Community remembers Officer Jason West

Lita Gonzalez

Cleveland Heights wasn’t just his beat—Cleveland Heights Police Officer Jason West had purchased a house in the city. He had always wanted to be a police officer, and protecting and serving the city of Cleveland Heights was something that he did willingly every day he put on his uniform. A fellow officer commented, “Even at shift change, if there was a late call, he’d take it. He was always willing to go the extra mile. He just loved the job.”

On May 26, 2007, Officer West was responding to one more call, a disturbance call on Altamont Avenue. It was a routine call that would sadly cost him his life. He was shot while getting out of his patrol car. News of his death spread, and shock, sadness and anger paralyzed the community. It had been nearly 60 years since an officer had died in the line of duty in Cleveland Heights. As weeks passed, though, the sense of loss led to a desire to make sure that Officer West was always remembered, and his memory honored.

May is National Preservation Month and, for the 15th year, the Cleveland Heights Landmarks Commission, Cleveland Heights Historical Society and Heights Libraries will be celebrating the rich history and architecture of the Heights through a series of lectures, workshops and tours. Cleveland Heights’ preservation month activities kicked off on May 1 with a Cleveland Heights House History Workshop that taught participants how to research their home’s history.

Those who missed the event but are interested in learning how to research their house’s history can find information and links on the Cleveland Heights city website: www.clevelandheights.com/index.aspx?page=492.

Upcoming programs are listed below. [Note that reservations are required for the May 20 walking tour—an event that tends to fill up early]

May is National Preservation Month

Kara Hanley O’Donnell

This quarry, photographed in 1938, was located in what is now Forest Hill Park.

FutureHeights annual meeting is set for May 24

Deanna Bremer Fisher

FutureHeights, the nonprofit that works toward a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights, will hold its 15th annual meeting on Wednesday, May 24, at its offices in the former Coventry School building, 2843 Washington Blvd.

FutureHeights will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing inner-ring suburbs today, share its analysis of why a Community Development Corporation (CDC) is needed in Cleveland Heights and explain how FutureHeights is uniquely qualified to take on that role. Judy Rawson, former mayor of Shaker Heights, will deliver the keynote address. The event begins at 7 p.m.

Judy Rawson has lived in Northeast Ohio since 1972. She served as mayor of Shaker Heights from 2003-07, following two terms on Shaker Heights City Council. During that time, she held leadership roles around regional issues, such as economic development, consolidation of services, housing, strengthening inner-ring suburbs, and linking the suburbs more closely to the city of Cleveland. She served on the Executive Committee of the

UH celebrates 90 years of free concerts

A 1976 summer concert on the front lawn of Wiley Middle School.

Patrick Grogan-Myers

This year, the city of University Heights will present its 90th annual free summer concert series. In preparation for this momentous year, UH city staff dug deep into the city’s archives to learn more about the creation of this popular, perennial University Heights event.

Prior to 1927, the Village of University Heights, Ohio, was annexed to Cleveland in 1892. As part of that town’s breakup, the section where the cemetery was located was annexed to Cleveland in 1892. The cemetery is closely connected with Cleveland Heights history, as many of the earliest settlers in what is now Cleveland Heights are buried there.

The cemetery foundation’s mission is to provide education and patriotic events for the community pertaining to its historic heritage in an urban park setting, 1621 East 118th Street, Cleveland, just north of Euclid Avenue. Parking is available at the cemetery’s entrance, and the group will meet in the chapel—the restored
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 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 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 towns.

To make a submission of any kind, go online to 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 Heights Observer office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail info@futureheights.org.

Articles to be considered for the June issue must be submitted by May 9. 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.

FutureHeights declares its intent to become the CDC for Cleveland Heights

On April 21, the FutureHeights Board of Directors unanimously and enthusiastically approved a resolution declaring the intent of the organization to become the Community Development Corporation (CDC) for Cleveland Heights. FutureHeights has been in discussion with city leaders about becoming the CDC for more than a year, and feels that now is the time to move forward.

Consistent with our name, for 15 years FutureHeights’ mission has been to promote a vibrant and sustainable “future” for Cleveland Heights (and University Heights, since 2008), through innovative ideas and civic engagement.

Throughout its history, FutureHeights has incorporated the following values into its programming and activities: organize informed citizen participation in community decision making; generate innovative ideas in addressing the challenges of our inner-ring community; stimulate open and effective communication and partnerships among nonprofits, schools, local business, city government and citizens; assist in achieving a thriving local business community; promote historic neighborhoods and commercial diversity; advocate for high quality and sustainability in design and architecture; and take a regional approach to innovation, planning and development.

Last January, FutureHeights Executive Director Deanna Bremer Fisher and then Board President Richard Stewart met with newly elected City Council President Cheryl Stephens and City Manager Tanisha Briley to begin the conversation about the need for a CDC. Mayor Stephens requested that the group create a business plan to develop the idea.

Over several months, FutureHeights staff conducted research and interviewed other CDCs in the Cleveland area, including those in nearby inner-ring suburbs. FutureHeights presented a plan to the mayor on Aug. 15, 2016 and continued its discussions with city officials, including meeting with each council member individually to seek their opinions on a CDC. FutureHeights also continued to communicate with the city manager, drafting two letters stating more specifically, what we intend to accomplish as a CDC.

In the meantime, consistent with our expectations, the city of Cleveland Heights has confirmed the need for a CDC to enable it to achieve its full potential as a vibrant first-ring suburb. The city’s Economic Development Advisory Committee, which was appointed by City Council in 2016, has recommended, as its first priority, that Cleveland Heights form a community development corporation.

City Council also formally adopted its Master Plan, which encourages the city to partner with a nonprofit community development organization to help spearhead the plan’s implementation and make it a priority.

By adopting this resolution, FutureHeights wishes to publicly announce its intention to accept this critically important responsibility of officially being recognized as the CDC for the city of Cleveland Heights.

Along with our advocacy work, which includes publishing the Heights Observer, presenting the Heights Music Hop, working with neighborhood leaders and groups, and hosting public forums, lectures, workshops and tours, FutureHeights is busily engaging in the public dialog of civil engagement, neighborhood planning, neighborhood revitalization and place-making improvements—in other words, doing what CDCs do.

Members of the FutureHeights Board of Directors and its board-levied committees are all residents of the Heights or business owners, and have experience and expertise related to the operation of CDCs and community development activities. They include bankers, city planners, architects, developers, university scholars, community builders, data analysts, community planners, and committed, active citizens.

FutureHeights recognizes that, as CDCs are constituent-driven and a product of the community, partnering with city government is essential to our mission and responsibility. As a result, we are committed to creatively participating in the planning and civic engagement processes that will guide the policies and ultimate implementation of development projects and neighborhood revitalization initiatives.

We invite Heights residents to learn about our specific plans and strategies at the 2017 FutureHeights Annual Meeting, which will take place on May 24 at our offices in the Coventry School Building. (See page 1 for article about the FutureHeights annual meeting.)

This statement of intent was collaboratively written by members of the FutureHeights Board of Directors. Julia Kiou-Zabell is president of the FutureHeights board; Deanna Bremer Fisher is the executive director of FutureHeights, and publisher of the Heights Observer.
Cleveland Heights Charter: Up for review?

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleeck

Cleveland Heights could be about to undertake an interesting community conversation. CH City Council recently introduced legislation to appoint a charter review commission; the first since 1982. Among the many issues the commission may consider is the city’s form of government. We have been intrigued for some time by how our city’s government differs from those of neighboring suburbs.

Unlike University Heights and 14 other municipalities in Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Heights has the city manager form of government. Rather than directly electing our mayor, voters elect seven city council members who, in turn, elect from among themselves a mayor and a vice-mayor—currently Cheryl Stephens and Jason Stein, respectively. According to our city charter (which, like a constitution, sets the rules for governing), the council also selects and hires a city manager who is, effectively, the town CEO. In manager-run cities, a mayor serves as the “public face” of the municipality and may also function, officially or unofficially, as city council president. Such mayors are sometimes paid a little more than other council members, but their votes do not count more. All seven of CH council members serve part-time.

In contrast, University Heights citizens directly elected Mayor Susan Infeld to be the executive of their city. They also elect the seven members of city council, the body which functions as the legislature of local government. In both suburbs, all council members are elected citywide and serve at-large.

Understanding that council is the legislative branch heightens the contrast between the two forms of municipal government. In fact, the city manager structure may be the only form of government in which the legislature has sole authority to hire and fire the chief executive. In Cuyahoga County, only Bedford and Cleveland Heights have city manager governments. In the county’s other 44 cities, voters directly elect the executive (the mayor). In municipal government parlance, this is called the “strong mayor” form; we think “popularly elected” or just “elected mayor” may state it more clearly.

Our city manager structure is not the only way that Cleveland Heights’ government differs from others in the county. As in both CH and UH, all council members are elected at-large, as is the case in Shaker Heights. But neighboring South Euclid has both an elected mayor and a “mixed council” consisting of four members elected by ward, plus three serving at-large. Note that South Euclid, University Heights and Shaker Heights, all with elected mayors, are significantly smaller than Cleveland Heights. To consider a city of comparable population that combines elected mayor and a seven-member “mixed” council, we have to cross the river to Lakewood.

Those who argue for the city manager form consider it more “professional” and less “political” than direct election of the city’s executive in a mayoral race. Councils look to hire managers with solid experience in municipal administration. Those who advocate having an elected mayor cite the advantages of having a full-time elected official who is directly accountable to the voters.

According to data provided by Cleveland Heights City Manager Tanisha Briley, 50 percent of cities and villages charted in Ohio have city manager governments, a statistic that certainly is not reflected in Cuyahoga County. After a charter review process, Euclid is considering changing to the city manager form. In Ohio, voters must approve all changes to city charters. The pros and cons of electing city council members by ward can be just as complicated as the chief executive issue. In both Cleveland and Parma, for example, all council members represent wards and none serve at-large. Some advantages of electing council members by ward include more direct representation, greater focus on neighborhood issues, and relative “ease of entry” into the political process for aspiring council members—it is easier to get elected from a ward than citywide. A downside would be a tendency toward factionalism and perhaps failure to act for the benefit of the city as a whole. Many suburbs have found that the “mixed council” model, with four ward seats and three at-large, provides geographical representation without sacrificing the interests of the whole.

These issues of local governance are complex—and we find them compelling! We have barely skinned the surface here. In future columns, we will cover some of the history of the various forms and follow the Cleveland Heights charter review process with great interest.

Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Van Kleeck is also a musician and writer, who grew up in Cleveland Heights and has lived here as an adult for over 50 years. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
Short-term benefit shouldn’t outweigh potential harm of Ohio Senate Bill 85

Bad legislation is still bad, even if it might benefit our school district’s short-term bottom line. Ohio Senate Bill 85 (SB85) was introduced in late March to expand our state’s already bloated voucher system. School vouchers damage the public interest by allocating tax dollars to support families whose children were already slated to go to private or parochial schools. Supposedly, these children are being saved from the so-called “failing” public schools, but most parents of these children never intended to make use of public schools anyway. In Cleveland Heights-University Heights, the vast majority of families who take advantage of vouchers use them to attend the Hebrew Academy. Almost none of these families, probably would be using the CH-UH public schools because of their religious convictions. That is why families choose parochial schools.

When a family in our district uses a voucher, our schools lose a portion of our state financial aid. This year alone, because of state voucher programs and money sucked away from our district for students attending charter schools, CH-UH will lose around $5.6 million of our $18 million in state funding. This loss of funds does not mean we are serving fewer students, it just means we have less money per student.

SB85 (adds) an interesting twist to the voucher schemes. Although the bill dramatically extends eligibility to receive a voucher, there is a provision in the bill that separates out how the money gets paid. Under the provision, school districts would not lose money from their state allocations for vouchers; instead, the state plans to create a completely different funding mechanism. This would probably be a huge benefit for our district.

My guess is that our demographics are unique in the state because we have a high proportion of families living in our district—and always have—who choose to educate their children in non-public institutions. SB85 would spread our misery to the 661 public school districts across the state, some of which lose very little money to such privatization policies. Though it will probably help our district in the short term, I believe that if SB85 passes it eventually will lead to larger problems than those we face now. Expanding vouchers, however they are funded, will lead even more citizens to believe it is acceptable for state money to be used to fund a parallel religious school system. It is not.

Allowing families with incomes of up to approximately $96,000 (four times the current poverty rate) to send their students to non-public schools using public funds is not acceptable. Public funds should be used only for the public good. Expanding vouchers will lead to a smaller pot of money for traditional public schools, which cannot turn away kids who don’t conform to particular behaviors, lack certain academic skills, have special needs that cannot be addressed in a non-public school, or have parents who cannot volunteer nor pay additional school fees required at some schools.

Public schools serve all. All are welcome. Private and parochial schools serve only the interests of a small portion of our citizenry which is why public funds should not be used to support their missions. By the time this article is published, we may already know the fate of SB85. Regardless, it poses an interesting dilemma: if we focus only on the short-term financial interests of CH-UH schools, we might lobby our legislature now in a way that could be destructive to our long-term interests.

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

Susie Kaeser

On March 30, the Senate Intelligence Committee held an open hearing on Russia's use of "active measures" to affect the 2016 presidential election. 

Active measures, including misinformation used to sow discord among allies and distrust in democratic institutions, have long been a tool of Russian efforts to shift balances in power through subversion. The Russians are pros at this, and now social media has made it even easier for them to interject themselves into our lives and create chaos.

For nearly three hours I watched a YouTube video of the hearing as three experts on Russian disinformation testified before this bipartisan committee, explaining the history of this tactic and how it is used to prop up democracies. Cyber warfare uses misinformation to tarnish leaders, affect the financial markets, create social division and unrest, and predict global calamity.

The public bearing was reassuring. It was a search for truth. The senators valued expertise. While diverse perspectives were represented, all were attentive and open to learning. I could not tell by their questions what parties the senators belonged to. An essential public institution was doing its job.

Former FBI agent Clinton Watts explained three common objectives of active measures: undermining public confidence in democratic governance, eroding trust in elected officials and promoting distrust in information sources, blurring the line between fact and fiction.

Does this sound familiar?

The strength of our democracy resides within citizens trusting their democratic institutions. As a public-school advocate, I see public schools as one of those institutions. For me, this trust must include the security and legitimacy of elections, fealty of the courts to the rule of law, competent government agencies, evidence-based decision-making, legislation that promotes the common welfare, fact-based reporting and an independent press committed to the truth.

Russian cyber war has effectively promoted doubt in all of these areas, but it hasn’t just been the Russians!

My revulsion at the appointment of Betsy DeVos as secretary of education is grounded in her dedication to discrediting one crucial democratic institution—public education. She continues to describe it as a mess and has made dismantling the public system her agenda. Because the primary purpose of public schools is to create an educated electorate, she will subvert the very basis of our democracy if she achieves her goals.

Columnist Jeff Bryant’s recent article, “The Schools Betsy DeVos Wants Parents to Choose,” reviews three schools that the secretary of education praised in recent speeches—a Christian academy, a school funded through tax credits for the wealthy and a third that is facing prosecution for fraud. Her perception of quality is terrifying. Promoting this kind of education is a very disturbing way to fulfill her obligation as a public servant to support public schools.

Our community knows the destructive impact of vouchers. They drain away scarce resources from the Heights schools, slowly eroding their capacity to create a hopeful environment, both for children and teachers. This year our public-school children will lose $4.6 million so that 473 voucher-users can attend religious schools—most never having stepped into a public school. Vouchers destabilize the public system.

Rejecting the public system is a rejection of democracy. DeVos’s commitment to choice promotes winners and losers, advances individual success without regard to the well-being of our society and disregards civil rights.

The narrative of failure began to gain traction with a 1983 report titled “A Nation at Risk,” which has been used to unravel confidence in the quality of public schools. Contrary to the evidence, the report ignited widespread depictions of public schools as failures, when, in fact, children do better in public schools than in private ones.

While DeVos didn’t start this narrative, she did elevate it to the unthinkable—popularizing a policy to transfer public funds to unregulated, unaccountable, private and religious institutions. Forget a high-quality public system. Instead, it is each man for himself. Who cares if you destroy public confidence in a cornerstone institution and ignore the common good?

It does not make sense in these uncertain times for our public leaders to undermine confidence in the key institutions that provide opportunity and give us a sense of security. That’s what our enemies do.

A major test of our democracy is whether we as citizens can defend our public institutions from a hostile takeover by an ideological enemy. For me it starts with standing up for our local public schools and demanding that our policy makers do the same.

We don’t really need foreign enemies when we’ve got plenty of them at home.

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.
University Heights City Council
Meeting highlights
MARCH 20, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld and council members Pamela Cameron, Phil Ertel, John Rach, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Vice Mayor Susan Parades was absent. Also present were Luke McCornville, law director, and Kelly Thomas, clerk of council.

Tri-C ethics training
Mayor Infeld reported that Tri-C will be offering a training course on ethics during the third week of June at its Main campus. She noted that it offers this training periodically and it is always interesting.

Cell tower regulations
The mayor gave an update on the state legislation regarding regulation of small cell towers. A group of 20 communities has come together in a lawsuit to stop the new law, calling it unconstitutional and an infringement on a municipality’s right of way.

Presentation of the 2015 Master Plan
Jim Sonnhalter and Mike Styrer of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission presented their final report on the master plan for University Heights. The process began in 2015 and involved citizen committees and council representatives to develop a long-term comprehensive plan for how the city should develop. They conducted a survey of the current condition of the city, led a visioning process with participants, and then developed steps for a concrete plan. The primary topics were land use, transportation, community and economic development, neighborhood and housing.

The areas of primary concern were the Warrensville-Cedar intersection, the community image, Wiley school property, housing issues, John Carroll University, economic development and regional collaboration. Implementation of the plan is dependent on holding people accountable for the timeline, setting priorities and controlling costs. The planning commission urges the city to adopt the plan, use it and keep it relevant.

Grant application for public art
Council authorized submission of a grant application to the Ohio Arts Council to support an art project in 2017.

Bank robbery suspects caught
Police Chief Hammet announced that two juveniles have been arrested in connection with the recent string of bank robberies in University Heights.

Cedar-Taylor council action
Council voted on and approved a motion for the Cedar-Taylor beautification project, described as a development project and its fund, which holds the $25,000 earmarked for the project, the Cedar-Taylor Streetscape Project (Fund).

Transportation contract
A motion to approve the 2017 senior transportation contract with Senior Transportation Connection agency was presented on first reading. Council members asked to review the figures before approving the contract.

Finance director
The mayor has hired a new finance director. William Sheahan, who previously worked for the Cuyahoga County Office of Budget & Management, will join the city on Monday, April 17.

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FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program awards four projects

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights held the fourth round of its Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program this spring, approving $2,700 in grants to support four projects in Cleveland Heights.

The grants are intended to spur small, grassroots projects to improve quality of life and build community.

The spring 2017 grants are:

- Young Entrepreneurs was awarded $400 for its Lego Robotics Pilot Program. The goal of the pilot is to create a community program in which students will use Lego robotics kits, with the guidance of the Young Entrepreneurs leaders, to strengthen their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Young Entrepreneurs hopes to build relationships and community through the program.

- The Cleveland Soup and Bread Experiment was awarded $400 for its monthly potluck program. The Cleveland Soup and Bread Experiment is led by a group of Cleveland Heights residents who are interested in connecting with neighbors through a shared meal of soup, which binds people together, and working toward alleviating hunger. The group held its first event in March at The BottleHouse, benefitting the Cleveland Food Bank.

- Noble Neighbors was awarded $900 for its Perennial Garden project. This project aims to enhance the reputation of the Noble Road neighborhoods by building gardens, cleaning up spaces, and adding artistic touches wherever possible. Be on the lookout along Noble Road for beautified spaces, flowers, and colorful signs this spring.

- Noble Neighbors was also awarded $1,000 for its Noble Promotional Video project, which will capture footage of the neighborhood during community events and daily life. The video will be promoted with the intention of marketing the neighborhood to attract residents, investors and visitors to the district. For more information visit www.nobleneighbors.com.

Since the start of the program in fall 2015, FutureHeights has supported 16 neighborhood grassroots projects with grants totalling approximately $13,600. Visit www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-program to learn more about the funded projects happening throughout Cleveland Heights.

Do you have a great idea to improve your neighborhood? FutureHeights invites you to apply for a grant. Attend a workshop to learn more about how to apply, and get tips about completing the application and process. The next application deadline is Friday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m. Workshop dates will be announced.

The Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program is a component of FutureHeights Community Capacity-Building Program that awards small grants of up to $1,000 to fund citizen-led neighborhood projects, events and activities that benefit Cleveland Heights.

Through grants, FutureHeights seeks to build community with increased resilience through grassroots resident participation in civic life. In so doing, Cleveland Heights becomes better equipped to address challenges in the physical and social environment, drawing and activating the assets of people, nonprofit organizations and public resources and departments.

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program is guided by a grant-making committee comprising seven Cleveland Heights residents with a history of community involvement. The committee reviews and makes all grant decisions. For more information contact FutureHeights at sbasu@futureheights.org, or 216-320-1423. Sruti Basu is the director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.
Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights
MARCH 20, 2017
Present were Mayor Cheryl L. Stephens, Vice Mayor Jason Stein, and council members Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Khalid Seren and Melissa Yasinow. Michael N. Ungar was absent.

Public comments
Noble Neighbors: Barb Sosnowski drew council’s attention to the upcoming community event We Are Noble, May 19–21. The event celebrates life in the Noble Road district of Cleveland Heights. Information can be found at www.nobleneighbors.com.

City charter review: Earl Pike, Susan Eybrayson and Robert Brown spoke on behalf of a citizen group interested in a review of the city charter. The group favors direct election of the city’s mayor and would like to explore organizing council representation into wards. Recognizing that residents would have to approve any changes to the charter, the group hopes that the review process will move forward in time for voting in November 2017.

Zoning code update
Council approved, on second reading, amendments to sections of part I of the zoning code, to make the process for obtaining approvals more efficient. There was a public hearing about these adjustments on March 13.

Master Plan adoption
Council approved adoption of the Master Plan of the City of Cleveland Heights, dated March 10, 2017. The plan was developed with assistance from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and includes review of land use and policy, economic development, housing and neighborhoods, parks and recreation, and transportation and infrastructure. The 16-month process involved a citizen steering committee, a staff project team, three public community meetings, and online surveys, all of which resulted in significant public input related to current conditions, community vision, policy development, implementation plans, and priority projects. Council extended appreciation to Jeanne Diamond, Ken Dowell, Mike Goyner, Kristin Hopkins, Howard Mauer, Allison McCollum, Chuck Miller, William C. Mitchell, Yvonne Radoff-Yehvich, Eric Silverman, Saranya Queen Tabor and Julia Kion Zobel for their diligent service as members of the citizen steering committee. The full plan can be found on the city’s website at www.clevelandheights.org/index.aspx?page=1827.

Charter review
Council’s Administrative Services Committee has recommended a review of the city charter, specifying that the task be undertaken in an open and transparent manner by a charter review commission comprising a diverse group of citizens. This group would conduct fact-finding, if appropriate, and identify issues to study and address. Examples of such issues might be: Cleveland Heights’ form of government, gender-neutral language and clean up of obsolete language, anti-discrimination language, emergency actions, term limits, etc. Council will continue to consider the issue of charter review.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.
APRIL 3, 2017
Present were Mayor Cheryl L. Stephens, Vice Mayor Jason Stein, and council members Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Khalid Seren, Michael N. Ungar and Melissa Yasinow.

Gun safety: Laura Lewis, representing the local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, spoke about Senate Bill 199, the “Guns Everywhere Bill” that just went into effect and expands where Ohio residents may carry concealed weapons, including into daycare facilities. Her group hopes the city will help spread the word that daycare centers can still prohibit the carrying of weapons, provided they post signs stating that guns are allowed. She also spoke of the group’s Be SMART program (a child-gun-access-prevention program) and announced that June 2, 2017 is National Gun Violence Awareness Day; she urged council members to use social media to post photos of themselves wearing orange (the “Don’t shoot” color) on that day.

Noble Road rezoning: Residents Verce Radley and Mark Stadwick expressed disappointment that the city has decided not to reduce Noble Road from the current four lanes to three when the area is repaved. They stated that such a “road diet” would relate to the Riverside Greenway project by providing room for at least one bicycle lane and would be safer for cyclists and pedestrians, especially children. Another resident, Bruce Needham, spoke in opposition, saying he does not believe reducing the number of lanes would enhance safety.

Charter review
Legislation establishing a city charter review commission has been drafted, and citizen input is welcome.

Issuance and sale of bonds
Council issued the following maximum principal amounts: $165,000 for the costs of acquiring motor vehicles and related equipment for the police department; $225,000 for the costs of improving streets and roads in the city by reconstructing, grading, draining, paving; and making other improvements as designated in the plans approved or to be approved by council; $340,000 for the costs of acquiring motor vehicles and equipment for the public works department; $500,000 for the costs of acquiring equipment for the police department; $65,000 for the costs of installing and improving sidewalks at the city hall; $75,000 for the costs of replacing five fences and nozzles at the city’s fire station facilities; $335,000 for the costs of acquiring motor vehicles and related equipment for the fire department in providing emergency medical services.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.
See disclaimer on page 6.

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Officer West believed in the importance of mentoring young people. Through the scholarship, his legacy continues to impact the lives of young men and women.

In 2012, Stedman Smith received the scholarship. After graduation, Smith postponed college and entered the National Guard. He then served in Afghanistan for a year. When Smith returned home, he contacted the scholarship committee to say that he was applying to the Cleveland Heights Police Academy, and asked if he was accepted into the police academy.

Betsy Bell, scholarship committee co-chair, commented, “Not only did the scholarship committee give Stedman his initial award, but we were able to pay for the entire cost of attending the Police Academy. This was our way of honoring Jason. And I love the way we chose, because it keeps giving back every single year, and every year we’re educating people about him, who he was, and why we’re doing this.”

As the 10th anniversary of Officer West’s death approaches, the scholarship committee is planning its annual Mega Raffle Fundraiser, featuring prizes donated by local businesses. This year, the event will be held on Sunday, May 21, at the Tavern Company, 2539 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. It is the committee’s only fundraising event. Raffle tickets are $2 and can be purchased at Tavern Company the day of the event. All proceeds go directly to the scholarship fund. Contributions can also be sent to The Officer Jason D West Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o The Treasurer’s Office, CH-UH City School District, 2155 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, Ohio, 44118. (Checks should be made payable to “Cleveland Heights – University Heights City School District.” Be sure to note “Jason West Scholarship” on the memo line.)

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/jasonwestscholarship.

Lita Gonzales has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1995. She is recently retired, and an avid volunteer.

The weekend will kick off with NobleFest, a carnival sponsored by the Noble Elementary School PTA, on Friday, May 19, 6–8 p.m. NobleFest will feature carnival games and prizes, bounce houses and a variety of food options—all at affordable prices. Vendors will sell goods at the event, and many new this-year activities are planned. NobleFest is designed to be an evening of fun for the whole family.

On Saturday, May 20, events will include activities in Noble Neighborhood Library’s children’s room and family garden. A book giveaway and a new event, the Noble Neighbors photography scavenger hunt, will launch from the library. There will be a public art project on Saturday, as well as a potluck hosted by the Noble area Nepali community during Welcome Hub hours in the library’s teen room. Welcome Hub is a weekly program for refugees in the community; but anybody is welcome to attend.

Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will host an open house and tool sale during We Are Noble. Visitors can go to the HRRC Teaching Center at 2220 Noble Road to learn about HRRC’s services, tool library, and contractor-evaluation books. Basic hand tools, specialty tools and ladders will be sold to help fund programming. There is no need to register for this event, which will be an opportunity for current and prospective homeowners to learn how HRRC can help keep a house in good repair. HRRC will also be the launch site for tours of houses for sale in the neighborhood.

Oxford School Carnival will take place on Saturday afternoon. The carnival will offer food, vendors, a science fair, games, prizes, a live DJ, dance contest, family chalk art contest, playgrounds, field day events, and a color-a-thon race with a color-explosion kickoff! More information about being a vendor, entering the color-a-thon race or opportunities to help fund We Are Noble can be found at www.noblenighbors.com. Also at Oxford—back by popular demand—are tours of the school’s WPA murals, plaster relief sculpture and ceramic figures. These treasures are rarely open to public view.

Cleveland Heights’ young professionals will gather at Christopher’s Pub, 1318Warrensville Center Road, on Saturday, May 20, 5–7 p.m., for an evening of trivia, games and networking. More information can be found on Facebook under “Cleveland Heights young professionals mixer.”

Jake Hochendoner, a professional documentary filmmaker, will capture the weekend’s activities on video, funded in part by a FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grant. The resulting Noble Neighborhood promotional video will be posted this summer.

Noble Road Presbyterian Church will have a rummage sale, and visitors will also be encouraged to stop by the police academy, patronize Noble Road businesses, check out church-sponsored events, enjoy the public perennial gardens, ride the Rocket Car, play in the parks, view the community gardens, eat delicious food, and tour open houses during the weekend. Yard sales will take place throughout the neighborhood during We Are Noble, which aims to show that Noble is a great place in which live and open a business.

An event map and listing of activities will be continuously updated at www.noblenighbors.com. Noble Neighbors can also be followed on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Noble Neighbors is looking forward to sharing its home with visitors.
St. Paul’s lends support to Edwins’ program for former prisoners

James Henke

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights has undertaken a program designed to help support and further the work being done by Edwins Leadership & Restaurant Institute on Shaker Square.

Brandon Chrostowski is the owner of both Edwins (“education wins”) restaurant and its associated institute; he opened both on Nov. 1, 2013. Prior to that, Chrostowski had worked at L’Albatros in University Circle.

Chrostowski had wanted to own a restaurant since he was a teenager. What sets Edwins apart from other traditional restaurants, offering excellent food, is that it supports people who have recently been released from prison, teaching them how to work in a restaurant and helping them get jobs.

“In the state of Ohio, there are over 50,000 people serving time in prison,” Chrostowski said. “Over 20,000 are released from prison every year, with over 7,000 returning home to Cuyahoga County. Upon release, these people face societal barriers to successful reentry in gaining access to housing, food, healthcare, employment, and transportation.”

Edwins was designed to give formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the hospitality industry, while providing the support network necessary for successful reentry.

Regarding Edwins relationship with St. Paul’s, Chrostowski said he had known some church members and, several months ago, he began going to the church and giving talks. Eventually, the church formed a committee to help Edwins, and Chrostowski began meeting with the committee, as well as speaking at some forums the church held.

Edwins currently has two main facilities—the restaurant at Shaker Square and the Second Chance Life Skills Center on Backeye Road. Chrostowski said he is looking to expand the facilities, and hopes to add a butcher shop, bakery and other centers near the Life Skills Center. “I really want to build the best culinary school in the country,” Chrostowski said.

St. Paul’s has established five programs to help Edwins’ program. These include creating a launch fund to meet the graduates’ most typical needs. For example, the church might provide a set of culinary knives, work shoes, uniforms, suitable clothes and transportation passes. The church also wants to provide professional and personal services on an as-needed basis. These might include legal, medical, financial and psychological help, as well as life skills and job-seeking assistance.

In addition, St. Paul’s is also providing space at the church where students can meet with family members. The church also plans to host graduation parties and reunions with high school, college and alumni and family members. St. Paul’s also is building a discretionary fund so that Edwins can meet the emergency needs of students.

So far, said David Hartt, head of St. Paul’s Edwins committee, the church has raised more than $7,000 in contributions and pledges.

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.

Brandon Chrostowski, the owner of Edwins and founder of its leadership program.

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Spanish style building nearby,
Monday, May 8, 7 p.m., The South Overlook Gang: A Book Talk
Speaker: Richard Karges, author
Karges will discuss his book, The South Overlook Gang, and share stories of growing up in Cleveland Heights’ South Overlook neighborhood in the 1950s and ’60s—“when neighbors knew neighbors, kids played outdoors and milk trucks delivered fresh dairy to your door.” A book signing will follow the talk. [Noble Neighborhood Library, 2800 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights.]

Monday, May 15, 7 p.m., Interior Painting in an Older Home
Speakers: Margaret Lano and Trudy Andrzejewski, Cleveland Restoration Society
Have you ever imagined what the interior of your house looked like originally? Maybe you would like to redecorate and be “sensitive” to your home’s architectural style. This program will explore various trends of historic painting and take a look at different types of paint and finishes. It will also cover proper techniques for prepping surfaces, repairing plaster, stripping woodwork and analyzing paint samples. [Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.]

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m., Cleveland Heights Rocks & Waters 2017: Compton Creek Tour leaders: Roy Larick, Korbi Roberts and Jim Miller
This guided walking tour will explore the geology, history and ecology of Compton Creek, the Dugway tributary that flows through the Park Synagogue site and reappears in Forest Hill Park, where it tumbles over blue-stone to join Dugway Brook. Reservations are required for this tour, which will take place rain or shine. Space is limited, and this tour always fills up. To register, call 216-291-4878. [Registered participants will meet at the north end of the CH Community Center’s parking lot, at 1 Monticello Blvd.]

Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m., The Noble Neighborhood and Near-by, 1854-2017
Speaker: Marian Morton, John Carroll University Professor Emeritus of History
The history of the Noble neighborhood and its environs, is familiar: from farms and quarries to suburban homes, distinctive shops, and distinguished public buildings. This program will explore what makes Noble’s past and present unique, encompassing an unsuccessful effort to secede from Cleveland Heights in 1916; graceful murals by Works Progress Administration artists at Oxford Elementary School; an abandoned dump that became Denison Park and pool, and then a soccer field; Protestant churches that reflect the neighborhood’s racial and ethnic diversity; and architecture that ranges from simple 19th-century farmhouses to architect-designed homes in the Inglewood Historic District. [Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.]

Kara Hamley O’Donnell works at the Cleveland Heights Department of Planning & Development as the city’s historic preservation planner.
Noble Road church plans May and June events
Judith Beeler

Don’t let the repair of Noble Road keep you away from Noble Road Presbyte- rian Church’s May and June events. On Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the church’s biannual rummage sale will take place. Proceeds from the sale, scheduled to coincide with Noble Neighbor’s We Are Noble weekend (May 19, 20 and 21), will benefit the church’s many mission projects. These include disaster assistance, hunger programs, the Douglass Road School in Liberia, the Hunger Center, local refugee support, and the Cleve- land Heights Sober Living house.

Items available at the rummage sale will include kitchen tools, lin- ens, children’s clothing, toys, books, knick-knacks, furniture, a pool table and patio set. There will also be a bake sale and plant sale on May 20.

Looking ahead to June, save the date for the church’s 26th annual Strawberry Festival, planned for the evening of June 2.

Noble Road Presbyterian Church is located at 2780 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights, just north of the Noble Neighborhood Library. For more information on the church and its upcoming events, call 216-382-2660.

Judith Beeler, a member of Noble Road Presbyterian Church, has lived in Cleve- land Heights since 1991.

All Geared Up is family-friendly bike event
Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris

All Geared Up is an award-winning event that encourages families to explore cycling together, while learning about safety and fitness. Now in its third year, the event received recognition from the Greater Cleveland Ohio Trails and Greenways Conference last summer, where it was awarded a Gold Medal for promoting community student involve- ment and cycling culture.

This rain-or-shine event will be held on Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to noon, at Canterbury Elementary School, 3730 Canterbury Road in Cleveland Heights. It will feature a family fun ride, bike rodeo, demonstration by bike police offices, bike registrations, a used bike sale, raffles and more.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged. For complete information and to reg- ister, visit www.allgeardupevent.org. Participants are strongly encouraged to bike to the event, but on-street parking will be available.

All Geared Up was the idea of Uni- versity Heights resident Darren Carter, who envisioned the event as a way to for parents and children to connect over a healthy, lifelong activity. He reached out to community leaders in University Heights and Cleveland Heights to help develop his vision, and partnered with Canterbury Elementary School to host the event.

“We have had numerous community or- ganizations join this event as a way to promote healthy living and fitness,” said Carter. “University Heights Coun- cilmember Pam Cameron, Cleveland Heights Council Member Mary Dunbar, the Heights Bicycle Coalition and the Canterbury Elementary Staff and PTA have been instrumental in their support and planning efforts. We are looking forward to a very successful third year.”

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris is a Cleveland Heights resident, a city planner and a local food advocate. She has helped to organize the All Geared Up bike event since its inception.

The Heights celebrates Bike Month
James Henke

The Heights will once again be celebrating Bike Month in May, with local events planned to corre- spond with National Bike Month, established in 1976.

“Biking is on the upswing,” said Mary Dunbar, a Cleveland Heights council member and for- mer head of Heights Bicycle Coaliti- on (HBC), which plays a major role in organizing Bike Month in Cleveland Heights. “Millennials don’t want to own cars and prefer to ride bikes. In addition, 30 per- cent of Cleveland Heights people who head over to University Circle either walk or ride bikes.”

Various activities will take place in and around Cleveland Heights and University Heights throughout the month, including Bike to Work Week and the Ride of Silence—a memorial to those injured or killed while riding their bicycles.

Events kicked off on May 1 with the University Hospitals Community Bike Fest.

On May 6, All Geared Up will take place at Canterbury Elemen- tary School, 9 a.m. to noon. This event includes family bike rides, bike-safety instructions, and free bike helmets while they last. There will also be some adult and chil- dren’s bikes for sale. (See article at left.)

Walk or Bike to School Day is scheduled for May 10. All Cleve- land Heights–University Heights public schools will take part in this event, as will some private and parochial schools. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that children and adoles- cents should get 60 or more min- utes of exercise each day, and walk- ing or biking to school is a good way to get some of that needed exercise. Research also shows that children who walk or bike to school arrive more ready to sit down and learn than children who get a ride to school.

The Ride of Silence—a world- wide coordinated event—takes place each year on the third Wednesday in May. This year’s ride will be on May 17, and Heights-area bicyclists will depart from the John Carroll University southeast park- ing lot at 7 p.m.

Bike to Work Day will take place on May 19—the last day of Bike to Work Week, which runs May 15–19. That morning, 7–9 a.m., HBC will provide free coffee and edibles at the corner of Edgehill and Overlook roads.

On May 20, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., HBC and the City of Cleve- land Heights will offer a Smart Cycling course for adults and teenagers 14 and older. According to Cleveland Heights Police Chief Annette Mecklenburg, “Bicyclists may think they know what to do, but we see cyclists pedaling the wrong way in traffic and riding without lights at night, for ex- ample. We have very few bicycle accidents in the Heights, but we want zero. Every bicyclist, no mat- ter how experienced, should take this class at least once.”

This class will take place at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, and the cost is $20 per individual or family. Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required. Participants should bring a bicycle, helmet and $20 cash to the class. To pre-register, go to the HBC website, http:// bikeinntheheights.org, or call Jen- nifer Kuzma at 216-391-2854.

Bike Month in the Heights wraps up on June 3, with a Bike Tune-Up Day at the Coventry Courtyard on the northwest corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. This free event will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and experts will be on hand to assess bicyclists’ safety and make minor repairs.

This event is first-come, first- served, so attendees are advised to arrive well before 12:30 p.m.

James Henke, a Cleveland Heights resident, was a writer and editor at Rolling Stone magazine for 15 years. He is also the author of several books, including biographies of Jim Morrison, John Lennon and Bob Marley. He is on the board of FutureHeights, and is co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee.

Heights Observer May 1, 2017

www.heightsobserver.org

An HBC volunteer fixes a bike at a past Bike Tune-Up Day.
Peace Lutheran Church will be located at 3740 Mayfield Road.

Introducing Peace Lutheran Church

Donald King

The members of Bethlehem and Hope Lutheran churches are swiftly moving ahead on their decision to consolidate ministries. In early April, during one of their monthly joint worship services, the congregations voted on the new name of the consolidated church, to be located in the current Bethlehem Lutheran Church building, at 3740 Mayfield Road—Peace Lutheran Church. Congregants selected this name after several votes were taken on the 80 names that had been nominated.

Various ad hoc committees are hard at work to consolidate the two ministries—each with 100-plus years of service—into one. A personnel committee is looking at upcoming staffing needs; a worship committee is reviewing various worship styles and the sense of space; an elevator committee is examining the best location for an elevator, to make the building fully accessible; and a memorial garden committee is using the services of master gardeners to begin work on a welcoming, walkable outdoor garden.

The Hope Lutheran building has been for sale since early February, and the congregation is currently weighing the top bids. Representatives of more than 25 assorted ministries were given personal tours throughout the building over the course of two months, every group that inquired about the building represented a local Christian congregation. While the final decision on the purchaser has not been made, each of the finalist bidders already hosts an active, community-based ministry in its current location. The congregation feels each would be valuable, walkable outdoor garden.

The Hope Lutheran building has been for sale since early February, and the congregation is currently weighing the top bids. Representatives of more than 25 assorted ministries were given personal tours throughout the building over the course of two months, every group that inquired about the building represented a local Christian congregation. While the final decision on the purchaser has not been made, each of the finalist bidders already hosts an active, community-based ministry in its current location. The congregation feels each would be an asset to the North Taylor neighborhood.

Donald King is pastor of Hope Lutheran Church on North Taylor Road, and an active participant in the Heights InterFaith Community. He has served at Hope since 1989, and has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1985.

HRRC announces May programs and event

David Brock

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) is all set for an exciting spring and summer, with a number of new classes planned for the warm weather.

In early May, HRRC will launch its first-ever Women’s Home How-To series dedicated to the outside of the home. The Exteriors and Landscapes series of classes will give women a chance to experience hands on learning about concrete and sidewalks, brick and masonry, exterior painting, yard maintenance and more.

HRRC will also offer an early-May class on tuck-pointing, doors and locks that will be open to all.

Two classes on windows, with HRRC partner-city Shaker Heights, will likewise be open to all. Visit www.hrrc.org to see HRRC’s continually expanding list of classes.

With the return of warm weather, HRRC’s tool library is a source of speciality and common tools—nearly 1,000, and growing—needed for DIY projects. The tool library is available to residents of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, and to anyone who takes a HRRC home repair class or series.

Speaking of tools, don’t miss out on the annual HRRC Tool Sale, held in conjunction with the Noble Neighbors’ We Are Noble event.

HRRC invites people from all communities to visit its Teaching Center at 2520 Noble Road on Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., to learn about HRRC services, get a tool library membership, and check out HRRC’s contractor evaluation books to identify professionals who do good work.

Supporters of HRRC have donated a variety of tools and materials for sale during the event, with all proceeds benefitting HRRC programs.

Dave Brock is HRRC’s education coordinator.

Anytime Fitness hosts free Cain Park workouts

Sohail Ahmad

Parents often urge their children to “turn off that television set and go outside and play.” The staff of Anytime Fitness in University Heights believes everyone could use a little more active fun.

That’s why the gym is hosting playful exercise events at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights each Saturday in May, 9-10 a.m.

Everyone, not just Anytime Fitness members, is invited to participate.

“Somewhere along the line, people started believing that exercise had to be hard work,” said Shaun Yanulaitis, Anytime Fitness manager. “That’s simply not true. Many forms of exercise, especially outdoors on a beautiful spring day, will leave you basking—a gut laughing—and we aim to prove it.”

A certified personal trainer will lead each of the four consecutive May Free Workouts on May 6, 13, 20 and 27.

The workouts will feature fun events such as relay races, obstacle courses and musical games. The May Free Workouts concept, inspired by the grassroots efforts of a few Anytime Fitness clubs that regularly offer free outdoor “boot camps,” has grown into a nationwide campaign to promote physical fitness.

The workouts will take place in Cain Park at the corner of Taylor and Superior roads, and are appropriate for people of any fitness level. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes, and bring a bottle of water.

“We’re passionate about helping people get to a healthier place,” said Yanulaitis.

“That can mean different things to different people. For some, it’s losing weight or gaining strength. For others, it’s improving balance or flexibility. The important thing is to find physical activities that you enjoy, so being active is something you look forward to—rather than dread.”

Sohail Ahmad is the owner of Anytime Fitness in University Heights.

Free books mailed to your young child!

If your child is 4 years old or younger And lives in 44106, 44120, CH-UH, East Cle., Euclid or Shaker, visit heightsfamily.org for registration information.
Music benefit will honor two Hawken seniors killed in crash

By James Henke

The second Catch Meaning Music Fest will be held on Sunday, May 28, at the House of Blues in Cleveland. The concert is a benefit to honor Josh Weil and Alex Doody, the two Hawken School seniors who were killed in a car accident on May 14, 2017. Weil lived in Cleveland Heights.

The concert will raise money for the Catch Meaning Fund at the Cleveland Foundation, which was established by the Weil and Doody families. According to Michael Weil, Josh’s father and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, the purpose of the fund is “to identify organizations that would be of interest to young adults or that would have been of interest to Josh and Alex. We can then make donations to those organizations.”

Last year, the first Catch Meaning concert was held at Jacobs Pavilion, and raised more than $150,000. This year’s concert will feature hip-hop artist RJ2; jazz-bop hip hop duo Break Science; and an Australian quintet, Jakubi, that plays rhythm & blues, rock and soul music. Two other bands will also be on the bill—the Aaron Cohen Band from New Orleans, and Amora, Amora, from Boulder, Colo.

The concert’s organizers are Kathy Blackman, who owns the Grog Shop in Cleveland Heights, and Lisa Vincequerra of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

General admission tickets to the concert are $15, and donor-VIP tickets are $200. Tickets are available online at www.livenation.com and at the House of Blues box office. For more information about the concert and the Catch Meaning Fund, visit www.catchmeaning.org.

Michael Weil said he hopes that the concert will become an annual event that will go on for many years. “I hope that we are building something that will be a long-term experience,” he said. “I want something that Josh and Alex’s friends can be part of for many years and that their children will also be able to become a part of it. I want Josh and Alex’s memories to be alive and be celebrated for many years to come.”
Library announces summer reading programs for all ages

Kara Whaley

According to the National Summer Learning Association, all school-age children and teens experience learning loss when they fail to engage in educational activities during the summer.

With that in mind, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has created a summer reading program designed to lessen learning loss and get kids—and adults—excited about reading. This summer, the program’s theme is “Dream, Build, Share,” and it focuses on construction and community building.

The summer reading program is free and will run all summer, from June 1 to Aug. 10.

“No one is too old, or too young, for summer reading,” said Director Nancy Levin. “When a community values reading, great things happen.”

To sign up, visit any Heights library and pick up a summer reading log and activities worksheet. All eligible parents of infants and children who complete a summer reading log will receive a raffle ticket for one of several large prizes.

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade can complete their own logs and activity sheets to receive raffle tickets. The reading log takes 30 days to complete, and children can complete more than one.

They can also receive additional raffle tickets by completing specific activities, such as signing up for the library’s 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, performing an act of kindness, and attending summer reading events at Heights libraries. These events include arts and crafts programs, a movie night, and an end-of-summer celebration featuring a special guest.

The teen summer reading program is limited to high school-age teens and will focus on March: Book Three by John Lewis. Teens are invited to read the book and write a letter explaining how the book impacted them, making them eligible to enter a raffle to win either a PlayStation 4 or a generous Mac’s Back’s gift basket filled with books and reading goodies. Teens will also receive raffle tickets for attending any summer programs for teens.

Adults get a summer reading program, too. They are invited to participate by reading or listening to books for a chance to win either a Samsung Galaxy Tablet, a NOOK, or a Kindle Fire HD. They should speak with any librarian to complete an entry form for each completed book. Adults can gain additional entry forms by attending any It’s All Fun and Games summer programs.

For more information about summer reading and related programs, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Kara Whaley is the communications coordinator at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.
Heights swim team receives national student-athlete award

Emma Rubadue
Beaumont senior earns Ohio University Cutler scholarship

Emma Rubadue
Beaumont senior earns Ohio University Cutler scholarship

Emma Rubadue, a senior at Beaumont School and a University Heights resident, will attend Ohio University this fall as a Cutler Scholarship recipient. Rubadue was one of 15 applicants, from a field of 350, selected for the highly competitive scholarship, which is renewable for all four years of her collegiate studies.

“The selection committee members were impressed by Emma’s intellectual curiosity and community engagement,” said Beaumont Director of College Counseling Mary Grimaldi. “They also said they saw her as a leader for change and an advocate for social justice.”

“Throughout Emma’s participation in my classes (computer science principles and introduction to programming/robotics) along with her participation on Beaumont’s winning team of the CLE Teen Hack Coding competition, Emma has demonstrated excellence in coding, computer science and interdisciplinary team projects,” said Sister Ann Wojnar, Beaumont instructor.

“Emma was one of seven students awarded first place in the CLE Teen Hack Coding for Community competition in May 2016. As a part of this competition, Emma learned coding skills in HTML, CSS, Ruby on Rails, and JavaScript to design the VoteNow and Ballot portions of an app (CLE: TeenVote) in anticipation of the general election last November. She was an integral part of the team, both in the creation of the app and in the excellent presentation of it to a panel of judges,” said Wojnar.

The Cutler Scholars Program is Ohio University’s premier scholarship program. It selects students based on their intellectual curiosity, leadership, service and character. During the four-year scholarship program, Cutler Scholars live together, participate in a weekly colloquium, and take part in four enrichment experiences: outdoor leadership, public service, international travel, and internships.

Anna Jarrad is vice president of institutional advancement for Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights. Next year the team will practice and compete in a brand-new home pool in the renovated Heights High. The new facility will offer more practice time than was available to the team at the temporary site. “We are really looking forward to swimming in the new pool next year,” said Budin.

Heights High swim and diving team members: (back row) Wesley Shumaker, Gabriel Duffy, Cady Radivoyevitch, Andrew Moore, Nina Pareira, Jacob Brownman, Zach Brust, Brian Hall and David Fleischer; (middle) Coach Dan Budin, Laynie Gosselin, Maria Tarnay and Melanie Graham; (front) Amy McCullum, Glennis Covault, Sylvia Snow, Rachel, Elena Rinaldi, Khalen Flowers, Jesse Gross and Erika Gifford. [not pictured: team members Schuyler Radivoyevitch, Ben Schuster, Montreal Watkins, Emma Hodges and Jessie Titas.]

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
Heights Early College students present research at John Carroll

John Carroll University’s (JCU) April 3 Celebration of Scholarship presentations included 17 Heights High Early College sophomores, along with nearly 100 JCU undergraduates, graduate students and faculty.

Last November, Heights High’s Early College students selected research topics and spent more than four months working with a mentor to refine research questions, conduct research at the JCU library, and independently prepare a poster and short verbal presentation. The project assignment was in addition to their regular class load of accelerated courses in four content areas. The Gateway or Capstone project is one of the qualifying requirements for sophomore students to complete, to be eligible to enroll in JCU for their junior year of high school. The other requirements are demonstrating mastery in four core subject areas and receiving a faculty recommendation.

This school year, 21 Heights High juniors and seniors are enrolled in JCU courses, earning both college and high school credit, at no cost to the student. Two Early College teachers serve as the Gateway project coordinators this year—Karl Neitzel and Bridget Lambright.

“The growth that we see in these four months is amazing,” said Neitzel. “The students start out with a general topic and they end up presenting a complex idea in a college setting. They work very hard and have such a feeling of accomplishment when it is completed.”

The Early College Program is in its fourth year of operation, and there are four teachers in the program. Some of the students who completed the program and graduated from Heights High are currently enrolled at Case Western Reserve University, Bowling Green University, Ursuline College and Florida Memorial University, and many chose to complete their college career at JCU.

“We provide the support and structure for students to rise to the occasion and unlock their potential,” said Early College Principal Alisa McKinney. “They develop skills and the confidence to attend and thrive in college.”

The 2017 Gateway Project students, and their respective research topics, are: Kylie Armatte, Bullying and Bicultural Students; Davon Beane’, Race and Academic Achievement in a Suburban School District; Derek Black, Music as Therapy; Alesia Brooks, The Correlation Between a Student’s Learning Style and the Most Effective Memorization Strategies; Jasha Brown, Effects of Teen Depression on Social and Academic Functioning; Italie Demore, Anti-Texting Advertisements and Teen Drivers; Treasure Eliland, Student Perceptions on How AP Classes Impact Their Level of College Readiness; Xanayla Harris, Mental Health Awareness Among High School Students; Trevion Johnson, Academic Induced Stress in High School Students; Ryan Penson, Efforts to Deter Substance Abuse in Schools; Tommy Pierce Jr., Sleep Deficiency & Academic Success; T’Jhanay Ports-Avery, Domestic Violence and Teens; Folakemi Sampson, Student Perceptions of Parent Involvement and Expectations at Heights High; Taylott Thomas, The Correlation Between Academic Performance in Student-Athletes vs. Non-Athletes; Hailyn Williams, The Growing Rate of Obesity in Millennials; Malik Winfield, Music Involvement and GPA; Miranda Wyse, Gender Identity and Mental Illness: Behind the Minds of the Transgender Community.

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

Heights High sophomores Davon Beane’ with his research presentation at the John Carroll University Celebration of Scholarship.

COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RoxEl Run set for May 20

Christina D’Angelis

“I can’t wait for the race this year,” said 11-year-old, Tyler Bain, a Roxboro Elementary School fifth-grader. "Last year I won my age group in the 4-mile race, but this year I want to finish in the top three overall and win a big trophy!”

The race is the RoxEl Run, an annual fun-filled community and inter-generational family event, benefiting Roxboro Elementary School. This year, it will take place on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 9 a.m. The race starts at the Roxboro Middle School track, 2400 Roxboro Road, and loops through the Cleveland Heights neighborhoods surrounding the school.

More than 300 participants are expected at this year’s event, which features 4-mile and 2-mile runs, or a 2-mile walk, which begins shortly after the run start time and follows the same route. The Kids Fun Run, for the youngest elementary school-age children, begins at 10 a.m. and takes place inside the middle school track.

Last year’s event drew 300 participants and raised more than $5,000.

Roxboro Elementary School PTA members and volunteers organize the RoxEl Run. Its tagline, Run Like It’s Recess, encourages children to learn healthy habits and make physical fitness a regular part of their lifestyle.

“This event brings kids, parents and teachers together, outside of the classroom,” said Roxanne Bain, RoxEl Run co-chair and a PTA member. “Kids run alongside their teachers while parents push their younger kids in strollers. This act of coming together creates inspiration for the children, especially when their role models are running right along with them. Plus, it’s just plain fun.”

Roxboro’s PTA established a Run Club for Roxboro students in third- through fifth-grades. Participants train after school on Wednesday afternoons for an eight-week period leading up to the event. Bain, a marathon runner, coaches the children, along with other volunteers, helping them develop good running technique and build endurance for the race.

After the race, runners, families and community members can enjoy healthy snacks and refreshments, games, face painting and a DJ inside the track. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs.

The event is made possible through the support of Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; Betty Warner; State Farm Insurance; Bruegger’s Bagels; Luna Bakery and Café; James Costello; Eastside Landscaping; Family Connections and more.

For full event and prize details, including registration and course information, visit runsignup.com or contact the event co-chairs Roxanne Bain, at roxannebain@gmail.com, or Gillian Cox, at jgerimb@yahoo.com. Registration is open. Join the event and follow updates on Facebook.

Christina D’Angelis is public relations director for the RoxEl Run.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

MARCH 21, 2017

Board members Ron Register, Kal Zucker, Jim Pasch, Eric Silverman and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer.

Workshop analyzing district educational data

Allison Byrd, director of data research and assessment, along with the educational services team, led a professional development workshop for the board on educational data and how it is collected, analyzed and used in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools. They began by defining the types of data collected, categorizing the types, and naming the categories.

To improve instruction, the district uses district teams, building teams, and teacher teams at each grade level to analyze results from multiple tests, along with additional teacher input.

In one exercise, the educational services team gave the board members datasets and asked them to analyze the data. Questions were included as an aid to analysis. The board concluded that more data are needed in order to better assess instruction.

The board also participated in an exercise to create report summaries using the jigsaw method, in which each subgroup reports on a part of a report.

Byrd (said she) was pleased that the board provided the time to talk about data.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

APRIL 4, 2017

Board members Ron Register, Kal Zucker, Jim Pasch, Eric Silverman and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer.

Awards to President Register

The Ohio School Boards Association presented Ron Register with two awards, Master Board Member and Award of Professional Development.

Public comments

Public meeting with superintendent: Representing the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters at Greater Cleveland, Adele Cohn announced that the League chapter will host a public meeting with Superintendent Dixon on April 23 at the Lee Road library.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

Parental concerns: Parents spoke about educational testing for young children and opioid addiction education.

Proposed science curriculum

Julia Raffety, instructional specialist for science, presented the proposed science curriculum for the first reading. Raffety explained how the materials were piloted and selected.

Approvals of field trip, change orders, and financial reports

The board approved the following items:

• The high school A Cappella Choir field trip to New York, April 6–9.
• Eight change orders for the high school construction were discussed and then approved. They covered unanticipated costs, [4a] added scope of the project, and design changes.
• The board approved the financial reports (the tax rate resolution and five-year forecast) and a list of legal counsel.

Personnel

The board approved the contract between the board of education and the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, as well as retirements, resignations and appointments. For the 2017-18 school year, 20 teachers were granted tenure.

Board comments on meetings and new committees

Ron Register said that a new committee called the Bond Accountability Committee would be formed to review the middle school construction. Beverly Wright reported on a meeting with the state legislature. Jim Pasch is forming a group to examine the state voucher program.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

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

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Heights Observer May 1, 2017
Monticello Middle School celebrates women’s history

Krisy Dietrich Gallagher

Monticello Middle School celebrated Women’s History Month for the first time this past March, thanks to the efforts of Tiffany Underhile. “In 12 years of teaching, I’d never worked in a building that celebrated Women’s History Month,” said the school’s math and science specialist. “I wanted to change that.”

Underhile began with feminist icon Rosie the Riveter when she had all staff members, male and female, don Rosie’s signature red bandana and denim shirt on a recent teacher professional day. Photos of the teachers were displayed in the front office and outside classroom doors.

Manana Robinson (eighth-grade language arts teacher), Future Educators of America (an after school club) and Underhile created displays throughout the school, including inspirational quotes by women, female scientists and mathematicians, and women in literature.

Underhile introduced the accomplishments of women during morning announcements and established three Spirit Days: one day students and staff wore pink, another day they wore sorority or women’s college gear, and the third day they dressed in white to honor the women’s suffrage movement.

The idea was to start small and grow next year, when Underhile hopes to invite guest speakers and establish a service project, for example, collecting used cell phones to donate to shelters for battered women. “That would engage the kids, help women and children, and protect the environment, all at once,” she explained.

Social studies teacher Matthew Minnillo saw Women’s History Month as an opportunity to enhance his American history instruction: “One of the biggest challenges we face as educators is how to take the curriculum the state gives us and tweak it so that students can make real connections between what they’re learning and what they’re living.”

Two of his eighth-grade students attended the Women’s March on Washington in January, and Minnillo asked them to create video diaries focusing on their expectations, what they experienced during the event, and on their reflections afterwards. “Zelda Thayer-Hansen said the experience and the assignment both had a powerful effect on her. She presented her video to her classmates, “not because I wanted to force my beliefs on them, but because I wanted to make them think. I want them all to find something they care about and act on it—fight for it—whether it’s women’s rights or some other issue,” Thayer-Hansen explained.

Iman Isaacs also attended the march, which served as a bit of a political awakening for her. “I was never really political before and actually felt a little wary beforehand,” she said. “But it was so empowering to feel connected to millions of other people, even at the rest stops on the way to D.C. and on the subway. It’s nice to know that so many people share my beliefs.”

“I never really political before and actually felt a little wary beforehand,” she said. “But it was so empowering to feel connected to millions of other people, even at the rest stops on the way to D.C. and on the subway. It’s nice to know that so many people share my beliefs.”

“I now have more of an eye for when there’s inequality around me. Not just against women, but against anyone. I recognize it more often and hope that others in my school and community can learn from this, too,” Isaacs said.

Eighth-grade student Josiah Jemison said he learned that “as people, we all depend on one another. We need to learn about the struggles that each group has been through so we can come together instead of separating ourselves.”

Jemison, who had just learned that there was, in fact, a Women’s History Month, said, “It does make me want to learn more about women and their role in our nation’s history.”

Monticello Middle School celebrated women’s history

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Heights Music Shop offers new line of Cleveland-made guitars

James Henke

The Heights Music Shop, located at 2274 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, is the only store in Greater Cleveland to carry a new line of guitars, Atilla custom guitars, which are made in the Cleveland area.

The guitars are created by Atilla Csapo, who lives in Parma. “He makes all of the guitars by hand,” said Greg Hido, general manager and partner at Heights Music. “The guitars are definitely high-quality and custom-made, and his attention to detail is up there.”

The pickups on the guitars are made by a man who lives in Rocky River.

Csapo began building guitars as a hobby about 20 years ago, and began making them professionally about a decade ago. Hido said that Csapo is open to any design. Some of the guitars that Heights Music carries have more traditional shapes, like Fender Stratocasters and Telecasters and Gibson Les Pauls.

Hido added that the Atilla guitars are made from various types of wood: “He’ll use wood like mahogany, ash and maple, and he often uses different types of wood that you don’t usually see in a guitar.” The guitars range in price from about $1,100 to $2,600.

Hido stressed that none of the Atilla guitars are made on an assembly line: “They are all hand-made and custom-built.”

Cedar Fairmount district introduces parking changes

Kaye Lowe

In conjunction with The Fairmount Wine Bar and Barrio restaurant, ASV Services, a valet provider, has established valet parking in the Cedar Fairmount Business District on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 4–9 p.m. This convenience will be available to those who wish to visit any Cedar Fairmount business and don’t want to park themselves.

A drop-off and pick-up station is located outside the Heights Medical Building at 2460 Fairmount Blvd.

Each weekend through October, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the city of Cleveland Heights has granted free parking in the Cedar Fairmount Business District, wherever there are parking meters—in the public garage, parking lots and at street meters.

Currently, East Ohio Gas is replacing Cedar Fairmount Business District gas lines, dating back to the 1800s. This work, which has commenced, will take about two months. At this time sidewalks are not disrupted, and access to stores and other district businesses is unobstructed.

After the gas lines are replaced, the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District’s $1.5 million streetscape renovation plan will get underway. The plans include new curbs and sidewalks, which will be expanded in some areas, removal of electric poles not in use, new benches, bike racks, trash cans, trees, and more.


Kaye Lowe is executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.
CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

May is Older Americans Month. Each year, the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) celebrates this designation with a forum held on the last Thursday in May. This year’s forum, Cleveland Heights: a Welcoming City, will focus on how immigration enriches all of our lives, and explore the ethnicity of those who make Cleveland Heights their home.

The Cleveland Heights Commission on Aging—an advisory group made up of senior residents whose mission is to advise CH City Council on matters of importance to seniors—organizes the forum each year. Past topics have included Arts in the Heights, Women Who Lead and Inspire, and Housing Matters.

The program will take place this year on Thursday, May 25, 1-3 p.m., and will begin with a reading by Christine Howey, the Cleveland Heights poet laureate, and conclude with light refreshments. Speakers will include individuals who work with local organizations and immigrant groups. The program is free, and no reservation is required.

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.

Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or by e-mail at ajenkins@cbcds.com.

Senior Citizen Happenings

Senior Citizen Happenings, sponsored by the City of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. 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.

May 4:** Jason Hanley, vice president of education and visitor engagement at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, will discuss his work overseeing its K-12 and adult education programs. Hanley has taught courses in music history at Hofstra, Stony Brook, Cleveland State, and Case Western Reserve universities, published articles on music technology, and is also a composer and performer.

May 11:** Robert McKimm, president of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Historical Society, will salute South Euclid’s first century and highlight plans for its centennial celebration: a parade on Memorial Day, May 29; and fun-packed weekend to “Rock the Block” June 24 and 25, including a June 24 street fair on Mayfield Road, and a June 25 concert by the Cleveland Pops Orchestra on the lawn at Notre Dame College, followed by a laser light show and 100th birthday cake for all.

May 18:** Laura Neill, executive director of Ohio Light Opera, will unveil the lineup for its 39th festival season, June 6 through Aug. 12, at the College of Wooster, accompanied by musical clips. Enjoy the music of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Meredith Wilson and the others in this preview of the opera’s 2017 season.

May 25:** Rachneewan Ross, associate professor and director of International Initiatives in the College of Nursing at Kent State University, will reflect on her life and career. Born and raised in Thailand, her parents stressed the importance of a strong education and respect for others; when she contemplated a career as an engineer they proposed nursing “because you really like helping people.” She recently was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

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May brings watery abstracts, musical impressionism to Heights Arts

Mary Ryan

From the changing hues of Lake Erie to the fluid grace of French classical music, two spring programs at Heights Arts celebrate the natural world through imagery and sound.

On Friday, May 5, Christine Maurerberger—Aquascapes opens in the spotlight gallery with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. A native Clevelander and Heights Arts working-artist member, Christine Maurerberger uses a variety of media to create pieces that range from small and intimate to room-sized installations. She has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including the Ohio Arts Council Award of Individual Excellence, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, and a Windgate Craft Artist Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center.

Maurerberger said, “The Aquascapes series is directly influenced by my views of Lake Erie. I am always surprised by the transient nature of its color on any one day. I’m interested in creating beautiful images of water and light to evoke its timeless nature.” The watercolor and ink drawings on synthetic paper will be displayed through Sunday, June 18.

Liquid elegance of another sort prevails when Vive La France! marks the finale of Heights Arts 11th season of Close Encounters chamber music on Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m. Cleveland Orchestra members Isabel Trautwein, violin; Joanna Patterson, viola; and Tanya Ell, cello; plus guest Patti Wolf on piano, offer the Debussy Sonata for Cello and Piano in D minor, Ysaïe’s Sonata for Solo Violin No. 2 in A minor, and Fauré’s Piano Quartet No. 1 in C minor. Debussy’s late cello sonata and his teacher Fauré’s exciting piano quartet are masterful examples of French Impressionism. Following Bach’s example, Ysaïe composed a set of six demonically difficult sonatas for solo violin.

The Sunday afternoon house concert will be held in a private estate nestled in the Shaker Heights parklands. Advance tickets (with discounts for students and members) are available at the Heights Arts gallery, www.heightsarts.org or by calling 216-371-3457.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization.
ROXARTS 1950s-themed fundraiser is May 13

Nicole Tugeau

This year’s annual ROXARTS community fundraiser, which raises funds for arts enrichment in CH-UH schools, will be held on Saturday evening, May 13, at the B-Side Barcade and Lounge in Cleveland Heights. Park your machine outside, do up your nest, and come have a blast at ROX Rocks Around the Clock, a 1950’s music-themed auction and benefit.

The evening will begin with a VIP party for cool cats, 6–7 p.m., featuring a signature cocktail, hors d’oeuvres, and an early chance to view auction items. The benefit and live auction will follow, 7–10 p.m. Guests can expect food from local vendors, unlimited fine wine and craft beers, and—to cap off the night—the opportunity to bid on auction items that include rare opportunity packages. Attendees are urged to wear 1950’s threads, and to plan on having “a crazy good time.” Pre-sale VIP tickets are $75 per person, or $40 per person for the benefit and auction only, and are available online at www.roxarts.org. Rosemary Piece and Kathy Blackman are co-chairs of this fundraiser.

ROXARTS, a not-for-profit 501(c)3, dates back to 1981, when a group of Roxboro Elementary School parents committed to raise funds for children’s arts enrichment. Today, the nonprofit is a network of parents, teachers and volunteers who provide educational programs and experiences in the performing and visual arts at Roxboro Elementary School and Roxboro Middle School. The ROXARTS board was thrilled to add a matching budget for Monticello Middle School in 2016, effectively providing arts enrichment to every middle school student in the CH-UH City School District. ROXARTS also makes an annual donation to Reaching Heights.

ROXARTS works with teachers and school leadership to provide meaningful and engaging experiences that reflect the community’s diverse population and commitment to the arts. Elementary school students, for example, recently enjoyed a Women in History program, a performance by the Djapo Cultural Arts Institute drum troupe, and “The Jabberwocky,” performed by Adri Nerone and Cynthia Penter.

ROXARTS provides arts enrichments to every middle school student in the CH-UH City School District. ROXARTS also makes an annual donation to Reaching Heights.

Great Lakes Theater. Roxboro Middle School students met Sudanese author Akol Madut, who spoke about the Lost Boys of Sudan. Monticello Middle School students visited Playhouse Square to see Bill Baggs’ “The Science of Magic,” and hosted Cleveland native Humble G the Kidfia for a whole school assembly and residency.

Nicole Tugeau is a ROXARTS board member.

Tiny Movements/Big Ideas offers summer camps for kids

Adri Nerone and Cynthia Penter

Tiny Movements/Big Ideas, a studio at Artful in the Coventry School building, is offering summer camps and classes in animation, digital photography, and other visual arts for young people. Classes and camps will begin in May and run through most of July.

Beginning in May, the studio will offer two one-day-a-week classes in stop-motion animation for students in grades 7-12. The classes will run for eight weeks and cost $75.00 for Thursday sessions, 6–9 p.m., and $80.00 for Saturday day sessions, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Beginning in June, the studio will also offer half-day summer camps for students, ages 10–14. Morning and afternoon sessions will run for two weeks in June, with another two sessions offered in July. Half-day camps are available in stop-motion animation, June 5-16, 9 a.m. to noon; digital photography, June 17-28, 1-4 p.m.; 2D animation, July 20-21, 9 a.m. to noon; visual art projects for kids, July 20-21, 1-4 p.m.

Students who sign up for both morning and afternoon sessions should bring lunch and will be supervised during the lunch hour. Half-day sessions will cost $250 to $260, depending on the materials supplied. Students taking the photography class should bring their own digital cameras.

All classes and camps will be limited to six students. To reserve a place, a $50 non-refundable deposit is required. Brochures with details are available at the Coventry School building, at Artful, or can be requested by e-mail.

The two owner-artists named their studio Tiny Movement/Big Ideas because in animation the artist must first think very small—a single frame—and then, by making tiny movements, achieve the larger picture. The accumulation of these frames conveys the big idea.

In the future, the studio plans to offer classes and workshops for adults, as well. For more information, visit the Tiny Movements/Big Ideas Facebook page or contact Adri Nerone at adrirene@gmail.com or Cynthia Penter at viddhartha@aol.com.

Adri Nerone is an artist and art educator who loves animation. She has a BFA in technology and integrated media, and lives in Cleveland Heights. Cynthia Penter is a teacher and media artist who lives in the Forest Hill neighborhood of Cleveland Heights.
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‘You know what’s happening’

David Budin

This is my photo of a storefront, a hair salon, on Mayfield Road. Recently, a guy I know posted a picture of the same place on Facebook, saying, “What is happening to my beloved city, Cleveland Heights?”

He received about 75 responses. People made comments like these: “Soon to be a sham.” “Not the Cleveland Heights that I remember!” “Next come the tumbleweaves.” “From what I hear, crime is becoming rampant.” “Wow . . . looks like it should be in a ghetto somewhere!! What an eyesore!!!” “On a steady downturn . . . for at least 40 years.” “It’s not the Cleveland Hts we all grew up with.” “Now entering East Cleveland Heights. Get used to it.” “Looks like Noble Road.” “You know what’s happening.”

There it is: “You know what’s happening.” Yes, I do know what’s happening. Racists have a convenient platform—social media—and while they have always been around, now we can see who they are. References to “Noble Road,” “East Cleveland,” and “on a steady downturn . . . for at least 40 years” are not subtle code words. There are always comments like “Not the Cleveland Heights that I remember!!!” and “It’s not the Cleveland Hts we all grew up with,” made by people who recall when the city was about 90 percent white, and wish it had remained that way.

The man who posted the picture probably is not racist, at least not that he knows of or believes, but people who post things like this bring out the worst in their Facebook friends. He said he was really complaining about the color of the store, more than anything else. Though, later in the thread, he did say, “Beauty shops on crack.” And when someone asked, “What’s the problem?” he responded, “No problem if you like East Cleveland Architectural (sic) Design and esthetics.”

When someone suggested that the poster didn’t like colors, he said, “I love colors and graphics, but there needs to be some oversight.” Well, maybe—that’s when, who gets to pick which colors are acceptable? If I get to do it, then pink is fine. The front of my house, in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood, has long sported a purple front door and purple shutters. Some people like it, some don’t. My wife and I do.

Mr. “Poster” then said, “I remember!!” and “It’s not the Cleveland Heights we all grew up with,” made by people who recall when the city was about 90 percent white, and wish it had remained that way.

Another longtime resident responded, “If you drive east on Mayfield Rd, out to Mayfield Heights, or to Mentor Rd, or on Chagrin, you’ll find no strain, no consciousness everywhere. Sensitivity to architecture has not been one of the defining characteristics of Americans. On the other hand, if you drive two blocks south from this storefront (actually, only one block is necessary), you’ll find some of the finest residential architecture anywhere in the U.S., and virtually absent in Mayfield Hts., Mentor, or near Chagrin . . . And as you travel east down Mayfield, you find franchise restaurants, chain stores, box stores and other vanilla businesses. If you want independent, individualized areas, you almost HAVE to be in the Heights.”

A longtime resident responded, “You are looking at one building in the whole city and judging the whole community?” That is very unfair and clearly showing your bias. One of my comments was: “Remember when Cleveland Heights became overrun by hippies? I do. I was one of them. Remember all the storefronts with multi-colored psychedelic designs? And houses and doors painted all different colors? And all kinds of crazy things on porches and in front yards? Was all of that okay? Why? What was the difference?”

My last question was a rhetorical one. Sadly, we all know what the difference is.

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.