University Heights celebrates park opening

Patrick O'Grogan

The City of University Heights celebrated the grand opening of University Heights Community Park—the city's newest and largest park—at a community celebration on Sunday, July 24. The street festival began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the park, at Fenwick and Northwood roads, with Mayor Susan Infeld, city council members, other city officials, and representatives from Braun & Steidl Architects (the park's designer) cutting the ribbon.

Infeld thanked “the leadership of Fuchs Mizrachi School, specifically Mr. Morry Weiss, for sharing our vision to make a park and greenspace on the property.” The park is on the former site of the Fuchs Mizrachi School.

The festival on Fenwick Road featured music from the University Heights Symphonic Band, conducted by Matthew Salvaggio, and The Northcoast Jazz Collective. Jingle Bob, Michael Roy's Cirque du Papier, Dr. UAwesome, an inflatable bounce house and balloon twister from A World of Magic, and arts and crafts were among the festival’s family-friendly activities.

University Heights businesses Ben & Jerry's and Ellisie’s, along with The River Dog Café food truck, continued on page 8

New owners to open Boss Dog Brewing in former Lemon Grass building on Lee

James Henke

Two brothers, Josh and Jason Sweet, plan to open a new brewery and restaurant in the vacant building on Lee Road that was long occupied by Lemon Grass Thai Cuisine. Lemon Grass closed in March 2015, and the large space has stood empty ever since.

The brothers purchased the building in June, and hope to open Boss Dog Brewing by the end of 2016.

Their plan is to sell their own beer at the restaurant, and also distribute it to other restaurants on the East Side.

Jason came up with the brewery’s name, and Josh explained, “We are both animal lovers, and we both are dog lovers, so that’s why we decided to name it Boss Dog.”

Boss Dog will offer a full menu of food items as well, including appetizers, shared plates and entrees. “It will be an American gastropub,” Josh said.

Josh and Jason Sweet inside the space that will become their new brewery and restaurant, “and we will sell items like burgers and pizza.”

The Sweet brothers were born in Cleveland Heights, and both of their parents graduated from Cleveland Heights High School. When Josh was 4 and Jason was 2, their parents divorced, and the brothers moved to New York with their mother, where they grew up.

Because their father had remained
continued on page 2

BottleHouse introduces new menu and program to benefit nonprofits

James Henke

Four years after it opened, BottleHouse Brewery is expanding its food menu, which formerly comprised mainly sandwiches and charcuterie boards.

The brewery, located at 2050 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, is also instituting a new program to benefit nonprofit organizations.

“Cleveland Heights has given so much to us,” said owner Brian Benchek. “We wanted to give back to the community.”

Brian Benchek, owner of the BottleHouse Brewery.

Starting in July, for every pint of Community Pilsner it sells, BottleHouse will donate 50 cents to a nonprofit organization. The first donation recipient is Dobama Theatre, which will benefit from every pint sold from July through October. Every four months a new nonprofit organization will be selected to receive the money.

“I want to use this space in a way that gives back to the community,” Benchek said.

Benchek, 39, has owned the brewery since it opened in May 2012. Originally, he was a co-owner with Dave Schubert, but two years ago he continued on page 1.
A Heights Observer blog
Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

17-year cicadas elusive in the Heights area

Though present in swarms only a few miles away, 17-year cicadas have proven elusive in the Heights area.

“We haven’t seen them in any quantity,” says Sarah Cech, Natural Resources Manager for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

The cicadas that call the Heights home have mostly revealed themselves by trace evidence: a wing here, a shed exoskeleton there. “I haven’t seen any whole cicadas,” Cech confesses. “We’ve seen antennae, wings, and a few parts here [at the Shakers Lakes Nature Center].”

My own, life-long quest for 17-year cicadas in my neighborhood has yielded similarly scanty results. In my childhood searches of my neighborhood during the last cicada emergence in 1999, I came up empty-handed. For 2016, I was determined to do a little better.

During the cicadas’ brief appearance in Northeast Ohio in May and June, “It should be because this area was farmed extensively during the 1800’s,” Cech says, “or the amount of pavement.” Pavement, after all, prevents newborns from tunneling down to tree roots and keeps full-grown adults from making it back to the surface.

Personally, I can’t wait to see if the cicadas in Horseshoe Lake Park can stick it out for another 17 years.

Chris Montieth is a naturalist who grew up in University Heights and now lives in Cleveland Heights.

Regency and its subcontractors will handle construction, managing field operations at the site while focusing on quality, safety, and keeping the project one schedule and on budget.

For updates on the University Heights Library renovation, including images of the final design, visit www.heightshistory.org

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

Teachers need leaders in tough times

To the Editor:

In the June Heights Observer, Ari Klein (“We must retain and attract school district employees”) and Susie Kawn (“Intrinsic motivation, not accountability, produces excellence”) spoke to difficulties facing teachers. While I am inclined to their perspective, the helpful tone was discouraging to me.

Both articles concerned themselves with a portrayal of what is happening to teachers as though they were unwilling or unable to do anything to influence their own future. The authors wrote from the perspective “this is what is happening to us,” as though constraints and requirements fully explained teachers’ effectiveness in the classroom, and determined their satisfaction with work.

By omission, the authors implied that teachers either cannot or will not work to influence outcomes in the classroom, and that they have little responsibility for results.

I don’t think that is true. I know elementary, middle and high school teachers. They impress me as exceptionally bright, committed and hard working. I hear them talk about creativity, developing strategies to overcome obstacles, and their personal investment—emotional and financial—in achieving the best for their students. Yet the authors mention none of this, opting to evoke sympathy for poor souls.

Leaders who lead by complain in the name of the people they serve to get them a great injustice. Education is not the only industry that carries the weight of external forces that impose constraints and requirements, some of which are insane. Yet one can find organizations in such industries that flourish above the norm, with people storming the gates to get in to them. Your job is to lead teachers to greatness, not to bemoan the present and rail against the machine.

You may be doing that, but your articles were absent any news on that front.

Bill Braun
Cleveland Heights

Letters Policy
The Heights Observer welcomes letters to the editor. They must be typed and doublespaced, along with the writer’s name, phone number and e-mail address, to: info@futureheights.org. Letters of 150 words or less will be considered. No considerations will be made on the months of the year or the number of letters published. By omission, the authors implied that teachers either cannot or will not work to influence outcomes in the classroom, and that they have little responsibility for results.

Letters to the editor must be submitted by September 1st. All letters will be considered but will not work to influence outcomes in the classroom, and that they have little responsibility for results.

Letters to the editor must be submitted by September 1st. All letters will be considered but will not work to influence outcomes in the classroom, and that they have little responsibility for results.
CH-UH district seeks support for November levy

Krisy Dietrich Gallagher

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District will place a 5.5-mill operating levy on the November 8, 2016 ballot. This request, the smallest in more than 20 years, is necessary for the district to continue meeting its mission, which, according to the district’s website, is to provide a challenging and engaging education to prepare all our students to become responsible citizens and succeed in life.

CH-UH voters last approved an operating levy five years ago, in November 2011. The levy was expected to last three years but, through careful spending and strategic cuts, the school board and administration have stretched those dollars over five years.

Because state law freezes the dollar amount going to school districts at the time of last approval, district budgets are unable to keep up with regular cost-of-living increases. In fact, the district is currently operating with a smaller budget than it had in 2011, due to state cuts and the loss of money to charter schools and voucher programs. This fact makes passage of the upcoming levy vital for the success of the schools.

Kal Zucker, board of education president, said that while he is “proud of our fiscal discipline, which allowed us to stretch the funds from the last operating levy five full years, this makes our need to pass the current levy even more crucial.” The Lay Finance Committee (LFC), which recommended the low millage to the board of education out of “consideration for the desires of the community not to raise taxes more than necessary,” agrees. “This levy is necessary to maintain at least our current programs,” said Jayne Geneva, LFC chair.

Volunteers of Citizens for Our Heights Schools, chaired by Lisa Hunt, Ryan Routh and Dallas Schubert, will run the levy campaign. This committed team of district parents will be joined by University Heights resident Abby Botnick, serving as treasurer, and many others, including me.

Because this levy coincides with the presidential election, a much broader swath of voters will need to be reached than in past years, resulting in an expensive and expansive campaign. Campaign chairs recognize that this will be a difficult task and welcome an “all hands on deck” approach from school supporters. According to Schubert, “The need for the dollars this levy will generate is real, and it is urgent. We need as many school families and school supporters to step up and actively participate in this effort as possible. There is so much at stake.”

Zucker agrees. “We have great respect and gratitude for the support our community has shown our children in the past, and we hope they see that the need, along with the potential, has never been greater.”

Krisy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District, and is proud to raise her two sons here.
CH Teachers Union provides summer professional development for members

Ari Klein

When I was in college, the big joke among those pursuing teaching as a career was “what are the three best things about being a teacher?” The punchline was “June, July and August.”

Most teachers I know look forward to summer, but few are sitting on the beach eating bonbons for nine weeks. Many teachers spend a week or two cleaning up their classrooms, and do the same with their houses; then, it is almost time to set up classrooms for the start of school. Teachers are also required to take graduate-level courses to be eligible to renew their license every five years. Almost all teachers who stay in the profession earn a master’s degree.

Members of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union (CHITU) have the opportunity to learn from their colleagues after they have earned a master’s, in the Educational Research and Dissemination (ER&D) program. The American Federation of Teachers, CHITU’s national affiliate, developed ER&D more than 35 years ago. Since 2003, CHITU has been sending teachers to the eight-day national training program so that they can prepare to teach the material to colleagues locally. They spend the eight days learning the research in a particular area and also devote time to adult learning theory. Our trainees take the material home to practice in their classrooms and reflect. At mid-year, they return for a two-day wrap-up. This is what is required before our teachers can offer a 30-hour course to our members.

We believe that courses taught through the union should contain the most thoroughly researched material that is replicable. Unfortunately, much of what is considered “education research” is someone’s opinion canned into a phrase and acronyms. The material used in ER&D courses is rigorously vetted.

We also believe that any professional training that a teacher attends must be taught in an exemplary manner. We want teachers to be able to use the research as well as the pedagogy. Unfortunately, for most teachers, professional training lectures are the norm. What I notice when visiting our ER&D classes are that the walls are almost always packed with posters created by participants. Often, teachers are discussing an issue, reflecting on their own practice, or are up on their feet in small groups working together.

Summer class participants are engaged for six hours a day for five straight days. This summer, we offered five courses: Instructional Strategies that Work; School, Family and Community; Thinking Math; Managing Anti-Social Behavior; and—new this year—English Language Learners. In the spring we offered Reading Comprehension every other week for three hours after school. Full descriptions of these courses are on our website, www.chitu.org.

More than 100 enrolled in ER&D classes this year. Through contract language, the CH-UH City School District is a partner in this venture, though the CHTU runs the courses and provides the bulk of the funding. Having expert instructors work in the same district makes a difference. Some of this year’s participants’ comments indicate how much they appreciate ER&D: “The reflections helped me focus in and refine my teaching strategies on what works and what I need to do to improve.” “I will hopefully learn how to better show process/relationship- ships when teaching new material.” “I’m leaving very prepared for next school year.” “Thank you for a great informative week.” “More confident about my ability to maintain a positive, productive atmosphere where all students can succeed.”

We believe we are the best equipped to help colleagues improve their teaching, learn new strategies, and reflect on best practices they may be using or want to modify. As the first CHITU site to offer this program and one of the first instructors, I am proud of our local for its continued investment in training. We now have six pairs of trained instructors capable of teaching nine different courses. This is not typical for a local or size, but we believe empowering our own teachers to take on the role of instructional leader is a perfect job for our union and is the best way to provide long-term benefits to the students we serve.

Ari Klein is a lifelong community member, math teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, and president of the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union.

OPINION

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Heights Observer August 1, 2016

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Plumbing business in Cleveland.
Alphabet soup—uhm, uhm, not good

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

We’re writing this column over the Fourth of July weekend. It seems a good time to reflect on the importance of the rule of law to our democratic system. Legislatures, which we elect, make law; court systems adjudicate that law. Is it a highly imperfect system in which tragic mistakes are made daily, but we have not yet found a better method by which to govern ourselves. Our legal system operates from the municipal level up to the state and then the federal level. The US Supreme Court has the final word.

Does it?

To shed light on this question, we reviewed some testimony presented to Cleveland Heights City Council at the third annual Democracy Day public hearing held last Jan. 21. Stewart Robinson and Dean Sieck addressed the threat that international trade mechanisms TISA and ISDS pose to municipalities like University Heights and Cleveland Heights. Why might local citizens address their city council on the issue of foreign trade? If it seems bizarre, in fact, it is. And what on earth is this alphabet soup of acronyms?

TISA is the Trade in Services Agreement, and ISDS stands for Investor-State Dispute Settlement. Like their predecessors NAFTA and CAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), and ISDS stands for Investor-State Dispute Settlement. But TISA is the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Like their predecessors NAFTA and CAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), and ISDS are reportedly ISDS provisions of NAFTA, Canada, and the rest of the alphabet soup are not so much about “free trade” as they are about allowing multinational corporations to override the laws of sovereign governments.

Dean Sieck stated, “This is how ISDS works: An investor holds that the actions of a government have caused it to lose ‘expected future profits.’ The aggrieved investor takes it ‘case’ to a tribunal of three corporat lawyer for their determination. . . . The accused may be any level of government, municipal, county or state, but the defendant is always the national government of the accused.”

ISDS was originally devised to stop foreign governments from seizing assets, but is now mainly used by corporations to challenge regulations in foreign countries where they have investments. ISDS provisions are embedded in NAFTA and CAFTA, and have been strengthened by TPP, TTIP and TISA.

Sieck continued, “The ‘judges’ have no connection to the legal processes of either the investor’s or the defendant’s home country . . . . The complaining investor suing a government for the kinds of actions governments take, for example, labor, environmental, or health or safety laws. Once the judgment is rendered, it cannot be appealed. In other words, the right created in one country can be overturned in the interest of an investor’s or corporation’s responsibility to guarantee our safety and well-being. What kind of rule of law is this? Actually, the kind we have right now.

In January 2016, TransCanada sued the United States for $1 billion, calling the Obama administration’s cancellation of the Keystone pipeline “arbitrary and unjustified.” Cleveland Heights City Council recently declined to re-zone property at Vendemar Street and Mayfield Road to permit a 16-pump Circle K gas station and convenience store owned by Circle K International, which is a threat to regulations that people really care about, such as such what kind of development is allowed in their neighborhoods or the standards for hospital care. Instead of adopting TISA, governments must strengthen regulations based on public interest and the democratic process.

TPP negotiations have concluded, but we have not yet found a better method by which to govern ourselves. Our legal system operates from the municipal level up to the state and then the federal level. The US Supreme Court has the final word.

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Fair education policy needs committed allies

Susie Kaeser

The free-market policy gurus who sold charters, vouchers and testing to the Ohio legislature have created a profitable, entrenched and destructive monster. It is going to take all of us to stop this callous ransacking of the public purse that now undercuts education business at the expense of the common good.

This is a moral fight—a social justice fight—that will need to be won in the political arena. It will take courage and organized, sustained opposition.

Successful political fights need to rally allies to their cause, and a good source of support in any political campaign is the people who are hurt by the policy.

In this case, the injured parties are not just the students but the communities that are most affected by a policy that puts the financial burden for charters and vouchers on local school districts, without giving the districts any authority regarding how these precious resources are used. The transfer of funds to nonpublic schools saps precious education dollars out of local districts. It diminishes public education and shifts even more of the burden for paying for public education to the local taxpayer.

While this issue affects all 612 school districts in Ohio, I was interested in finding allies that are close by. So I decided to analyze how this policy affects the 31 school districts in Cuyahoga County.

The Foundation Settlement Report and the Cupp Report on the Ohio Department of Education website gave me the data I needed to follow the money. I was able to use these reports to convert the loss of funds to charters and vouchers into a loss per pupil for each district.

I am especially concerned about the effect on poor children. To explore this issue, I identified the poverty rate for each school district in the county and then calculated for each district the dollars lost to vouchers and charters on a per-student basis.

I ranked the districts by their poverty rate and looked for patterns in the funds lost. The numbers were dramatic.

The data deserves a close reading, but three important findings stood out:

• Every school district is losing funds.
• While districts vary widely in the students they serve and the loss of state funds, tax dollars are precious everywhere and any loss is significant.
• The system is particularly damaging to school districts with high percentages of poor children. High-poverty school districts lose the most money. Public school children with the greatest needs are subsidizing private education, and it is costing them a lot.

When I compared the funds lost by districts in the quarter with the highest poverty rates to the quarter with the lowest, I found plenty of data that suggests we are cheating poor children.

Five of the eight school districts in the quartile with the lowest poverty rates—less than $120 per child—lost less than $120 per child, with the highest loss being $956 in Beachwood. By contrast, the per-student loss in the eight school districts with the highest poverty rates—65 to 100 percent—ranged from $459 per child in Bedford to $5,857 per child in Cleveland! Six of the eight districts in Cuyahoga County that lost more than $1,000 per child were in the highest-poverty quartile.

The other six high-poverty districts included Cleveland Heights-University Heights, which, with a 67 percent poverty rate, had a per-pupil funding loss of $1,120. Garfield Heights (72.9 percent) lost $948 per student, Maple Heights (84 percent) lost $1,413, Euclid (75 percent) and East Cleveland (100 percent) each lost about $2,600 per student. Warrensville Heights (73 percent) lost $3,018 per student.

The kids who need the most are losing the most.

Federal funds to local school districts are largely targeted to help meet the educational needs of poor children. The Cupp Report provided the per-pupil federal funding level for each district. I was distressed to see that the money extracted from high-poverty districts for charters and vouchers often exceeded the federal assistance to each district.

State education policy has effectively wiped out the impact of supplemental federal funding for poor children.

If you believe in public schools and an even playing field, you are an ally. Please help to end this policy scandal.

Susie Kaefer is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and former director of Reaching Heights. She serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.
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University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

JUNE 20, 2016
Councilwoman Michele Weiss was absent.

Moment of silence
The pledge of allegiance was followed by a minute of silence for the victims in Orlando.

Public comments
Request for anti-hate resolution. Win Weiss spoke about the attack in Orlando, stating that it was a hate crime. She said that when she and her partner moved to University Heights, they hung a rainbow flag in front of their home. But after some pushback from the neighbors they decided to live more quietly. They were beginning to feel that opinions had changed recently, but clearly there is still hate from some people. She asked council to pass a resolution stating that hate will not be tolerated in University Heights. She said that people can do and believe what they want within their own homes, but public spaces must be protected so that all people can exist in the public spaces safely and peacefully.

Weiss distributed copies of an article from The Columbus Dispatch, emphasizing that words have power both for good and for ill. June is Gay Pride Month, so she asked council to consider some type of legislative action in recognition of this event.

Anti-semitism pledge
Mayor Susan Infeld received an e-mail from a resident regarding the fact that she had not signed the pledge against anti-semitism. The resident was applying pressure for the mayor to sign it. Infeld explained that she was unaware of the pledge that had been presented to mayors of large cities, and then printed in an ad in The New York Times. Apparently, the delegates in Ohio had decided that all mayors should be approached, regardless of size of community. She has now signed the pledge, but is concerned that such issues are being used as a litmus test—“you must think as I think”—and is underling cause of hate.

New park
The new park on Fenwick Road opens in mid-July and is almost done. The tennis courts are rebuilt and open to residents.

were on hand to feed hungry park-goers. The University Heights Police Department came with police cars and officers on bicycles, and the University Heights Fire Department brought its ladder truck.

More than 500 community members came out to celebrate, get their faces painted, slide down the slides, swing on the swings, and be in the company of friends and family.

The park’s opening celebration was the culmination of a four-year process during which the city purchased the property, razed the building, and conducted an extensive public process to design a park residents would enjoy.

University Heights residents approved a $1.8 million bond issue in November 2014 to pay for the park construction, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, through its NatureWorks program, helped fund part of the playground and adult exercise equipment. The city hired Braun & Steidl Architects to develop the park vision and Beheke Landscape Architecture as consultant to the architect.

The 6.25-acre park features a 0.33-mile pedestrian path, two playgrounds (one for kids ages 2–5 and another for those ages 5–12), a nature play area, restroom facilities, two adult exercise equipment stations, quiet spaces with benches, and an open-greenspace ball field.

The city’s other parks are Purvis Park and municipal pool, the Ashurst Rain Garden and the Saybrook Rain Garden. The city is also working toward the development of the Sibby Road Neighborhood Park, to further expand the greenspace available to University Heights residents.

Like all city parks, the University Heights Community Park is open to the public from dawn until dusk. Among the rules are: no grilling, and no reserving or saving space in the gazebo or pavilion, or on picnic tables, which have a 2-hour maximum use time. The city asks all park users to be mindful of their use of the park’s features so that everyone can enjoy the park.

As Mayor Infeld said to residents at the grand-opening celebration, “This is your community park. Thank you for sharing this vision with us, now let’s go have fun.”

Patrick Grogan is the community development coordinator for the City of University Heights. He works with residents and businesses to promote University Heights as a great place to live, work, shop and play.
The Adams-Long House

Margaret Laan

Nestled off of a cul-de-sac, the Adams-Long house at 3555 Birch Tree Path sits on a parcel of land that was once part of the Elisabeth Allen Prentiss estate, Glen Allen.

The Adams-Long house is the only building from that grand estate to have survived. Built in 1860 for the Adams family, the structure was later incorporated into the estate, and likely used as a worker’s cottage. Later, it was incorporated into the estate of the Adams family. When the Adams family was no longer able to maintain the estate, the Adams-Long house was sold and bought by Bruce Long. He has since renovated the structure into a valuable 21st-century home.

The house has undergone multiple additions and transformations to make it a viable 21st-century home. Current owner Bruce Long has lived in the house since 1996. He was unaware of the history of the home prior to purchasing it. Afterward, he learned of its unique history and was honored to have the home landmarked by Cleveland Heights in 1984.

Over the years, various owners added to the size of the home and altered the façade to look more like a postwar colonial-style residence. The Adams-Long house now blends in with neighboring ranches and colonials along the adjacent street, Glen Allen Drive.

The home’s landmark status is significant not only because of the age of the structure, but also because it is one of the last tangible links to the Severance and Prentiss history in Cleveland Heights. These two families were significant in the history of Cleveland Heights and its development.

Migrating from Euclid Avenue, the Severance and Prentiss families chose Cleveland Heights as their new home and established grand estates with wonderful gardens surrounding homes of incredible design and materials. The lifestyle of these families was not sustainable after the Great Depression, and the homes were eventually demolished as the cost to run the properties was too great.

Slowly, new development took place with the advent of Severance Town Center, one of the country’s first indoor shopping malls, built on the former site of the great Severance estate. Small, affordable postwar homes, like those along Glen Allen Drive, were built on the former site of the Prentiss mansion and grounds. Amongst them, 3555 Birch Tree Path sits as a reminder of all that came before and as an example of how older properties can be transformed to meet current standards of living.

Margaret Laan is a member of the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, which preserves and protects buildings, works of art and other objects of historical or architectural value to the community. The seven members are appointed to three-year terms by CH City Council.

Cleveland Heights designates free-parking weekends for Cedar Lee

Kelley Robinson

In an effort to support Lee Road merchants during the disruption caused by streetscape construction, the City of Cleveland Heights has agreed to designate free-parking weekends in the Cedar Lee Business District.

Free parking will be offered the last weekend of each month, through October, and applies only to metered (not permit) spots on the district’s streets, in city parking lots and the city parking garage.

Upcoming Cedar Lee free-parking weekends are:
- Aug. 26, 27, 28
- Sept. 23, 24, 25
- Oct. 28, 29, 30

Please note that metered parking within the construction zone along Lee Road will continue to be restricted, as indicated by the bagged meters there.

The city plans to install signage in the district, and a banner on the parking deck as a reminder to residents and visitors.

Kelley Robinson is director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District.
Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights
JUNE 20, 2016
All council members were present.

Public comments
Forest Hill Homeowner’s Association: Resident Mike Riley, addressing council on behalf of the Forest Hill Homeowner’s Association, said that homeowners associations (HOAs), while common in newer areas, are unusual in inner-ring suburbs. The Forest Hill HOA is concerned about several deteriorated properties. The HOA was asked to pay one of these for $500, but has discovered that the county land bank is now involved. Mayor Cheryl Stephens said the HOA should work with city staff and approach the land bank to obtain first right of refusal for a purchase.

Ambulance service paperwork
Council approved a three-year agreement with Life Force Management Inc., to provide billing, collection and related services for all city ambulance services. This is a renewed agreement with a company that has performed the service since 1998.

Independents Week
Council declared the week of July 1-7 as "Independents Week." This celebration of local businesses honors the entrepreneurial spirit, uniqueness and contributions of independent businesses.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
Council approved six resolutions allocating funds from the Year 42 CDBG to nonprofit organizations serving the citizens of Cleveland Heights. These include:
- $20,000 to Family Connections of Northeast Ohio for assistance with its Family School Connections Program. Council Member Michael Ungar abstained because his wife is on the agency’s board.
- $5,000 to Geshar, for operating expenses of the Geshar Benefits Referral Program. Council Member Mary Dunbar voted “no” because the agency apparently serves just one ethnic group. She noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had voted 14 to 1 to deny funding because agency staff seemed not to comprehend how to reach out to other community members with its services. [Geshar is an initiative of Agudath Israel Midwest Region that helps Cleveland Jewish families experiencing hardship to access benefits and government programs for which they are eligible (www.geshar-leveldan.com).]
- $30,000 to the Heights Youth Club Inc. for assistance with its Project Learn. The Educational Enhancement Program.
- $6,790 to Lake Erie Ink, for assistance with its after-school writing program at Noble Elementary School.
- $8,000 to the Open Doors Academy for assistance with its year-round enrichment program for youth living at risk.
- $5,000 to the Start Right Community Development Corporation, for operating expenses for its food bank program.

Citizens for Community Improvement
Council approved an agreement with Citizens for Community Improvement, which wants to purchase homes to rehabilitate for veterans and their families, but is having difficulty with the land bank. Mayor Stephens will meet with him soon.

Traffic light study near Noble Elementary School
Six residents living near the intersection of Cleveland Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road with Ardoon and Middletown roads, where a traffic light is being “studied for removal,” spoke about the study. Marcie Daston, Elie Waterson (age 9), Faith Sussman Hinkelman, Damon Jones, Melissa Flegel and Kemmi Noble expressed concern about school children and other pedestrians crossing to go to the school, its playground or to the library. They said that the extra walk to Noble Road, where there is a light, might tempt people to jaywalk. They also noted that the route involves walking past a large empty lot that may be scary for young students.

They also noted that the route involves traffic light removal on Cleveland Heights Boulevard, city ambulance services. This is a renewed agreement with a company that has performed the service since 1998.

Council members Dunbar and Ungar were surprised if the city is obligated to follow a state recommendation to remove a light or whether reprogramming or upgrading would be possible, such as blinking during certain hours or buttons for pedestrians to control the light. Council members listened intently and Mayor Stephens referred the matter to the city manager. Information on the traffic study was published in a Cleveland.com article, “Study of traffic light removal on Cleveland Heights school, library route draws concern.”

Kemmi Noble claimed that the Cuyahoga Land Bank has 41 properties listed in Cleveland Heights. He volunteers with the Christian Housing Improvement Program, which wants to obtain homes to rehabilitate for veterans and their families, but is having difficulty with the land bank. Mayor Stephens will meet with him soon.

Bonds issued
Council approved the issuance of bonds, not to exceed $1.7 million, for the following purposes:
- Reconstructing and resurfacing city streets, $125,000
- Rebuilding Monticello Boulevard and Cedar Road paving and streetscape project, with $1,124,000
- Improving the city’s water system by constructing and installing water lines, $71,000
- Buying motorized equipment, $1,214,000
- Buying computer hardware and equipment, $71,000
- Improving the city’s water system by constructing and installing water lines, $185,000

Cedar Road paving and streetscape
Council authorized an agreement with OAP Group for administration and inspection services for the Cedar Road resurfacing and Cedar Fairmount streetscape project, with compensation not to exceed $23,900. The funds will be raised through the issuance of tax-exempt notes or bonds.

LWV Observer: Blanche B. Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8.

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Coventry Village will celebrate all things Star Wars with its Star Wars Tribute Day on Saturday, Aug. 6.

From 9-5 p.m., snap a photo with your favorite characters as they roam Coventry Village; play Star Wars video games in a free mobile truck parked in the heart of Coventry Village; and battle your friends in Lightsaber Wars, in the heart of Coventry Village; and Coventry Village; play Star Wars video your favorite characters as they roam parade along the sidewalks of Coventry Village. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes in a variety of categories.

At 7:30 p.m., musicians from Classical Revolution Cleveland will perform a free outdoor concert in Pekar Park, featuring music from, and inspired by, Star Wars. After the concert, cross the road to Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park and find a spot on the lawn for a special free screening of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” at 9 p.m.

See stars in the sky, as well as on the screen, as astronomers from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will be in the park with telescopes for an evening of sky-watching. After the film, those 3 and older are invited to participate in Bar Wars, a Star Wars-themed bar crawl through Coventry Village. The bar crawl will meet at Panini’s on Coventry Road at 11 p.m., and crawlers in costume will enjoy drink specials and costume contest prizes. Coventry Village Star Wars Tribute Day is free and open to the public. For more details, visit www.coventryvillage.org. May the force be with you!

Angela Hetrick is executive director of Coventry Village Special Improvement District.

HCC annual tour celebrates ‘All That Jazz’

Pam Wetherill

The year is 1920. World War I has ended, and the Roaring ’20s are ushering in a new Jazz Age. The Cleveland Heights Library has already been around for four years and, in the following year, Cleveland Heights will achieve the status of “city.”

Along with the Heights Community Congress (HCC), and be transported back to this gilded age on HCC’s 39th Annual Heritage Home and Garden Tour: Heights Homes . . . and All That Jazz!

This year’s preview party and tour pay homage to the spectacular homes and glittering fashions of the Jazz Age. The weekend kicks off with a Jazz Age-themed preview party the evening of Saturday, Sept. 17. Gathering at the home of the Ensemble Theatre (in the former Coventry School building on Washington Boulevard), patrons will board Lolly the Trolley for an early peek at select homes from the tour. Upon their return to Ensemble, they’ll find an array of food, wine and cocktails provided by The Fairmount, as well as jazz music and—perhaps—a visit from Jay Gatsby himself. This year’s tour honoree, the Heights Observer, will be recognized for all it does to support the Heights community.

The home and garden tour will take place on Sunday, Sept. 18, and will feature an array of homes from Fairmount Boulevard to Noble Road.

This year’s tour also honors HCC’s partner, the Cuyahoga County Public Library System, as it celebrates its centennial. Special events and stops along the way will highlight the 100-year history of this invaluable heights resource.

Tickets for both the preview party and the 39th Annual Heritage Home and Garden Tour go on sale at the end of August. For more information, visit www.heightscongress.org, or contact HCC at info@heightscongress.org or 216-321-6775.

Pat Wetherill is an HCC volunteer.

SHN suggests sustainable activities for August

Laura Marks

The Sustainable Heights Network (SHN) advocates for evidence-based community actions and education that will result in a positive impact on our environment and quality of life. SHN suggests the following sustainable things-to-do for Heights residents, for the month of August:

- **Sustainable Transportation:** August’s heat is not kind to marginal automobile batteries, and it’s the month with the second-most battery failures. Have yours checked, along with tire inflation and condition.

- **School begins late this month. Be alert to changing traffic patterns, including new bike riders on route to and from school.**

- **No parents, this is a good time to walk or bike to school with your child to explain the route and the rules of safe travel.**

- **Errands are more efficient when planned out in advance. Make an effort to consolidate back-to-school shopping trips and other errands.**

- **Your trip map should look more like a spiral and less like a daisy.**

- **Sam Bell chairs SHN’s transportation subcommittee. He can be reached via e-mail at larryrsc@gmail.com. The transportation subcommittee is seeking volunteers to help in its work.**

- **Environmental Health:** August is National Water Quality Month. Here are some things you can do to protect Lake Erie’s quality:
  - Choose nontoxic and non-antibacterial household soaps and cleaning products.
  - Dispose of unwanted or out-of-date medications in a plastic bag and take it to the police department for proper disposal.
  - Put only water down storm drains.
  - Fix leaks that drop from cars and put tires in driveways to collect oil and other materials.
  - Avoid using pesticides or chemical fertilizers on lawns.
  - Pick up after pets.
  - Minimize impervious surfaces on property, including grass lawns.
  - Plan and install a rain garden and rain barrel.
  - Remove a tree this fall, and watch existing trees.

Laura Marks co-chairs SHN’s environmental health subcommittee. She can be reached via e-mail at larryrsc@gmail.com. The environmental health subcommittee is also seeking volunteers.

For more information about SHN, visit www.sustainableheights-network.net.

Laura Marks is founder of ReForest Cleveland, whose mission is to plant trees on private property. She is a member of the Sustainable Heights Network steering committee. Her family has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1847.

He received his degree from the Culinary Institute of America.

Venditti started at the Bottle House in New Orleans for about six years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

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Are You a Person of Conscience? For Justice, Liberty, Humanity, Peace? Against Bigotry, Intolerance, War? So Are We, Join Us!

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Nonprofit Coit Road Market supports community’s nutrition needs

Joe Jerdonek

The Coit Road Farmers Market—with its mission of providing residents of Cleveland’s urban East Side and inner-ring suburbs with access to affordable, locally grown, farm-fresh products—has become increasingly proactive in addressing community needs to improve the health of area residents.

The nonprofit, community-based market’s efforts on this front include offering free cooking classes; Produce Perks to double EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) customer buying power; WIC and senior coupons; resident transportation; and collaboration with health care providers through Cuyahoga County’s Produce Prescriptions program.

The market also offers a staffed resource center for residents who are working to improve their health through eating more fresh foods. WIC coupon distributions will take place on Saturdays, Aug. 13 and Sept. 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Seasonal vegetarian cooking classes are planned for every Wednesday in August, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children, as well as adults, are invited to participate in these classes.

Other upcoming events are:
• Saturday, Aug. 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Annual Cliff Schultz Corn Roast: Meat eaters, vegetarians and vegans are invited to enjoy delicious Ohio sweet corn, BBQ, side dishes, and something to drink, for just $6.
• Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Eat Local Food Show: This event will feature cooking demonstrations, hands-on cooking skills sessions, free knife sharpening, food-related art sessions for children and teens, and presentations on gardening techniques from urban farmers and gardeners.

August and September are the peak months for locally grown fruits and vegetables, and the market offers a great selection of produce and other food from local purveyors.

Located for 84 years at the intersection of Coit and Woodworth roads, near East 152nd Street and Noble Road, the market is open on Saturdays, all year, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and open on Wednesdays, June through October, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Operated by volunteers, the Coit Road Farmers Market is supported by customers, farmers, sponsors and fundraising events.

Joe Jerdonek is president of the board of ECFM (the East Cleveland Farmers Market Preservation Society), the nonprofit organization that oversees and funds market operations.

John Horton

The Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Foundation Board of Directors has awarded its 2016 Heath Oliver Distinguished Director Award to Tracy Oliver, in recognition of her exemplary service to Tri-C and its students.

Oliver, a Cleveland Heights resident and director of media and local affairs for Dominion East Ohio, joined the board in 2003 and has dedicated herself to making higher education accessible to Greater Cleveland residents.

She has repeatedly championed requests from the foundation and provided opportunities for Tri-C students, particularly through grants awarded from the Dominion Higher Educational Partnership.

“Again and again, Tracy Oliver showed her commitment to the foundation and its mission to make a difference for Tri-C students,” said Rick Chiricosta, chair of the foundation board. “Her commitment to education and scholarships have improved countless lives over the years.”

The Heath Oliver Distinguished Director Award was established in memory of longtime foundation board director Heath Oliver, president of Bardons & Oliver and a valuable member of the board from 1988 until his death in 2009.

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, chartered in 1973, is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to secure funding for scholarships and educational program development and enhancement for Cuyahoga Community College.

John Horton is media relations manager at Tri-C.
Taking moral inventory

The City of University Heights is offering a lecture that can help seniors take inventory of their current moral and ethical beliefs, as well as guide them in making positive changes, if necessary. Louisa Prochaska, chair of the theology and philosophy department at Notre Dame College, will present a talk titled “Moral Character and Conscience, and How to Make a Good Moral Decision” on Aug. 4, 2-3 p.m., at University Heights City Hall.

Prochaska will explain how moral character and integrity are developed, and what defines good and evil actions. She will also explain why people have both virtues and vices, and how a person’s actions can affect not only that person, but also his or her family, friends and community.

Basic self-awareness of one’s values and beliefs can inspire positive changes in one’s character. Prochaska will explain how conscience is developed, and what happens when we choose not to follow it. “Your free choice determines whether or not you listen to your conscience,” she said. “We are free to choose, but we are not free from the consequences.”

Prochaska’s lecture is free and open to all seniors, whether they live in University Heights or not. For more information, call 216-932-7557.

Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through www.livinghands-group.com. She can be reached at 216-408-5378 or judith@livinghands-group.com. She will teach the SAC ethical will class.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) will hold an ethical will writing class beginning Sept. 30. This three-session class will teach the meaning of ethical wills, how to write one and what to include. The class is open to Cleveland Heights residents age 60 and older. For more information, call 216-691-7377.

CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center, located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a wide variety of programming for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older.

Did you know that the city offers social work services to its senior residents through the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging? Two part-time social workers are available to answer questions and provide guidance on a wide variety of topics.

In addition, they can connect seniors to services to make life more manageable, including Meals on Wheels for those needing assistance with meal preparation; van transportation for those needing help getting to the doctor; information on senior housing options for those who are ready to downsize and want to remain in the Heights.

Family and friends of senior residents can also call with questions and concerns.

To contact a social worker, e-mail jwhite@clvhts.com or lkatz@clvhts.com, or call 216-691-7377 to make an appointment to meet with one.

The Senior Activity Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, which is available at Cleveland Heights City Hall, local libraries, the community center and online at www.clevelandheights.com. For more information and to register for any program, call 216-691-7377.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the CH Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by email at ajenkins@clvhts.com.

Free books mailed to your young child!

If your child is 4 years old or younger And lives in 44106, 44120, CH-UH, East Cleveland or Shaker, visit heightsfamily.org for registration information

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Summer Sunday Worship Schedule

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Communion on the Lawn
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St. Paul’s Episcopal Church welcomes you!

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Beaumont senior Kieley joins ocean expedition

Crista Kieley, a member of Beau-
mont School’s class of 2017, will
sail aboard Exploration Vessel
(E/V) Nautilus during its 2016
expedition. As an Honors Research Program student, Kieley will join the Corps of Explo-
ration aboard Nautilus in August as
they explore the California Margin, a
broad area within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that remains largely unexplored and is crisscrossed by seismically active faults.

Kieley is among 22 students and
17 educators from around the world
who were selected by the Ocean Ex-
ploration Trust (OET) to participate
in the 2016 Nautilus Exploration Program expedition. OET, a non-
profit founded by Titanic shipwreck
discoverer Robert Ballard in 2008, explores the ocean, seeking out new
discoveries in the fields of geology, bi-
ology, marine history, archaeology,
physics and chemistry, while pushing
the boundaries of STEM education and
technological innovation.

“One of the major goals of our
Nautilus Exploration Program is
to inspire the next generation of
explorers in STEM fields,” said Al-
lison Fundis, OET’s vice president
of education, outreach and com-
munications. “We are very excited
to provide educators and students
with the direct experience of ocean
exploration, while allowing them the
opportunity to share that experience
with their peers around the world.”

Kieley will participate in live audio commentary and question-and-
answer sessions through the Nautilus Live website (www.nautilivue.org)
while aboard the ship. Audiences
can tune in to the website, Facebook or Instagram at NautilusLive, and
Twitter at @EVNautilus to follow the
expedition.

Anne Jarrad is vice president of institu-
tional advancement for Beaumont School.

Dixon joins AHA Cleveland board of directors

Scott Wortman

Cleveland Heights-University
Heights City School District Super-
intendent Talisa Dixon has accepted
an invitation to join the local board of
directors for the American Heart
Association (AHA).

“This is a true honor to join the Board of Directors of the AHA’s Northeast
Ohio affiliate,” said Dixon, who began
her board service on July 1. “The AHA
improves the lives of countless Ameri-
cans by helping people quit smoking,
learn CPR, live healthier and longer
by avoiding heart disease and strokes,
and so much more.

“At CH-UH, we emphasize com-
munity service and we also recognize
that health is the cornerstone of suc-
cessful education, so I cannot think
of a more fitting organization with
which to be involved.”

This year, through Jump Rope for
Heart and Hoops for Heart—youth
health initiatives organized and led
by district staff, school staff leaders
and the AHA—the CH-UH district
raised $27,703.20. Students and staff
across to schools within the district
participated to keep their hearts
healthy, and raised funds for heart
and stroke research and education.

Valerie Smith, youth market
director for AHA in Cleveland, part-
ned with Dixon and school staff
leaders to organize a districtwide
partnership.

“Her passion for student, staff
and community wellness is inspir-
ing, and we are so happy to continue
our partnership with Dr. Dixon in this
new way. Her leadership in the com-
munity and understanding of the
best ways to make an impact on the
health of our youth will be valuable
resources as she adds to our board of
directors,” said Smith.

The CH-UH district was also recog-
nized by the AHA as a Fit
Friendly Worksite for meeting crit-
eria for employee wellness, and
received the Gold Achievement
recognition for meeting physical ac-
tivity, nutrition and culture criteria
set forth by the AHA.

Scott Wortman is the coordinator of com-
munications for the Cleveland Heights-
University Heights City School District.

Cleveland Heights-University
Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights

JUNE 21, 2016
All board members were present.

Teacher layoffs
Six teachers were re-appointed from the re-
duction in force (RIF) list. There are still 27
on the list.

Substitutes
Council approved an agreement with Renhill
Group to provide substitute employees.

Dell’Isola Options Center roof
The board approved replacing the roof of
Dell’Isola Options Center.

Board policy review
Paul Lombardo, director of human resources;
presented on first reading information from
Northeast Ohio learning Associates (NEO-
LA), which provides services for developing
and updating board policies. The board con-
sidered 78 policies that are new, revised or
updated. Racial Educational Equity had the
most discussion.

Middle schools plans
Director of Career Technical Education Brad
Catherino, representing the middle school
construction committee, gave a report about
plans to present the committee report to the board
and the public. Additional meetings will be
planned and allow for public comments.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights
High School to serve on state teen board

Cathan Bricker

Heights High senior Lexxie Dolman has been invited to join Ohio Attor-
ney General Mike DeWine’s Teen
Ambassador Board.

“The Ambassador Board mem-
bers will advise the attorney general’s office
(AGO) on issues relating to
teens, and work with their peers to
develop solutions to those concerns.
Ohio high school students who applied and were selected to join the
board will be placed into small
groups and advised by an assistant
attorney general, according to the
AGO.

The students will meet twice a
year in Columbus, and will present
their work to senior AGO officials at
the end of their term.

Dolman said the particular is-
sues she wants to delve into are hate
crimes, teen violence and gender
equality.

“This has always been important in
the process of how laws are passed,”
Dolman said. “I’m excited to have dis-
cussions with my peers about conflicts that teens face today, and to come up
with resolutions to make life more
manageable for the next generation.”

Dolman and her peers will also
have the opportunity to attend AGO
events around the state, visit the
Columbus and regional offices,
interact with assistant attorneys
general, and meet DeWine and other elected officials.

Cathan Bricker is the communications
administrative assistant for the Cleve-
land Heights-University Heights City
School District.

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1. The Heights Observer is written by people like
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2. Register/login at the Member Center
(www.heightsobserver.org).

3. After logging in, click the Submit New Story
button in the left-hand column (Don’t see it? It’s
nested under “Writer”). Then follow the prompts.
Hint: Keep your original file open so you can easily
copy and paste into the text box.

4. Reward yourself; you’re about to be
published. We’ll review and edit your article, and
let you know if we have any questions.
Over the past few years, neighborhoods both urban and rural have seen a renewed interest in backyard (and front yard) vegetable gardening. As the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System aims to reflect the interests of its community, gardening has become a standard program.

The Coventry Village Library is home to the Coventry Seed Library, maintained by the Cleveland Seed Bank. The Coventry Village Library also leads gardening programs for adults, with help from local experts. “Overflowing” is the word that Maggie Kinney, youth services librarian at the Coventry Village Library, used to describe the Coventry Collaborative Garden at mid-summer. The garden occupies a space adjacent to the library, where community members have helped plant carrots, lettuce, basil, peas, parsley, chives, tomatoes, peppers, green beans and marigolds. “This year, we’ve really had the opportunity to develop the space with permanent structural additions, thanks to a grant we received from the Master Gardeners (MG) of Cuyahoga County,” said Kinney.

Out of 33 applications, both the Coventry Village and Noble Neighborhood libraries received MG grants to support gardening programs. Noble will use grant money to support gardening programs for children and families: buying plants, enriching soil and purchasing family-friendly tools. Coventry is using its grant to construct a cedar two-bin compost system for garden waste, which will reduce its carbon footprint, provide nutrient-rich soil and serve as an invaluable educational tool.

“The garden is registered as a Cuyahoga County Community Garden through the Ohio State University Extension Program, and many of our programs have been made possible with a grant from Whole Foods,” said Kinney. “We’ve also had a lot of help from our library volunteer, Divina Koonce, who is finishing up her certification to become a master gardener.”

The library has designated gardening days for different age groups: family gardening is on Mondays, teen gardening is on Tuesdays and adults are invited to garden on Thursdays. Between 2–3 p.m. on these days, visitors can participate in maintaining the garden (weeding, watering and harvesting) and other activities, and learn about caring for a garden.

For adults, the weekly program is primarily hands-on learning; for teens, the program incorporates projects such as making wind chimes and bird feeders; and for families, the garden program offers a fun new adventure each week. So far, families have learned about the water cycle and made rain gauges, studied the color wheel using flowers, and made a “pollinator palace” (a structure made of odds and ends for insects and small animals) while learning about the role that birds, bats, bees and other insects play in growing food.

All are welcome to visit the Coventry Collaborative Garden during regular library hours. There are two new benches in the garden, which were gifts given in the name of librarian and longtime library patron Jane C. Butler. One bench features a quote from the Roman philosopher Cicero: “He who has a garden and a library wants for nothing.”

Julia Murphy is the marketing and volunteer coordinator for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.
What’s going on at your library?

For a complete schedule of events and to register, visit www.heightslibrary.org

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-5400
Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2–3 p.m.
Lake Erie Ink: Zones and Comics.
Share your story through the creation of comics and zines with Lake Erie Ink. Discover the creative process behind making your own graphic novel. For those in grades 6–12. Registration began July 2.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Sunday, Aug. 28, 12:30–3 p.m.

University Heights Library
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Friday, Aug. 19, 12:30–3 p.m.
Storytime Yoga. Stretch imaginations and muscles at this monthly drop-in storytime that uses music, stories and games to teach yoga to children. Meet at Purvis Park and bring movement clothes, yoga mats or towels. For children ages 3–6. (Call the library in case of rain.)

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

JUNE 20, 2016
Rick Oremeyer, board president, and Susan Beatty and Chris Meek, board members, were absent.

University Heights Library renovation groundbreaking
The groundbreaking will take place Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. The branch will close for Labor Day on Sept. 5 and will remain closed until the renovation is complete. Bookmobile service for the community will begin in September.

Schreckengost loan memorandum
The library has hired four firms on loan for the past eight years and wishes to continue this connection with the Schreckengost/Nowakoff families. The display currently includes two watercolors, one giclee print and one Jaza Bowl. The family intends to rotate the works on display and will likely bring in new watercolors. The family is pleased to continue this agreement and thanks the library for perpetuating a presence of Victor Schreckengost’s art in the community, which was the artist’s home for many decades.

Dollar General literacy grant
The library received a $2,000 grant from Dollar General to support early literacy in the summer reading club. The funds will be used for incentives such as books and tote bags.

Mid-year safety and security review
Kevin Ethiel, security supervisor, told the board that incident reports averaged less than one per day. His staff addressed a recent spike at Noble Neighborhood Library in a number of ways. Two cameras and additional security staff were added. Nancy Lavelle, director, Ethiel, Constance Dickerson, branch manager, and two security staff members met with Noble Elementary School Principal Rachael Coleman to discuss incidents involving students. Noble Neighborhood library still had less than one incident per day.

Friends MegaSale
The May MegaSale brought in $8,596.28 plus 30 new members, for a total of 421 active members. Remaining books were taken to Noble Neighborhood Library for a special sale, and June 3 was the first Friday bag sale.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Fund (PDF) distribution
The May 2016 PDF distribution was 19 percent lower than the distribution for May 2015. Indications are that the State of Ohio’s income tax revenues have been reduced, and that the PDF may decline further. However, the library’s property tax revenue was $194,008 higher than this time last year.

May public service report highlights:
- University Heights Library staff walked in the city’s Memorial Day Parade, and were accompanied by the book bike and the library van. Staff distributed candy and promoted the summer reading program.
- For National Preservation Month, Cuyahoga County Library provided $2,500 in support to the city’s Preservation Month program. No funds were provided to the city’s Preservation Month program. No funds were provided to the city’s Preservation Month program.
- A second National Preservation Month program was The History of Cleveland Heights: University Heights Libraries, Schools and Public Buildings. Kora Hamley-Drennan, Cleveland Heights history planner, Eric Silverman, Cuyahoga County Library, and Anna Wheeler, Noble Neighborhood librarian, collaborated to present this program.
- New library card sign-ups in May totaled 364.
- Marion Morton, historian, and Bob Brown, city planning consultant, presented Coventry Village Through the Decades to 50 attendees of Mary’s Cedar-Coventry Author Series program.
- Tamara Murray, library associate, volunteers and students from the Homework Help group celebrated its 10th anniversary.

“Look for earlier and often expanded previews of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 8.”
Kathy Ewing writes with understanding and compassion

Robin Koslen

If you've spent time in a Cleveland Heights book group, you know there are many topics that come up. Books inspire thoughts about one's own life. Of those many topics, a good majority of them are about families: How do you raise thoughtful, caring kids? Are men as unobservant as they sometimes seem? When is a good time to tell a family member that he or she has gone too far? And, of course, which of us was raised in the most dysfunctional family?

Kathy Ewing, a longtime member of a CH neighborhood book group, always had stories to tell that amazed and surprised. She described her dad as a kind, loving, and connected—though, imperfect—parent, who became a paraplegic when he was a young father and husband.

Ewing's mom, on the other hand, was rarely kind, loving or connected. Her mom was emotionally distant, unpredictable and deeply unhappy.

After years and years of book group meetings, Ewing began to mention borderline personality disorder (BPD). It didn't sound too bad; just "borderline," right? It turns out that BPD is pretty bad—difficult to diagnose, hard to treat, and definitely hurtful and damaging for family members. After extensive research, Ewing began putting together family stories into a heartfelt memoir, which she titled Missing: Coming to Terms with a Borderline Mother. Published last month by Red Giant Books, Missing is a mixture of understanding and compassion, careful research and clear, concise prose.

Most impressive, perhaps, is the empathy with which Ewing treats her mother. This is no Mommie Dearest memoir. Ewing tries hard to understand her mother's struggles, and she refrains from blaming her mother for her enigmatic, frustrating and inappropriate behavior. Although the subject is entirely serious, Ewing occasionally infuses her writing with wry and insightful humor. The book is a welcome addition to the very short BPD shelf that currently exists in most libraries.

As she states in the book's introduction, Ewing hopes "other adult children will find a name for the confusion in which they grew up .. ." Yet, the book is a good read for everyone, not just children of BPD parents.

Missing: Coming to Terms with a Borderline Mother is available at local independent bookstores, and can be ordered online.

Robin Koslen is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a friend of the author and a member of the same book discussion group.

Judson gallery exhibits work by resident Leonard Trawick

Rob Lucarelli

Retrospective: View with a Twist, featuring etchings, watercolors, and acrylics by Judson Park resident Leonard Trawick, will be on view at The Streeter Gallery at Judson Park through Oct. 3.

An Alabama native, Trawick studied literature at the University of Chicago and the University of Dijon in France before receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He taught English at Cleveland State University until he retired in 1998.

Throughout his life, painting and drawing have been serious avocations, and he continues his work with help from the art faculty at Cleveland State University.

His prints and watercolors have been shown in various galleries. Through his work, Trawick tries to include a subjective element and portray an emotional impact, and his prints often contain fanciful or humorous ideas. The Streeter Gallery is located within the Judson Park retirement community, 1801 Chestnut Hills Drive in Cleveland Heights. The gallery is open to the public daily, 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Rob Lucarelli is director of communications for Judson Services.
Young CH singer takes inspiration from the past

Alyssa Boyd began singing when she was about 6 years old. Now she’s 24, and singing is the focus of her life. She regularly performs with Seth Boyle, an acoustic guitar player, and with a local band called the Rifferees that performs jazz and big-band classics.

“I grew up with a lot of music,” Boyd said. “My grandmother played piano, and my dad loved soul music, rock and roll and the blues. But no one in my family ever pursued music as a career.”

Boyd was born in the Philadelphia area. When she was a sophomore in high school, her family moved to Cleveland Heights. She attended Heights High, graduating in 2011. She gives the school a lot of credit for developing her singing skills. “The Vocal Music Department at Heights High really changed my life,” she said. “I was given opportunities to do solos. I got into the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus, and I got to sing at Severance Hall. I also took vocal lessons at Heights High, and my vocal coach really helped me understand music theory.”

Boyd also was a member of the Heights Honors Ensemble choir, and the All-State Choir. While she was in high school, she also appeared on WJW TV, singing with the high school choir, and she sang a solo, accompanied by a harpist, during her high school graduation.

After high school, Boyd attended Cuyahoga Community College for two years, majoring in liberal arts, but she did not graduate. “School was always something I thought I should do,” she said, “but it became clear to me that what I wanted to do in my life was music.”

Much of Boyd’s repertoire is devoted to the songs of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday—unusual, perhaps, for a musician of Boyd’s age. Boyd, once again, gives credit to her teachers at Heights High for informing her about these artists. “It was through school that I learned about Billie Holiday,” she said. “I watched a documentary, and I was intrigued by her life.”

Boyd also likes many contemporary artists. At a June show at Quintana’s Speakeasy, she sang two songs by Amy Winehouse and one by Stevie Wonder. Other contemporary artists she admires include Lianne La Havas, Kat Edmonson, Erykah Badu and Esperanza Spalding. “I really resonate with female vocalists,” she said.

A CD that Boyd recently sang on, by a local band called Wasted in Cleveland, is due out later this month. She has not yet recorded her own CD, but said, “That’s my real hope. I would love to record a CD of my own.”

Meanwhile, Boyd, who still lives in Cleveland Heights, frequently plays shows around the Cleveland area.

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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

WRC announces its 25th season

The upcoming 2016-17 season of the Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) marks its 25th year as a community chorus. The ensemble, with a roster of nearly 100 singers, welcomes all Greater Cleveland residents to celebrate with them this anniversary season.

WRC will present three separate concerts during the upcoming season.

Its traditional holiday concert, to be held at Disciples Christian Church in Cleveland Heights on Dec. 4, will be performed in honor of John Roberts, founding conductor of WRC who passed away this past spring. WRC hopes all who may have sung with the ensemble, at any time in its history, will attend the performance and after-concert reception. The program will include Fantasia on Christmas Carol by Vaughan Williams, and two collections of seasonal settings: the first by Jackson Berkey (arranger for Mannheim Steamroller), and the second, three spirituals by William Dawson. Additional music by Palestrina, Bach, Verdi and Rutter, and two newer works by Norwegian composer Kim Andre Azenlsen, will round out the programming.

In March 2017, WRC plans two presentations of this double billing: Haydn’s Mass in Time of War (1796) and Dan Forrest’s Requiem for the Living (2013). It will perform these two larger-scale works with soloists and orchestra.

Isn’t it Romantic will close out the 25th-year celebration. This June 4 concert will share the love of singing, as WRC explores choral works with themes of love and romance. In particular, the ensemble will feature the work of Romantic-period composers Johannes Brahms’s Vier Geänge, Op. 17, for men’s chorus and mezzo-soprano solo. In addition, WRC will perform Eric Whitacre’s Three Flower Songs, which are delightful settings of poetry by Emily Dickinson, Federico García Lorca and Edmund Waller.

WRC welcomes any singers who are interested in the art of ensemble singing. WRC members perform a broad range of choral music from acapella to full orchestral accompaniment; early motets to music written in the past few years, both sacred and secular. Rehearsals begin on Sept. 12, 4 p.m., at Disciples Christian Church on Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights (across from Severance Town Center).

For more information, visit www.westernreservetchorale.org or contact Joanne Poderis, WRC’s executive director, at 216-791-0061 or jpoderis@msn.com.

David Gilson, artistic director of the Western Reserve Chorale, resides in Cleveland Heights with his wife, Suzanne, and twin daughters, Hannah and Sophie.
Major league folk music at Nighttown in August

Long Road performing at Nighttown.

“Great Mandala.” And he wrote and produced Mary McGregor’s number-one hit pop/country record “Torn Between Two Lovers.”

Both of them.

This is just my opinion, but I think you should come to one of these shows. Wait—I just got a better idea. Come to both of them.

Nighttown is located at 1385 E. Cedar Road, just east of the top of Cedar Hill, in Cleveland Heights. For more information, visit www.nighttowncle.com. For reservations to either of these shows, call 216-795-0550.

David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Life, an author, and a professional musician and comedian. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop music history.

David Budin

Legendary folksinger and activist Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary, will open for my group Long Road at Nighttown this month.

Well, he’s not actually opening for us; he’s playing before us. Okay—one night before us. In other words, he’s playing at Nighttown on Wednesday, Aug. 10, then we’re playing at Nighttown on Thursday, Aug. 11. So it’s sort of like a mini folk festival. At a well-known jazz club.

Peter Yarrow formed the trio Peter, Paul and Mary (PPM), along with Noel Paul Stookey and Mary Travers, in the early 1960s. The group found immediate success, with its first album selling more than a million copies. PPM helped put the not-well-known singer-songwriter Bob Dylan on the musical map when it scored a million-selling hit single of his song “Blowing in the Wind.” The group earned another big hit single, early in its career, with the Pete Seeger song “If I Had a Hammer.”

PPM toured and recorded for “Blowing in the Wind.” The three appeared at countless events, marches and protests concerning peace, equality, anti-war, civil rights, anti-nukes and other issues.

Yarrow founded the national organization Operation Respect, an effort to combat bullying among children, in 2000. Always wanting to help and encourage young artists, he also initiated the New Folks Concert series and encourage young artists, he also initiated the New Folks Concert series at both the Newport Folk Festival and the Kerrville Folk Festival.

As part of PPM and on his own, Yarrow has won or been nominated for Grammy and Emmy awards, as well as humanitarian ones. He also wrote some of PPM’s most popular songs, including “Puff, the Magic Dragon,” “Light One Candle” and "I Have a Dream" speech. The group sang at the 1963 March on Washington, where they sang “Blowing in the Wind” prior to King’s I Have a Dream speech. The three appeared at countless events, marches and protests concerning peace, equality, anti-war, civil rights, anti-nukes and other issues.

It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. Jones, and instrumentalists including Noah Budin, Chuck Fink and Kevin T. Richards, reggae artist Carlos Jones, and instrumentalists including Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss. It was a thrill to be able to play with Norman Tischler and David Krauss.

With the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Ala., and they appeared at the 1965 March on Washington, where they sang “Blowing in the Wind” prior to King’s I Have a Dream speech. The three appeared at countless events, marches and protests concerning peace, equality, anti-war, civil rights, anti-nukes and other issues.

Peter, Paul and Mary—PPM—helped put the not-well-known folk singer-songwriter Bob Dylan on the musical map when it scored a million-selling hit single of his song “Blowing in the Wind.” The group earned another big hit single, early in its career, with the Pete Seeger song “If I Had a Hammer.”

PPM toured and recorded for decades with tremendous success. They also became well known, as a group and individually, for their social and political activism. They marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Ala., and they appeared at the 1965 March on Washington, where they sang “Blowing in the Wind” prior to King’s I Have a Dream speech. The three appeared at countless events, marches and protests concerning peace, equality, anti-war, civil rights, anti-nukes and other issues.

According to Yarrow, the group took the name PPM because they were “four different people with different backgrounds.” Paul Stookey was the musical director and singer, Mary Travers was the lead singer, and Yarrow was the poet. They played folk music and recorded their first album in 1962, which included the song “If I Had a Hammer.”

PPM began touring and recording in 1963, and their first album, “Peter, Paul and Mary,” was released in 1964. The album included the song “Blowing in the Wind,” which became a hit and propelled the group to fame. Over the years, PPM released several albums, including “The Great Mandala” in 1965 and “Puff, the Magic Dragon” in 1966.

Yarrow, along with Travers and Stookey, formed PPM in 1962. The group was known for their activism and their musical talent, and they had many hit songs, including “Blowing in the Wind” and “Puff, the Magic Dragon.”

As part of PPM and on his own, Yarrow has won or been nominated for Grammy and Emmy awards, as well as humanitarian ones. He also wrote some of PPM’s most popular songs, including “Puff, the Magic Dragon,” “Light One Candle” and “I Have a Dream.”

All of our songs go through the Long Road “filter” and come out sounding like what you might have heard in a late-’60s folk club or concert hall. Our six members play intricate arrangements on various combinations of 18 instruments, with unusual vocal harmonies sung by three, four, five or six of us at various times. And there is humor and history between all the songs.

This is just my opinion, but I think you should come to one of these shows. Wait—I just got a better idea. Come to both of them.

Nighttown is located at 1385 E. Cedar Road, just east of the top of Cedar Hill, in Cleveland Heights. For more information, visit www.nighttowncle.com. For reservations to either of these shows, call 216-795-0550.

David Budin is a freelance writer for national and local publications, the former editor of Cleveland Magazine and Northern Ohio Life, an author, and a professional musician and comedian. His writing focuses on the arts and, especially, pop music history.
Pavilion offers furniture and more in Cedar Fairmont

Pavilion Home & Floral, a home furnishings and interior design store, has relocated to Cleveland Heights. It originally opened on Larchmere Boulevard in December 2015, and moved to 12433 Cedar Road, in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, in July.

“We simply needed more space, and we wanted to expand our product offerings,” said Michele Ross, one of the store’s owners. Leslie Marceau, the store’s other owner, said that she and Ross thought the Cedar Fairmount space would be a good fit, and enable them to grow their business.

Marceau, who grew up near Toronto, has lived in Cleveland Heights for the past four years. Ross was born in Elyria and now lives in Weymouth, near Medina.

Pavilion offers furniture; custom-upholstery items; lighting; art, featuring work by local artists; and home accessories, including candles, rugs, table tops, bedding and custom pillows. Pavilion also sells fresh flowers and faux flowers.

Think of it as a balancing act. The two women met a few years ago, when they were both working for Paysage, the home furnishings store formerly located in the Fairmount Taylor Business District. Paysage closed its Cleveland Heights store last October and relocated to Rocky River.

“We felt the need to keep this kind of business on the East Side,” Ross said. “So that’s why we opened Pavilion.”

“Once Paysage left, it just left a void,” Marceau added. “There were no higher-end interior design boutiques on the East Side.”

Pavilion (216-795-5488) is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment. For more information, visit www.pavilioncle.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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.
The Fairmount expands and adds special event space

The Fairmount, which he hopes to continue using for private parties, wine tastings and other special events. It features a full bar and table seating, with space for about 40 people. The Fairmount has also taken over what was essentially an interior lobby for the building, transforming the dated and underutilized area into an innovative indoor patio/atrium that seats about 25.

The original restaurant space seats about 75 people inside and 65 on the back patio. The renovations expanded the Fairmount’s full capacity to accommodate about 200.

Jake Orosz, who has owned The Fairmount since November 2011, said he decided to expand because business has been going very well, and he knew there would be a need for more space.

“I like the idea of having separate, smaller spaces,” he said. “It comes down to modularity. We can use the main restaurant solely if business is lighter. Then, at busier times, we can utilize the additional spaces and increase our capacity. So, essentially, we can open spaces as necessary, and we can use them in any combination that we want.”

Orosz, 28, said that the expansions occurred sooner than he had anticipated, “But the space became available, and I thought it would be good to jump on these opportunities.” The first event in the new private-party space was a wedding reception for about 80 guests in late June.

Orosz said he is planning additional changes and enhancements to The Fairmount, which he hopes to complete “in the next two years or so.”

The Fairmount has also taken the dated and underutilized Subway space, when that business downsized. The new space is adjacent to The Fairmount’s original space, and the restaurant will primarily use it for private parties, wine tastings and other special events. It features a full bar and table seating, with space for about 40 people.

In addition, The Fairmount has also taken over what was essentially an interior lobby for the building, transforming the dated and underutilized area into an innovative indoor patio/atrium that seats about 25.

Inside the original restaurant space, he is looking to add wooden chandeliers and new curtains to cover the windows that face onto Fairmount Boulevard. He’d like to make changes to the storefront, and add more air-cleaning plants in vintage wine crates inside the restaurant. He also wants to install a fire pit in the outdoor patio. And, he plans on displaying old blueprints of the building, which he recently found in the basement.

Brett Harshman, 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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

On July 13, BP presented Motorcars Honda of Cleveland Heights with its Carbon Neutral Award, making it the first automotive dealership in the world to achieve this distinction. BP named Motorcars Honda world’s first carbon-neutral auto dealership.

Motorcars Honda has received many awards, including Honda’s Environmental Energy of Ohio’s 2015 Ohio Business of the Year, and DealerRater’s 2016 Dealer of the Year for Ohio.

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Blueprint Boutique opens on Coventry

James Henke

A new clothing store has opened in Coventry Village. Called Blueprint Boutique, the store opened on July 2 in the space previously occupied by Heart and Sole, at 787 Coventry Road.

The new store sells the same brands of sneakers that Heart and Sole used to sell, along with hard-to-find brands of clothing, most of which are otherwise available only at retail stores in New York City.

“We carry a wide variety of street-wear brands, and we also have vintage clothing from the 1990s, like old T-shirts,” said Anthony Ho, owner of the boutique. Among the brands that his store carries are Supreme, a specialized street-wear brand, and Bathing Ape, a New York City label.

“The younger people around here are more the kinds of kids I want to cater to,” Ho said. “The clothing I carry is the kind that many young people like, but they have to buy it on eBay or at a store in New York. It’s not stuff you can get anywhere else in Cleveland.”

Prior to opening Blueprint Boutique, Ho owned two other stores in the Cleveland area. He opened his first store, United Sneakers, on Madison Avenue in Lakewood in 2013, and owned it for about a year before he sold it to Joe Haden of the Cleveland Browns. He then partnered with Haden to open Restock, a clothing and sneaker store on Prospect Avenue near the Quicken Loans Arena. “When my contract with that store expired, I decided it was time to open this store,” Ho said.

Vince Manzano, who owned Heart and Sole, said he was looking for something different to do. “I was here for eight and a half years, and I had become interested in other things,” he said. When Ho contacted him, Manzano agreed to sell the store. The sale took place in early June.

Ho said business so far has been better than he expected. “Almost everyone who came in on opening day bought something, and Ho estimates he had $8,000 in sales on the store’s first day.”

Ho, 28, was born in New York City. His parents moved to the Cleveland area when he was 5, and he grew up in Parma Heights. He attended Valley Forge High School, Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University, though he did not graduate from either college. He currently lives in Cleveland’s Asia Town.

Ho said he is a big fan of the rapper Jay-Z, and named the store after Jay-Z’s 2001 album, The Blueprint. He said of Cleveland Heights, “I like this neighborhood, and I really like the people. I’ve enjoyed every minute that I have been here!”

Blueprint Boutique is open seven days a week. It opens at noon each day, and is open until 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and until 6 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

Anthony Ho in his new store.

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R’s Kitchen shares unique relationship with neighboring M.T. Glass

James Henke

R’s Kitchen, a new restaurant, is slated to open on Aug. 2 at 13441 Cedar Road, next door to the M.T. Glass bar in the Cedar Taylor Business District. While the new restaurant and neighboring bar have different owners, the two businesses already share a close relationship.

M.T. Glass provides drinks for all of the diners at R’s Kitchen, and the restaurant provides food for the bar’s patrons.

“We had a management agreement with M.T. Glass,” said Arlyn Samuels, the owner of R’s Kitchen. “We have a shared space, and we serve each other’s patrons.”

In fact, when R’s Kitchen first started serving food, on June 10, all of its seats were located next door, in M.T. Glass.

Previously, M.T. Glass had a similar relationship with Seafood Place, formerly located in the R’s Kitchen space. When the owners of Seafood Place moved that business to Lee Road (next to The Rib Cage, which they also own), Roy Juresko, the owner of M.T. Glass, wanted to find a new restaurant with which to partner.

Samuels’ husband, Tom Burrows, has been a regular at M.T. Glass for many years, and Juresko knew that Burrows’ wife was in the food business. As a result, they worked out a deal for Samuels to open her own restaurant. (Juresko rents the space where R’s Kitchen is located from the building’s owner.)

A Cleveland Heights resident, Samuels, 56, grew up here. After graduating from Heights High in 1978, she attended both Ohio University and Cleveland State University. She worked in industrial sales for about 20 years before she got into the cooking business.

That said, Samuels has loved cooking since she was 11. “When I was in school, I would call my mom when I got home, and she would tell me what to make for dinner,” Samuels recalled.

In the late 1990s, she decided to make cooking her career. She started working at O’Rielly’s Pub in University Heights. A couple of years later, she decided to attend culinary school at Cuyahoga Community College, where she earned a degree in hospitality management in 2009. She then worked at the Sans Souci restaurant in Cleveland’s Renaissance Hotel until last November, when she decided she wanted to open her own restaurant.

Asked how she came up with the name for her new restaurant, Samuels explained, “Because my name is Arlyn, a lot of my friends call me ‘R’; and then since Roy’s name begins with an ‘R,’ I thought it would make sense to call it R’s Kitchen.”

R’s Kitchen offers an eclectic menu. Starters include calamari, egg rolls and poppers—jalapeño peppers stuffed with house-made pimento cheese. Several homemade soups are available daily, as well as chili and salads. Also on the menu are a variety of sandwiches and burgers, and entrees such as chicken piccata, braised-beef short ribs, and fish and chips.

“I try to keep everything fresh and local when possible,” Samuels said. “I also like to offer vegetarian options, and we change our egg rolls every day.”

R’s Kitchen (216-406-2715) is open Tuesday through Saturday, 3–11 p.m.

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. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

WHAT’S NEW @

Motorcars Honda is building a 500 sq. ft. kids area, designed to be a miniature Motorcars dealership.

Motorcars Toyota is installing a solar array, which is currently providing more than 70% of the dealership’s energy needs.

The new write up area features new desks and the AskMoto kiosk, plus a window right into the main shop.

An all new lounge complete with work stations equipped with cell phone chargers, free Wi-Fi, and numerous flat screens to help you pass the time.

The MotoSquad can answer any questions, offer tours, vehicle test drives, and provide you a free equity analysis on your vehicle.

Our Platinum Customers are treated to an exclusive escape with a coffee bar, complimentary iPads, and an outdoor patio with a fireplace.

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