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# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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FutureHeights  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## Noble Neighbors invites residents to Light Up Noble!

Brenda H. May

Noble area residents, businesses and institutions will be lighting up the neighborhood this holiday season. Light Up Noble! is the newest Noble Neighbors initiative to showcase the neighborhoods along Noble Road.

Thousands of visitors come to the neighborhood each year to view the holiday lighting display that GE Lighting designs and installs at its Nela Park campus in East Cleveland, just north of the Cleveland Heights city line. This year will be the 92nd year that the company will create the display. It will be the first year that Noble Neighbors seeks to expand the holiday lighting spirit to the rest of the neighborhood.

"This year, Noble Road from Monticello Boulevard to Euclid Avenue will become a glowing, welcoming corridor, twinkling with community pride," said Susan Sanders, one



GE Lighting's 2015 holiday display at Nela Park.

of the leaders of Noble Neighbors.

The lights will reflect the area's diversity—featuring holiday-themed decorations, solstice observance illuminations, and displays showing pride in Cleveland sports teams. The common goal is for neighbors to join together to display neighborhood pride to all who visit the famed Nela

Park lighting display.

"We are thrilled to learn how many people want to join in this effort. There is such a growing sense of community pride along Noble Road," said Sanders.

Noble Neighbors envisions Light Up Noble! as a way to welcome  
*continued on page 11*

## Coventry Village embraces holiday spirit with two December events for families



2015 Coventry Village festivalgoers with Santa.

Angela Hetrick

The Coventry Village Special Improvement District (SID) invites everyone to get in the holiday spirit and visit Coventry Village for two fun, free, family-friendly events planned for December.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, noon to 11 p.m., the popular Coventry Village Holiday Festival returns.

This year, Coventry Village will reward visitors for shopping local by offering \$10 in Coventry Cash for

every \$50 shoppers spend on a single receipt at a participating merchant location. The Coventry Cash shoppers earn during the Holiday Festival can be spent in January at participating district businesses.

As always, attendees can enjoy free festivities throughout the day, including photos with Santa and Coventry Claus, holiday family portraits, special screenings of the movies "Home Alone" and "Gremlins" in the Centrum Theatre, live music and

*continued on page 11*

## Heights voters pass school levy and CH charter amendments

Kim Sergio Inglis

In the Nov. 8 election, voters passed the 5.5 mill Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District tax levy, Issue 109, by a margin of 2,162 votes, with 53.9 percent of voters (14,932) voting for the levy, and 46.1 percent (12,770) voting against it.

Cleveland Heights voters also passed Issues 51 and 52—amendments to the Cleveland Heights City Charter—related to deadlines for Cleveland Heights City Council candidates.

Issue 51 results were: 13,157 (67.25 percent) yes; 6,406 (32.75 percent) no.

Issue 52 results were: 12,975 (66.48 percent) yes; 6,542 (33.52 percent) no.

In Cleveland Heights precinct 2-F, a majority of voters also passed Issue 53, related to Sunday liquor sales at CLE Urban Winery (2180B Lee Road), by a margin of 536 votes, with 639 voting yes and 103 voting no. The passage of this issue permits the sale of wine and mixed beverages at the business on Sundays, 11 a.m. to midnight.

To view a complete list of election results, visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website, [boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us).

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

## Gesu breaks ground for STREAM learning center

Mary Kate Farrar

Gesu Catholic School broke ground on Oct. 31, beginning the second phase of its STREAM initiative.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, Pastor Karl Kiser, Principal Lucy Iemmolo, Pastoral Associate Sr. Kathleen Flannery, Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Cleveland Susan Pohly, architects Steve Taylor and Jim Marshaus from Marshaus & Farkas, project managers Art Lindroas and Nancy Lindroas

from Bolton Pratt Company, and students were among those present at demolition to prepare the space.

Phase two of construction includes renovation of the north side of the school building, originally the convent for the parish, and most recently the Religious Education Center.

The three-story space will be designed to enhance classroom learning in science, technology, religion, engineering, art and mathematics, all dedicated to Gesu's STREAM initiative.

The new space will consist of two *makerspace* rooms that will house a variety of equipment, including 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing machines and more. (Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment and build as they engage in science, engineering and related projects.)

The area will also include a flexible instructional space and a renovated chapel. When completed, in spring 2017, the wing will be known

*continued on page 2*

**Letters Policy**

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

**HEIGHTS OBSERVER**

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**PUBLISHER**

Deanna Bremer Fisher  
[dbfisher@futureheights.org](mailto:dbfisher@futureheights.org)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Kim Sergio Inglis  
[city.editor@heightsobserver.org](mailto:city.editor@heightsobserver.org)

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Andrea C. Turner  
[act\\_one@sbcglobal.net](mailto:act_one@sbcglobal.net)

**ADVERTISING**

Bob Rosenbaum  
216-401-9342  
[brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org](mailto:brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Greg Donley, Judith Eugene, James Henke, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Richard Stewart, Andrea C. Turner

**EDITORS**

Jamison Babb, Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Christine Brucker, Daniel Budin, David Budin, Greg Donley, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Kim Sergio Inglis, Clare Taft, Andrea C. Turner

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**

Temma Collins, Diane Roberto

**DISTRIBUTION**

Sruti Basu

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**About the Observer**

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

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

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

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

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on "Member Center" at the left.

- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

Articles to be considered for the January issue must be submitted by Dec. 6. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

**Steering committee member thanks community for supporting schools**

To the Editor:

I would like to personally thank every single person who volunteered their time and energy to campaign with Citizens for Our Heights Schools on behalf of the school levy.

Your passion and your faith in our district made an enormous difference to residents.

And I would like to thank every single person who voted in favor of Issue 109.

This victory allows the district to continue offering a high-quality, well-rounded education to our community's children, and sends a clear message about the value we place on opportunity and access.

There is much work to be done to further strengthen our schools, but the passage of this levy allows us to focus our collective energy on positive change.

Thank you.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher  
[a member of the Steering Committee for Citizens for Our Heights Schools]  
Cleveland Heights

**Superintendent thanks community**

To the Editor:

I first want to say a heartfelt thank you to the CH-UH community for supporting our schools. We are obviously thrilled with the result of Issue 109, and we appreciate the trust that the voters have in our public schools.

The work doesn't stop here, however. We must continue to earn the support and the trust of our community and strive toward our goal of academic excellence for each and every student. Our five-year strategic plan clearly sets us on this path to success—we have seen improvements in district operations already and expect to realize even more positive results moving forward.

As I have said many times before, strong communities deserve strong schools. As the leader of our school district, I am proud to live and work in such a vibrant community that is rich in culture and opportunities for all.

Finally, I want to thank all of the community volunteers who worked so hard to pass this levy. Your efforts on behalf of our students and our staff and your belief in the district did not go unnoticed.

Dr. Talisa Dixon, Superintendent,  
CH-UH City School District  
Cleveland Heights

*GESU continued from page 1*

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UH Mayor Susan Infeld, Pastor Karl Kiser, Principal Lucy Iemmolo and other guests gathered for a photo before Gesu's groundbreaking ceremony.

as The Breen Family Educational Center for STREAM Learning.

Along with the physical renovation of the school, the academic curriculum has been enhanced to incorporate more project-based learning, critical thinking and collaboration across curriculum areas.

Gesu School is seeking STEM certification through the state of Ohio.

A key component of a STEM-certified school is the formation of partnerships with higher education institutions, businesses and community organizations that can

provide support to Gesu's program. This support may include learning experiences, career information or a source of real world application of STEM topics.

For more information on the Gesu School's STREAM program, or to become a community partner, contact the school office at 216-932-0620, the parish development office at 216-932-0617, or visit the school website at [www.gesu.com](http://www.gesu.com).

*Mary Kate Farrar, a former resident of University Heights, is development director for Gesu school and parish.*

# A school nurse's job is complex and essential

Ari Klein

In the CH-UH school district, we have six school nurses. The salaries of these individuals have been highly criticized by levy opponents, even though they are on the same pay scale as social workers, counselors and program specialists. The argument has been that we should not have to spend so much for nursing services. It may be helpful [for critics] to know what our school nurses do and what they are responsible for before making assumptions about their worth.

Our school nurses have Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing and are registered nurses. More than half hold master's degrees in education, and all are licensed as school nurses—a rigorous certification with many requirements, including a 300-hour practicum with a licensed school nurse.

All district nurses had at least 10 years of experience in nursing before CH-UH hired them. They are responsible for the welfare of every child in our schools, as well as for the adults.

Administering medications, monitoring students with diabetes, making critical decisions, screening students for vision and hearing, and administering to sick children are all par for the course in a typical day.

Yet school nurses do even more as part of their regular responsibilities. They are called in as experts during meetings to determine accommodations for students with special needs. They are part of the teams that meet in each building regarding the needs of students who are struggling. They bring a different perspective through their medical knowledge and contact with [students'] homes. Their advocacy maximizes the ability of our students to learn.

Our nurses have to document everything they do, from logging in the hundreds of visits to the nurse's office in each building to following up on immunizations. Nurses help create personalized health care plans, and follow up with students who are often absent to determine if there is

a health issue the family and student need help managing. Countless students have daily and emergency medications that the nurse administers or trains others to administer.

Many do not realize the number of medically fragile students that are served in our buildings, nor how many students have chronic conditions, such as seizures, food allergies or sickle cell, that require a trained professional to monitor. Our nurses manage everything from feeding tubes to educating students on how to use an inhaler. Teaching students how to prevent medical episodes whenever possible is a regular part of their job. Our nurses also consult for students who are in private schools, as required by law, in addition to their regular building assignments.

As Caroline Champion wrote in a collection of stories by school nurses ["The Truth About School Nursing" from *A Long Way From Henry Street*, published by William V. MacGill & Co.]: "A school nurse must be good at everything, not only emergency care, but also nursing assessment, chronic illness management, complex medical conditions, epidemiology, prevention, safety teaching, screening, communicating, care management, policy development, grant-writing, employee health, legal issues, politics, advocacy care plan development, pharmacology, computer documentation, and now RTI, response to intervention."

School nurses must be organized and experienced in order to perform their complex jobs. We cannot educate students without their vital services. There is no way that this kind of work could be managed if it was not done by the district's own health care experts. These six nurses are among the most overlooked and least understood employees in our district. I believe they are fairly compensated and know that we would be in deep trouble without their expertise.

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

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# In a democracy, citizens have the most important job



**THE COMMON GOOD**

Susie Kaeser

During the final three weeks leading up to this year's presidential election, I spent eight days working in a basement on Edgemoor Road in Cleveland Heights. I was part of a four-person team that welcomed volunteers to our staging location, where we trained them, assigned a "turf" and sent them off to knock on doors in our community. Their mission: to urge their fellow citizens to vote.

Each volunteer was given a walk packet identifying 35 to 40 addresses to visit. Some walked in pairs, while others went solo. They gave up beautiful days and private time because democracy matters. They endured rain and cold to reach one more street and a few more households. They presented themselves to strangers, some of whom readily engaged and others who slammed doors or yelled obscenities. They took themselves out of their comfort zones to do something important.

There is nothing glamorous about participating in democracy. In fact, it is often anxiety producing, boring, cold and exhausting.

Nonetheless, it is remarkable and wonderful!

People reach out to strangers because they care about who is elected and how government functions. Face-to-face communication makes a difference. Perhaps the best part of life in the basement was meeting and greeting the people who were willing to invest themselves in the election.

I am a loyal advocate of Cleveland Heights. I moved here in 1979 because of the city's diversity and its rich civic culture. Our residents care about issues and get involved. While this makes democracy messy, it also makes for a stronger community and better decisions.

There is a vibe that invites engagement, citizen responsibility, a search for a better community and real solutions to issues. I've always loved that about living here, and it is the reason this was such a satisfying way to spend my time during a depressing and painful presidential election cycle.

During those stints in the basement, I met the full range of our residents.

What I love about our community is its amazing economic, religious and racial mix. We have a unique array of nonprofit organizations and an abundance of artists and academics. Cleveland Heights is home to teachers, social

workers, nurses, scientists, planners, laborers, secretaries, food service workers and students. We have young families, grandparents raising young children and a great mix of retired people.

I saw them all. One by one, or in groups, they came to the basement, got their assignment, hit the streets and came back with stories to tell.

For many, it was their first campaign experience; for others, it was the latest in a long history of involvement.

It was often frustrating to them to reach so few people or at times exhilarating to be well-received. Mixed in with doubts about their impact was pride that they had taken action. They were part of a political campaign. They were helping to shape the future. They did their part. They were empowered. They were fulfilling their responsibility as citizens. They were helping all of us.

For me, the debates and ads do not do justice to the candidates. They are plastic and distant—performances. They don't do that much for the voters either. To get under the surface you need a chance to talk with people you trust about what matters and what is important about being elected to an office and leading a country. It's a complex deci-

sion, but the process of citizen-to-citizen, face-to-face contact helps that process. There is no substitute for the human touch.

My first adventure knocking on doors for a presidential candidate was in 1968. As a college student in Iowa, I drove to Nebraska to campaign for the anti-war candidate Eugene McCarthy. He lost. The next campaign was for George McGovern. In addition to canvassing for him, I covered the Democratic Convention that year for my hometown newspaper and witnessed the inclusion of a much more diverse population in the party. It was a great victory even if my candidate lost.

The Obama candidacy revived my excitement about electoral politics, and I joined the ground game in Cleveland Heights.

I believe that local grassroots activism is the heart and soul of a democratic society. The concerned people who came to the basement to work for their candidate inspired me. They revived my faith in the democratic process. An active and engaged citizenry moves our society forward. It is the only thing that ever has.

*Susie Kaeser 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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# Recapping column's first six months and moving forward



**HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY**

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

We've enjoyed covering a variety of subjects during the first six months of this column. Readers—even a couple who haven't agreed with us—have been generous and kind, in person and in writing. Many thanks to you all. This month, we'll recap topics addressed to date in this column, and close with an appeal.

**June: How "public" is public education?** In our debut column, we highlighted testimony by two Cleveland Heights High School seniors at the third annual Democracy Day public hearing before Cleveland Heights City Council. Emma Schubert and Elijah Snow-Rackley, members of the Heights Coalition for Public Education, presented evidence of the negative impact on CH-UH public schools of high-stakes testing, vouchers and charter schools. The Heights Coalition for Public Education continues its excellent work. Learn more about the coalition's work, and sign its position statement at <http://chub.net/coalition/>.

**July: Take back the CH Building Department.** Citing more-stringent state licensing requirements for building inspectors, the city of Cleveland Heights outsourced its building department last summer to SAFEbuilt, a corporation founded in Colorado that is now owned by private equity firm Riverside.

Mayor Cheryl Stephens and Council Member Carol Roe expressed interest in negotiating a regional public collaboration as an alternative to privatization. So, we were surprised when the mayor recently told us that other matters, such as the Top of the Hill project, had taken priority, and the building department "did not rise to the top of the pile." Asked what city function(s) might be privatized next, the mayor replied that she had "no idea."

Meanwhile, former Cleveland Heights inspectors have found new employment in Orange and Newburgh

Heights, two cities that are keeping their building departments in-house. We suggest that Cleveland Heights citizens who want to see public services remain public and accountable to voters make their views known to the mayor and each council member—now.

**August: Alphabet soup—uhm, uhm, not good.** Though more Americans are getting the drift that TPP, TTIP and TISA are not about trade—but really about the insidious Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions allowing corporations to supersede the high courts of sovereign nations—there will be a major push to get TPP through Congress during the lame-duck session. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (202-225-7032) and Senator Sherrod Brown (202-224-2315) seem to be steadfastly against TPP, but an encouraging call wouldn't hurt. Senator Rob Portman (202-224-3353) supports the surrender of national sovereignty to corporate rule. Please call Portman and let him know what you think of that. As Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*, said, "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."

**September: Public transit: Broke and broken?** On Oct. 9, the *Plain Dealer* reported on the idea of establishing a multi-county public transit system (<http://tinyurl.com/zbov3ux>). However, counties and transit systems statewide face continued service cuts when millions of dollars in sales taxes from Medicaid managed-care plans disappear on July 1, 2017.

We checked in again with Trevor Elkins, Newburgh Heights mayor and RTA board member, who said, "The regional system idea is great—but at this point, there are too many moving parts and no plans to fund it. Gov. Kasich has promised a partial solution to the Medicaid tax crunch, but we don't know any details." Elkins suggests that Heights residents who support a 1/4-percent sales tax increase, to fund improved RTA service, contact County Council Rep. Anthony Hairston (216-698-2022) and County Executive Armond Budish (216-443-7178).

**October: "We the Corporations" or "We the People?"** Some passionate and articulate Americans met in Scott Wachter's University

Heights home in late October to discuss democracy, self-governance, and an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating that (1) Corporations are not people; and (2) Money is not speech. The group is considering how and when to launch a Move to Amend (MTA) campaign in University Heights. To help, contact Wachter at [wachter@nacs.net](mailto:wachter@nacs.net). Cleveland Heights voters passed a citizens' initiative in 2013. Congratulations to South Euclid and Shaker Heights, where MTA ballot issues passed on Nov. 8!

**November: Public Water – Yes!** By now, all households in Cleveland Heights, plus several hundred in University Heights, have received clear, detailed information in the mail from Cleveland Water about the

transition to direct service. If you've misplaced the mailing, check out [www.clevelandwater.com](http://www.clevelandwater.com), and click on Welcome Cleveland Heights Customers, in the lower right corner of the home page. Or, read the related article on page 8.

**An appeal:** We would love to hear your ideas for topics relevant to democracy in Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Please e-mail us, and include a phone number if you'd like to chat.

*Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, who grew up in Cleveland Heights, and has lived here as an adult for over 30 years. Contact them at [heightsdemocracy@gmail.com](mailto:heightsdemocracy@gmail.com).*

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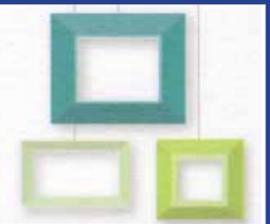
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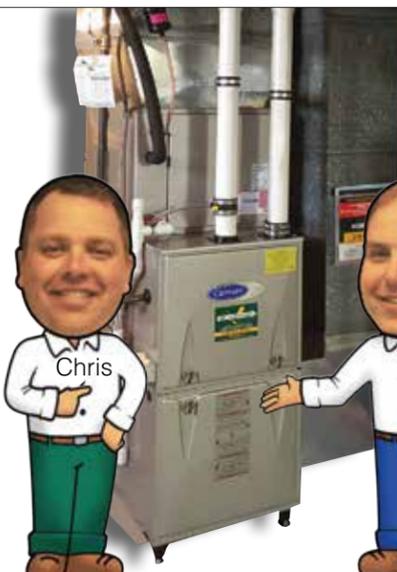
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## Former UH Mayor Beryl Rothschild dies at 88

Andrea C. Turner & Kim Sergio Inglis

Beryl E. Rothschild (née Shapiro), mayor of University Heights from 1978 to 2009, died on Nov. 25. According to UH Mayor Susan Infeld, Rothschild “had not been in good health of late and was recently in hospice.”

Funeral services were held Nov. 29 at Berkowitz-Kumin-Bookatz Memorial Chapel in Cleveland Heights. Afterward, mourners traveled in procession through University Heights to Mayfield Cemetery, where Rothschild was interred.

Rothschild served as University Heights mayor for 32 years, and as a member of its city council for 10. Mayor Infeld noted that Rothschild was “one of the first women mayors elected in the State of Ohio and was also one of the longest-serving mayors in the State.”

“She served on numerous boards and commissions regionally and statewide and was very well-respected among her peers,” Infeld wrote of her predecessor. “Her civic legacy was far-reaching and prolific. Her interest and care for University Heights was evident in her work as a 42-year elected official. . . . We

have all benefited from her wisdom and years of service.”

According to *Cleveland Jewish News*, Rothschild was a 1947 graduate of Cleveland Heights High School. She moved to University Heights in 1951.

In a 2009 *Heights Observer* article, Rothschild looked back on her years of service to University Heights, and pointed to the development of Purvis Park and its pool, the City Beautiful Commission, and the city’s EMT program as highlights of her tenure as mayor. She expressed particular pride in the city’s diversity program, which lasted 10 years, and helped members of the city’s diverse cultures (by her count, 39 of them, speaking 11 languages) understand one another and work together.

Condolences can be sent to: Brian and Margaret Slesnik, 4463 High Ridge Trail, Akron, Ohio, 44333.

*Andrea C. Turner is managing editor of the Heights Observer. Kim Sergio Inglis is its editor-in-chief.*



COURTESY HEIGHTS OBSERVER

## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 19, 2016  
 Councilman Phillip Ertel was absent.

### Public comments

New park: A resident told council that he wasn’t initially sure about the need for a park, but he and his dog are now enthusiastic users. He has two suggested improvements: the addition of doggy “poop” bags, and markings on the path to indicate distance. Mayor Susan Infeld said that the path is 0.3 miles long, but agrees that both suggestions are good and that she welcomes all suggestions for improvements.

### Arborist report

Tom Morgan, the city’s arborist, gave a report on the state of the city’s trees and the process used to review the trees. He has been in the urban forestry program for more than 30 years. Many of the trees are old and in a state of decline. He goes through the city block by block, tree by tree, to determine which are OK, which need to be trimmed, and which need to be removed. Removal is always the last option considered. Councilman Mark Wiseman noted that homeowners are responsible for caring for new trees planted in their tree lawn, ensuring that they have sufficient water, but this is often not communicated to homeowners. Morgan said he would look into informing homeowners regarding needed care.

### Police body cameras and server

Council approved the purchase of 20 body cameras for the police department. The purchase will be made via state contract through L3 Mobile-Vision Inc. for a price not to exceed \$15,558.50. Steve Hammett, police chief, reported that they currently have four body cameras that are older and need to be updated. More cameras are needed now that officers are seeing their value. Luke McConville, law director, concurred, saying that the cameras are helping to expedite the hearing process and are reducing litigation. Both the officers and residents can find it illuminating to see a recording of how they were actually reacting in the situation.

Council approved the purchase of a server for the police department via state contract from L3 Mobile-Vision Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$28,790.48. The current server is at maximum data and the use of the new video cameras will cause older data to be dumped. The current server is also no longer being supported by the manufacturer.

### Video surveillance

Council approved purchase of a closed circuit television system for the University Heights municipal complex via state contract from i2c Tech-

nologies at a cost not to exceed \$62,682.86. The city was admonished in reviews for lack of sufficient video surveillance, including in the city’s jail. The city would need to outsource care of the prisoners if it didn’t add more cameras. There are also no cameras currently in city hall or the new park, and cameras would greatly improve employees’ ability to respond to unexpected situations. The cameras would be monitored by the police department.

*LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.*

NOVEMBER 7, 2016  
 Councilman Phillip Ertel was absent.

### Volunteer opportunity at Gearity

Mayor Infeld announced Gearity Professional Development School is looking for volunteers to tutor students afterschool in grades K-3. A notice is posted in city hall.

### Presentation by Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Terry Allen, health commissioner from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, spoke to council about the many services provided to the city by the county. Cities that don’t have their own health departments use county services, including: opiate drug-use-awareness and prevention; school-age vaccinations and boosters, travel-related immunizations, and flu shots; emergency responses to the Ebola virus and mosquito-borne diseases; prevention programs, including chronic disease prevention, cancer prevention, food poisoning, lead poisoning, and building-based diseases; infant mortality, maternal and child health support, and pregnancy prevention; and inspections for restaurants and schools. University Heights has contracted with the board for more than 20 years. The rate per resident has been \$3.92 but will increase to \$4.12 in 2017. Council authorized the mayor to contract with the board for an amount not to exceed \$55,781 for the next 12 months.

### Tree planting

Tree planting has begun in the city, mostly in the northwest quadrant. Orange flags will be placed to designate the location of trees to be planted.

*LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.*

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 11.

# Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 17, 2016

Council members Jason Stein and Melissa Yasinow were absent.

**Public comments**

Motorcycle noise and paving: Resident Dee Spence complained about noisy motorcycles in her neighborhood and presented a petition she had circulated to the law director. She also asked about plans for paving Noble Road, and was referred to the Public Works Department. Council Member Mary Dunbar noted that a public meeting will be held in the future about plans for the Noble Road project.

Storm and emergency preparedness: A citizen asked about these matters in reference to the microburst storm in August and the long time it is taking for cleanup and repairs. Mayor Cheryl Stephens replied that the city is continuing to put pressure on Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company to improve the electrical system, transformers and lines. City Manager Tanisha Briley said this was not a regular storm, nor a simple repair, and that the city government understands what residents experienced, adding that it has applied for and been denied Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, which it is still pursuing.

**Cain Park concessions proposals**

Council authorized issuance of a request for proposals for 2017 Cain Park concessions.

**Top of the Hill development**

Council authorized negotiation of a non-binding letter of intent with Fairmount Properties, LLC, concerning the Top of the Hill development at Cedar Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. There was praise for city staff's work on poring over the many competitive proposals for this "promising and energizing" project, which will also benefit University Circle. There will be opportunities for citizen input.

**Nuisance property**

Council declared 3171 Oak Road, owned by Jonathan C. Luma, to be a nuisance and ordered abatement.

**Recent robbery and murder**

The mayor and several council members mourned the death of 15-year-old Sunny [Ravi] Patel in a robbery at his uncle's sandwich shop [Mr. Hero] on Oct. 14. They praised the safety personnel who tried to save his life and the police work that led to the capture of the perpetrator within 48 hours. All sent condolences to the family. Mayor Stephens spoke directly to criminals about what will happen if they commit crimes in Cleveland Heights. [LWV note: the perpetrator has since pled guilty and has been sentenced for this, and other, crimes.]

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Council members Carol Roe and Michael N. Ungar were absent.

**Body cameras for the police department**

Council approved the emergency purchase of 80 body cameras and related software, warranty and equipment from vendor VIEVU for \$72,160.

**Finance and payroll software**

Council amended an agreement for finance and payroll software upgrades and maintenance with Tyler Technologies, formerly New World Systems Corp. Compensation will not exceed \$334,800.

**Computer network infrastructure**

Network Dynamics Inc. was approved to provide and install network infrastructure equipment at a cost not to exceed \$140,000, which is below the price available through the state's Cooperative Purchasing Program.

**Bridge inspection program**

Council authorized the Ohio Department of Transportation to conduct bridge inspections within the city, which are fully funded by the state.

**CDBG program**

Council approved, on second reading, the submission of the Community Development Block Grant application for 2017, the 43rd year of this program. The goals of this program are to ensure availability and sustainability of housing and many other services to low- and moderate-income residents. The \$1.4 million proceeds from the block grants also enable access to other funds.

**Cranksgiving**

The Heights Bicycle Coalition and Bike Cleveland will sponsor a "Cranksgiving" event at Cleveland Heights City Hall on Nov. 19. Cyclists will ride to local grocery stores to buy needed food items for the two hunger centers in Cleveland Heights.

**Public health services**

Cleveland Heights renewed its agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for the provision of public health services to city residents for 2017. The fee for basic mandated services will be \$190,019.

**Nuisance property**

The property at 1019 Caledonia Ave., owned by Mulba Borsay, was declared a nuisance. There have been numerous housing code violations since 2008, and no progress has been made to correct them.

**Election Day and Issue 109 support**

Several council members reminded voters that Nov. 8 was Election Day and voiced support for Issue 109, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school levy.

The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 5, the only meeting in December.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 11.

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# Cleveland Water provides transition information for Heights customers

Deborah Van Kleef

Beginning on Jan. 1, Cleveland Heights households and businesses, along with about 700 University Heights households, will become direct service customers of Cleveland Water.

For 101 years, Cleveland Heights was a master meter community, pur-

chasing water from Cleveland and reselling it at a marked-up rate. Water was a source of revenue for the city until recently, when infrastructure deterioration caused the Cleveland Heights Water Department to operate at increasing losses.

Several hundred Heights residents gathered at the Cleveland Heights Community Center on Oct. 26 and 29, to hear Cleveland Water Commissioner Alex Margevicius discuss the upcoming transition. (Business owners attended a separate session on Oct. 28.)

Among the topics Margevicius covered were rates and billing, metering, affordability programs and fraud prevention.

In early November, the Cleveland Water Department mailed a booklet to all affected Heights households and businesses, containing the same information discussed at the October meetings.

Water customers will now receive monthly bills from Cleveland Water, which previously billed on a quarterly basis. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer

District will also switch to monthly billing. Cleveland Heights will continue to bill for landfill and local sewer, but on a quarterly basis.

During the second quarter of 2017, Cleveland Water will begin replacing water meters. The new meters will issue alerts within seven days if a customer's water usage changes from its typical pattern. The utility will then notify the customer. Hourly readings will be available to help in diagnosing problems.

Water consumption is measured in cubic feet. Cleveland Heights bills in units of 100 cubic feet (CCF), while Cleveland bills in units of 1,000 cubic feet (MCF). If a past water bill showed usage of 10 CCF in a month, the equivalent on a future water bill would be usage of one MCF. An MCF is equal to 7,480 gallons of water.

Residential bills will include:

- A \$9 monthly fixed charge. (Cleveland Heights water customers currently pay \$10.)
- A consumption charge, for MCFs of water used.
- A five-year monthly transition fee of \$38.91 per MCF for Cleveland Heights residents. University Heights

residents will pay a 10-year monthly transition fee of \$11.81. The lower rate is due to both the 10-year duration and a one-time payment by the city of University Heights. The transition fee will cover the cost of bringing close to 16,000 new customers into the system, replacing meters, and making up Cleveland Heights's deficit payments to Cleveland Water.

With the consumption charge and the transition fee, the first MCF used will cost a Cleveland Heights resident \$69.73, and a University Heights resident \$42.63. Customers from both cities currently pay \$88.04 for the first MCF. Thus, even with the transition fee, bills will be less.

Reduced rates are available for those who qualify. Low-income residents can call the Cleveland Housing Network at 888-901-1222 for more information. Low-income seniors and disabled residents can call Cleveland Water at 216-664-3130.

Further details are available in the mailing from Cleveland Water and at [www.clevelandwater.com](http://www.clevelandwater.com).

*Deborah Van Kleef is a Cleveland Heights writer and musician.*

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## Volunteers clean up Coventry playground

Joanne Campbell

On Oct. 15, a crisp sunny day, volunteers gathered at the hilltop of the Coventry Playground at 9 a.m. for the biannual fall clean-up day.

The volunteer groups comprised members of the Cleveland Heights Youth Committee, Heights High's swim team and Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO), Heights High alumni, and the hardworking Coventry Playground Committee, headed by Erick

Kauffman.

Their first project was to set up the tent and tables to hold the food for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast treats, donated by Zoss The Swiss Baker and Phoenix Coffee, were quickly consumed, and appreciated. Then the work began.

Volunteers weeded the gardens, cleaning out accumulated growth and other debris. They painted the glider and the turret roofs. Scott Jackson supervised the extensive repair of several pieces of playground equipment.

The volunteers took a break to enjoy lunch, generously provided by Tommy's restaurant.

The work day ended at 3 p.m., when the remaining volunteers put the garden equipment away and went home with the satisfaction of having helped keep the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. gardens and playground the beautiful green space that it is for the Cleveland Heights community.

The organizers thank everyone who came out to volunteer, and hope to see everyone again for the next clean-up day, in the spring.

*Joanne C. Campbell, a Cleveland Heights resident for more than 50 years, has been involved with Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park for more than 20 years.*

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# V&E Hann seeks to give free furnace to a needy family



Chris (left) and Bill Hann, co-owners of Verne & Ellsworth Hann, plan to give away a free furnace to a family or individual in need.

Bob Rosenbaum

On Jan. 31, Verne & Ellsworth Hann Inc. will give away a furnace, including installation, to someone in need. Chris Hann, vice president of the Cleveland Heights-based heating, cooling and plumbing company, is asking for nominations from the community.

“We want to share our good fortune by giving something back to the community that’s been so good to our family all these years,” he said. “We’re calling it a ‘Helping Hann.’”

Nominations are being accepted on the company website ([www.veh-brothers.com/helping-hann/](http://www.veh-brothers.com/helping-hann/)) through the end of January, for individuals or families who live in the extended Heights area. The winner will be selected based on a range of considerations, such as age, physical disabilities, financial challenges and military service.

“We’re depending on people to raise their hand, to let us know that they or someone they know is in need of help this winter,” Hann said.

The winner will receive a high-efficiency Carrier furnace and installation with a total value up to \$3,500—a typical system for the three-bedroom, 1,500- to 1,800-square-foot homes that are abundant throughout the Heights. Cost for electrical and chimney modifications, which are sometimes necessary, aren’t included in the give-

away, as those need to be handled by other tradesmen.

To make sure the winner isn’t taken by surprise about such issues, Hann plans to select a handful of finalists and then make personal visits to identify any added costs that would have to be covered.

“We want this to be good news for someone in need,” he said, adding that anyone who submits information will receive \$200 off an installation “just for nominating someone in need.”

Chris co-owns the company with his younger brother Bill. Their great-grandfather emigrated from England and opened W.F. Hann & Sons here in 1907. He had four sons in the business, but only two wanted to continue after his retirement. So he sold the company in 1946 (it still exists without any connection to the Hann family), and sons Verne and Ellsworth started their own business in 1952.

The company relocated in January 2015 from its longtime location in the southern section of the Cedar Lee Business District to a 10,000-square-foot building farther north on Lee Road (at Yorkshire Road). They’ve invested \$350,000 in the property, not including the purchase price, Chris Hann said.

The company currently employs 20, including a nephew who repre-

sents the fifth generation of family involvement.

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



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## Adams competes in state golf tournament



Beaumont senior Erin Adams.

COURTESY BEAUMONT SCHOOL

Rick Haase

Erin Adams, a Beaumont School senior, represented Beaumont at the 9th annual Girls Division II State Golf Tournament. Adams finished 11th out of 71 girls who made the trip to Columbus, to play in the Oct. 14 and 15 championship at The Ohio State University Gray Golf Course.

Adams previously competed in the 2013 state championship, for which Beaumont's team qualified. This year, she came out strong on day one, and shot a 4 over par 74. She followed up with an 87 on day two, for an overall score of 161.

Adams has been a member of Beaumont's golf team throughout her

high school career and, as a senior, has become a leader both on and off the golf course. She is helpful, encouraging and always there for her teammates.

"As one of the co-captains this year, Erin has really stepped up in the leadership role," said Coach Katie Kirk. "When you have a team that has a lot of freshmen about to start school, Erin was right there to help tell the girls what to expect in classes, and on the golf course. Erin is always there waiting until the last girl comes in from [her] round, giving words of encouragement. Even if Erin didn't shoot her best round, she would always have a positive attitude toward the other girls."

In addition to being an avid golfer, Adams is a top-notch student, is involved in competitive Irish dance, and is a member of the Beaumont track team, among other extracurricular activities.

*Rick Haase is director of public relations and marketing at Beaumont School, a Catholic school in the Ursuline tradition, educating women for life, leadership and service.*



Judy Hauser, Mimi Hargate, Bonnie Bolitho and Peg Zitzner play pickleball at the CH Recreation Center.

COURTESY JUDITH HAUSER

## Pickleball comes to Cleveland Heights

Judith Hauser

Cleveland Heights has a pickleball program, which started in the winter of 2016. One of the fastest-growing sports in the U.S., pickleball is played on a court half the size of a tennis court (making it easier on the knees), using a paddle that looks like a large pingpong paddle, and a hard plastic ball with holes.

In Cleveland Heights, participants play outside in good weather, at Dennison Park's two courts, and inside from October through May, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center (1 Monticello Blvd.), where there are three courts.

Pickleball is for singles or doubles, though most play doubles.

Court time at the community center is available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Fees for Cleveland Heights residents are \$3 per session or \$25 for 10 sessions; nonresident fees are \$6 per session or \$50 for 10 sessions.

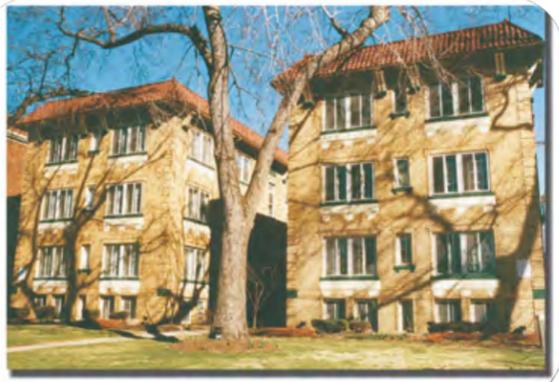
Participants aren't required to play for the entire three hours—they can drop in as their schedules permit. Paddles are available for new players, as are instructors to help get newcomers started with games or drills. Just sign in at the main desk, and get started. For more information, e-mail judy.hauser2988@gmail.com.

*Cleveland Heights resident Judith Hauser is a pickleball player and facilitator.*

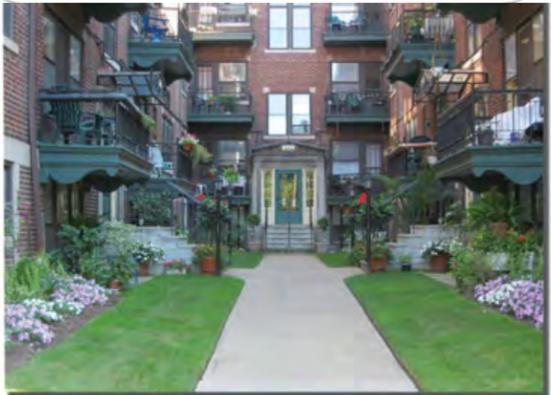
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## Celebrating 'roll' models and holidays



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) will celebrate Roll Models and Holidays on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., at Nighttown (12383 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights).

The Heights community has dedicated and capable bicycle commuters. At this event, Heights bikers will talk about why they commute by bicycle and how they make it happen. The program will also provide information about year-round commuting gear and strategies to make bike commuting fun and rewarding.

Concluding the evening is a sing-along to an updated version of "Jingle Bells."

This is an awards program, as well, and will recognize several cyclists who are real "roll" models. For details, visit HBC's website, [www.bikesintheheights.org](http://www.bikesintheheights.org), and Facebook page. Light refreshments will be provided at the event, and there will be a cash bar.

*The Heights Bicycle Coalition was formed in 2010 to make the Heights area more bicycle-friendly. HBC member Joy Henderson is the author of this month's column.*

## Heights High boys basketball team serves homeless men



More than a dozen Heights High boys basketball team members prepared and served breakfast to 250 homeless men on Nov. 19 at the men's shelter at 2100 Lakeside Ave., followed by a brief tour. Pictured here (from left) are student athletes Dash Chesney and Andre Cash Jr. "This was a very humbling experience for these young men, but they took to it well with open arms greeting [all] as they came up in line to receive the breakfast the young men created for them," said Andre Scott, assistant varsity boys basketball coach/director of operations.

HOLIDAY continued from page 1

kiddie holiday karaoke, community caroling, poets roaming the neighborhood, winter storytime and kids crafts.

Those 21 and older are invited to participate in the ugly holiday sweater bar crawl, led by Coventry Claus.

During the Dec. 10 festival, the City of Cleveland Heights is giving attendees the gift of free parking at all Coventry Village parking garage, parking lot, and street meters.

Later in the month, on Sunday, Dec. 18, Coventry Village SID, along with In The 216 and Artful, will host the Coventry Village Jingle Bell Shop. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Grog Shop (upstairs) and B Side Lounge (downstairs) will be filled with local artisans and Coventry merchants

offering unique gifts for everyone on your list, along with food, drinks and music.

"Last year's event was really a lot of fun and a huge hit," said Kathy Blackman of the Grog Shop and B Side. "It's a relaxed environment where you can sip while you shop, and find one-of-a-kind presents. It's where I did the majority of my holiday shopping. I found gifts for friends and family that I wouldn't be able to find anywhere else."

To view the full schedule of events for Dec. 10 and 18, and all the details, visit [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org).

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

NOBLE continued from page 1

visitors to the neighborhood and encourage them to take part in the area's renaissance. "Longtime Noble residents are looking for terrific new residents and business owners who will join in and help continue to shape the Noble quadrant of Cleveland Heights into the sustainable, livable, affordable and enjoyable district for which it is distinct," said Sanders.

The neighborhood has added five newly created, volunteer-supported public perennial gardens and is also home to Oxford Community Garden, Woodview Hope Garden, Montford Community Garden, and the Noble Neighborhood Library Children's Garden. Housing options include bungalows, mid-century ranches, arts-and-crafts-era three-story homes, colonials and apartments. "This vibrant area is perfect for raising a family, owning pets and growing old in its single-floor lifestyle houses," said Sanders.

Noble Neighbors invites all Heights residents and visitors to bask in the glow of Light Up Noble!

GE Lighting President and CEO Bill Lacey will lead a special ceremony for employees and their

families at which the company will flip the switch to officially light up this year's Nela Park holiday display on Friday, Dec. 2, at 5:30 p.m.

The theme for this year's display is "Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall . . . Holiday time is the best of all!" The lights will remain on throughout the holiday season, until Jan. 3, 2017.

Nela Park has functioned as the company's headquarters since 1911, when the National Electric Lamp Association (NELA) became General Electric. The 92-acre campus was the first industrial park in the world and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Nela Park's holiday lighting display is world-famous and features a miniature version of the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., which has been designed by GE Lighting for the last 54 years.

For more information about the neighborhood and this initiative, visit [www.nobleneighbors.com](http://www.nobleneighbors.com).

*Brenda H. May is one of the Noble Neighbors leaders. Learn more about the group at [nobleneighbors.com](http://nobleneighbors.com).*

## CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 18, 2016

### Work session on the middle school facilities renovation

Ann Hartman of Moody Nolan (architects), Jack Kellogg of Turner Construction, and Patrick O'Brien of PMC/Regency presented an overview of preliminary schematic design ideas for renovation of Roxboro and Monticello middle schools. Infrastructure upgrades at both buildings will address heating and cooling systems, plumbing, electrical and lighting, exterior wall repair, masonry, accessibility and safety. Comfort level, temperature balance in buildings, air quality and lighting will improve.

At Monticello, interior spaces to be revitalized include the areas where students enter, exit and gather. The reception and lobby areas will be brightened with new doors and added security. Flow and function in the guidance suite and administrative area will be addressed, as will way-finding throughout the building. Gyms and locker rooms will become co-ed. The cafeteria will have new flooring and lighting, more color and wall graphics. There will be extensive painting and some new carpeting. Crowding is a problem when students are waiting to be picked up, especially in inclement weather. Solutions being considered include an enlarged waiting area, an exterior awning, and the use of different exits for bus students and non-bus students, including the use of the historic front door for student entrance and exit. Bus transportation will be analyzed for greater efficiency.

At Roxboro, renovations will begin with the spaces that have been added over the years: entries, lobby, administrative offices and connecting areas. Hallways will be brightened, made more colorful, and student flow will be improved. Restrooms will be added on the first floor. The historic lobby will be restored to a more original state, if possible. Portable, storable bleachers and risers will be added in the gym, and the cafeteria will be renovated, including possible exposure of original ceiling beams.

Board members asked questions and offered feedback. The design phase will conclude in December, at which time cost data will be presented.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Kal Zucker, board president, was absent.

### Booklet for the district

Talisa Dixon, superintendent, reported that the booklet describing the district and the activities happening in the schools was now ready.

### High school renovation

The following change orders were explained by Pat O'Brien, PMC/Regency, and approved by the board:

- Change order No. 69, total value \$16,984, to add an elevator generator.
- Change order No. 70, total value



\$45,040, for unforeseen need to improve the structural beams on a staircase.

- Change order No. 71, total value \$11,512, to add conduits for future solar paneling pathways.

Gilbane Building Company gave an update on the renovation. High-efficiency windows have been installed, and the clock tower is complete.

### Used surplus equipment, transportation, donations

The board declared used surplus equipment (MacBook computers) to be no longer needed for any school purpose, and authorized its sale by public auction.

The board approved payment in-lieu for bus transportation. About 101 students applied for this at \$150 per pupil.

Donations of \$350 to the Delisle Options Center and \$100 to Oxford Elementary School were accepted.

### Legislative issues

Ron Register, board vice president, is involved in Partners for Public Education. The group is organizing districts around the state to talk about the monies that go to charter schools. Register is also a legislative liaison involved in national issues on public schools.

### Clock tower, high school musical

The Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation has given a check for the repair of the completed clock tower. The Heights High Music Department will present "Anything Goes" Nov. 3-7.

### Upcoming meetings

- Board retreat at the CH-UH Board of Education administrative offices, Dec. 3.
- Library meeting, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.
- Board work session, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
- Regular board meeting, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

LWV Observer: Lillian Houser.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to [mbarnes9515@gmail.com](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or join through Google groups using "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

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### Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

- 2:00 p.m. The Christmas Story: Family Service, with Communion
- 3:30 p.m. Organ Noëls and Carol Sing-a-long
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant, Communion (interpreted for Deaf)
- 8:00 p.m. Music: From Advent to Christmas
- 9:00 p.m. A Choral Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
- 10:30 p.m. Festival Eucharist of Christmas

### Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with organ and vocal solos

### Sunday, January 1: The Feast of the Holy Name

- 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols for Christmas with Eucharist



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## Mock graduation inspires Gearity students

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Katrina Hicks, principal at Gearity Professional Development School, has big plans for her students. "Graduating from high school is an automatic expectation," she said. "And going to college should be, too. I want that to be ingrained in them from a young age."

She has brought the idea of college to her students, over the past three years, with a mock college graduation ceremony.

Third- through fifth-graders participated in a full-blown commencement at John Carroll University (JCU), complete with speeches, diplomas, and caps and gowns, on Oct. 6.

The third-grade students represented the Ohio University Class of 2030, fourth-graders were the Class of 2029 from John Carroll University, and fifth-graders were the Class of 2028 from The Ohio State University.

The evening started with a processional of students, clad in black and gold caps and gowns, filing into the Kulas Auditorium in front of a packed house of family members and district leaders.

Pamela Mason, an associate dean at JCU, addressed the crowd. Looking into the future, she told the students, "I hope you will be reminded of this very happy moment when you sit in [another] auditorium on your own future campuses and are recognized as college graduates."

Following Mason's welcome, it was the students' turn to talk. Students in the three grades had written speeches as part of a language arts lesson. Teachers selected the best to be read aloud at the ceremony.

Third-grader Dylan Lawson imagined himself on the verge of becoming a lawyer. "I've always been known to get my point across in any debate or conversation," he proclaimed to many laughs.

Fourth-grader Matayis Mouncey had a pragmatic approach to his career. "I studied sports at college so that after my professional soccer career is over, I can still help young people as a sports psychologist."

Kira Williams planned to enroll in the University of Southern California's School of Medicine to become a pediatrician. Driven by a desire to "help little kids feel better so they



Third-graders entering the auditorium

COURTESY KRISSY DIETRICH GALLAGHER

can have a good childhood," she ended her speech with "I think it's important that we take care of each other and this is one way I can make a difference in the world."

The student speeches concluded with fifth-grader Nicholas Square. He spoke of all he'd learned from his family, of his nervous excitement for the future, and of his plans to be an engineer or scientist.

Many parents praised the mock graduation. ShaRan Marshall said, "It's great for our kids to know that they will go on and succeed and graduate." Kirsti Mouncey agreed: "What an amazing community. People coming together, supporting our kids, seeing their potential."

Following the speeches, each child walked across the stage to receive a diploma and a lanyard that read "College is not just the dream. It is the plan."

In her closing remarks, Hicks reiterated that her students' college educations start today. "I hope this simple experience will ignite a desire and passion that will carry you throughout your lives," she said. "I need you to work as hard as you can. And then I need you work a little bit harder."

Hicks predicted they would be engaged in areas of study that have yet to be developed, and jobs that don't exist yet. She closed the evening saying to her students, "I need you to grow up to be our future." To their parents, she said, "Their future starts right now. In 12, 13, 14 years, these beautiful little faces will be the faces of not only their futures, but of ours."

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a former district teacher and a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District. A longer version of this story appeared at www.chub.org.*

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- Sun, Dec 11, 4 - 5pm
- Sun, Dec 18, 4 - 5pm



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# Student leaders work to close achievement gap

Joy Henderson

Six student leaders in Heights High's Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) attended the organization's national conference, Oct. 12-15, in Chapel Hill, N.C. The students brought back with them ideas and renewed energy to address the achievement gap between students of color and their white peers.

"The conference gives us a chance to learn from the successes of other districts, share our successes and get energized about the work," said Shawn Washington, MSAN adviser. (Nate Williams and O'Dasha Johnson are co-advisers.)

The Heights High MSAN club has 60 members.

The conference offered opportunities to listen to keynote speakers, tour the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University, attend the MSAN alumni forum, and participate in ice-breaker activities. It also dedicated time dur-



2016 MSAN Conference attendees (from left): Jalen Chesney, Jaylin Coleman, Mikiaiah Truitt, Josephine Johnson and Hasson Lewis-Majied (not pictured: Tessa Green).

ing which attendees created an action plan for this year's work.

The Heights High team's action plan comprises three main activities: Creating school Unity Days with fun activities to introduce students from different school clubs to one another; a Man Up program with

adult mentors to encourage and guide young men; and a Tea Time activity for young women that would include mentoring and guidance.

Heights High's MSAN leaders are excited to implement their action plan, and returned to school with a renewed focus for creating social change.

Hasson Lewis-Majied, a junior who attended the conference, was inspired by one of the guest speakers, Robert T. Stephens. "Hearing Mr. Stephens talk about his life and leadership made me want to be a leader and to act when I see something that is wrong," he said.

"Life changing" was how Josephine Johnson, also a junior, described the conference. "It mo-

tivated me even more to make a difference in my school, not just to show up but to really have an impact," she said. "Something that I realized was the power of relationships—especially between teachers and students."

The MSAN group's work is part of the CH-UH City School District's five-year strategic plan. Its goal #2 addresses the achievement gap. The number of students in Advanced Placement (AP) courses has increased, and support for students in AP courses has helped maintain these numbers.

Last year, MSAN students hosted "I am AP" during lunch periods, providing students interested in learning about AP courses with the opportunity to speak with MSAN students enrolled in them.

In mid-August, the school hosted an AP Boot Camp for students enrolled in AP courses, focusing on academic preparation as well as organizational and study skills needed to succeed in AP courses.

MSAN formed in 1999, with CH-UH and Shaker Heights as founding [school district] members. The organization comprises 26 school districts in suburban-urban communities that come together to understand and eliminate the opportunity and achievement gaps that persist in schools.

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

## Four Heights students are National Merit Scholars



Heights High's National Merit Scholars (from left): Cody Radivoyevitch, Dorrie Pharis, William van den Bogert and Charles Adams.

Joy Henderson

The National Merit Scholarship (NMS) Corporation has named Heights High seniors Charles Adams, Dorothy Pharis, Cody Radivoyevitch and William van den Bogert National Merit Scholars.

They were among the more than 1.6 million students who entered the NMS competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in the fall of their junior year.

Adams, a merit scholar semifinalist, has the opportunity to advance to the finalist level and qualify for National Merit scholarships. He is among 16,000 semifinalists in the U.S., representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Pharis, Radivoyevitch and van den Bogert were named commended scholars, placing among the top 5 percent of students who took the PSAT. About 34,000 commended students are recognized nationwide for their exceptional academic promise.

Adams participates in the two-year Career and Technical Education Computer Networking Technology Program, an affiliate of the Cisco Networking Training Academy. He is working to earn two

Cisco Systems certifications that will qualify him to control, manage and secure computer networks.

He is also taking AP Physics and is a member of the varsity soccer, hockey and baseball teams. He has not yet decided what he will study in college.

Pharis takes all of her classes at Cleveland State University (CSU) through Ohio's College Credit Plus, and receives both high school and college credit. She is part of a CSU research team that is studying clouds to help make weather predictions more accurate.

A volunteer violin tutor at Roxboro Middle School, Pharis is also a captain of the Science Olympiad team. After she graduates in May, Pharis expects to take nearly 70 college credit hours with her to The Ohio State University, where she plans to major in math and physics.

Radivoyevitch takes some of his classes at John Carroll University and plays with Heights High's Symphonic Winds, marching band, and brass quartet ensemble. He has been on the swim team, and is a member of the Science Olympiad team and an officer of Tri-M, the music honor society.

He plans to attend college and major in one of the engineering design fields.

Van den Bogert takes two classes at CSU and five courses at Heights High. He is an accomplished musician who earned a senior solo performance this year on piano, and plays trumpet in the jazz ensemble Swing State. He plans to study engineering at the college level.

"Music is important to my emotional side, but I hope to make a difference in the world with a background in engineering," said van den Bogert.

## HOLIDAY CHEER IS HERE!

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## Holiday events for Heights seniors and families



SENIOR SCENE

Judith Eugene

*A note to my readers: This will be my last Senior Scene column. I have enjoyed connecting with you over the last five and a half years, and appreciate all of your positive support and feedback. I wish each of you and your families much health and happiness. Happy holidays, and best wishes for a wonderful new year!*

Many local businesses and religious organizations offer fun social and cultural activities for the holidays—most are open to all; some are for seniors and, in some cases, their families. Events listed below are free, unless otherwise noted. Be sure to call ahead to confirm times, make reservations, if required, and inquire about handicapped accessibility if needed.

On Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of the Saviour will hold its annual Advent Festival, featuring fair-trade items and holiday greenery for sale, a silent auction, homemade donuts, a cookie walk, and live music. (2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-8880)

The 23rd annual Holiday Circle-Fest will be held in University Circle on Dec. 4. More than a dozen museums, gardens, galleries, churches and schools will open their doors to provide activities, music, food, fun and shopping, 1-5:30 p.m. Ice skating, ice-carving demonstrations and horse carriage rides will be available at the Rink at Wade Oval from noon to 7 p.m. (weather permitting). The festivities will conclude with a Winter Lights Lantern Procession at The Cleveland Museum of Art, 5:30-6 p.m. (10820 East Blvd., Cleveland, 216-791-3900)

McGregor will present three events this holiday season—a holiday jazz concert with soloist Abriel Dodson on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 23 at 2:30 p.m., and a choir concert on Dec. 17 at 2:30 p.m. (14900 Private Drive,

Cleveland, 216-851-8200)

The Cedar Fairmount shopping district will host a Pop-In-Pop-Out event on Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m. Appletree Books, Pavilion Home & Floral, and Ten Thousand Villages will all have guest artists and purveyors on site, selling their work, and refreshments will be served.

The Coventry Village Holiday Festival will take place on Dec. 10, from noon to 11 p.m., featuring live music, community caroling, kiddie karaoke, poets and storytellers, photos with Santa and Coventry Claus, holiday family portraits, showings of the movies “Home Alone” and “Gremlins” in the Centrum Theatre, and an Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl (for ages 21 and older). There will be free [meter] parking at Coventry Village’s parking garage, parking lots and street meters.

At 7 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 12, Nighttown will present its 11th annual Musical Theatre Project production of “A Christmas Cabaret.” The show features live performances of well-known classics and hidden gems, as well as a few sing-alongs. Call 216-245-8687 for tickets (\$31 to \$35). (12387 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights)

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes will host the 116th annual Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 11, starting at 8:15 a.m. This is the longest-running citizen science survey in the world that provides critical data on bird population trends. Bird walks will be offered to help participants locate and identify resident winter birds. Free binocular rentals are available, with ID. No experience is necessary; registration is required. (2600 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, 216-321-5935)

The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland will present A Festival of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 18, 4-6 p.m., a Christmas Nativity Pageant with live animals on Dec. 24, 7-10 p.m., and a candlelight service on Dec. 24, 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, 216-932-7480)

The Cleveland Heights Senior

Activity Center will host a Winter Centerpiece Workshop on Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. Fresh greens and other materials will be available, to make decorations suitable for any holiday. There is a \$7.50 fee; registration is required. (1 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 216-691-7377)

St. Ann Church will collect food for the Hunger Bank on Dec. 24, 5-6 p.m., and Dec. 25, noon to 2 p.m. (2175 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-321-0024)

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold a Can Can Food Drive and Festivities on Dec. 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring a canned-good donation and/or pay what you can toward museum admission. There will be a special film screening, a card-making activity to welcome new immigrants, and a craft activity for kids. All canned goods will be donated to the Semach Sedek Kosher Food Bank and Pantry, and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Walk-ins are welcome, but advance reservations are encouraged. (2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood, 216-593-0575)

The Stone Gardens Assisted Living Residence will hold its annual Rock for All Ages Chanukah concert with Noah Budin on Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. (27090 Cedar Road, Beachwood, 216-292-0070)

The Maltz Museum will also host a Hanukkah candle lighting on Dec. 28, 5-6 p.m. Children of all ages and backgrounds are invited to this event, featuring singing, games, Hanukkah history, and a cookie reception. Registration required.

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center will host its annual New Year’s party on Jan. 5, starting at noon, featuring a catered lunch and entertainment. Admission is \$12; advance registration required.

*Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through [www.lovinghandsgroup.com](http://www.lovinghandsgroup.com). She can be reached at 216-408-5578 or [judith@lovinghandsgroup.com](mailto:judith@lovinghandsgroup.com).*

## CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

Movement is important at any age, but paying attention to the ways in which we move is increasingly essential as we get older. At the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) there are many opportunities for movement, and “chances to dance.”

On Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Gladys McGothlin leads the Beginning Line Dance class, teaching basic line dances set to contemporary music. Her class provides exercise and is a fun way to start the week dancing with friends.

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., a group gathers under the direction of Wes Senseman to learn traditional English Country Dance. The music is delightful and the dancers are all smiles. Senseman insists that if you can walk, you can dance, so give English Country Dance a try!

Friday is dance day, starting with Argentine Tango at 9:30 a.m., followed by Dance 101 at 11:15 a.m. Ann Dobyns and Charles Scillia enthusiastically teach the basics of tango—a social dance based on the natural walk. Dance 101 is the creation of Leslie Keller, who leads the group, encouraging self-exploration and expression through movement.

No partners or dance experience are needed for any of these classes. For more information, and to register, call 216-691-7377.

The Cleveland Heights SAC, located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a wide variety of programming for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older, and 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](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

*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 e-mail at [ajenkins@chvhts.com](mailto:ajenkins@chvhts.com).*

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## Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers at University Heights City Hall. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

**Dec. 1:** Carl Topilow, conductor of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, will celebrate its 20th anniversary season with his red, white and blue clarinets, while telling behind-the-scenes stories—the funny and the unexpected—of the history and legends of the Cleveland Pops.

**Dec. 8:** Maureen Kenny, professor at the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Law, and co-director of a new human-trafficking

project in its Criminal Justice Clinic, will discuss the scourge of human trafficking and the work being done to help victims recover their lives.

**Dec. 15:** Elizabeth Banks, director of the Center for Civic Engagement and Learning at CWRU’s College of Arts and Sciences, along with Chakira Smith, a graduate student in public health, and Anna Verhanovitz, a senior student in biomedical engineering, will discuss their community service work. Each academic year, they pledge 50 hours of service to assist adults and children with developmental disabilities or other needs. Their devotion to service enriches both the giver and recipient.

**Dec. 22 and Dec. 29:** No senior citizen meetings on these dates; best wishes for the holidays and the new year!

# Heights Libraries prioritizes privacy

Nancy Levin

Public libraries have always made privacy a priority.

Libraries protect and promote intellectual freedom, and that freedom cannot exist without privacy. If an individual's activities and choices are monitored, that person no longer feels free to exercise free expression and make lawful use of library resources. That's why the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System keeps customer privacy at the forefront of its mission.

Heights Libraries does not share customer library card identification with any vendors. It uses software to wipe out customer sessions after they use one of its public computers. Heights Libraries Wi-Fi lives behind the CLEVNET firewall. Library staff wraps hold items so that patrons can't see what others are checking out, and self-checkout stations keep all reading and listening choices private.

On a national level, the American Library Association (ALA) files amicus (friend of the court) briefs for legislation and court cases that challenge a person's right to maintain his or her privacy; it is a part of the ALA Code of Ethics. Public libraries support an individual's constitutional right to a reasonable expectation of privacy as outlined in the Fourth Amendment. For 15 years, librarians have fought the Patriot Act and its successors. Librarians have gone to jail in the name of patron privacy.

The public has finally caught up with libraries on the importance of privacy, mostly due to concerns about online privacy.

Major retail companies, including Target, Staples and Home Depot, have been breached, as have insurance companies such as Anthem, and technology company Yahoo. The 2016 presidential campaign saw the hacked e-mails of Hillary Clinton put in the spotlight.

The November issue of *Consumer Reports* shares the story of a woman who had her mobile account hijacked. Ironically, she happened to be the chief technologist of the Federal Trade Commission—the agency in charge of protecting fair

information practice principles within the U.S. and around the world.

The article explored the multi-billion-dollar trade in personal data, and potential dangers to online consumers. The author suggests that we can all start "practicing privacy" with mindfulness, regaining control over technology and practicing "safe" communication.

People who shred documents that contain personal information and cut up old credit cards already have good habits that can be extended to phones and laptops as well. Creating unbreakable passwords and two-factor authentication, and turning off GPS data sharing on Facebook are easy to do. Covering webcams, locking down one's baby monitor and protecting one's home Wi-Fi with a password can also become second nature.

Heights Libraries has a number of resources available to help customers educate themselves on this issue. From traditional computer classes to online-learning opportunities, Heights Libraries can help. To get started, visit Learning @ Heights Libraries ([www.heightslibrary.org/learning-heights-libraries](http://www.heightslibrary.org/learning-heights-libraries)) for a complete list of upcoming computer classes and free online tutorial, including these:

- Heights Libraries' Computer Basic Series, Part 6 Computer and Internet Security.
- Heights Libraries' Internet Safety and Security.
- DigitalLearn.org, an online resource created by the Public Library Association features the courses Accounts and Passwords, Online Scams, and Internet Privacy.
- GCF LearnFree.org, the Goodwill Community Foundation website, offers the courses Internet Safety and Internet Safety for Kids.

Customers can also stay up-to-date with technology-related issues by subscribing to the Heights Libraries' Tech Blog: [www.blog.heightslibrary.org/category/genres/technology](http://www.blog.heightslibrary.org/category/genres/technology).

Nancy Levin is the director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

# What's going on at your library?

## Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.

*Exploring the Heart of Dying Through Courageous Conversation.* Adaire Pettry, end-of-life doula, will lead an exploration of the natural stages of dying and ways to support a natural death. No registration required.

## Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Monday, Dec. 19, 7-8 p.m.

*The "Jazz Age" Renaissance in Harlem.* Focusing on the cultural his-

tory of Harlem, one of New York's most famous neighborhoods, this program includes a lecture-discussion segment; live performances of music by Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, and other composers of the Harlem Renaissance era; plus jazzy renditions of holiday favorites! No registration required.

## Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7-8 p.m.

*Tech Tuesdays.* Kids will put news apps and websites to the test. This program is for children in grades 2-5. Registration began Nov. 29.

# #1

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# Library earns top national rating for eighth consecutive year

Sheryl Banks

For the eighth year in a row, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received five stars—the highest possible rating—in *Library Journal's* annual Index of Public Library Service.

Heights Libraries has earned five stars in eight out of the nine years that *Library Journal* has published its ratings, beginning in 2008. *Library Journal*, a trade journal that reports news about the library world, emphasizing public libraries, has a circulation of 100,000.

The publication categorizes libraries by yearly expenditure and rates them on five criteria: circulation, visits, program attendance, Internet terminal use (public computers), and, new this year, eCirc (eMedia, such as eBooks).

Heights Libraries circulation came in at 30.75 per capita, meaning that roughly 31 items were circulated for every resident in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights service area. Visits per capita averaged 18, program attendance averaged 1.21 (down a bit from 1.3 in 2015), and public computer use rose slightly, from 5 per capita in 2015 to 5.03 in 2016. The rate for eCirc was 5.03 per capita.

“To paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of the death of the public library has been an exaggeration,” said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin, smiling. “Every few years or

so, the question of the relevancy of libraries in the digital age is raised. But these numbers make it clear that our community continues to want and to need our services. Our customers range from retirees and teens attending cultural programs, to new parents visiting our early-literacy play areas, to low-income customers using our computers to apply for government benefits or jobs.”

Levin explained, “This continual need is the reason we decided to upgrade and expand our University Heights branch this year. All of our buildings are heavily used by customers of all ages, and they deserve a library that will continue to give five-star service.”

Heights Libraries is one of four Cuyahoga County libraries to earn a five-star award in 2016. The others are Cleveland Public, Cuyahoga County and Lakewood libraries.

The entire state of Ohio did well, compared to the rest of the nation: Ohio was second only to New York in terms of the number of libraries that received star ratings, 25 vs. 35, respectively.

To read the full report on America's star libraries for 2016, visit [lj.libraryjournal.com](http://lj.libraryjournal.com).

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

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 17, 2016

Abby Botnick, board secretary, was absent.



### Long-term investment results

Interest on general fund money has increased substantially since the change to Meeder Investments. Last year's general fund interest was \$17,084.67 while this year's interest is \$68,971.72. The board approved a change to the investment policy, enabling the library to take advantage of changes in the Ohio Revised Code that allow governmental entities to purchase bonds from local governments, commercial paper, and bankers acceptances.

### New Educator Card for teachers

This new card is available to teachers and will be separate from their personal cards. The Educator Card will allow longer sign outs of most juvenile material—six weeks as opposed to three. An Educator Collection program has been developed, and teachers will be able to call or fill out a form online to request up to 25 books on a topic of their choice.

The Educator Card will be available for teachers at public schools, private schools or preschools. Parents who home-school their children will also be eligible. Educators can apply at any branch and will need to show proof of their educator status.

### Summer reading program statistics

Beth Hatch, special projects manager, gathered statistics for a report on the Dollar General grant. In the zero- to seven-year age category, the library gained 592 new readers, a 48 percent increase over the projection. The Project Outcome Sum-

mer Reading Club Survey asked caregivers about improvement in early literacy in the children who had participated. A high percentage reported that the children gained in reading skills, were more-confident readers, read more often, and used the library more often.

### September public service report highlights

- Monica Wilson visited three barber-shops in the Noble Neighborhood Library's area, and is arranging deposit collections and displays in each.
- Shamekia Chandler, youth services associate, visited Park Synagogue to read children's stories to adults with special needs. Chandler and adult services staff will visit Park Synagogue on a monthly basis.
- The new early literacy play space contains toys, puppets and puzzles, which are rotated regularly. August had an average of 103 children per day, and September had an average of 75 children per day.
- New library card sign-ups in September totaled 407 for adults and 67 for children.
- The Training Services Department initiated the provision of certificates of completion for those who finish a sequence of classes, such as the eight classes in [Microsoft] Word or the six classes in Computer Basics.
- Sarah Biscuso and Jessica Robinson, youth services librarians, organized a party to celebrate the world of children's author and illustrator Mo Willems' *Elephant & Piggie*. Forty-five children attended.
- In a parallel to Picture Book Madness, Chris Fries, youth services associate, instituted Movie Madness, a contest where customers can vote in person or online for their favorite movies. In September there were 651 votes.

LWV Observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 11.

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# Cedar-Taylor Garage closes after 78 years on Cedar Road



Mark Stanos and Bill Tammarino, owners of Cedar-Taylor Garage & Autobody.

James Henke

Cedar-Taylor Garage & Autobody, located just south of the intersection of Cedar and Taylor roads in University Heights, closed on Oct. 28. The car repair shop had been in business at that location since 1938.

The garage's most recent owners were Bill Tammarino and Mark Stanos, who bought the shop in 1986. Al Kus was the original owner of the business, and Bill Decapite was its second owner.

Tammarino, 61, said he and Stanos decided to close the shop because the auto-repair business has "changed a lot in the last 30 years."

"It's a business for younger people," said Stanos, 69. "It's so physically demanding, and I refuse to keep doing this when I am in my 70s."

"You are constantly bending and constantly stooping," added Tammarino. "You have to get under the cars, and you are twisting bolts that won't come loose."

The two partners first met when they were working at Qua Buick in Shaker Heights. Stanos worked at the dealership for 22 years, and Tammarino worked there for 14. When the Cedar-Taylor Garage became available, they decided to buy it.

Both men praised their custom-

ers, many of whom had been coming to the shop since Tammarino and Stanos first took it over.

"We are primarily a small, neighborhood shop, but we have been servicing a lot of loyal customers for 30 years, and that's what has kept us in business for so long," said Stanos.

The shop provided many services, including auto-body repairs, mechanical repairs, automotive restoration services, welding, tire service and custom paint work. It also offered truck rentals.

Both Stanos and Tammarino said they love the Cleveland Heights and University Heights communities. "I think we have made a real dent in the community," Stanos said, pointing out that the business supported the sports programs at Cleveland Heights High School for many years, and also donated money to the Knights of Columbus.

*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.*



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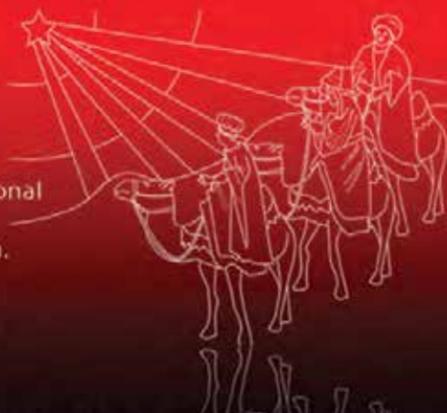
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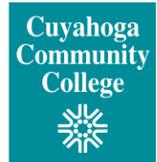


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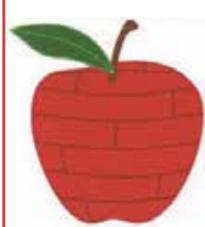
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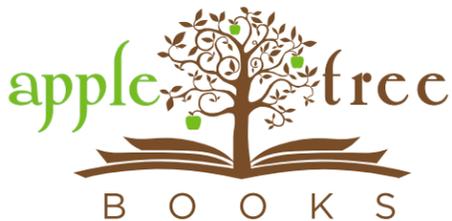
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## CH resident's company makes unique bike-repair tool



Brandon Hirokawa in his shop in the basement of his house in Cleveland Heights.

James Henke

Brandon Hirokawa first became interested in bicycles in 1987, when he was living in New Orleans, where he was born and raised. "I was a national-class swimmer, but everyone was growing over 6 feet tall," he said. "I stayed at 5 feet 6 inches tall, and I had to find a new sport."

One of his father's friends raced bikes, and he suggested that Brandon give that a try. He liked biking, and now, almost three decades later, he is the owner of Hirobel LLC, a company that produces frame clamps that bike shops can use in repairing aero carbon-fiber bicycles.

Hirokawa, who's 43 and lives in Cleveland Heights, explained that carbon-fiber bikes now make up more than 20 percent of the bike market. While most bikes are made of alloy or metal, the carbon-fiber bikes are lighter in weight. "They are made of carbon, which is similar to fiberglass, and they wind up being very light," explained Hirokawa. However, they can also be damaged when they are being repaired.

Hirokawa learned about the possible damage in 2005, when he was visiting his family in Denver. While at a bicycle shop in Parker, Colo., he watched a mechanic work on an aero carbon-fiber bicycle. The mechanic had no way to secure the bicycle to the stand. Discussions with mechanics in many other shops revealed similar frustrations, and Hirokawa began exploring new ways to work on carbon-fiber bicycles without the possibility of damage.

A viable product started to come together in early 2013, when Brandon shared his frustration and ideas with Marc Bellett, a friend who is also an avid cyclist. Bellett, who lives in South Euclid, is a designer and co-founder of Hirobel.

Hirokawa and Bellett founded the company in 2014, and started selling

their clamps in 2015. "There's no other product in the world that can prevent damage to carbon bicycles," Hirokawa said. "Ours is the only product that prevents mechanical compression and compression damage."

Hirokawa moved to the Cleveland area in 2010, when he was first looking for a place to start his company. "I went to 11 different cities to try and decide where we should go to start the company," he said. "And I was really impressed with Cleveland. Everything from the manufacturing capabilities to the cost of living was great."

In addition to running his company, Hirokawa also takes part in many biking activities in the Heights area. "I am involved in the Coventry Bike Tune-Up every year," he said. "It usually takes place in early June, and I am always there to help repair bikes." He also is involved in projects put together by the Heights Bicycle Coalition and Bike Cleveland.

Hirokawa, who lives off of Monticello Road in the northern section of Cleveland Heights, is married to Elizabeth Habat. He and his wife have a daughter, Ellie, who is 16 months old.

In January 2016, Ellie was diagnosed with leukemia. She is now in remission, and her health is better. Because of Ellie's illness, Hirokawa helps out with the Velosano Cancer Ride that benefits cancer research funding at Cleveland Clinic. "Community involvement is very important for me and my team," said Hirokawa. "Being a part of the community is just as important as being a successful company."

*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.*

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# Winter festival showcases the best in local hip-hop



Ohio Hip-Hop Award winner Kris Hilton will host this year's Cruel Winter Festival Dec 9.

Michael Kinsella

Greater Cleveland's original live music scene has been on fire in recent years, exemplified by the growth and success of high-profile events such as Brite Winter Festival, Larchmere PorchFest, and the Heights Music Hop. While those three festivals have received plenty of attention, another festival with close ties to them has been flying low on the radar. Cruel Winter Festival, highlighting Cleveland's burgeoning hip-hop scene, is poised to return for its third season.

This year's Cruel Winter Festival is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 9, at the Grog Shop in Cleveland Heights. More than 15 musical acts will take the stage between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Wallace Settles (aka Dirty Jones), is the founder of Cruel Winter Festival. A local music promoter, Settles has been involved with each of the three aforementioned festivals. He focused on adding hip-hop components to those events, increasing the diversity of genres and performers offered by each, to a very enthusiastic response.

Settles created Cruel Winter Festival with the purpose of bringing together some of the best acts of the year, but he has a bigger goal in mind as well. "Part of it is the unity but another part of it is that we need to make our rap events in the city bigger," said Settles. "Brite Winter Fest is a giant event. Heights Music Hop is a giant event. Hip-hop really hadn't been involved in those events a lot. I think that one of the reasons is because people don't know that the

scene is vibrant here. They just don't know. So we have to show them that the scene is evolving. And I think Cruel Winter Fest is one of the things that's going to help people realize that Cleveland hip-hop is doing well."

Settles believes that over time, and with hard work, Cruel Winter Festival can be just as big as Brite Winter or the Heights Music Hop—if not bigger. "I know it can be bigger," said Settles. "It's hard to get sponsors for a hip-hop show. They just don't want to do it. And I get it. But that's definitely the goal: I want to make this thing gigantic. I could even have it in the summertime downtown with 10,000 people there going nuts and a national headliner. That's the ultimate goal."

Cruel Winter Festival is presented by Dirty Jones Productions, Big Coffee Consulting, and the Grog Shop, and is a partner festival of the Heights Music Hop. It is the only annual independent hip-hop festival in Greater Cleveland, showcasing the top up-and-coming artists from Northeast Ohio and beyond. The hosts for this year's event will be Ohio Hip-Hop Award winner Kris Hilton and hip-hop artist Walker OG, with DJ Corey Grand and DJ Chuck Supreme.

Tickets (\$10 in advance; \$15 day of show) are available online at [www.grogshop.gs](http://www.grogshop.gs) or by phone at 216-321-5588.

*Michael Kinsella is a co-founder and organizer of the Heights Music Hop and performs locally with oldboy. As a consultant and booking agent with Big Coffee Consulting, he represents the Heights Music Hop, Cruel Winter Festival, and other local organizations and businesses.*

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## CH poet and resident uses grant to spread poetry

James Henke

Catherine Wing has won many awards for her poetry over the years. The Cleveland Heights resident started writing when she was 8, and titled her first poem "J Is for Jello." She wrote her first book, *Bug Town*, at the same age. It was a story about ants versus beetles, and how they wind up destroying each other.

"I wrote things all through childhood," said Wing, now 44. "I wanted to be a ballet dancer more than a writer, but that became a non-option."

Wing's first book of poetry, *Enter Invisible*, was published in 2005, and was nominated for a *Los Angeles*

*Times* book prize. *Gin & Bleach*, her second book of poetry, came out in 2012. One of her poems, "The Darker Sooner," about autumn, was featured in *Best American Poetry*, 2010.

In 2016, the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture (CPAC) named Wing a Creative Workforce Fellow, awarding her a project-based grant.

Wing's project involves the installation of a series of poetry boxes in the Cleveland Heights area.

"I am using the Little Free Libraries as a model," she said. "You can go to those and drop off a book or take a book. My idea is to display a poem you can read and, if you want, you can take a copy of it with you."

LandStudio selected one of Wing's poems, "Perk Hopscotch," to be engraved in a central oval at Ralph J. Perk Plaza at Chester Commons at East 12th Street, in downtown Cleveland.

Wing was born in New York City, and moved with her family to Louisville, Ky., at the age of 3. She attended Brown University in Providence, R.I., and majored in English and creative writing. She then earned

a master's in fine arts at the University of Washington.

In addition to writing, Wing teaches poetry at Kent State University. She started teaching there in 2010, when she moved to Cleveland Heights. She lives on Essex Road with her husband and 4-year-old son.

"I like everything about Cleveland Heights," Wing said. "I mean, what's not to like? I like all of the big trees, and the people are incredibly warm and friendly. All areas of the city have an abundance of creative and interesting people, and every place is surrounded by artists."

*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.*



Catherine Wing

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## UH Symphonic Band performs at John Carroll University Dec. 1



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The University Heights Symphonic Band will kick off the holiday season and put everyone in a festive mood with a free concert. The program will take place Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., in John Carroll University's Dolan Science Center Atrium.

The 45-member band, under the direction of Matthew Salvaggio, is now in its 47th year. The ensemble consists of outstanding local musicians, who present the best of concert band music. Its diverse membership includes professional musicians, engineers, homemakers, educators, medical specialists and others—even a rocket scientist.

The concert is open to the public and no tickets are required.

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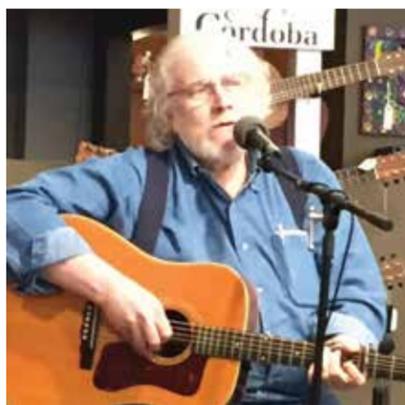
# Heights Music Shop hosts popular open-mic events

James Henke

If you enjoy live music and are a fan of some of Cleveland's music stars, you should check out the open-mic events at the Heights Music Shop at 2174 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. These events are held on the first Sunday of every month, from 3 to 6 p.m.

While many open mics only allow acoustic music, the Music Shop's feature a wide variety of instruments, and, at last month's, the shop provided drums and keyboards, so many of the musicians were able to perform with a band setup.

Rick Szekelyi, the store's owner, said, "We love being part of the local music community, and the open mics are one way we can do that." Prior to opening the store in November 2015, Szekelyi hosted open mics at Stone Oven, the Lee Road restaurant and bakery. He said he thinks one reason the Music Shop's open mics are so great is because of the musicians who



Bob Sammon and Kaitlin Emmert performing at an open mic at Heights Music Shop.



COURTESY RICK SZEKELYI

attend the events.

"While they are seasoned singer-songwriters, they have a way of making folks who are new at performing feel very comfortable," Szekelyi said. "It's a scary thing to get up and perform for the first several times. Having an accepting, supportive audience can make all the difference."

Szekelyi added that there are a few well-known Cleveland musicians who show up on a regular

basis, including singer-songwriters Bob Sammon, Gary Hall, Amanda Walsh, Jerry Allen, Tom Girard and Ken Moody-Arndt.

Szekelyi also said that the Music Shop's open mics usually feature a variety of instruments. "Depending on who shows up, it can be very interesting," he said. "Once we had a young boy, about 11 years old, play clarinet. He blew everyone away with how soulful he played. I particularly love to see young people

take a shot at it."

Szekelyi said he loves open mics and thinks they are a significant part of the local music scene. "I feel they are a very important element in developing and maintaining a vibrant music scene, which Cleveland definitely has," he said. "Not only do they give singer-songwriters an opportunity to grow and develop, but they also give the seasoned folks an opportunity to try out new material. They also provide the opportunity for the local artists to simply get together, meet one another, hang out and exchange ideas. There's no telling what can come from those get-togethers."

*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.*

## Western Reserve Chorale will perform a free holiday concert on Dec. 3

Marcia Polevoi

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) will present its traditional Holiday Concert on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., at Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. No tickets are necessary.

A reception will follow the concert in the church's social hall.

WRC, celebrating its 25th year as a community chorus, will honor the late John Roberts, who passed away last spring at the concert. He was one of the founders of the chorus and served as its conductor for 10 years.

The chorale invites all who may have sung with the group at any time in its history to attend the performance.

The group will continue to celebrate its anniversary during 2017 with concerts in March and June.

WRC is led by conductor David Gilson, who teaches choral conducting at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM).

The December program includes *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by

Vaughan Williams, featuring baritone soloist Matthew Brennan, a CIM student. The concert will also feature two collections of seasonal settings, the first by Jackson Berkey (arranger for Mannheim Steamroller), and the second, two spirituals by William Dawson.

Also to be performed are works by Palestrina, Bach, Verdi and Rutter, along with two recent pieces by Norwegian composer Kim Andre Arensen. A Nigerian composition will be accompanied by three drummers. There will also be a flutist and cellist accompanying several of the numbers.

The ensemble has a roster of nearly 100 singers and welcomes all Greater Cleveland residents to celebrate with them at this anniversary concert. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening, 7:15-9:30 p.m., at the church. For more information call Joanne Poderis at 216-791-0061 or visit WRC's Facebook page.

*Marcia Polevoi is a member of the Western Reserve Chorale and does some public relations work for the organization.*

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# Escaping December



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

I'm writing this in the middle of November. The weather here in Cleveland Heights has been warm and sunny. Most of the trees' leaves are still green, as are all of the lawns around here. The predictions I've seen for December's weather say the average temperature will be in the relatively warm 40s.

I work at an actual job three mornings a week. Almost everyone

I work with there is a liberal, with one conservative. A few days ago, he came in marveling about how warm and nice the weather was for November, and how he couldn't figure it out. He said several times, "I don't understand what's going on." Finally, a few people said, "Global warming." He laughed and mockingly repeated, "Global warming."

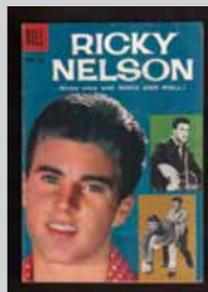
I can't say for sure if that's what is causing this weather, but I also don't want to simply dismiss the idea and laugh at it. I remember that when I was growing up, Decembers were always cold and snowy. And I've always hated cold and snowy.

I hated school every day I was forced to go to it. I started skipping school with increasing frequency starting in the eighth grade. When I was younger, I didn't have that option. Unfortunately, I didn't enjoy being at home much more than I did being at school. So winters were difficult for me. Winter vacation—then called "Christmas vacation"—was especially problematic: I was happy not to be in school, but not too pleased to be at home, and I didn't want to go outside. So I felt stuck.

The only winter vacation I remember enjoying was the one when I was 8 years old. The way I dealt with everything in my younger life was through escapism: mainly music, comic books and baseball. TV was okay, too, though I didn't always have control over what was on. So radio became important, as did my little record player. And music magazines. And, in spring and summer, baseball cards and magazines.

I had an uncle who worked in record distribution. He would often give me 45-rpm singles, which I started listening to and studying when I was 5, at the beginning of rock 'n' roll. When I was 8, in the winter of 1957, my uncle brought me a stack of records that, to this day, are some of the greatest early rock songs ever produced.

Here are 20 of those records: "Peggy Sue," "Oh Boy" and "That'll Be the Day" by Buddy Holly; "Wake Up Little Susie" and "Bye, Bye, Love" by the Everly Brothers; "Jailhouse Rock" and "Teddy Bear" by Elvis Presley; "Keep A-Knockin'" by Little Richard; "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin On" by Jerry Lee Lewis; "Rock and Roll Music" by Chuck Berry; "Be Bop Baby" by Ricky Nelson; "Searchin'" by the Coasters; "You Send Me" by Sam Cooke; "At the Hop" by Danny and the Juniors; "Honeycomb" and "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine" by Jimmie Rodgers; "Sillhouettes" by the Rays; "Diana"



by Paul Anka; and "Chances Are" by Johnny Mathis.

And there were 10 or 15 more records. I played all of them, plus their B-sides, at least twice a day. That took up about six hours of every day. Some other relative had given me two dollars, which I spent on about 15 comic books, at 10 cents each—Superman, Archie, Nancy & Sluggo, Henry, and others; even a Ricky Nelson comic book—and a *Song Hits* magazine. Coventry Drugs, about two blocks from my house, at the corner of Coventry and Mayfield roads, where Pacific East is now located, had a great magazine and comic book selection. I didn't mind (as much) going out in the cold for that.

Nelson comic book

I spent later winter vacations suffering through hours of watching friends ice skate on the flooded and frozen Cumberland Park parking lot. I know that people around my age are quite nostalgic about that. I, naturally, hated it—standing, or sitting, outside, in the cold. Cleveland Heights finally came to its senses and built an indoor ice skating rink, and then a second one.

Or sledding down the big hill at Cain Park. I mean, my friends did that. I would watch, shivering, for a while, until I could convince someone to go back to their house, where we could find snacks and watch TV.

And then I spent the late-'60s and '70s winters freezing in hippie crash pads.

But that winter vacation I spent, in 1957, listening to records and reading comic books—oddly, that fantasy world evolved into real life, as I became a professional musician, comedian and writer. But I never moved to a warmer climate. I'm still here in Cleveland Heights. Though, from what I've read, if I'm around long enough, I won't have to go away to escape the winter; the warmer climate, they say, is on its way here—despite the mocking disbelief of my co-worker, and others like him. And when they're prisoners in their air-conditioned houses, trying to escape the heat during their winter vacations, there is no way I'm lending them my records and comics. They are on their own.

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

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# St. Paul's winter art show explores perception of place

Mary Cushing

The Nicholson B. White Gallery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., announces its winter show, *Perception of Place: Pattern and Palette*. The show opens with an artists' reception on Friday, Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m., with participating artists in attendance to greet guests and discuss their creative processes. The show runs through March 5.

Featured artists are Barbara Eisenberg (mixed media prints), Lari Jacobson (acrylic on canvas), Theresa Yondo (sculptural ceramics) and Gunter Schwegler (painting on silk).

Barbara Eisenberg creates abstract prints. Her art develops from an abiding interest in natural and imaginative forms, seeking simple bold shapes upon which to build. She places emphasis on spatial concepts and an intuitive response to these ideas. Her approach to each print includes incorporating as many technical and material variables as possible, without losing spontaneity or intensity. Eisenberg's painting centers on multi-dimensional segments of structural forms she designs, which lend themselves readily to the layering of shapes and much color that can occur in making monotypes. She prefers the monotype process, where one unique print is hand printed or press pulled, because it allows her to be a painterly printmaker.

Lari Jacobson said, "Art has always been my passion. Even as a child, I sensed that art would always be a



Tuscan Church by Lari Jacobson.

central influence upon my life. I truly enjoy the creative process. When I approach a project, I first consider the personal, social or historical context of the subject. I engage the client in this creative dialogue through research, sketches and conversation. I draw further inspiration from texture, color and pattern. My ultimate goal is always to achieve for the client exactly what they want while still challenging myself through the unique, creative process of each work."

Theresa Yondo began working with clay in 1977. She explained, "Over the years [I developed] a distinct wax resist style of glaze work... expressing a playful contrast of color and pattern. [I use] dots and stripes and botanical themes such as flowers and pods [to] express surface pattern with the glaze.

In recent years, [I have used] textural patterns impressed in clay, which is then molded by hand into colorful sculptural shapes, such as the work seen in this current show."

Gunter Schwegler currently specializes in silk painting. He said, "My work is a celebration of life. I have my unique way of seeing the world, and through my art I attempt to share those visions. I try to express not just what I see, but what I feel, what is hidden just below the surface. The work becomes a dialogue, the painting telling me what to do next. Sometimes I have no idea how the finished work will look; other times I have it all planned clearly. Silk is an unforgiving medium—there is no opportunity to correct mistakes. It also has its surprises; only after the fixation step and



Portal-Meditation Cave by Theresa Yondo.



Tuscan Church by Lari Jacobson.

final rinse do the colors appear in their true brilliance."

Everyone is welcome at the opening reception. The gallery is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The artists receive all proceeds from the sale of their work.

Mary Cushing is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

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