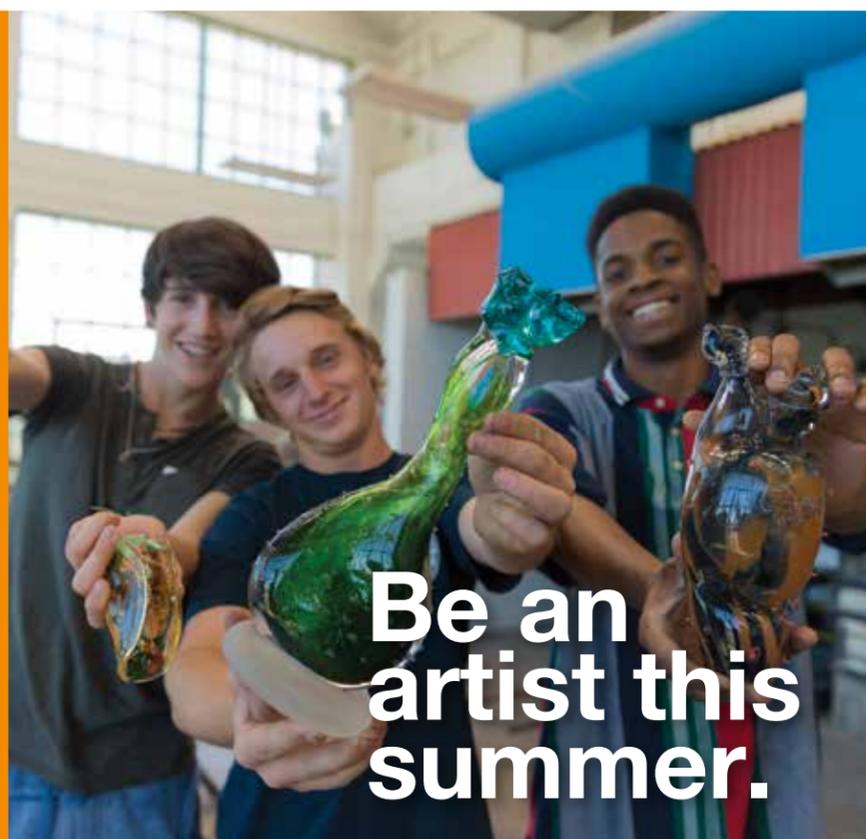


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University Heights City Council



Meeting highlights

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 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 Oct. 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 2015 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 \$5,665. 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 RFQs (request for quotes) for design services for the new park on Fenwick Road.
 LWV 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 Pardee abstained from voting, as she is an employee of the school district. Councilwoman Pamela Cameron, who has two children attending the high school, said she was upset by talk of "thugs" and safety concerns. Councilman Mark Wiseman said he was in full support 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 \$5,000 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.
 LWV Observer: Michele Weiss.

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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City announces application process for Boyd's vacated Cleveland Heights City Council seat

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The City of Cleveland Heights issued a press release on Dec. 9 announcing the process by which it will select a replacement to serve the remainder of Council Member Janine Boyd's unexpired term. Boyd resigned her seat, effective Dec. 31, due to her election to the state legislature. The appointee will serve the remainder of her term, which expires Dec. 31, 2015.

This seat will be up for election on Nov.

3, 2015. The person elected to the seat then will serve a new four-year term.

Applications are available at www.clevelandheights.com/council-app and at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle. Interested residents can also call the city manager's office at 216-291-3737 to request an application. The application deadline is Jan. 15.

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

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, graduate 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 focus on four themes: housing, retail, safety, and children and youth. Focus groups composed of Noble Neighbors members and other community stakeholders will provide MSASS students 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.nobleneighbors.com 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.

CEDAR TAYLOR continued from page 1

paintings feature characters from *The Canterbury Tales*," he said, referring to the stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer back in the 14th century. "I bought four of them at an auction, and we will be hanging them in the lobby, the hallways and other places around the building."

CPR started renovating the building last year. The company repainted all of the hallways and is in the process of installing new carpet. CPR has also enhanced the lobby, installing new windows and signage, and has been working on the apartments, which are one-bedroom and studio apartments, installing new kitchen appliances and windows, refinishing the hardwood floors, and adding ceiling fans and other fixtures.

CPR is also putting in a new intercom system, which will ring on a tenant's cell phone. In addition, CPR is creating a bike room in the basement, where tenants can park their bicycles, and is also installing new laundry facilities and a recreation room that will include a pool table and Ping-Pong table.

CPR will offer tenants free Internet and cable service. The one-bedroom apartments will rent for about \$675 per month, while Smith expects the studios to rent for around \$575 per month.

CPR has already added one new tenant to the retail stores at street level, Dabbs Home and Appliances, which sells used household appliances. The company has also agreed on terms with a new tenant who is planning to open a comic book and memorabilia store. CPR is hoping to attract either a coffee shop, bakery or another "interesting" food-related store to fill the space formerly occupied by OBaby Cakes at 2154 Taylor Road. Meanwhile, Mister Brisket and 1st Choice Driving School will remain in their current spaces.

In addition to the Canterbury House redevelopment, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa opened its expanded space at 2190 South Taylor Road with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 8. The expansion more than doubled the size of the spa, which moved from the second floor of the building next door, 2200 South Taylor. Quintana's owners, Alex and Dawn Quintana, next plan to renovate the space vacated by the spa, to expand its barber shop in 2015.

On top of all of that, the Cedar Taylor Development Association

(CTDA) plans streetscape improvements, including unique benches, signage and other items to mark the neighborhood as a destination. In 2013, the group created a streetscape plan, and this year it reached its initial fundraising goal to begin the plan's implementation.

Kevin Smith, CTDA president, estimates the total cost of realizing the plan will be about \$125,000. "We raised \$5,500 this year to get matching funds from Cleveland Heights CDBG funds, plus they gave us an additional \$5,500 with no strings," he said. "We have been awarded \$10,000 next year. So we have raised \$26,500. We are looking at implementing [the plan] in four phases and will start phase one next year."

Smith said that CDTA is pleased to see CPR's investment in the neighborhood. "The new owners have already demonstrated their commitment to enhancing the neighborhood, and it has been evident by the amount of work they are undertaking upgrading the building. This is a marquee building, on a prominent corner, and their continued upgrades will help to bring new businesses and customers into the Cedar Taylor neighborhood," he said.

CPR will hold an open house on Wednesday, Jan. 28, beginning at 7 p.m. Learn more at www.thecanterburyapts.com.

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

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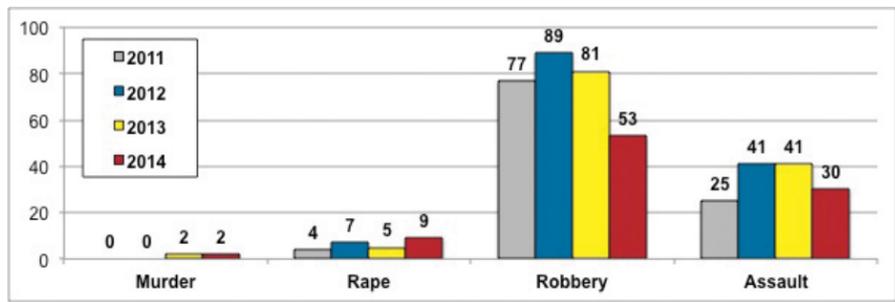
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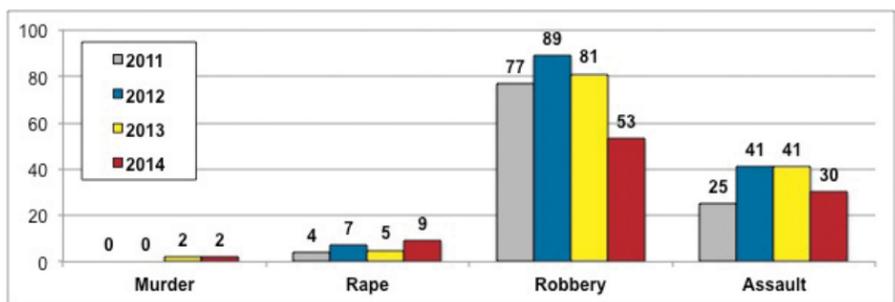
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Violent crime in Cleveland Heights: Jan.-Oct. (lower is better)



SOURCE: CLEVELAND HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



SOURCE: CLEVELAND HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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.

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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 continually 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.

PETE continued from page 1

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 as Harris' sobriety.

This year's annual Christmas party, held on Dec. 19, doubled as Pete's wake. The bar closed abruptly on Dec. 31. At press time, no information was available as to if or when it would reopen.

Pete's Tavern is known for its half-pound Black Angus burgers and its garlic wings. Occasionally, Combes serves casserole specials and other comfort food selections.

Pete's patrons were a diverse crowd who enjoyed a low key, "clean" bar. Harris didn't tolerate disruptive or illegal behaviors. He just enjoyed people.

"The bar is nice, easy—a neighbor-

hood bar," said Owen. "He would do anything for anybody."

"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 nobleneighbors@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 Cloughton of PRI Management Group, a nationally recognized expert in using the UCR system. Thirty-one representatives from police departments across the region attended.

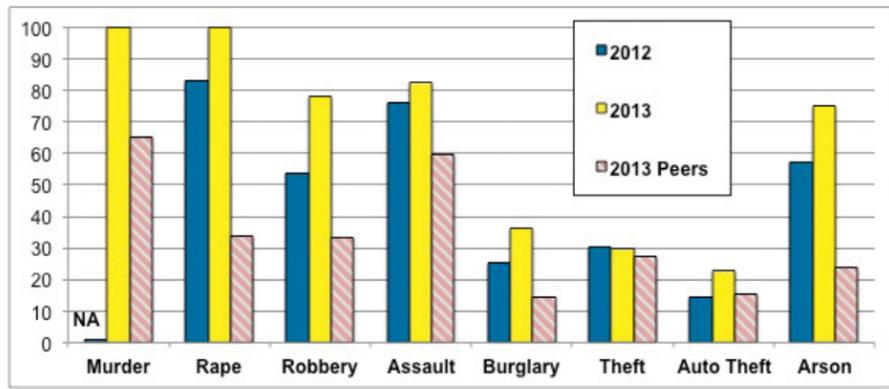
“Inaccurate crime statistics are most often the result of problematic reporting systems, user error and misunderstanding of crime reporting processes,” Cloughton writes on his website. “Our research has indicated that legitimate instances of intentional downgrading of crime by police are uncommon and 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, Cloughton 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.)

CRIME STATS continued from page 1

months of that year were input manually. The job was lengthy and expensive; Robertson said there is no plan to convert older data.

As a result, crime statistics from 2010 and earlier—collected under a different administration, technology and processes—cannot reasonably be compared with more recent information, Robertson said.

But, he emphasized that the department has been consistent in the way it manages data since the upgrade—providing apples-for-apples information.

Using that information, this project seeks to create enough context over time to empower residents to make their own educated judgments about the relative safety of Cleveland Heights and the effectiveness of policing in the city.

“I am proud of the fact that residents of Cleveland Heights can look at the numbers reported by us and be confident in the fact that their police department accurately reports the information and further uses this information in our crime prevention efforts,” Robertson said.

Cleveland Heights resident Bob Rosenbaum is co-chairman of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee, and is responsible for its advertising sales and market development.



“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.”

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BottleHouse Brewery to expand brewing capacity



The BottleHouse Brewery receives new equipment to upgrade its brewing capacity.

Patti Carlyle

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 kegs 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 Janine R. Boyd was absent.

Public comments

Dolly Parton Imagination Library: Resident John Davies, representing the Heights Family Foundation, an early childhood literacy program, said the foundation is bringing the Dolly 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 Cory, 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 Ebola 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 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 said council had discussed this and asked staff to draft a more easily understood ordinance. Council will address this early in 2015, with two readings to allow for public commentary.

Post office noise: Calvin Lampkin, who lives behind the U.S. Post Office at Severance, complained about post office noise and said he felt that his concerns have been disregarded. The mayor noted that the city manager and the planning director visited Lampkin several months ago to assess the noise situation.

Nuisance property

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 expenses and expenditures 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.

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Susie Kaeser

What makes a great teacher? Can we measure quality? How to do we populate 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.

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 incorporated 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.chhistory.org or www.facebook.com/clevelandheightshistorical.

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 216-445-8523.

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

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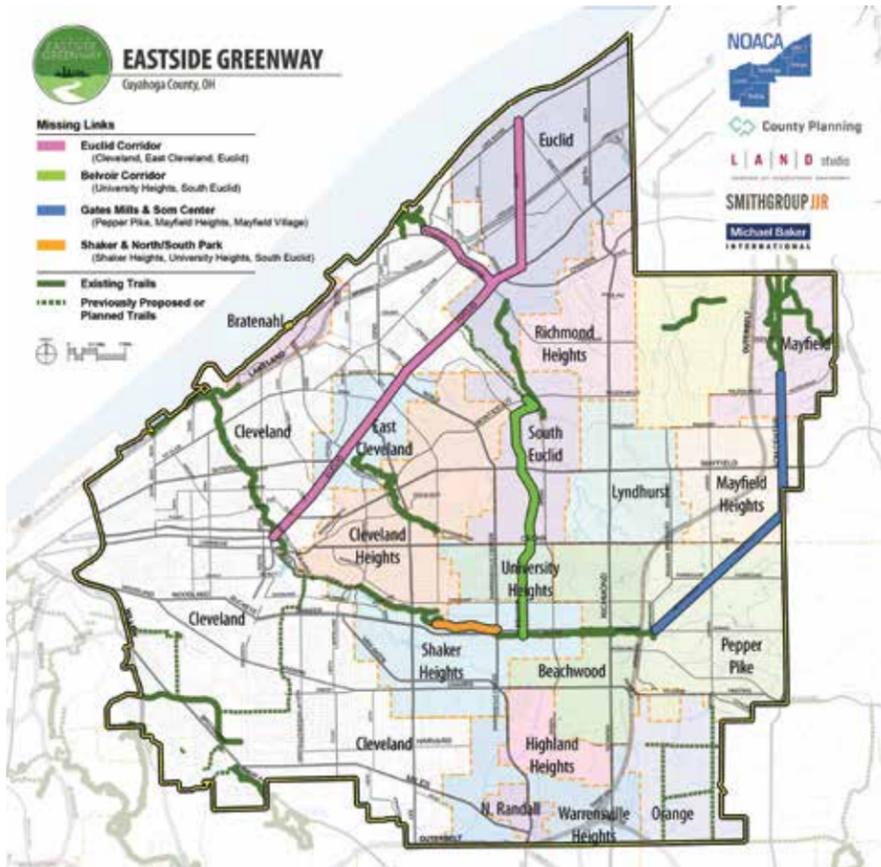
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Eastside Greenway study area and major missing links.

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 from 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

the community in early 2015. The same content will be presented at each of the following meetings:

- Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m.: Happy Dog at Euclid Tavern, 11625 Euclid Ave.
- Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m.: Beachwood Public Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd.
- Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m.: Waterloo Brew, 15335 Waterloo Road
- Feb. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: University Heights Public Library, 13866 Cedar Road

At the meetings, an overview of the project will be provided, as will 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.weebly.com.

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.

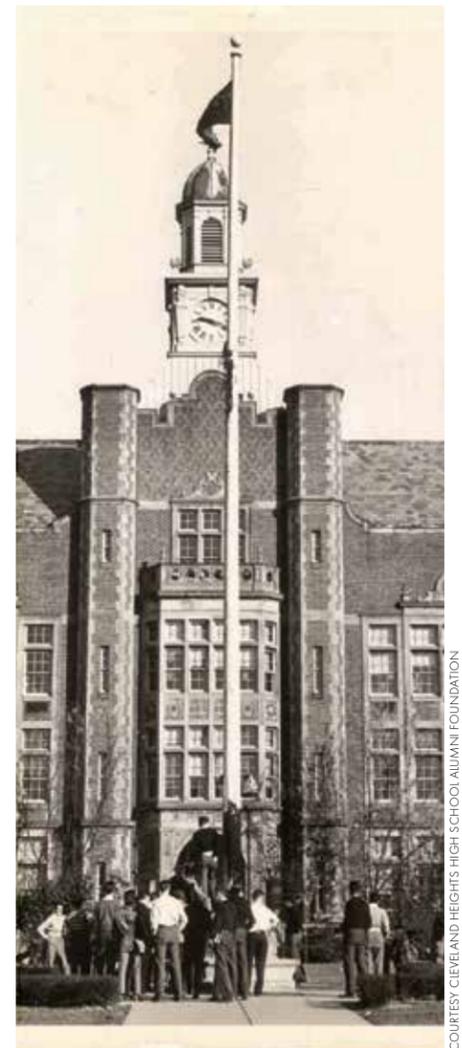
One group was concerned about the fate of historical and archival material. "I knew some booster groups and the Instrumental Music Department, for example, had important material that would be a shame to lose," said Ditte Wolin, former president of Band and Orchestra Parent Organization, and a Heights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

Wolin, Adams and other committee members have met with and received support for the project from Alexis Abramson, a member of the Facilities Accountability Committee of the CH-UH school board; Zoraba Q. Ross, CHHS administrative principal; and Steve Shergalis, CH-UH director of business services.

The committee's work furthers the goals of the \$159 million schools renovation project funded by Bond Issue 8I, 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 looking beyond the building's walls to also identify other objects that have historical significance. It is asking school personnel and community members to identify for preservation visual artifacts, such as photos; printed items, such as yearbooks; physical artifacts, such as architectural features; documents and recognitions from academic or extracurricular support groups; teaching materials; branded clothing; and other items that might offer historic perspective on Heights schools.

Items to be saved will be stored in secure quarters at the former Coventry Elementary School while the renovation is under way. As volunteer support becomes available, some material may be scanned and digitized.



The stately Heights High Cedar Road entrance, shown here in 1938, will again be visible from the street after renovations are complete.

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.

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.

Michael E. Bennett is the parent of two Heights students and a member of the CH-UH Archive and Preservation Committee.

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Aging dogs and cats need special care



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

Dogs and cats sometimes need extra help as they age. Like people, older pets can develop health issues such as arthritis, poor eyesight, hearing loss, diabetes and cancer. Some even develop a cognitive condition similar to Alzheimer's disease. With a little extra attention, we can help our furry friends live as comfortably and normally as possible.

"Pets age faster than we do," said Dr. Nanette Kleinman of Heights Animal Hospital (216-371-1400, owned by Judith Wolf). "People often don't realize how fast their pets are aging." Kleinman suggests getting annual checkups for aging pets, so that health issues can be discovered and treated early. Pets with diseases or illnesses should be checked more frequently.

Pets' survival instincts will often

cause them to hide their symptoms. Checkups are sometimes the only way to find out if something is wrong. However, if you notice any changes in your pet's appearance or behavior, such as weight loss, increased thirst or urination, lethargy, pacing, moodiness, or sensitivity to touch, take your pet to the vet right away.

Your pets' food may also need to be adjusted as they age. Caloric needs can change, and pets with medical conditions may need special food to help support them. Your vet can assess your pet's nutritional needs as part of the checkup. Make sure to keep your pet at a healthy weight. Excess weight can aggravate older joints and cause other health problems.

Also make sure that you or someone else grooms your pet regularly. This helps keep the skin and coat healthy and the nails trim. While grooming, you can check for parasites as well as changes to the skin, coat, teeth, eyes, nose and ears.

Alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, massage and Reiki, can provide pain relief as well as treatment for undesirable behaviors. Cleveland Veterinary Acupuncture (CVA, 216-374-0120) and Loving Hands Reiki (216-408-

5578), both based in Cleveland Heights, make house calls to provide alternative therapies for pets.

"Alternative medicine provides relief without side effects," said Dr. Julie Sheil of CVA. "It can often help when symptoms are not resolving through traditional western medicine."

You can also modify your home environment to help your pet age more comfortably and safely. Pets who are in pain or have stiff joints benefit from a comfortable bed. Keep beds and toys on the first floor if your pet is having difficulty using stairs. Baby gates help keep pets from falling down stairs, and can keep pets with weak bladders away from carpeted areas. If it is difficult for you to walk your dog, consider fencing your backyard and installing a doggy door. You can have a handyman build a ramp or steps to help your pet get on and off furniture that they are allowed to use. Also, your aging pet may need to be reminded when it is time to eat or go to the bathroom.

Because puppies and kittens often get adopted before older animals, there are many senior pets in need of loving homes. If you are interested in adopting a pet, and are physically and financially able to do so, please contact the Sanctuary for Senior Dogs at 216-485-9233, or Caroline's Kids (a sanctuary for senior cats) at 440-449-3496.

Your vet can help you make humane decisions when your pet nears the end of his or her lifespan. "At home, we often can't do the kind of



A CVA client receiving acupuncture for arthritis.



A CVA client receiving Reiki.

pain management the pet needs to live comfortably," said Kleinman. When it is time, your vet can help you make decisions about euthanasia so that your pet does not suffer. JoyCares (216-281-8701), a mobile pet care company, makes house calls to provide hospice and end-of-life services.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities through www.lovingbandsgroup.com. She is the owner of Loving Hands Reiki, and can be reached at 216-408-5578 or judith@lovingbandsgroup.com.

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.

Jan. 8: "Big Chuck" Schodowski, 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. Schodowski created hundreds of characters and entertained countless audiences in a television career that started in 1960.

Jan. 15: Raluca Besliu, 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. 22: Deborah Osgood is vice president of development and marketing for the Achievement Centers for Children (formerly the Society for Crippled 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 about this revered Heights landmark and destination for book lovers of all ages. Located at 12419 Cedar Road, the store was run for 25 years by Jane Kessler.

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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 on Dec. 31, ending seven years



James J. Posch II

COURTESY CHUH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 Test.Com, has lived in Cleveland Heights for 32 years. He and his wife, Joyce Braverman, 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 for a new, continuing 2.2 mill operating levy that was decisively approved by voters on Nov. 4.

“He helped the committees raise over \$15 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 vision and values of our library, and that understanding made him a powerful leader and advocate. He will be missed.”

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

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

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 special 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 the position left by former board member Jeffrey Eummer, who stepped down this year after two years.

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights



NOVEMBER 17, 2014
All board members were present.

Mrs. Grace Brody’s estate makes major gift

The board accepted a \$500,000 gift from the trust estate of Mrs. Grace Brody. Brody was a professor at Case Western Reserve University where, in 2007, she endowed a chair, the Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies. She was 98 at the time of her death in March 2013, and lived on Ormond Road. To recognize this gift, the Lee Road Library children’s room will be named in her honor.

Levy passage allows planning

Library Director Nancy Levin and Board President Jim Posch expressed gratitude that the library’s levy passed with 68 percent of the votes and thanked levy committee co-chairs Abby Botnick, board member, and Louisa Oliver, Friends president. The funds will be used to:

- Open all of the branches on Sundays, with March as the target date. This entails hiring both full-time and part-time librarians.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility so as not to have another levy for “many, many years.”
- Renovate and expand the University Heights Library to increase parking, add a rear entrance from the parking lot and add a first-floor restroom. If possible, there will be renovations to the children’s area and addition of another meeting room.
- Continue improvements to the Coventry Village Library, especially to the new children’s area, and add outdoor lighting.

Five Star Library

Director Levin explained that circulation, number of visitors, program attendance and Internet use were some of the factors leading to the library being selected as a *Library Journal* 5-Star Library. Operating expenditures determine a specific library’s peer group.

University Heights Library parking lot

The board authorized purchase of the property at 2175 Fenwick Road, adjacent to the parking lot of the University Heights branch. Two of the main concerns of citizens surveyed about that branch were insufficient parking and lack of an entrance from the parking lot directly into the library. The purchase price is \$141,000.

DigiLit Grant presentation

Librarians Sam Lapidés and Pam Spangler presented an update on the DigiLit Grant, a \$486,000 award from the Ohio State Board of Education to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, in which the library is a community partner, along with John Carroll University, the University of Akron and others. The purpose is the development, implementation and testing of programs in digital literacy to develop

language arts programs for pre-K through fifth grades. The students have iPads for reading eBooks, and the library will be involved in a parent component so that parents can use the technology along with their children. Gearing Elementary School is the first site, with Boulevard Elementary School as the control. Within five years, the entire district will be involved.

Scorecard measures of success

Highlights of the Balanced Scorecard Measures of Success focused on outreach visits by Peggy Hull, youth services librarian, to Heights High; promotion of library programs by merchant members of the Coventry Special Improvement District (SID); and the Matchmakers (material recommendations) issuing eight-word book review tweets.

October public service report highlights:

- Local history programs presented by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission were Rockefeller’s Forest Hill Neighborhood; Heights, Monticello and Roxboro: Past, Present and Future; and Integration of Cleveland Heights.
- University Heights 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, in partnership with the Harold T. Clark Library of the Natural History Museum, concluded with two programs: Phoenix from the Ashes: the Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs, which included a museum tour; and a book discussion of Margaret Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake*.
- The No Brushes Allowed program prompted children to use their hands, found objects, string and more to make art projects. Their art was then displayed in the Lee Road Library’s gallery.
- The Art Study Group toured the Cleveland Museum of Art for a lecture titled Celebrate the Book in Art. Calligraphy Made Easy was a hands-on class, and Words as Ritual was a lecture.
- The Coventry Village Library and the Coventry Village SID partnered to present Spooky Stories for 15 children under the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Arch.
- Youth services division staff resumed after-care outreach to both Noble and Oxford elementary schools. In addition, they reached out to each grade at Noble Elementary School during the day when the position of the Noble school librarian was eliminated.
- Star Wars Reads Day on Oct. 11 brought 20 participants to activities including face painting, coloring pages, book giveaways, and a Star Wars character hunt.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 6.

Laura’s Piano Service

Laura Marks is on an extended retreat.

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Tip of the month

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

Heights High Auto Tech Program is nationally certified

Joy Henderson

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."



First-year auto tech students and teacher Jeff Porter, holding the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence certification plaque.

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 experience and skills needed in the auto industry.

Students with college-level certifications typically earn \$50,000-\$70,000 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 Allamby, 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.

Heights minority students share strategies for academic success

Joy Henderson

More than 100 Heights High students attended the after-school Honors and AP Ice Cream Social on Nov. 10, sponsored by the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN). "Our goal is to encourage minority participation in honors and AP courses," said David Peake, MSAN co-advisor. "This event was a good step towards that goal."

The event began with ice cream and toppings, followed by a three-student panel discussion covering important areas of a student's school life: personal, family, societal, classroom and communication with teachers, and concluded with a problem-solving discussion.

The student panelists were MSAN seniors Cimone Krumpman and Eboni Gray, and junior Taylor Jones. The discussion was facilitated by Peake.

Among the challenges that the students discussed was feeling isolated and marginalized in 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.

Krumpman 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.

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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



Davina Nunn, Derrick Bryant and Ishaun Flowers (from left) build a shrimp trap—an exact replica of the type used by Malaysian fishermen.

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.

"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.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

NOVEMBER 19, 2014
All board members were present.

Modular classrooms, other Wiley site work

The board authorized a maximum price amendment with the Gilbane Building Company in connection with setting up modular classrooms for use of Wiley Middle School as a swing site during the high school renovation project. Construction at Wiley has not started yet due to negotiations with University Heights City Council. Final costs will be ascertained. External work, such as roadwork and concrete for exterior spaces, will begin when negotiations are complete. Interior work will begin around Dec. 16. Furniture for these modular classrooms is coming from Heights High.

Performance results

Andrea Celico, assistant superintendent, and Alison Byrd, director of research, data, and assessment, presented the Ohio Improvement Process and district report card results Accomplishments for the 2013-14 school year included the establishment of teacher, building, and district base teams, along with subcommittees to study curriculum maps; common assessment; the math pilot program for teachers; master schedules; Tiger Youth summit; John Carroll University partnership; a positive climate; and systems for organizing data and creating strategies.

District goals include:

- Achieving a "B" on the performance index for math and reading by 2019.
 - Reducing the number of student discipline referrals this school year by 6.2 percent for African-American students, whose referral numbers are disproportionate to the student population. According to research, 6.2 percent is the appropriate target for reducing the achievement gap.
 - Increasing graduation rates.
- Success will require analyzing data, setting timelines for progress in reading and math areas, studying new tools, studying the school climate, enhancing communication, and implementing new interventions. Further discussion on how to achieve the goals will be presented at a later meeting.

Facilities update

- Design development work continues on:
- Study of traffic patterns
 - Number of parking places needed
 - Stormwater management, landscaping, and pavement projects
 - Floor plan development
 - Adjustments to coordinate structural and mechanical systems
 - Modifications to meet building codes
 - HVAC system selection
 - Development of specifications for the utility dashboard
 - Refinement of building exterior design features such as window and door openings and daylight strategies, roof architecture, and exterior materials
 - Use of sustainable products

Community, teacher concerns on facilities

- Eight community members, among them five teachers, expressed the following concerns:
- Parking across the street [from the high school] for faculty and staff would be inconvenient and hazardous because people must cross Cedar Road. The staff wants to park on-site.
 - Some classroom space, especially for computer tech education, is insufficient.
 - For teachers sharing classrooms, the current design provides no office space to allow teachers to meet with students.
 - Solar panels could be considered for the roof, and the geothermal HVAC should be considered for green energy.
 - Future online education, where a high percent-



age of students would be taught online, should be taken into consideration.

- The baseball fields should be kept rather than being paved over for parking.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

DECEMBER 2, 2014
All board members were present.

Library board interviews

The board interviewed candidates for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board of Trustees and selected two to fill a five-year and a seven-year vacancy on the library board.

During separate 15-minute interviews, each board member asked one question of each candidate, and all candidates were asked the same questions. Questions concerned qualities of a library trustee, experience with budgets and hiring, library support for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District students during the upcoming facilities renovations, library challenges, and possible consolidation with the county library system.

Library board candidates

Candidates, who all reside in Cleveland Heights or University Heights, were: Amanda Shaffer, director of a multi-state higher education recruitment consortium at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU); Susan Beatty, a retired teacher, principal and curriculum director in the Mayfield School District; Kenneth Simmons, an airport security coordinator; Frank Targoss, a retired educator; Natalie Reiss, a clinical psychologist at CWRU; Austin O'Driscoll, a freelance editor; and Christopher Mentrek, a naturalist with the Geauga Park District.

Board member selection

Susan Beatty was selected to fill the seven-year vacancy. As a curriculum director she has experience with hiring, managing a budget, partnering with the Mayfield library, and technology in learning. She said she feels that innovation should be balanced with tradition so that the library retains the unique character that the community values, and that the library should remain independent so it can continue to focus on community concerns.

Christopher Mentrek was selected for the five-year trusteeship. He would like the library to increase outreach into neighborhoods and make technology use available to a broader population. He also favors an independent library reflective of the community.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 6.

Barbara Claas turns bottles into blooms



CREATIVE NEIGHBORS

Peggy Spaeth

How do *you* keep those pesky squirrels out of the bird feeder? One winter several years ago, Barbara Claas simply installed an empty plastic beverage bottle with the bottom cut off onto the feeder pole. Squirrels attempting to climb the pole came to a dead end (literally, not figuratively) inside the bottle. As she held the bottle bottom, she mused about what to do with it. Yes, it could be picked up by Cleveland Heights's stellar curbside recycling program. But some Heights artists, such as Debbie Apple Presser and Catherine Butler, have made amazing things from discarded beverage bottles and cans, and Claas began to play with the materials. "They must be good for something other

than crumbling and putting into the garbage," she said. Today, she creates intricate and beautifully crafted flowers, earrings and necklaces. Only a very close examination reveals the materials' original use.

Living near pedestrian-friendly Lee Road, Claas sources bottles and cans while walking down the street. Her husband, biologist Jeffrey Dean, collects them for her while bicycling to and from his job at Cleveland State University (CSU). Only rarely does Claas purchase a beverage, seduced 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 inspiring, 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 biologist 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 art-making since childhood but, like many practical parents, her mother advised her "You will starve" if she chose it as a livelihood. While finishing her graduate degree in biology at Bielefeld University in her native Germany, Claas met her American husband. They have lived in Cleveland 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.



Barbara Claas



Bloom by Barbara Claas.

Peggy Spaeth writes about Heights residents and their impact locally, regionally and worldwide.

Illuminating Heights Arts exhibition opens Jan. 16

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 functional translation: lamps.

"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, reflection, radiance and glow. I am grateful to these nine inspiring artists for helping Heights Arts brighten your winter!"

Artists featured in the exhibition are Claudia Berlinski, photography; Kevin Busta, furniture; Jeffrey Chiplis,



A lamp by Kevin Busta.

neon; Dana Depew, sculpture; Scott Goss, glass; Nancy Luken, lamps; Ben Parsons, stained glass; Geoff Riggle, jewelry and sculpture; and Andrew Simmons, ceramics.

Light Show opens Friday, Jan. 16 with a public reception 6–9 p.m. A curator's talk and reading by regional poets—featuring original poems created in response to works in the exhibition—will be held in the gallery on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization. Heights Arts board members contributed to this article.

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New book by the Taxels explores the many views of Lake View Cemetery

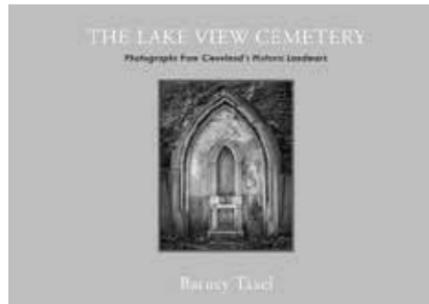
Sheehan Hannan

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 delicately to 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 reflects the many 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 lives that unfolded on front lines and in back rooms, on stage and behind the scenes, for only a day or until the age of a hundred, in the halls of power and around kitchen tables, against the



The Taxels' book cover (top left), and photos of Lake View Cemetery from the book.

odds or with every advantage."

How appropriate that book's introductory photograph is of the grave of Raymond Johnson Chapman, the Indians ballplayer killed by a wayward pitch in 1920—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 celebration. 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 Hannan 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 his at Case Western Reserve University. He has no financial stake in The Lake View Cemetery book.

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A weekend with Inlet Dance

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 \$5 for children 18 and under and can be purchased on the church's website.

Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 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.

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SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

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 other culinary institutions.

My favorite of those jobs was at Rocco’s Market in Coventry Village in the middle and late 1970s. Rocco’s was a gourmet deli and produce shop

in the structure that had housed the garage for the former apartment building that became Coventry Yard (the space now inhabited by the Grog Shop and the Inn on Coventry).

I worked there during the day and then I’d go home and write music and practice guitar, and at night I’d play somewhere with my band—under the stage name Baxter Shadowfield—or rehearse or record with them.

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 La 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—as 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.”

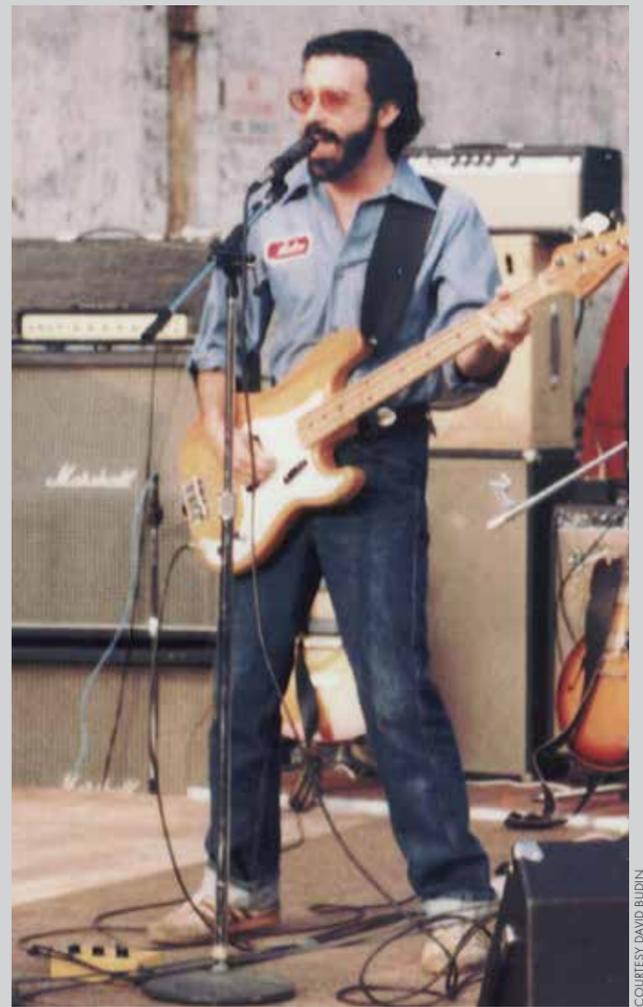
It was only a few years ago that my son was swimming on the Heights High swim team, with some thoughts swimming in his head of one day becoming the team’s head coach. But what were the chances of that dream becoming reality? I guess the chances were actually pretty good, because this year he is the team’s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



Baxter Shadowfield performing at the 1979 Coventry Street Fair.

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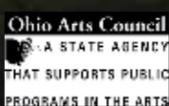
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Quintana's celebrates expansion



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 Barbershoppers performed as friends and family enjoyed tours of the new space and free paraffin 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 at Cleveland State University, SBDC provides no-cost, confidential, in-depth, one-on-one counseling for small businesses. Services, such as training, counseling, quality-based assessments, technical assistance, loan packaging guidance and preparation are also available.

Before the office opened at 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. After operating for a year at city hall, Heights Libraries invited SBDC to relocate to the library's Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC), a workspace 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 enterprises serve as the backbone of our national and local economy. The city is proud to have partnered with the library and CSU in the funding of HKIC. Now with SBDC and HKIC, small businesses and entrepreneurs in our community and throughout the region have greater access to vital resources they need to grow."

"It made sense to provide our customers with access to free services offered by SBDC," said Nancy Levin, library director. "The new space in the

library was perfect for use by SBDC clients and the public in general."

In the past year, SBDC counseled 265 clients. Some were looking to start a new business; others sought growth strategies for existing businesses. Still others were seeking information concerning topics such as social media marketing. After counseling sessions, clients receive a tour of HKIC to see how they can leverage the free resources that are available at SBDC.

HKIC offers access to public computers, technology training and computer instruction, "smart room" meeting rooms and even iPad rentals—all free with a library card. 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's transition to Cleveland, and helped Clairfait identify 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

Jayne Sestak

Jake Orosz was growing up in the Forest Hill neighborhood when he took a part-time job bussing tables at The Mad Greek. He moved through various positions there, then on to restaurants Moxie and Red, and back to The Mad Greek before he started tending bar at The Fairmount. Two years later, at age 23, he was able to buy the place.

It's been three years, and Orosz has made incremental improvements to the space, adding bright new signage, a full kitchen, renovations and upgrades to the interior, revising and expanding the drink and food menus, and building a reputation for himself and The Fairmount as a Heights destination.

The bar features an indoor herb garden. "It's great to cook with fresh herbs all year round," said Orosz. The built-in liquor closet contains a dizzying assortment of liquors, wines and aperitifs. "We've added more taps to accommodate the thirst for craft beer on draft," Orosz noted.

Orosz describes the bar's ambience as "upscale casual," and it features a cozy fireplace and lounge seating. "We have a great staff," Orosz added. "You'll feel welcome here."

Rotating through the space is new work from local artists and photographers. Paintings by Betty Skufca were displayed throughout December, followed by work from Charles Herndon in January. After



Jake Orosz at his bar, The Fairmount.

that, a retrospective of vintage photography from Jim Sestak will adorn the walls.

On Monday evenings, patrons are served a round of trivia with their food and drink. Orosz said of his food menu, "It's a pretty extensive menu of small plates. We switch things out seasonally and introduce new items as weekly specials."

The drink menu is six pages of brews, cocktails organized by types of liquor, martinis, wine, single malts, liquor by the ounce, and creative house

infusions such as hot pepper tequila and coffee vodka. The Fairmount also offers its own in-house barrel-aged cocktails. "I appreciate the classics but I do a lot of 'field research,' updating and perfecting what I find, making it our own," said Orosz.

In the spring, customers flock to the large amphitheater-style patio and full outdoor bar, made surprisingly private with lush plantings, where Orosz grows additional herbs for food and drinks. Orosz hopes to expand the outdoor space and extend

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the patio season with the additions of an outdoor fireplace and water wall.

Jayne Sestak is a 21-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.

Next moves to a new location on Coventry

James Henke

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 1812 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 into 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 at the shop's former Coventry location.

Next has five stores in Greater Cleveland, and its original Coventry 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."

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

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Pacific East expands its Coventry restaurant

James Henke

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



Freeman Ngo, the owner of Pacific East.

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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.

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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 29 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



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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 and Soul, the Coventry clothing and shoe store, back in March 2014, and Manzano recommended Falk. "G-Eazy had come to our store once when he was in Cleveland on tour, and he has stayed in touch ever since," Manzano said. "So they called me, asking about a possible barber, and I knew that G-Eazy's hair style was more of a 1950s look, sort of clean and easy, and I knew that Chuck



Chuck Falk at Eddy's Barbershop.

had an affinity for that kind of style. And he's very good."

"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 10 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. "We had an eight-foot-by-eight-foot wooden floor, a barber chair and a neon G-Eazy sign that we would put up backstage," recalled Falk. "It made

it look like there was actually a little 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 Noodlecat. Several members of the Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the chefs from Trentina and Flour Restaurant, also get their hair cut at Eddy's.

"There was really a need for what we do," said Falk, who is getting married in June and recently bought a house in Cleveland Heights. "Cleveland guys want and need a place where they can come and get their hair cut, and where the focus is on men's styles. And that's what we offer."

Falk said that the shop is talking to the company that produces Town Branch whiskey, and that Eddy's might start having whiskey tastings. "It would be after-hours," Falk said, "and it would only be for our customers."

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


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