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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Published by **FutureHeights**

Written by volunteers for Cleveland Heights and University Heights • Read more at www.heightsobserver.org

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FutureHeights
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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

CH takes action on Arco dump site

Connor O'Brien

The six-acre Arco Recycling dump, located at the corner of Noble Road and Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland, is packed with large amounts of construction debris. Concrete, wood, plaster, metal and brick from building demolitions throughout Northeast Ohio have been piling up since the dump opened in 2015.

The dump sits directly in the backyards of East Cleveland residents' homes on Noble Road. They have complained about the dump site, not only because it is an eyesore, but because they are concerned that it could be hazardous to their health.

A report detecting the presence of hydrogen sulfide gas caught Cleveland Heights City Council Member Michael Ungar's attention. "Would you want this in your backyard? Of course not," he said.

Although the dump is located in East Cleveland, its presence just north of the Cleveland Heights



Map of the Arco dump site.

border led Ungar and other council members to become concerned that it could negatively affect Heights residents.

Ungar contacted the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Ohio Attorney General's office, urging them to act to have the dump cleaned up as soon as possible.

Arco claimed the site was meant for "storage, reuse and/or recycling in a beneficial manner of construction and demolition debris," but after an

initial visit to the dump in June 2016, in response to residents' complaints, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) requested that Arco reduce the mountains of debris.

At another visit in January 2017, OEPA found that the mountains of debris had grown, and there was very little recycling taking place at the site. OEPA determined in January that the site had to be shut down.

Jim Riffle, an engineer with *continued on page 5*

Heights High boys relay team wins state championship in 4x100 race



Members of the Heights High boys 4x100 relay team (in yellow, from left) Zaire Webb, Shakorie Davis, Rahmon Davis-Smith and Jakeith James, with their coaching staff, after their state championship win on June 3.

Scott Wortman

The Heights High boys 4x100-meter relay team—juniors Zaire Webb and Jakeith James and seniors Rahmon Davis-Smith and Shakorie Davis won the state

championship on June 3 in Columbus.

The 4x100 team members ran a 41.68 in the prelims on Friday, June 2, which put them third overall and second in their heat, behind Gahanna

continued on page 11

Noble Neighbors plan community workshop about Triangle District

Sruti Basu

In January, the Center Mayfield building in the Noble neighborhood's newly named Triangle District was demolished, producing a second large vacant lot on Noble Road, near Mayfield Road. This inspired some, including area residents and the neighborhood group Noble Neighbors, to begin considering the Triangle District in its entirety, and to think about how it could be re-envisioned to create a cohesive, vibrant, multi-faceted gateway hub. The Triangle District encompasses Warrensville Center Road between Mayfield and Noble roads, Mayfield Road from Warrensville Center to Mayfield's intersection with Vandemar Street and Wilmar Road, and the stretch of Noble Road—commonly known as Short Noble—between Mayfield and Kirkwood roads.

Noble Neighbors is partnering with the civic engagement committee of Future Heights and the city of Cleveland Heights' economic development and planning departments to host a communitywide workshop about the district's future on Sunday, July 9, 3-6 p.m., at Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road.

At the Envision a New Triangle District workshop, participants will think about how this district could be transformed with key development projects, modifications to existing properties, and place-making projects designed to unify the district and *continued on page 6*

Construction delays move annual Cedar Fairmount festival to fall

Kaye Lowe

Originally scheduled to begin in April, phase 2 of the Cedar Road Resurfacing/Cedar Fairmount Streetscape project, extending from Norfolk Road to the intersection of Cedar Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard, is now expected to get underway sometime in July.

In light of this delay, the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District Board of Trustees decided to postpone the 16th annual Cedar Fairmount Festival from Aug. 20

until Oct. 22, noon to 5 p.m.

The Cedar Fairmount Fall Festival will feature many favorites from the summer festival—an arts & crafts show; children's activities; animated characters such as Moana, Superwoman and Superman; Whipples, the Balloon Clown; and the Euclid Beach Rocket Car.

There will also be a bounce house, a children's Halloween costume contest, Animal Protective League pet adoptions, a historical lecture, appearances by local authors, great food and more.

Cedar Fairmount Business Dis-



trict construction started in March, with the replacement of natural gas pipelines by Dominion East Ohio *continued on page 8*

Letters Policy

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

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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David Budin column wins Press Club honors



OPENING THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

Congratulations to David Budin, whose column "There goes the neighborhood—again" (June 2016) was awarded 2nd place for general interest columns in the All Ohio Excellence in Journalism competition, hosted by the Press Club of Cleveland. It's one of the most competitive categories in the contest, which is open to every daily, weekly and monthly newspaper, magazine and news website in Ohio.

The first article Budin ever wrote for the *Heights Observer* appeared in April 2008—the paper's inaugural issue. Since then, he's written something for nearly every issue. Much of it has been about the arts—music in particular, which is his first love.

Over time, his regular contributions evolved into "Songs and Stories," a near-monthly column that seems to put a finger on "Heightness" (my word, not his)—that intangible, defining quality that makes this community unique.

Budin doesn't do it for the



David Budin in Coventry Village in the 1970's

money. As with every other *Observer* contributor, he's unpaid.

"There goes the neighborhood—again" talked about people who see the recent opening of tattoo parlors in Cleveland Heights as a sign of the city's decline. Budin pointed out that he was one of those hippies who hung out on Coventry in the late 1960s—which was also seen as evidence of the neighborhood's decline. And yet, Budin noted, Coventry's identity as a hippie hangout has propelled the community for the past 50 years.

It was more artful the way he wrote it, which is why it just won an award, and why you might want to go back and read it yourself here: <http://bit.ly/boneighborhood>.

Budin has volunteered since the first days of the *Heights Observer* as a writer, editor and member of the advisory committee. But it's worth pointing out that nobody asked him to write a monthly general-interest column. Like all of our regular contributors, he made it happen by finding something meaningful and local to say month after month, doing the work to produce it, and then submitting it for consideration.

He understands the *Observer* as a public platform—a soap box. Anybody is welcome to step up and use it to discuss issues, share ideas and offer thoughts on life in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Congratulations to David Budin. We're thankful to him and all our other regular contributors who step up to share their reporting, passion and insight.

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

CTDA supports FutureHeights as CDC

To the Editor:

As president of the Cedar Taylor Development Association Board of Directors, I want to offer my full support for recognizing FutureHeights as the official Community Development Corporation (CDC) of Cleveland Heights.

All of the strong neighborhoods of the city of Cleveland have CDCs, and as an inner-ring suburb, we share similar issues with our neighbor to the west (deteriorating housing stock, exurban flight, challenging business climate, etc.).

The city of Cleveland Heights has a wonderful, dedicated staff working to better our community, but it often isn't enough. It's no secret that budgetary constraints are straining our cities. It is more imperative than ever to have CDCs fill gaps that our city is unable to fill. SIDs [Special Improvement Districts] and merchant groups are a great way to work to better particular neighborhoods, but having a CDC, focused on the entire community, is necessary.

I have seen firsthand the many positive things FutureHeights has done over the years to the benefit of our community. It has been a great partner to our organization in providing resources for projects, connecting us with other similar organizations to share best practices, and other communitywide efforts, such as publishing the community newspaper and hosting forums and dialogues that concern our citizens.

The city of Cleveland Heights has been a great partner to our organization, and we cannot say enough positive things about its staff.

We share similar thoughts about FutureHeights and its staff and board, who are all dedicated to what is best for our community. Recognizing FutureHeights as a CDC will strengthen our partnership with them and their partnership with the overall community.

Kevin Smith
President, Cedar Taylor Development Association

About the Observer

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

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

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

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

If you're writing a news article,

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org and click on "Member Center" at the left.
- For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on "Become an Observer" at the left. For questions that aren't answered there, call the FutureHeights office at 216-320-1423 or e-mail info@futureheights.org.

Articles to be considered for the August issue must be submitted by July 10. 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.

We are proud to welcome the following businesses as members of FutureHeights:



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Become a Business Member of FutureHeights. Visit www.futureheights.org or call 216-320-1423.

Heights Observer candidate policy

With the November election approaching, the *Heights Observer* is publishing its policy for contributions by candidates for local office.

As a community newspaper committed to equal access for everyone, the *Observer* is unique among publications in providing opportunity for any member of the Cleveland Heights and University Heights communities to raise and discuss issues of local interest.

At election time, however, this commitment creates a challenge in managing the finite space that is available for community members who are running for public office.

The policy, approved by the FutureHeights Board of Directors, is designed to address that challenge. It states the following:

- The August–November issues of the printed publication will not carry any editorial contributions from known candidates for office.
 - During this pre-election period, *Observer* contributors who are not running for office will produce any coverage of election issues.
 - During this pre-election period, all candidate contributions of news or opinion will continue to be accepted for publication online at www.heightsobserver.org.
 - Candidates seeking to place information in the August–November printed editions of the *Observer* may do so through advertising space purchased from the *Observer*.
- The *Heights Observer* and its parent organization, FutureHeights, do not endorse candidates.

Why we chose ARTFUL at the Coventry School building

To the Editor:

When we moved (back) to Cleveland after 15 years in Florida and a six-month artist residency in Italy, our search for permanent studio space in Cleveland was influenced by two unexpected factors: gentrification and accessibility.

Many Cleveland buildings that had been homes to artists' studios were being converted to "upscale" locations for "respectable" tenants. And 27 years after the ADA, it was still impossible to find a studio space that would work for a wheelchair-using artist.

In January, one of our friends sent us a link to ARTFUL, and we submitted our application with our fingers crossed.

When we heard that the studios were, in fact, in our price range, we were so excited! But surely there would be a catch. Maybe we would only have access to the studio during "normal business hours." Or there would be a strict "no children" rule. Or a "no oil painters" rule. Or a "no controversial subject matter" rule.

Or, you know, we wouldn't be able to get to the second floor.

It turned out there weren't any catches. ARTFUL didn't just meet our needs, it exceeded our expectations. We couldn't sign the lease fast enough!

Here's what makes ARTFUL the perfect studio home for us:

1) Kid-friendly! ARTFUL not only allows children in the studios, it fosters a welcoming environment for all ages.

2) Accessible! The space is totally navigable by wheelchair. Last week, there were four wheelchair users hanging out in the studios together—a friend, another ARTFUL artist, the wheelchair-using child of yet another ARTFUL artist, and us.

3) 24-hour access! Artists with "day jobs," artists working multiple jobs, artists with families—they can access their studio at the times that work for them.

4) Privacy! Artists sometimes need to be able to make a mess behind closed doors or have alone time to solve a challenging art problem. Some studio spaces that aren't technically "public" still have odd requirements about artists and their studios being "professional" and

"presentable" at all times.

5) Community! As much as we need a private studio with a door, we also want people to be able to stop in and say, "hi." We can have coffee with other artists in the Flex Space. We can share ideas, tools and information. We love the "Free Stuff" shelves. We're really looking forward to classes and other group events.

6) Networking Opportunities! ARTFUL arranges open studio events and offers opportunities for artists to participate in events off-site. And ARTFUL leaves it completely up to individual artists whether they want to participate or not. There are no "minimum participation" requirements.

7) Letterpress! We anxiously await training classes. It's another example of ARTFUL providing artists with resources they'd be unlikely to have access to if working alone.

ARTFUL is exactly what we were hoping to find when we moved back to Cleveland.

Moco and Maize Steinman-Arendsee
Mandem, ARTFUL artists studio #7

Exploring cohousing in the Heights

To the Editor:

A Cleveland Heights group is looking into starting a cohousing community. Cohousing offers a way to downsize, live actively engaged, and raise children in a safe, supportive neighborhood.

Cohousing clusters private homes around shared common space, which typically includes a common house for gatherings, shared gardens and recreational spaces. Privacy and private space are built into community design, balanced with members' intention to actively participate in the design and management of their neighborhood. Sharing interests, maintenance, and household needs, such as child or elder care, helps strengthen neighborhood cohesion.

We will look for a site that can include about 20 households, located within a walkable neighborhood of Cleveland Heights. For more information see the Heights CoHousing Facebook page, or e-mail heightscohousing@gmail.com.

Mary Kelsey
Cleveland Heights



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CH-UH BOE should be able to hear directly from all school stakeholders



A TEACHER'S VOICE

Ari Klein

What are boards of education elected to do? According to adopted policies, their primary purpose is make policies and to hire a superintendent of schools who will enforce them. I would agree with this statement, but would add that they are also elected to ensure that the interests, values and needs of the community they represent are being met in the operation of the schools.

In the Heights we consider ourselves a home to the arts. The arts are valued in our community, which should be reflected in the priorities of the CH-UH school board. Our school administration understands this and commits resources to the arts—probably not as much as some would like, but much more than many other school districts in Ohio.

How the school board becomes aware of what is happening in the schools and how it acts based on the interests of the community are big questions. As an employee of the school district, I am sure that I do not want board members micromanaging what goes on in my school or classroom, yet I want them to have a level of awareness so they can make informed decisions. They should get their information from the superintendent and administration, parents, students and non-administrative employees. You can learn a lot about what is happening in a school if you talk to the administrative assistants, for instance.

According to board policy, the only communication a district employee should have with a board member is through the superintendent. This policy does not preclude discussions at social events, but should not include specific grievances that should be handled through other procedures. This limitation makes it difficult to get information to board members in order for them to get a complete picture of what is happening throughout the district. Board members only have access to what the superintendent wants them to see, which assumes that the superintendent

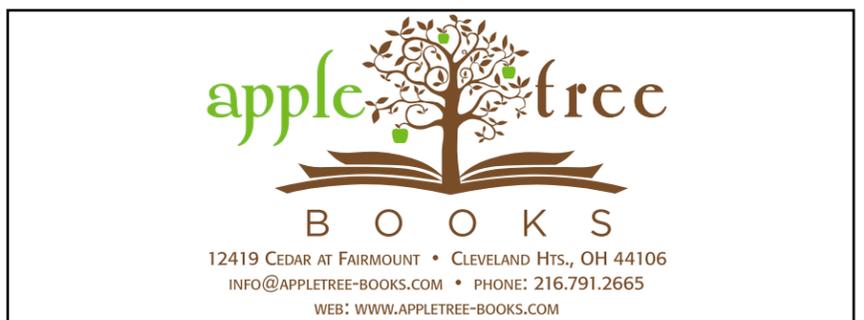
has a good handle on what is going on. The board may or may not be able to change this policy because the only policies it can adopt are—you guessed it—ones that are recommended through the superintendent (usually through legal counsel).

What I see is a lot of filtering of facts and information. This has been going on for a long time, and is not new to our current superintendent. It seems to me that to be able to make truly informed decisions, board members need to get some of their information from staff members. I envision an elected board that speaks freely with, and elicits information and opinions from, a variety of constituents. We talk about transparency in decision-making, but what does that mean? We need a board that has a presence in our schools often, that talks to parents and students about their experiences and needs, in addition to getting information from the administration.

Reaching Heights Director Krista Hawthorne has pulled together a large group of people from different Heights organizations involved in the schools to discuss how important decisions are made and communicated. (I am a member of the group, as a representative of the teachers union.) The group will be pushing for ways for the board and administration to seek input from a large group of stakeholders. This is not always easy to do, but there are many missed opportunities and lessons to be learned when decisions are made [based on] limited viewpoints.

The group believes the board should hold the superintendent and administration responsible for proving that everything possible was done to ensure that nothing important was missed before a recommendation was given. This is what separates public entities from private corporations. There are multiple stakeholders to be considered before boards of education make decisions. The process takes longer and is more frustrating, but it is the right way to ensure that decisions that affect many people have the support needed and are in the best interests of the whole community.

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



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The Coventry School site: In whose interest?



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

An impressive group of nonprofit organizations, [many] dedicated to education and the arts, make their homes in the building that was once Coventry Elementary School, which was closed by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District in 2007.

The first nonprofit to move in was Ensemble Theatre, in 2011; the most recent is Artful Cleveland, which leased space in July 2016, opened its doors in March 2017, and now provides studio space to 18 artists.

Additional occupants include Coventry Children's Center, Family Connections, FutureHeights, Lake Erie Ink, Reaching Heights, and Urban Oak School. Not only does the space and location suit the needs of these organizations, but, for several, their artistic and educational endeavors are synergistic.

"Creative place-making" is the gold standard of city planning; some communities spend decades trying to achieve it. Here we have it—with 82 employees and 124 independent contractors paying city income taxes out of that building, by the way.

The complex seems to exemplify the aims of the Coventry parents and neighbors who financed and built the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park and playground in 1993 and have maintained it since. (P.E.A.C.E. stands for "People Enhancing A Child's Environment.")

The organic growth of this cultural hub came to an abrupt halt on May 9, when the Coventry school building tenants were informed that the school district is selling the building and they will all be switched from one-year to month-to-month leases. The district now acknowledges that this matter has been under discussion since December; however, the interests of the tenants and the communities they serve clearly were never considered.

The district's assumptions about the future of the Coventry building and grounds are evident in the draft RFQ/RFP (Request for Quote/Request for Proposal), which specifies "a residential/mixed-use development integrating the existing area or portion thereof known as P.E.A.C.E. Park." There has been no thought that an existing community asset can and should be preserved.

Enter the City of Cleveland Heights. On June 5, CH City Council approved a non-binding letter of intent to purchase the Coventry building from the district for \$1, as soon as a developer

is identified.

So many things are wrong in this scenario that it's hard to know where to begin. There's the lack of recognition that a theater, a school, and an after-school arts program must be able to plan a year at a time; they cannot serve their constituencies month-to-month. There's the disregard for the fundraising and sweat equity required to convert each space to its present use. It is as though the district and the city looked at a building filled with theatergoers, community activists, parents, children and young people, and saw only empty space.

Further, there's the automatic assumption that housing and commerce are the only way to fill any available site in the city. This disregards the community value of arts and culture, and of education in the broadest sense. It is important to attract new residents to the city, but then why thwart the very kind of place-making that enhances quality of life and makes our community a more desirable place to live?

Finally there is the secrecy, paternalism and lack of accountability with which our elected city and school officials so often operate. Their actions seem to say, "You elected us, therefore we know what is in your best interest." But true democracy goes beyond counting votes. Democracy means constantly seeking the input of the people who will be affected by the decisions you make. Democracy means that a recommendation from an unelected city manager, school superintendent or consultant is not the inevitable resolution of an issue, but a starting point for discussion involving all who have an interest in the outcome.

It's easy to understand why the district wants to rid itself of a 1970s building that could need \$1 million in repairs and upgrades. But where does this leave the tenants—the Nonprofits of Coventry School, as their Facebook page calls them?

Early in June, representatives of several groups went to both CH City Council and the school board to ask for: 12-month leases, a development process that includes consideration of an arts and cultural center, and involvement of the tenants in the development process.

In addition, the groups' attorney Lee Chilcote recommended a minimum six-months' notice if the building sells. These are all reasonable demands, given the pace of any major development project, and a good place to start the exchange of ideas. We'll follow this story.

Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, who has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.

ARCO continued from page 1

Auburn Environmental, a business that provides environmental, health and safety consulting services, conducted private air tests on the site in January. He determined that the site was emitting two to three times the level of hydrogen sulfide gas that is considered safe by the EPA. Because the site contains large amounts of construction debris, it is also home to an abundance of two key ingredients for the creation of hydrogen sulfide gas: drywall and moisture. Even low exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas can cause serious health issues, according to the United States Department of Labor.

Since the closure of the Arco site in January, OEPA has conducted weekly air monitoring tests, which have not detected levels of hydrogen sulfide that would cause human health concerns.

Ungar spoke at a Noble Neighbors meeting on June 6 regarding the dump. He thanked multiple groups in the Cleveland Heights community, including Noble Road Presbyterian Church and Noble Neighbors, for bringing the issue to his attention.

"I heard from the Noble Neighbors loud and clear," he said, "to take action."

Brenda May, co-leader of Noble Neighbors, said, "We can't afford to ignore challenges in other parts of our region, assuming they don't impact us. We've got to work together to solve problems. When we do, we all will benefit."

May praised Ungar for being "the catalyst that ignited the coordinated response from state, county and local authorities to bring funding and remediation to this site."

OEPA has dedicated \$6 million to clear the Arco Recycling site. The two-phase cleanup process is slated to begin in July.

In phase one, about one-third of the debris will be removed in 100



The Arco dump site.

CONNOR O'BRIEN

days, at a rate of 10 truckloads per hour for eight hours a day. Phase two does not yet have a set start date.

OEPA plans for any recyclable material from the site to be recycled, and for any non-recyclable debris to be dumped at an approved site in Oakwood Village, where it will then be leveled, sealed and consistently monitored.

Ungar mentioned that, during the removal process, there is a concern about "fugitive dust"—dust that can escape from the site as the debris is moved. He said that OEPA plans to keep dust closely monitored and controlled throughout the process by having the construction companies spray water to contain it.

OEPA plans to study the Arco dump site once all the debris is cleared, to determine if it can be repurposed. The foundation of the site is believed to be a large concrete slab from when GE Lighting owned the property.

Ungar plans to hold a meeting in the Noble neighborhood once the process of the debris removal is further along.

Connor O'Brien is a senior majoring in communication and minoring in English at John Carroll University. He is currently an intern for the Heights Observer.

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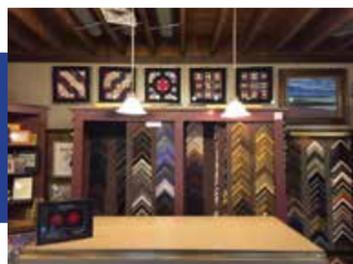


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Music, not testing, helps to develop kids' brains



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

My summer gig is directing the Reaching Heights Summer Music Camp. Tamar Gray and Betsy Neylon, two exceptional music educators, and I founded this intense weeklong musical enrichment experience 13 years ago. Reaching Heights has kept it a priority ever since, and so have I.

We keep at it because it is an exceptional learning experience and a hothouse for developing leaders and music professionals. It encourages kids, adds to the school district's music program, and draws on the amazing expertise of our public school teachers, students and graduates. It can be magical.

This year, two weeks after the school year closed, 93 Cleveland

Heights-University Heights students between the ages of 10 and 15 spent a sweltering week playing music together, developing new skills, making new friends and having fun. The camp nurtures musical and other cognitive skills, along with collaboration, self-confidence and leadership. Our campers grow in so many ways.

As a public school advocate, I love this project because it is the epitome of authentic learning. It transforms lives, dramatizes the power of sustained effort and extends the opportunity to play music—something that is good for our brains!

According to Daniel Heim, camp music director and Heights High orchestra leader, neuroscience has shown that nothing lights up the brain quite like music. It is all-engaging. It draws on every subject that is taught in school, and it synthesizes disparate activities. It is something our kids need more of and something we are glad to provide!

I am especially proud of the staff

that guides our campers. Our goals are achieved through caring attention from a large group of musicians. This year, 22 Heights High students, most of them former campers, modeled engagement and shared their skills with campers while developing their own leadership skills.

A staff of 19 music educators and local musicians added professionalism and well-honed expertise to the learning process. Half of them are Heights music alumni. Sam Petrey drives from Chicago to teach violin, and Nathan-Paul Davis travels from Akron to inspire our saxophonists. Pam Adamson, our expert clarinetist, is a retired Heights teacher and a Heights grad. Deborah Van Kleef, another Heights alum, taught ukulele.

The camp has been around long enough to produce its own group of music experts. This year, five of our adult staff members were once campers! They are real-life evidence of the impact of their education.

Over the years more than a dozen staff members have migrated home to music camp before migrating on to new stages of their lives. I hate seeing them go but know that this moving on is also part of what education and growing up is all about: preparing people for adult roles and full lives.

The bigger purpose of camp is important to me. Our staff models what is possible and opens a path to grown-up lives and a place in the world. It is wonderful that some of our staff are people we helped nurture.

Each summer I come to camp to recharge my own passion for public education. It enforces my determination to challenge ill-conceived public policies that undermine an in-

stitution responsible for developing the whole person, preparing youth for a lifetime of learning, supporting individual interests and developing citizenship skills.

These imperatives are in stark contrast to the high-stakes testing that dictates a narrow definition of meaningful learning, a lockstep and mechanical approach to education that expects everyone to learn the same thing at the same time, and wrongly asserts that a test score proves success. Current policy narrows what matters and disregards passions, interest, thinking and caring.

Music awakens the learner, lights up the brain, grows essential skills and helps young minds integrate information. Sadly, testing policy threatens this amazing resource for intellectual and social growth. Fear makes local education decision-makers reduce time and resources for the arts in favor of tested subjects. Music is not a daily activity until eighth grade, and it is not unusual for music students who need help passing tests to be pulled from music to get extra help.

Each summer I am awestruck as campers and their music coaches engage completely in the work and fun of camp. I witness authentic learning, something that can never be revealed on a standardized test.

As advocates for widespread student success, we need to protect music and the other arts as integral parts of education and give them equal standing with all subjects in our schools.

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and former director of Reaching Heights. She serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.

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NOBLE continued from page 1

encourage human-scale interaction. All Cleveland Heights residents and others with ties to the city, including residents of nearby neighborhoods in other cities, are invited to attend. Business owners, property owners, neighbors, city officials and other stakeholders are particularly encouraged to attend and voice their perspectives on potential improvements.

Participants are encouraged to prepare for the workshop by walking each block of the Triangle District and looking at the information, including videos, articles and photos, posted on the Noble Neighbors website, www.nobleneighbors.com. Participants may also bring materials to the workshop or share them in advance by e-mailing nobleneighbors@gmail.com.

Workshop participants can expect a brief presentation about the features of the Triangle District, applicable development principles and tools, and the partnerships that are presenting this imagination-oriented event. Participants will break into small groups, describe development possibilities in words and drawings, and then present their ideas to the



The Triangle District, outlined in red, in the Noble neighborhood of Cleveland Heights.

larger group.

There will be opportunities for further discussion after the workshop, including at an after-workshop social event at Christopher's Pub, 1318 Warrensville Center Road, where food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For updates and more information, visit www.nobleneighbors.com.

Sruti Basu is the director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.

University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MAY 15, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld and council members Susan Pardee (vice mayor), Philip Ertel, John Rach, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Councilwoman Pamela Cameron was absent. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director William Sheehan and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. The meeting was held from 7 p.m. to approximately 9:45 p.m.

Ohio's medical marijuana law

Attorney, and former council member, Kevin Patrick Murphy came before council to answer questions about implementation of the Ohio medical marijuana law and business options for University Heights. He explained that most facilities for distributing medical marijuana are 2,500 square feet, and finding a large enough property in University Heights that meets the requirement to not be within 500 feet of "anything" would be difficult.

Finding a good operator is a challenge. Medical marijuana doesn't draw a large criminal element but it does require a strong manager due to the cash nature of the business. The state is currently allowing 60 sites to open and competition is strong. The rules will be issued in January or February 2018, and the dispensaries will open in September 2018 or later. Thus far, only laws regarding cultivation have been written. The next step will be writing laws for processing medical marijuana.

Mark Wiseman asked about crime. Murphy explained that there hasn't been a statistical increase in crime around medical marijuana in other states. Opioid use has also decreased with availability of medical marijuana. Recreational marijuana use tends to increase traffic and loitering, but medical marijuana has too many constraints.

Steven Sims asked about projected revenue to a city. Murphy said that dispensaries are the least lucrative of the three phases. Cities can ask the licensee what [it is] willing to provide [to] the city, such as donations to projects or drug training programs. Ninety percent of Ohioans approve of medical marijuana. Across the country all states started with medical marijuana, and within two to four years many added adult recreational use.

Door-to-door solicitors

When asked about a salesman who was going door to door in the city, Police Chief Steve Hammett said University Heights has no ordinance banning soliciting, but people can post a sign saying "No Solicitors" and the sign must be observed. If the salesman still approaches the house, he is trespassing.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring.

JUNE 5, 2017

Present were council members Susan Pardee (vice mayor), Pamela Cameron, Phil Ertel, John Rach, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Mayor Susan Infeld and Councilman Steven Sims were absent. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director William Sheehan and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. The meeting was held from 7 to 8 p.m.

Public comments

No confidence in fire chief: Keith Kanner, president of University Heights Firefighters Local 974, read a statement saying that the union has no confidence in Fire Chief Douglas Zook's ability to lead the fire department. Kanner said that the fire chief refuses to send fire trucks to motor vehicle accidents, has eliminated the fire prevention officer position and public education classes, and has reduced the number of firefighters on each shift. He



also noted that firefighters have responded to 75 calls from East Cleveland in the past two years. Kanner said the union has yet to meet with Chief Zook and Mayor Infeld, both of whom were absent from the meeting.

A Claridge Oval resident expressed support for the firefighters union, saying she also has no confidence in the fire chief and has questions for the mayor, who serves as safety director. She said that while she realizes that University Heights responds to contiguous cities, she doesn't think her tax dollars should pay for East Cleveland.

Nuisance property on Silsby Road

Council tabled a resolution declaring 3886 Silsby Road a public nuisance. University Heights is a lien holder on the vandalized property, which also has mold and water damage.

Silsby Road resurfacing

Council passed a motion approving TC Construction's \$389,054 bid for Silsby Road resurfacing, from Taylor Road to Edgerton Road. The project was bid separately from the 2017 road program because Cleveland Heights is funding 25 percent [of it].

New dumping hours

Service Director Jeff Pokorny reported that University Heights citizens can drop off non-recyclable [waste] items between Monday and Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He said the new restrictions were enacted because the service department has seen an increase in dumping, and needs to monitor what is being dropped off.

Executive session

Council passed a motion to hold an executive session to discuss 3886 Silsby Road and the departure of Building Commissioner Larry Brown. Council was informed of Brown's departure at the meeting.

LWV Observer: Siobhan Leftwich.

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

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

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




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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MAY 15, 2017

All council members were present: Cheryl L. Stephens (mayor), Jason Stein (vice mayor), Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahlil Seren, Michael N. Ungar and Melissa Yasinow. The meeting lasted from 7:30 to 8:40 p.m.

New finance director/clerk of council
Council appointed Laurie Sabin to this position, effective June 5, 2017.

Charter review commission legislation

Council approved, on second reading, a resolution establishing a charter review commission to review the city's charter and prescribing the number of commissioners and method of appointment. Carol Roe responded to citizen comments made earlier by expressing commitment to all kinds of diversity, including representation from each ward in the city. Mayor Stephens added that all seven members of council are in favor of moving forward and noted that the commission can ask for legislation or ballot issues to be created at any time in the process, not just at the conclusion.

Energy conservation bonds

An ordinance, providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$6,050,000, for the purpose of paying costs of acquiring and installing energy conservation measures in city buildings and facilities, was presented on first reading.

HHCC employees' income tax allocation

Council authorized allocation of 100 percent of the Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center (HHCC) employees' municipal income taxes to HHCC.

Congestion mitigation and air-quality funding

Council approved an application for congestion mitigation and air-quality federal funding. Congress has set aside monies for these projects that the city can apply for through the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.

Top of the Hill memorandum

Council authorized negotiation of a non-binding memorandum of understanding with Flaherty & Collins Properties concerning the Top of the Hill [development site] at Cedar Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

JUNE 5, 2017

Council members present were Cheryl L. Stephens (mayor), Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, Michael N. Ungar and Melissa Yasinow. Jason Stein (vice mayor) and Carol Roe were absent. The meeting lasted from 7:50 to 9:28 p.m.

Public comments

Coventry School building: Ten citizens spoke about the proposed sale of the building to the city of Cleveland Heights for the purpose of finding a developer to redevelop the site. Most speakers represented arts organizations



that are tenants of the building and expressed a desire that the building continue to serve as an arts center.

Sanitary sewer system consent decree

There was a first reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into a consent decree relating to improvement of the environment and the city's sanitary sewer system. The city's sanitary and storm sewer systems were designed and built more than 100 years ago under accepted engineering practice for the time. The sewer system needs improvement and is not in compliance with current engineering practices. The proposed consent decree will lead to enhanced management, operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system and will lead to a plan for capital improvement, to be negotiated in a second consent decree.

Sewer rates increase

Sewer improvements necessitate increased rates; there was a first reading of a resolution raising rates gradually over three years. The rate on Oct. 1 of this year would be \$41.03 per 1,000 cubic feet of water consumed (MCF); by Oct. 1, 2020, the rate would be \$43.45 per MCF. A homestead sewer rate for eligible seniors and other affordability programs will be established before October. Melissa Yasinow commended city staff for its hard work on the sewer legislation.

Sale of Coventry School

Council authorized the execution of a non-

binding letter of intent with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District concerning a partnership relating to the sale of Coventry School.

Council members commented in response to the earlier citizen comments:

- Michael Ungar asked staff to respond to Lee Chilcote's statements, inquiring whether an arts and culture center is off the table. He desires that the letter of intent not guide the process to a foregone conclusion. City Manager Tanisha Briley answered that all is open; the possible uses are not in the draft.
- Mayor Stephens stated there would be time for discussion before making decisions.
- Mary Dunbar reminded all that this is only a letter of intent.
- Melissa Yasinow responded that she shares a lot of frustration with the speed of action with the tenants, but she also understands the position of the school board, which can only legally transfer the building to certain entities. As a neighbor, she cares greatly about this property and sees it as an amazing developmental opportunity to work with all stakeholders. She pledged transparent communication.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.

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FOR JUDGE OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT

CONSTRUCTION continued from page 1

Gas. The gas line replacement should be completed in July, as should phase 1 of the resurfacing of Cedar Road, from Taylor to Norfolk roads.

Phase 2 of the project comprises road resurfacing as well as the installation of new ADA-compliant curb ramps, sidewalks, and sidewalk amenities from Fairmount Boulevard to Euclid Heights Boulevard. These amenities include new trees and flower planters, benches, trashcans and bike racks, and the removal of unused electric poles.

In addition, a multi-use pedestrian and bicycle path—along Cedar Glen Parkway from Euclid Heights Boulevard to Ambleside Drive in Cleveland—is almost complete. Phase 2 work is expected to take approximately 6–8 weeks.

So far, there has been little disruption to Cedar Fairmount businesses. As construction progresses, and front-door access is affected, the back doors of businesses will become accessible. Large signs indicate available parking areas in the district.

The Cedar Fairmount Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct. 22 will be a celebration of the newly renovated Cedar Fairmount Business District. For more information, visit www.cedarfairmount.org, Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District's Facebook page, or call 216-791-3172.

Applications for artisans, vendors and nonprofit groups that want to participate in the fall festival are available on line at www.cedarfairmount.org.

Those who have already sent in applications for the original Aug. 20 festival date will be contacted.

Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Cain Park is better by bike



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Cain Park has a packed performance schedule this summer. The July line-up caters to every taste and budget, from Stephen Stills and Judy Collins to Groundworks DanceTheater, Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra and the Singing Angels. Some performances are free, but you can buy tickets for the others at the box office, online at the Cain Park website, or by calling 216-371-3000.

July 7-9 brings the 40th anniversary Cain Park Arts Festival, considered one of the best fine arts and crafts festivals in the country. This juried art show targets an audience diverse in age, artistic background and affluence. The objective is to offer the best quality art in all price ranges.

A great way to see a show or the art festival is to go by bike, because bicyclists can park right next to the ticket office. Cain Park (14591 Superior Road) is an easy-to-find destination for all who live in the Heights.

To avoid busy roads, ride on lightly traveled side streets as much as possible.

When biking to Cain Park, or anywhere for that matter, bring a lock to preclude theft, and turn on bike lights. At night, use a white



Bike racks fill up at Cain Park.

front light and a rear red light—it's the law. Bike shops can install these items if you're not sure how. Putting lights on when riding, night or day, makes bicycling safer, just as cars with lights during daylight are more visible and safer.

Clothing matters, too, when bicycling. In daylight, fluorescent clothing maximizes riders' visibility. When it's dark, reflective clothing is best for helping drivers see bicycle riders.

Check the Heights Bicycle Coalition website (www.bikesintheheights.org) for suggestions of more destinations that, like Cain Park, are Better by Bike. The website also lists group rides and events of interest to bicyclists of all abilities.

Heights Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to educating and encouraging Heights community members to use bicycles as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation. This article was crafted by Debra Franke and members of the coalition's encouragement committee.

Ambler Heights Historic District



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS LANDMARKS

Ken Goldberg

Ambler Heights, for many decades unofficially known as the neighborhood of Chestnut Hills, is one of Cleveland Heights' first developments, as well as one of the first Cleveland Heights neighborhoods nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.

The tract was named for Dr. Nathan Hardy Ambler, a dentist who became a real estate developer. Comprising five streets, Ambler Heights—part of which is in the city of Cleveland—includes more than 60 large, architect-designed homes, built from the 1890s through the 2010s.

Judson Park, a senior-living complex, started out in the former Warren Bicknell mansion, built in 1921.

The earlier houses tend to display Georgian Revival, English Colonial, Tudor Revival, Arts and Crafts, and Mediterranean-influenced features, and include several examples of Prairie School architecture. The



Homes in Ambler Heights.

most recently built homes—from the 1990s on—are among the most creative moderns in Greater Cleveland.

This leafy neighborhood of winding streets is quite private and only reachable by vehicle coming from Cleveland on Cedar Glen Parkway and from North Park Boulevard. The view toward downtown Cleveland, from the bluff behind the houses along the west side of Chestnut Hills Drive (all in Cleveland), is spectacular.

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

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heightsfamily.org for registration information

Heights Music Hop expands to Coventry

James Henke

The fifth-annual Heights Music Hop will take place Sept. 7-9. The music festival is expanding this year, to take place over three days, at more than 30 venues in three Cleveland Heights neighborhoods.

When the festival first started in 2013, it was a one-day event that took place in the Cedar Lee Business District. Last year, it grew into a two-day event, with more than 70 performances at 27 venues in Cedar Lee and Cedar Fairmount, and drew more than 5,000 people to Cleveland Heights.

This year's festival will kick off



on Thursday, Sept. 7, in the Coventry Village Business District. On Friday, Sept. 8, the Hop will move to Cedar Fairmount, and then will wrap up on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Cedar Lee.

"We are delighted to have Coventry involved," said Angela Hetrick, director of Coventry Village Special Improvement District. "With our love of the arts and original music, the Grog Shop turning 25 this year and the energy and nightlife that Heights Music Hop brings, we are thrilled to see that residents and businesses are so supportive that it is able to expand to Coventry this year."

Heights Music Hop is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Additional sponsors and partners include: Dominion East Ohio; Keller National; the city of Cleveland Heights; and Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry Village special improvement districts.

The Hop features live music in traditional and non-traditional venues, including restaurants, bars, stores and other businesses. This

year's venues include: Appletree Books, Cleveland Heights Church, The Fairmount, Pavilion Home & Floral, The Fix Bistro, CLE Urban Winery, Heights Libraries, Dewey's Pizza, Heights Music Shop, New Heights Grill, Phoenix Coffee, Rudy's Pub, Stone Oven, The Social Room, The Wine Spot, Washington & Lee Service and the Grog Shop.

FutureHeights, the same non-profit organization that publishes the *Heights Observer*, is the founder and presenter of the Heights Music Hop.

"We are excited about expanding the event again this year," said Dan Budin, chair of the FutureHeights Heights Music Hop Committee. "The event brings a lot of people and energy into the Heights to experience our unique business districts and see what the Heights has to offer."

Throughout the Hop, FutureHeights will hold a chance raffle, featuring prizes from many local businesses.

New this year is an event planned for the open space at Lee Road and Meadowbrook Boulevard: a silent disco. "Details are still being worked out," said Budin, "but the idea is that people will pay a small admission price and receive a headset so that they can dance to their own musical preference at Meadowbrook and Lee. It will be something to see and be seen at on Saturday night!"

The diverse musical genres featured by the Hop provide opportunities to expand one's musical palette and celebrate the Heights as a home for the arts. A list of participating bands and artists will be available in advance of the event, at the Heights Music Hop's website.

To learn more, visit www.heightsmusicshop.com, and follow the Hop's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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 Future Heights, and he is the co-chair of the Heights Observer Advisory Committee. He is also on the Future Heights Music Hop committee. Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights, contributed to this story.

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MetroHealth expands Severance facility with addition of short-stay hospital

Kim Sergio Inglis

MetroHealth has announced plans to convert its Cleveland Heights facility into a community hospital that will focus on caring for patients who benefit from shorter hospital stays.

Construction is set to be completed by the end of 2017, with the facility ready for patients by January 2018.

MetroHealth's current Cleveland Heights medical office, located at 10 Severance Circle, has an emergency department, and lab, pharmacy and radiology services. It will become a community hospital with the addition of 12 single-occupancy patient rooms.

"We are so pleased to see MetroHealth expanding service in Cleveland Heights," said Tanisha Briley, Cleveland Heights city manager. "This investment will not only provide new health care options for our residents and the surrounding communities, it will also create eco-



MetroHealth's Cleveland Heights facility will expand with the addition of 12 patient rooms for short-term hospital stays.

nomie benefits in a high priority area for redevelopment in our city."

According to Cleveland Heights Council Member Mary Dunbar, MetroHealth's expansion of its Severance facility will create 25 new jobs.

The new hospital will feature single-occupancy rooms, with ample space to accommodate family mem-

bers. The units, designed to create a soothing atmosphere, will include noise-minimizing floors, and lighting to support a patient's recovery.

MetroHealth is planning a similar expansion at its Parma site.

The announcement comes as MetroHealth is undergoing a major campus transformation, with plans to build a new 12-story hospital tower on its main campus. The expansion into the community is part of MetroHealth's strategy to keep its focus on offering patients access to all levels of care, within their own communities.

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

Cleveland Water to replace all Cleveland Heights water meters by year's end

Connor O'Brien

Cleveland Water has announced plans to replace all water meters in Cleveland Heights with new "state-of-the-art" automated meter reading (AMR) technology. The utility expects its Clear Reads project to be completed by the end of 2017, and stated that the new meters and their installation will not result in any additional costs to customers.

Every new meter is connected to an "endpoint," a small battery-powered device that will read each water meter multiple times each day, then send the meter readings via radio signals to a "collector," which then will transmit that data to Cleveland Water.

According to Cleveland Water's website, each endpoint has its own "unique identifier that is transmitted along with the read data. This identifier is compared electronically to [each] account record to ensure that the meter reading matches the meter assigned to [that] account." When the data is transmitted from a meter to Cleveland Water, the utility will only see the device name, the last eight meter readings, and notification of any leak or problem with the meter's operation.

Clear Reads enables Cleveland Water to obtain meter readings without sending anyone out to read the meter, and without needing trucks to drive around to pick up meter signals. According to the utility, Clear Reads "delivers better customer service by providing accurate bills based on actual consumption, early leak detection, and overall improved efficiency."

Jason Wood, chief of public affairs for the city of Cleveland, mentioned other benefits of the Clear

Reads project at a meeting Cleveland Water held at the CH Community Center on June 24.

Wood stated that there will be a reduction in estimated bills and more-accurate water bills as a result of this new AMR technology.

He also explained that the installation of new meters is mandatory for every home and business in the Cleveland Heights service area. To have the meter installed, one must wait for a notification letter from Cleveland Water to arrive by mail, then call to schedule an installation appointment at a time when someone 18 or older can be on the property during the time of the installation, if the meter is indoors.

Appointments can be scheduled during weeknights or over the weekend, and installation is estimated to take around an hour to complete. During installation, the water may have to be turned off for 15 to 20 minutes. Some wire may need to be run, but there will be no need to tear up any landscaping to do so.

If the new meter is to be installed inside, there must be at least three feet of space around the installation site.

Cleveland Water has hired Utili-Con Corporation, a Cleveland-based company that provides general contracting services such as constructing water and sewer mains, to install the meters.

Wood promised that Cleveland Water will make the installation process "as noninvasive as they can make it," and "will be as flexible as they can be."

Connor O'Brien is a senior majoring in communication and minoring in English at John Carroll University. He is currently an intern for the Heights Observer.

RELAY continued from page 1

Lincoln. The Heights High Tigers came through in the finals on Saturday, running a 41.36 to beat Lincoln High for the title.

Shakorrie Davis also made it to the medal stand as an individual, finishing fourth in the state in the boys 200-meter dash. Davis was in sixth place after the prelims, running a 21.72 in the second heat. He then ran a 21.75 race in the finals to finish fourth.

The Heights boys team finished 12th overall at the meet, with 15 points.

Senior Dayvione Briggs competed in the girls 110-meter hurdles. She ran a 14.92 in the prelims, but came up short of qualifying for the finals, despite besting her regional qualifying time.

Scott Wortman is the supervisor of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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Heights Lacrosse hosts camp for students in grades two through nine



Members of the Heights High girls lacrosse team, pictured here in a 2016 match, will be among the student coaches at this summer's youth lacrosse camp.

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Carol Iott

Beginning July 11, Heights Lacrosse will host the Heights Youth Summer Lacrosse Camp at Canterbury Elementary School, open to all students who will enter grades 2-9

this coming school year.

The camp provides an opportunity for young boys and girls to try out the sport and perhaps develop into future lacrosse players. No experience is necessary.

The camp runs for four weeks, and comprises eight evening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6:30-8 p.m., beginning on Tuesday, July 11.

Terry Saylor, Heights High's girls lacrosse coach, and Chris Ticconi, the school's boys lacrosse coach, will supervise, and Heights High lacrosse players will coach the kids during the camp.

The registration fee is \$85 per student, with each additional child eligible to register for \$75.

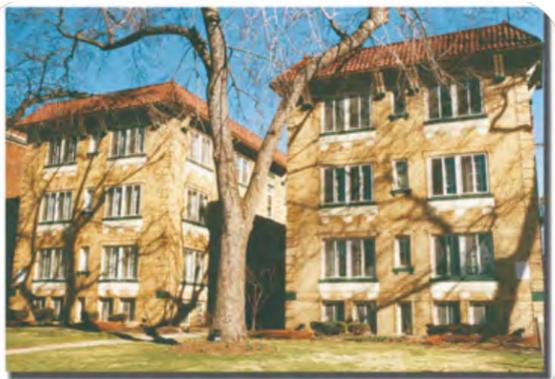
For additional information, e-mail j.iott@sbcglobal.net or call 216-320-9699.

Carol Iott, a Cleveland Heights resident for more than 11 years, has children who attend Heights High.

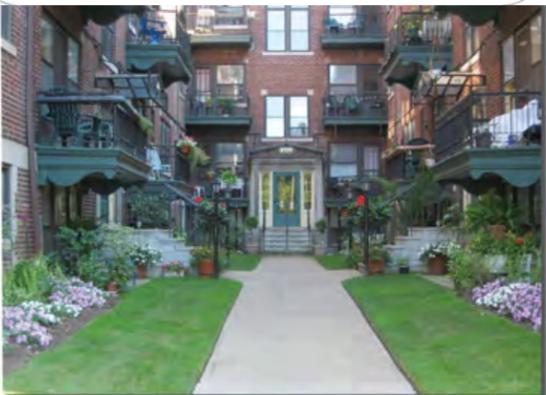
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Gesu School wraps up spring season with 33rd annual Hike for Hunger



Gesu students raised more than \$14,000 in the school's 2017 Hike for Hunger.

Heights' Gesu School.

Phase two of its STREAMCenter opened on April 27. This newly remodeled area includes two makerspaces filled with equipment for turning creative ideas into reality. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade have been using the new spaces to make math manipulatives, create undersea models with the 3D printers and etch glassware with the laser cutter.

In early May, Cleveland Clinic's Office of Government & Community Relations' Civic Education Department designated Gesu a 2016-17 Cleveland Clinic Banner School.

"This award recognizes Gesu's noteworthy success in leveraging community resources to advance student learning," said Bryan Pflaum, director of Cleveland Clinic's civic engagement department. Two teachers at the school, Karen Straub (art) and Marjorie Gessner (STREAM coordinator) were recognized for "demonstrating an exceptional commitment to student enrichment."

Marjorie Gessner is STREAM coordinator at Gesu School in University Heights.

Marjorie Gessner

Gesu Catholic School students raised more than \$14,000 in the school's annual Hike for Hunger, held on May 19 this year. In the event's 33 years, Gesu students have raised more than \$370,000 to support a variety of social service agencies that help the poor and homeless, both locally and internationally.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, speaking at the event's kick-off ceremony, congratulated the students on their continued efforts and dedication to making the world a better place.

The Hike for Hunger was part of an eventful spring at University

Church of the Saviour seeks new director for its Early Learning Center



CONNOR O'BRIEN

Gail Stuehr

The Early Learning Center (ELC) at Church of the Saviour is seeking a qualified candidate to replace its current director and teacher, Patricia Deal, who leaves in July, after 29 years, to begin a new job.

For more information about qualifications for the director position, contact ELC at 216-321-1685. Applications may be sent to the Church of the Saviour Early Learning Center at elccots@gmail.com.

For single-parent families and those with both parents working, one of the biggest challenges is finding competent childcare for preschool children and after-school care for elementary school students.

ELC welcomes children as

young as six weeks and as old as 12 years. The comprehensive program includes day care, after-school programs and summer camp. ELC's focus promotes the total growth and development of the individual child—socially, emotionally, cognitively and creatively. Classes are for infants (6 weeks to 18 months), toddlers (18 months to 3 years), tots (3- and 4-year olds, toilet trained), and pre-K (4- and 5-year-olds). Fifty children are currently enrolled in ELC's classes.

Nannette Barrett, former preschool director at Hawken Lower School and ELC board member, said, "Long-term research indicates that proper stimulation in the first three years of a child's life is vital for brain growth and personality development."

Children who attend early learning programs do better in terms of social interaction, independence, inner control and school readiness. "Play is very important," Barrett continued. "Play is a child's work. They need to play to learn."

For more information on ELC's preschool program, call 216-321-1685.

Gail Stuehr has been a member of Church of the Saviour for more than 40 years. She is a former Cleveland Heights resident and freelance writer.

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The Kids' Fun Run at Roxboro Elementary School's Run Like It's Recess.

CH-UH students learn the joy of running

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Elementary students in the CH-UH school district are—like most children their age—full of energy. Parents and staff members have put that energy to good use by engaging the district's children in a variety of running clubs.

From Girls on the Run (GOTR) programs at Boulevard, Fairfax and Oxford elementary schools, to run clubs at Canterbury and Roxboro elementary schools, and a lunchtime running group at Noble Elementary School, students learn one of the most challenging lessons of both sports and life: sticking with something when it's hard.

"This was not just about running," said school counselor Melinda Stoicoiu. "It's about relationships." At Fairfax's 75-minute GOTR sessions, participants discussed issues such as bullying, gossip, leadership, friendship and self-confidence, as well as how to set and reach personal goals and overcome challenges. They also cleaned up trash and planted flowers on the school grounds.

The highlight of the spring session was a 5K run held at Info-cision Stadium in Akron in May. Members of the team gathered at Fairfax early one Saturday morning, rode to Akron by bus, and participated in the race together.

Sixth-grader Harper Walker has participated in GOTR for the past two years. She said it was fun, but tiring: "Our motto was, 'No girl left behind,' so we all finished the race together."

Boulevard Elementary School's GOTR met in the fall. "We want the girls to benefit from their newfound confidence and from the relationships they've formed with each other and with staff" for the entire year, said Sherri Bellini, fourth-grade teacher. With 10 adults participating, the school plans to have two complete teams next year, one for fourth-graders and another for fifth-graders.

Last November, the Boulevard group participated in a 5K run in Mayfield Heights, sharing a

bus with the team from Oxford Elementary School.

Oxford PTA hosted a Color-A-Thon race in May in conjunction with the school's carnival, part of a weekend's worth of activities coordinated by Noble Neighbors.

Also in May, Roxboro Elementary School hosted its fifth annual Run Like Its Recess. The Saturday morning event featured a 4-mile race, a 2-mile race and a Kids' Fun Run on the middle school track. This year's race attracted 300 runners, triple the number that participated in the race's first year.

Race organizer and PTA member Roxanne Bain is proud of "the steady increase in both participation and money raised. I'm glad this event is becoming a community tradition."

Roxboro Elementary School hosts its own run club, organized by Bain and parents Kelly Nolan and Mary Sasmaz. More than 30 third- through fifth-graders met on Wednesday afternoons for seven weeks last spring to run, complete obstacle courses, play games and get dirty on the trails along Doan Brook.

According to Bain, "We talked about running technique, breathing, and posture, but mostly we just want the kids to think running is fun." That seems to have worked: a great many children participated in the 2-mile option, including kindergartners and even their preschool siblings. Runners as young as 8 and 10 completed the 4-mile race.

Canterbury second-grader Adelina Szpak, who received a medal as the first 8 year old to finish the 2-mile race at Roxboro, summed up the value of all these running groups: "It teaches self-confidence, it's fun to run with your friends, and it also gets you in shape!"

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

Free summer meals available to all students

Cathan Cavanaugh

This summer, free breakfast and lunch is available Monday through Thursday to all CH-UH students, regardless of what school they attend.

The meals are offered at three CH-UH district schools:

- Noble Elementary School, through Aug. 3
- Gearity Professional Development School, through July 20

- Monticello Middle School, through Aug. 3

Breakfast is served from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., and lunch is available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

No meals are served on Fridays.

Cathan Cavanaugh is the communications administrative assistant for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

MAY 16, 2017

President Ron Register, Vice President Kal Zucker, Jim Posch, Eric Silverman and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. The public meeting began at 7:42 p.m., after a prior executive session, and ended at 10 p.m.

Personnel matters

Due to the ending of [the district's] partnership with Bellefaire, consolidation of the middle schools, and the reduction in security staff, the board approved the layoff of 37 classified personnel.

The board approved suspending the contracts of eight teachers due to lack of student enrollment and subsequent cancellation of the course[s].

Work session — Gifted Task Force recommendations

The Gifted Task Force comprises 22 parents and 10 gifted-education teachers. Seven members of the task force reported on the program's reach and made recommendations to the school board. The state of Ohio has adopted new standards for gifted students. These have made it necessary to make some changes in services for the gifted. The present program does not serve kindergarten through grade two, nor high school students.

The task force recommended that the resource room pullout, self-contained classroom, and acceleration be continued. The district needs to add services for kindergarten through grade two (primary education thinking skills) and grades three through five (cluster grouping and collaboration/co-teaching).

LWC Observer: Adele Cohn.

JUNE 6, 2017

President Ron Register, Vice President Kal Zucker, and board members Jim Posch, Eric Silverman and Beverly Wright were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. The meeting began at 7 p.m., after a reception for district retirees, and ended at 10:10 p.m.

Public comments

Coventry tenants: Ten people spoke in support of the Coventry School building tenants, asking the board to allow the tenants more time before requiring them to vacate the property.

Personnel

The board adopted the agreement with the monitors unit represented by the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union.

Surplus equipment sale

A resolution on the sale of used surplus equipment had much discussion. Board members Posch and Silverman wanted to delay sale of the middle school furniture. The resolution passed with Posch and Silverman voting no.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

MAY 17, 2017 — Joint meeting with University Heights City Council

President Ron Register and board members Jim Posch and Eric Silverman were present representing the school board, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Pamela Cameron, John Rach and Michele Weiss were also present, representing University Heights.



BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

High school construction on target

Superintendent Dixon reported that the high school is scheduled to open on time for the fall term. A convocation will be held on Aug. 18, and the fall term will start on Aug. 22. Eric Silverman invited the public to view photos on the school district's website. A community-day event will occur on Sept. 10.

Career and technical education

Jim Posch touted the high school's career and technical education program, which prepares students for careers in fields such as auto tech, cosmetology, fire and emergency medical services, and health care. He noted that most of the students in the auto tech program have been offered jobs after graduation.

Wiley preparation for middle school

George Peikac, director of business services, noted that his team is preparing the transition of the Monticello and Roxboro middle schools to the Wiley campus.

State of the Schools address

Superintendent Dixon gave her State of the Schools address at the Cleveland Heights Community Center in April. She noted that, over the past three years, graduation rates have increased, the career tech program has expanded, and the district has hired a parent-engagement specialist to ensure that parents' concerns are addressed.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS UPDATE

University Heights master plan

The University Heights 2015 Master Plan has been completed and a draft is available at universityheights.com.

University Square

University Square's bondholders now have possession of the University Square property, located at Cedar and Warrensville Center roads, and have been shopping plans and concepts to investors. They have yet to find a buyer, but developers have expressed an interest in creating a housing element within the property.

Commercial properties

A proposal by Swenson's Drive In to build a location at 14510 Cedar Road goes before the University Heights Planning Commission on June 7, and will be presented to UH City Council on June 19.

The Kentucky Fried Chicken building near Cedar and Taylor roads has been purchased by a developer who buys Chinese restaurants. The Cedar-Taylor Garage, now for sale, has garnered interest from several buyers, who are aware that EPA issues will need to be addressed.

Next joint meeting

The next joint meeting is scheduled for fall 2017.

LWV Observer: Siobhan Leftwich.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.

Library offers music production training to teens



The Music Maker Space program includes access to a professional-grade recording booth.

teens in the use of music production software and equipment, as they learn sound- and music-related skills, including recording, mixing, editing and producing.

Applicants must be between the ages of 13 and 18, live in Cleveland Heights or University Heights, and be able to commit four hours a week to the program. The interns will be paid \$500 each. Applications for both the internships and the regular program are due Aug. 31 and can be found on the library's website or picked up in the Lee Road Library's Teen Room.

"The internship is a great opportunity for a young person to get some terrific, positive mentoring and leadership experience," said Youth Services Manager Sam Lapides. "The interns will learn new technical and musical skills from our staff, and then turn around and apply that new knowledge by mentoring small groups of their peers and helping them learn those same skills."

Thanks to a Library Science and Technology Act STEM grant of \$7,393 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (awarded by the State Library of Ohio), and an additional \$5,000 from the Friends of Heights Libraries, the library is building a sound

isolation booth equipped with professional recording equipment and software.

Library IT Technician Matt Mancini, who is also an experienced musician, will train both the interns and the regular program participants in Ableton Live, a state-of-the-art software for music production that can also be used in live performances. Mancini hopes the students understand that the goal of the program is learning, and emphasizes that he is willing to work with students with varying levels of technical and musical experience. "Any level of skill is OK," he said. "All I care about is that the student is enthusiastic about

creating music and is motivated to learn."

While part of the eight-week program will focus on the technical aspects of musical production, instruction will also include forays into the creative side. Library partner Lake Erie Ink, a youth-serving nonprofit focused on creative expression, will help students write song lyrics.

For more information about the Music Maker Space program, visit www.heightslibrary.org.

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

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System is currently taking applications for its new teen Music Maker Space program at the Lee Road Library. The eight-week music production program, scheduled for fall 2017, has room for three paid teen interns and 12 teen program participants. The interns will help mentor the other

Library fund seeks nominations for its inaugural honor roll

Matthew Ginn

The Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries (FFHL) has created a new award to recognize those who have made a sustained, outstanding contribution to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community by promoting literacy or by educating through literacy.

FFHL is currently seeking nominations from the public for the FFHL Honor Roll, which is framed around the Heights Library's mission, "Opening Doors, Opening Minds."

A nominee could be someone who established a literacy program, teaches adults to read, or helped at a school library or the public library.

"There are so many people who have given so much of their time and resources to help Heights Libraries fulfill our mission," said Nancy Levin, director of Heights Libraries and a member of the FFHL Board of Directors. "We created the honor roll to recognize their contributions and express our gratitude."

FFHL intends to name one "Door Opener" and one "Mind Opener" to its honor roll each year.

Honorees will be feted at a celebration event in November, and will have their names inscribed on a plaque on display at the Lee Road Library.

"Literacy is the cornerstone of success in our society, and makes our community a better place to live,"



said Rob Fischer, FFHL president. "The honor roll acknowledges the contributions its members have made to the quality of life in the Heights community."

Nominations for the FFHL Honor Roll can be submitted online, no later than July 31, at <http://heightslibrary.org/ffhl-honor-roll-nomination/>. Submissions must include the name and contact information of both the nominator and the nominee, and a brief description (500 words or less) of the nominee's contributions to literacy and/or education in the Heights community.

The Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries was established in 2013 by the Heights Libraries Board of Trustees to support the capital needs of the library system. It is a 501(c)3 organization that is entrusted to administration by the Cleveland Foundation. Learn more at <http://heightslibrary.org/ffhl>.

Matthew Ginn is a photographer, writer and analyst who has lived in Cleveland Heights since 2013. He is a director on the board of the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries.



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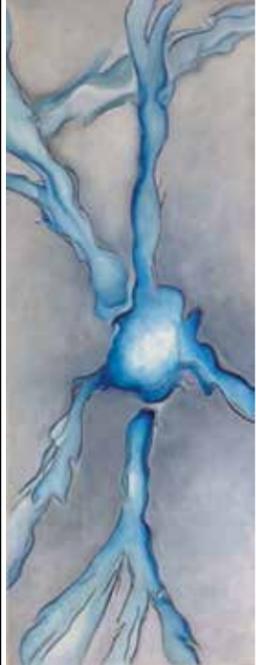
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Lee Road Library launches ESL conversation club

Kara Whaley

John Piche, outreach librarian at the Lee Road Library, launched the ESL (English as a Second Language) Conversation Club in June. This drop-in program is designed to offer informal conversation practice to anyone looking to brush up on English listening and speaking skills. It takes place at the Lee Road Library on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m.

Heights Libraries strives to create spaces and programs where all community members feel welcome and included. The ESL Conversation

Club grew out of a desire for a place where community members could meet in a safe location to enjoy casual conversation and learn about other cultures in a supportive environment.

"The purpose of conversation club is provide an essential service beyond the classroom or formal tutoring," said Piche. "It offers an informal and friendly social gathering-style meeting, and helps the library continue to promote cross-

cultural understanding and expand our services to non-English language speakers."

For more information about ESL Conversation Club, or volunteering as a native speaker or listener, visit www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600 and speak to John Piche.

Kara Whaley is the communications coordinator for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

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Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library Board

Meeting highlights



MAY 15, 2017

Present were President Ron Holland, Vice President Abby Botnick, Secretary Chris Mentrek, Suzann Moskowitz, Susan Beatty and Jim Roosa. Max Gerboc was absent.

spoken to Deputy Director Kim DeNero-Ackroyd and indicated that, although she was very helpful to him, his issue was unresolved.

Public comments

Computer keyboard issues: Library patron Bill Frank stated that he had difficulty on May 3 with the computer keyboard at public computer terminal 11. He e-mailed the director, came back a week later, and the keyboard was not fixed. He had not received a response to his e-mail. He asked if there was a policy on the time frame to respond to an e-mail. Ron Holland stated that the board would provide that information to him within 24 hours. Frank was asked if he had spoken with anyone from the library since that time. He said he had

Hotspot lending services

Jackie Mayse, technology librarian, reported on the Hotspot Lending Program offered by Heights Libraries. Beginning May 22, hotspot kits will be in circulation at Coventry Village, Lee Road and Noble Neighborhood libraries. A hotspot is a small portable device used to connect wireless enabled devices such as a laptop, smart phone, or tablet to the Internet. The hotspot kit comprises a micro case, the hotspot device, a micro USB cord and a USB wall adapter. The hotspot works in any area covered by the Sprint 3G or 4G LTE network. Library patrons can borrow a hotspot for 14 days.

Updated service and administration policy resolution

Abby Botnick presented a resolution for approval of the libraries' updated service and administration policy. Updates to this policy included changes reflective of current practices such as the removal of the word "cassette" from the libraries' loan periods and policies because cassettes are no longer in circulation. The resolution was approved and the updated service and administration policy will be available to the public on the libraries' website.

April financial report

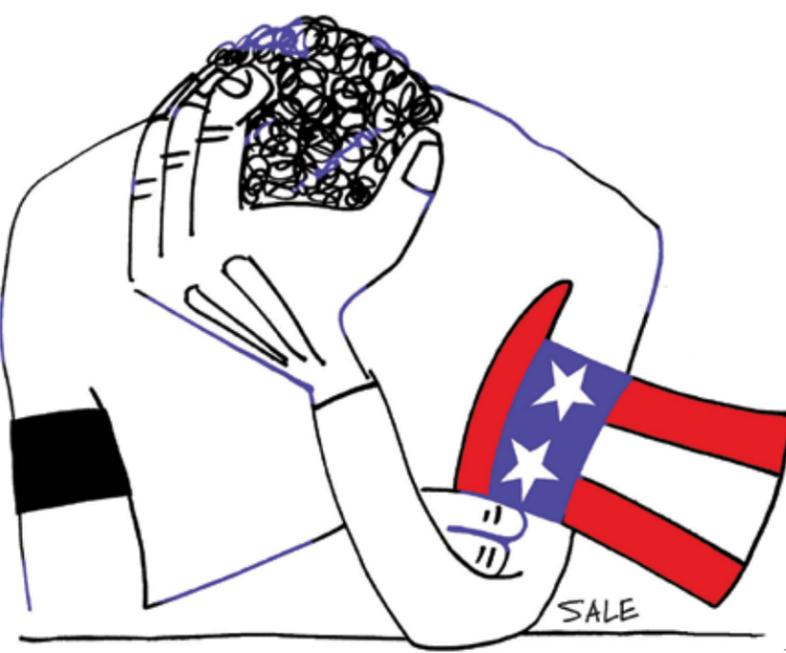
The board accepted the financial report for the month of April. Highlights of the report included a total cash balance from all fund accounts of \$14,403,708.04. It was also noted that the library is still awaiting property tax reimbursements from the state. The fiscal officer also informed the board that the current iteration of the 2017-19 Ohio budget bill under consideration reduces the Public Library Fund from 1.7 percent of the general fund to 1.66 percent.

Director and fiscal officer salaries

The board annually conducts performance evaluations of the director and fiscal officer. As a result of the most recent evaluations, the board approved salary increases for the director and the fiscal officer, effective the first payroll of 2017. The director's annual salary shall be \$109,000 and the fiscal officer's salary shall be \$78,500.

LWV Observer: *Khaliah Fisher-Grace.*

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.



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What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library
1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Thursday, July 20, 3-4 p.m.
Giant Lego Build-a-thon. Spend an afternoon creating the buildings of your dreams with giant Legos.

Lee Road Library
2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Monday, July 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Harry Potter's Birthday Party. Celebrate the world's favorite wizard with crafts, activities, and a birthday cake for Harry Potter.

Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Wednesday, July 12, noon to 1 p.m.
Cool Knights: Armor from the Middle Ages. Educators from the Cleveland Museum of Art will bring real pieces of armor used by medieval knights and Renaissance noblemen. Children in kindergarten through grade five are invited to learn, touch, and maybe try on the armor of "cool" knights. Registration began June 28.

CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC), located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a wide variety of programming for those 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.

SAC's focus for the month of July is needlework.

Quilting 101, a new craft workshop taught by Cleveland Heights fiber artist Martha Young, will begin on Thursday, July 6, 1-2:30 p.m., and continue through the month.

Attendees will learn to create a hand-pieced placemat or table runner from beautiful fabric provided by the instructor. Materials are provided, but class participants should bring a mechanical pencil, straight pins and fabric scissors if they have them.

Every Friday, 1-4 p.m., the Stitch Together group meets to

work on needlework projects, including knitting, crochet, needlepoint and more. Attendees can share the company of friends and have an afternoon of fun. Experienced stitchers are available to answer questions and give advice, so bring whatever project you are working on.

Both activities are free of charge and beginners are welcome. Feel free to drop in and give needlework a try.

SAC membership is \$5 for Cleveland Heights residents 60 and older. To sign up, bring a recent piece of mail (such as a bill) and a photo ID. University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or pgrogan@universityheights.com. Membership is \$10 for University Heights seniors.

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@clvhts.com.

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Senior Citizen Happenings

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

No programs are scheduled for the month of August. Senior Citizen Happenings will resume its weekly schedule after Labor Day, on Thursday, Sept. 7.

July 6: Heather Hodges, president of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, will discuss the work of the council, to engage and educate Americans on international affairs and foreign policy.

July 13: Danielle Murphy, consumer educator in the Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, will suggest ways in which senior citizens can protect themselves from con artists, scammers, and the many forms of elder fraud.

July 20: Maggie Mondello, lead educator with Western Reserve Historical Society, will present "Carl and Louis Stokes from Projects to Politics." This program is part of a yearlong celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of Carl Stokes' election as Mayor of Cleveland, and the distinguished career of his brother, Congressman Louis Stokes.

July 27: William Sheehan, the new finance director for the city of University Heights, will discuss his background and his new role.

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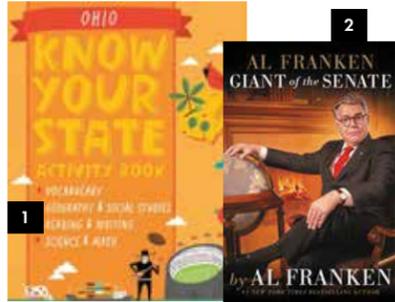
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2017 Summer Shopping Guide

Find something for your home and garden, host/hostess' gifts and summer entertainment at the many independent merchants in the Heights. Here are some of our favorites:

BOOKS & MEDIA

Ohio Know Your State Activity Book, features more than 250 pages of interactive learning activities that guide kids (ages 8-12) through the history and geography of Ohio. (\$14.99, S'Wonderful Gifts) **1**



Beguiled By The Wild: The Art Of Charley Harper, presents more than 110 serigraphs accompanied by intriguing, pun-filled captions. This book pays homage to one of Ohio's most beloved artists, Charley Harper, who used simple shapes, sophisticated patterns and striking colors to capture the essence of any animal. (\$50.00, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Al Franken: Giant of the Senate by Al Franken. Insightful and funny look at governing from the rare politician who blends both. (\$28.00, Mac's Backs) **2**

Throwback Special by Chris Bachelder. A guy's beach read. (\$15.95, Mac's Backs)

HOME & GARDEN

Chopstick Bowl. This ingenious collapsible basket is made out of recycled chopsticks, and folds flat, so it's an easy gift to transport. (\$24.95, S'Wonderful Gifts)

EcoCan Flower or Herb Grow Pots. Inside every pressed bamboo powder EcoCan are flower or herb seeds (lots to choose from!) and special growing media. (\$7.95, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Five-Piece Wine and Bar Set. This sophisticated set is crafted from premium materials. (\$84.00, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Carlisle Round Table. This versatile round table can be built in a variety of woods and sizes. (48" round in maple for \$708.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Loop Fruit Bowl. Handcrafted from a single piece of free-flowing steel wire. The bowl features a chrome finish, open-weaving and curving lines. (\$49.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **3**



Metal Teapot Wall Clock. Handmade in Bogota, Colombia, from partially recycled metal, the clock is available in teal or magenta. (\$42.00, S'Wonderful Gifts) **4**



Carter Open Bookcase. Beautiful for books or display. (42" x 78" for \$1,135.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Reclaimed Barnbeam Table and Buffet. Each piece is unique and has its own story to tell. (Table 42" x 72" for \$1,750.00, Buffet for \$1,482.00, Eastwood Furniture) **5**

Cambridge Bed, combining mid-century style with today's flair. (Queen size in cherry for \$1,324.00, Eastwood Furniture) **6**



CLOTHING

Donut Socks. What a sweet idea! When these socks are rolled up, they look like the real thing. (\$12.00, S'Wonderful Gifts) **7**

Sushi Socks. There's nothing fishy about these! When these socks are rolled up, they look like a tasty piece of sushi. (\$12.00, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Rattle Socks. These cute socks (for infants up to 12 months) feature a rattle attachment. Available with strawberries, basketballs, monkeys or donuts. Two pairs per pack. (\$22.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **8**

Masterpiece T-shirts. Breathtaking art by Van Gogh, Monet, Klimt and others is exquisitely reproduced (front and back) on these ¾-length sleeve T-shirts. (\$42.00, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Screenprinted T-shirt by Cleveland Heights artist Kate Snow. The first edition in Heights Arts' new line of limited edition ARTISTees, in soft and comfy ring-spun cotton. Available in sizes S-XL. (\$25.00, Heights Arts) **9**



FOOD & DRINK

Chill Pops. Mitchell's will offer six seasonal rotating flavors of popsicles from Cleveland's Chill Pop Shop. (\$4.00 each, Mitchell's Fine Chocolates) **10**

Mitchell's Original Recipe Pecan Caramel Corn. An original Mitchell's summer tradition returns, featuring Christ and Penelope Mitchell's classic 5-ingredient recipe. (8 oz., \$5.95; 16 oz., \$9.95, Mitchell's Fine Chocolates)



Custom Gift Baskets. Wine Spot gift baskets are the perfect way to celebrate any occasion. Created to fit any price point. (Price varies, The Wine Spot) **11**



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JEWELRY

Silver Spoon Necklaces. These attractive and clever necklaces are wearable art inspired by silverware patterns from the 1800s, and are available in a variety of designs (Elephant, Octopus, Hearts, etc.). (\$75.00, S'Wonderful Gifts) **12**



Blooming Enamels Earrings and Pendants. Colorful, fun, free-spirited jewelry in silver, copper and enamel from local artist Melissa Ann Lindahl. (\$35.00 and up, Heights Arts) **13**



Fabric Jewelry Bags from the Cottage Sisters. The perfect traveling companion, these hand-sewn pouches keep necklaces and earrings safe and tangle free. (\$24.00, Heights Arts)

Herkimer Diamonds. These diamonds are a type of double-terminated quartz. (\$2.00 to \$4.50 a piece, Cleveland Rocks and Beads)

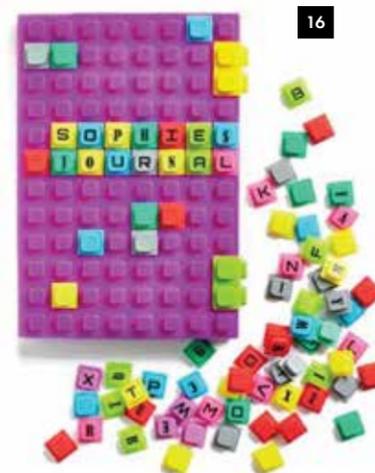
Glass Beads by Holly Wingert. Handmade in our shop Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Take a class and learn how to make these beads. (\$2.00 per bead, \$35.00 for class to make up to six beads, Cleveland Rocks and Beads) **14**



SOLAN SERVICES

Aveda's Rosemary Mint line. This includes shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, hand & body wash and body lotion. (Prices vary, Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa) **15**

Stress-Fix Spa Pedicure. Lavish aromatherapy pedicure with Aveda Stress-Fix inspired products: Stress-Fix soaking salts, scrub, cleanser, lotion, followed with therapeutic paraffin wax, an herbal/sea masque and long-lasting polish. (90 minutes for \$70.00, Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa)



GIFTS & SPECIALTIES

Buddha Board. When you paint on the surface with water, your creation will come to life; as the water evaporates, your art will magically disappear leaving you with a clean slate and a clear mind. (Large: \$38.95, Mini: \$15.95, S'Wonderful Gifts)

WAFF Journals. These interactive journals come with a set of cubes that allows you to customize the waffle-grid cover with words, phrases and designs. (Large: \$28.95, Medium: \$20.95, Mini: \$12.50, S'Wonderful Gifts) **16**

Silicone Tableware for Toddlers. Silicone plates, bowls and flatware (handles are silicone) are a safe and colorful way to make the young eater's mealtime fun. (Divided plate (2): \$26.95, suction bowl (2): \$22.50, flatware (4 pieces): \$20.00, S'Wonderful Gifts)

Record Journals. These little notebooks, created using vintage 12" records, and featuring 100 sheets of ruled paper and an elastic band closure are useful, convenient and super cool. (Large: \$24.00, Small: \$18.95, S'Wonderful Gifts)



Tokidoki Backpack. This nylon backpack is a perfect way for teens and tweens to carry their Tokidoki friends with them wherever they go. (\$29.95, S'Wonderful Gifts) **17**



Environmentally themed notecards. Whimsical, individually crafted designs from cut paper reflect artist Ursula Korneitchouk's interest in keeping our planet great. (\$4.00, Heights Arts)



Inflatable Scream. Edvard Munch's masterpiece, more than four feet tall. (\$29.95, Big Fun) **19**

Assorted Cleveland Keychains. (\$2.50 to \$5.00, Big Fun) **18**

Art deco style jewelry/music box. (\$50.00, Attenson's Antiques)

Lalique French crystal buffalo (\$150.00, Attenson's Antiques)

Elgin gold plated pocket watch (\$195.00, Attenson's Antiques) **20**



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Studio How-To opens in the Cedar Lee district

Sruti Basu

Studio How-To, a new handcraft studio school, opened on June 1 on the second floor of the Douglas Fine Arts Building, at the corner of Cedar and Lee roads. The space offers workshops and private parties for both adults and children, teaching the how-to of leather-working, sewing, knitting, block-printing, embroidery, jewelry-making, journaling, working with clay, and more.

Sarah Nemecek founded Studio How-To as a way to share the knowledge and love of making that she has developed across several

disciplines. A self-taught artist, Nemecek grew up in a family of makers and has been sewing, quilting, painting and drawing since she was 5.

Nemecek curates and plans each workshop for an all-inclusive experience, supplying all materials and tools, as well as snacks and beverages.

“It takes the prep work off the students so they can register and just show up for an entertaining maker session,” Nemecek explained. “I love making things myself and figuring out how to do new things all the time, and it’s fun



Sarah Nemecek inside Studio How-To.

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to share that with other people as they discover the same joy from making.” Her favorite response from students is, “I can’t believe I made this myself.”

While the workshops teach specific art and craft skills, the real benefit from the experiences, said Nemecek, is the connection with other makers, the relaxation and focus gained from working with one’s hands, and the “keen sense of accomplishment after you create something beautiful.”

Studio How-To features an open, light-filled space for workshops and a separate leather-working area. There is also a large space separate from the main studio that Nemecek hopes to make available as creative entrepreneur co-working space and as a place to host pop-up shops and events. “I see [it as a] space for creatives, artists and the community to come together, learn, and make,” she said.

In collaboration with Destiny Burns, owner of CLE Urban Winery, Nemecek is planning a leather project and wine night event at the

winery on July 21, 6:30-9 p.m.

Nemecek moved to Cleveland Heights last year with her husband and son, after living in several different states. According to Nemecek, they sought a vibrant city with culture, activities, and residents that love their city as a better place to raise their kids and enjoy life. Nemecek’s husband grew up east of Cleveland and, after several years of marriage, he converted her to a “Cleveland for life.”

Nemecek said she thinks the studio will be a positive addition to the Cedar Lee neighborhood. She loves her life in Cleveland and wanted to contribute to the Cleveland Heights and Greater Cleveland arts community by offering a space for people who are curious about making or may not otherwise feel they can be creative.

For more information, and to view the schedule of upcoming workshops, visit www.studiohow-to.com.

Sruti Basu is the director of community-building programs at Future Heights.

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Coventry Village pop-up shop offers wearable pieces of Cleveland's past



1960's knit skirt priced at \$15.



1970's "Missoni" style tunic priced at \$28.

Kim Sergio Inglis

Through Aug. 15, the former American Apparel space on Coventry Road has transformed into a showroom of vintage knitwear from The Ohio Knitting Mills—one of the many companies that once made Cleveland a center of textile manufacturing.

Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun, is one of the partners in the pop-up venture, along with Debbie Gulyas, who for many years owned Renaissance Parlour, a Coventry vintage clothing boutique.

According to Presser, whether you call it "new old stock"—a vintage toy term—or "deadstock"—in vintage clothing parlance—all of the merchandise is in new, unworn condition. The styles date from the 1950s through the 1980s, and the knits are made from synthetic materials (remember Orlon?), 100 percent cotton and wool, and other fabrics.

"Customers have come in to tell us stories about how a parent, grandparent or family friend had worked at Ohio Knitting Mills," said Presser. "One of our favorite stories was of a customer whose best friend's mother and grandmother worked there. They all lived in Little Italy, and the owner of the mill would bring nearly complete hippie vests to their home with a separate box of fringe, and the women would sit around after dinner, finishing these vests. We know this is true, as our customer had a flashback when she saw the finished vests hanging on the wall, and she had all the correct names and dates."

"People are coming in not only to buy a piece of Americana, but spe-

cifically a piece of Cleveland. They are telling stories that you just don't hear at other stores," Presser stated.

The pop-up shop is located at 1782 Coventry Road. It is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

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

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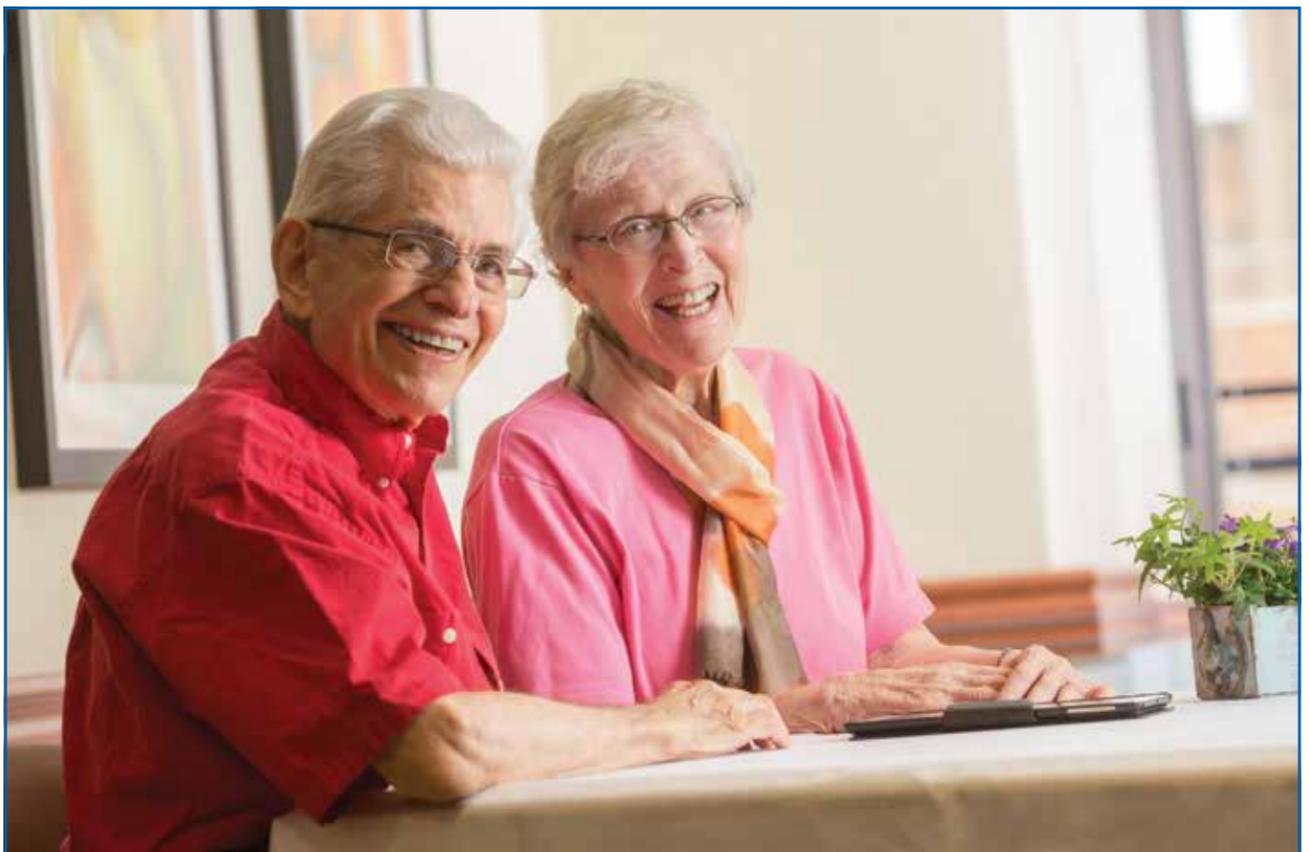
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“It felt like home from the start,” says Nina of the couple's suite, filled with a curated collection of the books, music and art they love. And they take comfort in the easy access to the onsite health and wellness programs they both need. “We love it here,” says Nina.

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Heights Arts' first annual summer benefit aims to entice

Kathleen Cerveny

Heights Arts has planned ENTICING, a music, food, pastry and "Big Fun" party to celebrate Heights Arts and its longstanding commitment to the artists and residents of the Heights community. ENTICING also will honor Steve Presser, legendary Heights booster and owner of Big Fun, Coventry's iconic toy and memorabilia store.

ENTICING will take place on Saturday, July 15, in a unique private location—a penthouse and glass cube overlooking downtown Cleveland, with 360-degree views of the city's skyline. Heights Arts benefit chair Melissa McClelland promises the

event will be "too enticing to resist," noting that, "partygoers will enjoy signature dessert creations by Northeast Ohio's best pastry chefs, bakers and chocolatiers, with sparkling wine from Gallucci's and fabulous auction items to bid on, accompanied by music from Cleveland's gypsy jazz group, Moustache Yourself. All this, while the city of Cleveland glows at partygoers' feet."

Heights Arts Executive Director Rachel Bernstein is thrilled to have founding board member Steve Presser as the evening's honoree. "Steve has been one of Cleveland Heights' most prominent leading 'characters' for decades, working for the schools, the Coventry Village Special Improve-

ment District, and as a visionary and dedicated founding board member of Heights Arts. His unwavering support over the years is a big reason why we have been able to continue our work in the community."

The mission of Heights Arts, a nonprofit cultural organization, is to celebrate the literary, musical and visual artists of the region and share their creative gifts with the community. Bernstein wanted ENTICING, the organization's first big annual benefit, to be a special and collaborative event, reflective of the organization's own culture and work: "something that has a special feel above and beyond a typical benefit—the kind of event that people look forward to every year because of its unique and creative nature."

The party will be a unique collaboration among local wine and culinary artisans, talented and eclectic musicians, and offer up for bid art and other items.

ENTICING's partners in spirits and cuisine include: Culinary Creations, CLE Urban Winery, Coquette Patisserie, fire food and drink, Fluffy Duck Café, Gallucci's, Luna Bakery Café, Mitchell's Fine Chocolates, On the Rise Artisan Breads & Pastries, the Stone Oven, and Zoss the Swiss Baker. The event's primary sponsors are Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP, and Event Source.

More information and tickets for ENTICING can be found online at www.heightsarts.org/enticing, or at Heights Arts, 2175 Lee Road. The VIP portion of the party is already sold out, but tickets are still available for the 8-10 p.m. main event.

Kathleen Cerveny, a former poet laureate of Cleveland Heights, recently retired from the Cleveland Foundation, where she was director of arts initiatives for 25 years. She lives in the Royal Heights neighborhood of Cleveland Heights and is chair of the Heights Arts Heights Writes Committee.



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Sculptured paper shines light on traditional Korean dress

Mary Ryan

This summer, Heights Arts' Spotlight Gallery presents *Hanbok's Gifts*, an exhibition of sculptural paper works by Cleveland artist and papermaker Aimee Lee. In the exhibit, on view through Aug. 6, Lee pays homage to the ingenuity and care behind traditional Korean clothing (hanbok) by using another material from the same heritage, hanji, which requires much discovery and labor to produce.

"Aimee learned hanji—traditional Korean paper-making—from masters and built the first hanji studio in North America at the Morgan Conservatory in Cleveland," said exhibition curator Helen Liggett. "Hanji is remarkably strong and is used to make household items in traditional Korean culture. With *Hanbok*, she joins craft to the celebratory and autobiographic elements of her art, revealing its versatility



Noble (2017), by Aimee Lee.

and beauty in an entirely new form." "Dress has been a significant part of human life through its ability to clothe, express and signify," noted Lee. "It remains a dynamic part of culture that reaches people from monks in prayer to soldiers at war to children in school. My interest in dress is how the material and qualities of handmade paper can be transformed into garments—not necessarily to wear, but to evoke character and capture moods. Though I make paper of all kinds, I am most devoted to hanji. Through my study and experimentation with this durable and chameleon-like material, I have also learned about other Korean traditions and history."

Lee's work is exhibited internationally and appears in collections including The Cleveland Institute of Art's Gund Library, Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection, the Museum of Modern Art Library, and Yale University Library. She is the author of *Hanji Unfurled: One Journey into Korean Papermaking*.

Mary Ryan is on staff at Heights Arts, a nonprofit community arts organization.

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The Summer of Love



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

It seems that 50 years ago should feel like a long time, but it doesn't. Not to me. I guess if you're 30, it would. But I'm not. I mean, I feel like I'm 30, but I'm twice that. At least. Actually, I still feel like I'm 18. Which I was 50 years ago.

If you are a longtime Cleveland Heights resident and are older than I am, and you remember when the hippies descended upon Cleveland Heights—specifically Coventry Road, between Mayfield Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard—and you recall being annoyed by them . . . well, I was one of those kids. And I knew you were annoyed. And I didn't care. None of us did.

We moved into all the apartments and rental houses on Coventry, Euclid Heights, Hampshire and Lancashire. This coincided with the older, mostly Jewish tenants and homeowners moving to Beachwood, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights and other eastern suburbs. With those customers gone, Coventry Road's old Eastern European delis, butcher shops, fish markets and bakeries left, too. They were followed by most of the city's Reform and Conservative Jewish synagogues, which relocated

to Beachwood and Gates Mills.

The vacated storefronts on Coventry were replaced by so-called "head shops" and other businesses of interest to hip youth. A record store moved into the former fur shop. Record Revolution is still there. Henry's, apparently a front for something—and a self-proclaimed "toy" store that contained no toys of any kind—quietly disappeared.

An antiques store called 1864—the place that single-handedly launched Coventry's shift into hippiedom in 1964, by installing an antique marble soda fountain and stools, and serving egg creams on Sunday afternoons to accompany its traditional-music jam sessions—allowed a sandal maker to operate out of its basement and he somehow took control of the place and kicked out the original owners. Which was not very hippie-like.

Though, on the other hand, maybe it was, because the hippie movement pretty quickly splintered into widely divergent sub-groups—like the original peace-and-love, live-and-let-live mellow types; the heavy drug users and dealers; the ironically militant anti-war activists; the shiftless stoners. So maybe the sandal guy did fit in—somewhere. Summer 1967 became known, nationally, as the Summer of Love, but I'm not sure why, exactly. Maybe it meant the "Summer of Free Love" . . . which isn't really the same thing.

Irv's restaurant—a holdover from the '50s (originally as Benky's) stayed.

Its former clientele—families and older Jewish couples—fled when hippies and all other manner of misfits moved in, and other forms of "business" began to flourish on the premises, but the restaurant remained (until the city finally was able to shut it down in the mid-'70s).

In the summer of 1967, Coventry's sidewalks became lined with young people, many sitting on the ground playing guitars. I hung out on the street, but I was not among the guitar strummers. I played music professionally then, often at Farragher's, a bar and folk-music club on Taylor Road, north of Cain Park; and at La Cave, a national folk (and, soon after, rock) venue in University Circle.

That year, at La Cave, I opened for Linda Ronstadt and the Stone Poneys, on the cusp of their first hit record, "Different Drum;" and a then-popular blues band, Linn County; and, also, at both clubs, I often accompanied several local folk singers and groups. And nights when I wasn't playing, I hung out at La Cave to hear the music of artists like Richie Havens, the Paul Butterfield Blues Band and Ian and Sylvia.

The members of a traditional folk trio that played Farragher's earlier in the '60s, the Journeymen, were John Phillips, Scott McKenzie and Dick Weissman. Phillips founded the folk-rock group the Mamas and the Papas. And he wrote and produced the song "If You're Going to San Francisco," sung by Scott McKenzie. The record became a major national hit in the spring of '67 and contributed to what became the terrible problem of thour-



sands of young people, including many runaways, flooding into San Francisco that summer.

The adults of Cleveland Heights may have thought they had problems with us, but they really got off easily, compared to that California crisis.

The author in 1967, pre-shoulder-width "afro." COURTESY DAVID BUDIN

Phillips also co-produced the Monterey International Pop Music Festival in June 1967, which launched the careers of artists such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, the Who and Otis Redding, all of whose records you could hear blasting out of Coventry-area apartments that summer. Within a couple of years, I would be dealing, in various ways, with some of those artists, in the music business in New York City, but in July '67, I was solidly and happily planted in Cleveland Heights.

A month later, a bad drug experience would change everything. But that's another story. (Spoiler alert: I lived.)

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. One of his 2016 Heights Observer columns took second place in the Press Club of Cleveland's 2017 All Ohio Excellence in Journalism Awards, in the category of Best in Ohio: Staff Reporter; Lifestyle.

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