FutureHeights awards mini-grants to three CH projects

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights held the fifth round of its Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program this fall, approving $1,700 in grants to support three projects in Cleveland Heights.

To date, the community development corporation has awarded 18 grants for a total of $12,384. The grants are intended to spur small, grassroots projects to improve quality of life and build community.

FutureHeights mini-grants fall 2017 grants are:

- **Bikur Cholim of Cleveland** was awarded $35 for its Hannukah – Light Menorah Party project. The organization is hosting the event in Cleveland Heights to bring special-needs children and their families together in celebration of Hannukah, and help create a strong support system within the community.
- **The Welcome Hub** was awarded $875 for its Drivers Education Scholarships for Refugees program. The Welcome Hub serves as a source of information and resources for resettled refugees in Cleveland Heights. It created the program in order to address the need for affordable access to transportation as part of the resettlement process.
- **Fairfax Community Garden** was awarded $500 for its Fence Replacement project. The organization has enabled residents to garden on a private plot since

**Gift guide puts focus on the Heights**

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Heights community is full of unique, independently owned businesses, and the holiday season is the most important time of year for them. For most, holiday sales determine if they are in the red or black for the year—and, for some, if they can continue to operate.

Studies show that holiday shopping at locally owned, independent businesses generates far more economic benefit in local communities than money spent online, at chains, or at businesses outside of the community.

A strategic planning firm, Civic Economics (www.civiceconomics.com), calculated that every $100 spent at a local business in one Chicago neighborhood circulated $68 in the local economy, compared with just $43 for

$100 spent at a chain store in the same neighborhood.

The American Independent Business Alliance (www.amibainc.com) cites the benefits of spending locally: local businesses support the local tax base, their unique identities add character to neighborhoods, they are often owned by people who live and work in the community and have a vested interest in its future. In addition, local business owners frequently serve on local boards and support local charitable causes.

Each year, FutureHeights publishes a Heights-specific gift guide in the November issue of the Heights Observer to help community members

**Forums and guides provide information on Heights candidates**

Deanna Bremer Fisher

As the Nov. 7 Election Day approaches, Heights voters can access several resources to become informed about local candidates and issues.

One such resource is the 2017 Voters Guide, sponsored by the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV) and FutureHeights. The guide was a special insert in the October issue of the Heights Observer. Additional copies of the printed guide are available at Heights Libraries and other locations around town.

An online version of the guide, available at www.heightsobserver.org and www.vote411.org, contains additional questions and answers from each candidate, as well as a link to videos from the Oct. 18 LWV/FutureHeights Candidates Forum.

The Oct. 18 forum featured candidates for all of the Cleveland Heights and University Heights contests.

Two candidates are in the running for University Heights mayor: incumbent Susan Infeld and challenger Michael Dylan Brennan. Five candidates are running for three seats on University Heights City Council at large: incumbents Philip Erel, Susan D. Pardee and Mark Wiseman, and challengers Annelise Kostyo and Hannah Lebovits. Two candidates are running to fill the unexpired two-year term on University Heights City Council: Mary M. Ehne and John P. Rach, who was appointed to a vacant council seat in 2016.

Four candidates—none incumbent—contested for a Heights City Council seat.

**Northsiders celebrate Noble resurfacing**

Brenda H. May

Noble Neighbors celebrated the reopening of Noble Road on Sept. 20 with a whimsical gathering. Residents wore orange clothes and shared orange-colored snacks—carrots, cheese crackers, and cone-shaped candy corn—to bid farewell to the orange barrels and machinery. Residents were joined in enjoying the smell of the new asphalt by Rich Orosz and others from the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works. Investigator Quin- tero Mack of the Cleveland Heights Police Department and Cleveland Heights City Council Member Carol Roe.

The project began in 2014, and

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About the Observer

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The Heights Observer is a citizen-based news publication of FutureHeights, do not endorse candidates for office.

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HeightsObserver November 1, 2017

OPINION/LETTERS

Letters Policy

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

Heights Observer is a community newspaper; it is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life in the

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

As a community newspapeper committed to equal access for everyone, the Observer is unlimited in the number of submissions 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 publication to 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 be allowed to publish 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.

Incumbents should run on their records

To the Editor:

As a resident of the Boulevard area, I noted the recent article by Diane Hallum, and specifically her remarks about the responsiveness of all candidates. I have found the Heights Observer to be a valuable resource for keeping up to date with local events and issues.

I encourage all readers to support the Observer by subscribing, and to keep an eye out for upcoming events and issues in the Heights community.

Laura Baker
Cleveland Heights

Highs Observer local candidate policy

Heights Observer local candidate policy

Highs Observer local candidate policy

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Heights Observer local candidate policy
I have two adult children that I love more than anything in the world and always have. They went to Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools and received an imperfect but great education. I worshiped some of their teachers, tolerated others, thought some administrators knew what they were doing and didn’t care for others. All in all, CH-UH schools and my family were a good fit. I never thought about sending them to a different system.

It comes to me, back in the day, were folks who sent their kids to private schools but insisted on denigrating the public school system. I often wished they’d try the public school system before they gave up on it, but if that wasn’t going to happen, I just wanted them to treat us respectfully. I wanted them to make their school choices for their kids without explaining what was wrong with the system I was sending my kids to. Sometimes that happened and often it did not.

The situation is so different now. I just want people who are choosing to send their kids to private schools to pay for themselves. If those folks want to talk down the public schools that they have pretty much no experience with, so be it. But do not expect me to pay for their private school choice. Private education is just that, private. It is not open to everyone, it is not under government scrutiny; it is often religious, it is often divisive and not inclusive.

My hat is off to some of the following private schools that understand that they are private and do not accept vouchers: Urban Oak, Ruffing Montessori, Hathaway Brown, Laurel, University School and Hawken.

If we must have a system in Ohio that supports private education, then there are some changes that must be made. First, the State of Ohio should foot the bill, not the local community. Second, schools accepting government money must serve any and all children who want to attend. They should not be able to pick and choose. Third, there needs to be monitoring of those schools. Are the schools abiding by the state’s rules and regulations? If the child has an IEP (Individualized Education Program), is it being implemented properly? Are all subjects that the state requires being taught, and is the same testing and reporting of the testing taking place?

Every parent has both the right and obligation to make the best choices that they are able to for their children. Sometimes parents must sacrifice to make the choices they see as best. I, too, as a member of a community, need to sacrifice for the public good. I need to support and pay for public institutions open to all. I should not be required to pay for schools open to some.

Robin Koslen is a public school advocate.

Vouchers are bad for most

Robin Koslen

When Vouchers are Bad for Most

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Robin Koslen is a public school advocate.

Excerpts from Observer blogs

Read the whole story at blogs.heightsobserver.org

Share your ideas for creative place-making in the Heights

On Oct. 10, Future Heights held a public forum at the BottleHouse Brewery and Meadery on elevating areas of our community with place-making. Attendees enjoyed several presenters, each with a unique view on what place-making is and how it can be incorporated into our neighborhoods.

Bob Brown discussed historical foundations of place-making and how it has been used in other parts of Northeast Ohio. Ali Larusky-Love talked about thinking small scale for projects, such as putting art galleries in phone boxes, and yoga moves and stretching techniques at bus stops.

Nelson Beckford brought forth the importance of community social interaction and how residents can share the power of place-making to create healthy and exciting neighborhoods.

After the forum, tables around the BottleHouse were full of great discussions and thoughts. Future Heights would like to extend that discussion to the Web.

As an intern for FutureHeights, I’ve created this blog to help residents of our community share their ideas for place-making in specific Heights neighborhoods. We want to hear your ideas for making the Heights a more exciting place to live and visit.

Please follow this outline for posting your ideas:

• Please include your name
• The location of a place, as it exists today
• Your idea for place-making in that location
• A picture of the location, or a concept drawing of your ideas
• Any other information you think is relevant

—Ranen Reichstein

Enjoyable Ghost Stream Bicycle Ride featuring the Dugway brooks led by Roy Larick

As part of the Fall 2017 local history lectures, Dr. Roy Larick (local author and archaeologist) led a group of 20 plus enthusiasts (and one dog travelling via bicycle basket) around the Heights searching for the above ground pieces of the east and west Dugway Brooks.

The hardy group traced the winding path of the Dugways (east and west branches) through Cleveland Heights and University Heights neighborhoods. Both streams are mostly buried, but their courses can be followed under city streets.

The Dugway brooks led to the Shaker Lakes, and Nine Mile Stream. Doan Brook (think of Noble and Belvoir). We also learned about the natural geology, the local history, and the consequence of human tampering with the streams.

—Korbi Roberts
Balancing individual student needs with state requirements is not easy

Ari Klein

It seems to me there is a fundamental conflict between differentiating instruction for students and, at the same time, ensuring that all students are prepared to take the next big state test. How can teachers take a classroom full of students who might be grade levels apart and make sure that everything in the curriculum is taught and learned by all by a specific time? I feel the same way about the pacing charts that are in use throughout the district. For example, all fifth graders are expected to complete a particular unit at the same time. Lock-step learning makes little sense to me. Teachers end up skipping important information, or some students end up frustrated because they may need extra time to master a concept.

Another issue around set curricula, pacing charts, and standardized test schedules is what happens to our special-needs students. Special education covers a broad spectrum. Around 18 percent of CH-UH students—around 900 students—have been identified as having special needs. Our district has very few self-contained classrooms for these students, some of whom are either emotionally disabled (ED) or multi-handicapped (MH). ED students spend much of the day with the same teacher and a classroom aide. ED students often have elective courses with general education students. MH students have both physical and emotional issues and often have an aide assigned. MH students learn about tasks of daily living in addition to their classes. MH students—about 2 percent of district students—are usually exempt from taking the regular standardized tests.

ED students spend much of the day with the same teacher and a classroom aide. ED students often have elective courses with general education students. MH students have both physical and emotional issues and often have an aide assigned. MH students learn about tasks of daily living in addition to their classes. MH students—about 2 percent of district students—are usually exempt from taking the regular standardized tests.

ED students are expected to learn the same material at the same rate as everyone else in the state. Behavioral problems exhibited by some of these students doesn’t always link to intelligence or capacity for learning, and for some ED students academic learning may be less important than acquiring social/emotional skills.

The large majority of the identified students in CH-UH are in general education classes, even though they have some cognitive delay or a learning disability. Some of their classes are co-taught by a trained intervention specialist and a core subject teacher. The intervention specialist helps find ways to reach each special-needs student in the class, while also helping the generalist teach the class.

Almost all teachers in our district have students who have been identified with a disability. These students have individual education plans that teachers must know about and comply with the required accommodations. Some students need extra time to do their work, while others need to sit in the front of the room so they can see or hear better.

There are many accommodations to which students may be entitled. These students must be able to complete the curriculum in the same amount of time as everyone else, meaning that they take the same tests at the same time as students in the general population.

The laws governing special education are contradictory, which hurts our district. For example, some students may stay in school until they are 22 years old because that has been determined to benefit them and their families. But by doing so, our graduation rate on the state report card is lower. The law requires that we develop and implement individual education plans for students with special needs, but ultimately they are judged by the same standards as students in the general population.

Schools are not widget factories that are meant to produce identical objects. Schools produce students who are as different from one another as anyone can imagine. It is impossible to recognize and honor the uniqueness of students, while at the same time judge them by standardized tests.

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

Carla Rautenborg and Deborah Van Kleeft

In a democracy, “We the People” are sovereign—not “we the judges,” “we the corporations,” or even “we the elected officials.” In a monarchy, the monarch is sovereign. In a democratic republic, the primary way most of us can express ourselves as a free and sovereign people is in the voting booth. No wonder Americans have fought to expand the franchise since the early days of the republic, when only white male landowners could vote.

Of course, voting is not only a right, but a responsibility, and that entails much more than getting to the polls. As voters we are responsible for learning as much as possible about candidates and issues before marking our ballots. With a corporate media pandering for the apparently unlimited sums of money now routinely spent on political ads, that’s a real challenge.

Ohio Issue 2, the Drug Price Standards Initiative, is the latest dramatic example. The most expensive issue campaign in Ohio history, it is financially backed by the Los Angeles based AIDS Healthcare Foundation at a cost of over $6 million, and opposed by PhRMA, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which has spent more than $6 million to defeat it so far. It appears that, if passed, the initiative may or may not provide Ohioans relief from the high cost of prescription drugs, but will probably guarantee decades of employment for lawyers (paid for, one way or another, by Ohioans). The Ohio Move to Amend Network summarized the Issue 2 circus in a press release: “This is not the people of Ohio working out what is best for ourselves and our health care; it is a moneyed interests using their ability to spend unlimited amounts of cash to get their way. They do this with ads that target consumer fears and have no resemblance to facts . . . Similarly, the corporate media, flush with all the cash from ads purchased by both sides, are ignoring the core issue: the strangling of our democracy via money in elections and corporate rule. . . .”

At the local level, we have written about the difficulty of obtaining information about judicial candidates and incumbents. Those running for judge face particular constraints on the issues they may discuss, but it’s not that much easier to learn about other office-seekers.

‘Tis the season of the candidates’ forum, and we have attended a few. While we appreciate the efforts of those who organize these gatherings, the conventions that govern them often produce events that are stilted, constrained, uninformative, unsatisfying and, frankly, boring. The most serious problem, of course, is that citizens attend these events to glean information, and they don’t get much. While some sponsoring organizations allow no questions from the audience, others permit them only in writing and subject to vetting. Some even provide questions to candidates well in advance, allowing ample time for carefully prepared responses. Whatever happened to seeing how candidates think on their feet?

Why can’t we have a free and open exchange of ideas, with spontaneous dialogue between candidates and the community they seek to represent? Unfortunately, the guiding principle seems to be to maintain control, make sure the sponsors and the candidates look good, and avoid controversy at all costs. Is that what a vibrant democracy looks like?

As a friend of ours likes to say, it would be interesting to see elections in the United States run as though we really wanted people to vote. In addition to the changes we outlined last month to increase turnout in municipal contests, measures to increase turnout for every election could include:

• Designate Election Day a national holiday, extend it over more than one day, or vote on weekends.
• Stop the spread of restrictive voter identification laws, which disproportionately affect elderly, rural and African-American citizens.
• Above all, make it easier to become and stay registered. Ohio now purges those who have not voted in two years, a practice that is being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court this fall.
• The Brennan Center for Justice report, “The Case for Voter Registration Modernization” (2015), advocates making registration easy and convenient, whether online or in person at an array of government agencies and public places, such as libraries. The report also notes: “When you move, your registration should move with you. If you’re an eligible voter you should be a registered voter—period.” The center’s recommended changes could, it estimates, add 70 million voters to the rolls.

Carla Rautenborg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleeft is a musician and writer, who has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heights démocratie@gmail.com.
Public school advocacy: passing the torch

I spotted board members Jim Posch and Beverly Wright. When the new board is seated they will be the source of experience—with just four years of it between them. For the audience it was a chance to get a closer look at new leaders, while the board members were getting to know their future colleagues.

The questions were good and the responses were thoughtful. Their stump speeches and responses provided insight into their individual strengths, potential contributions and perspectives. The PTA had provided a format that was comfortable enough to let the candidates be themselves.

The four candidates—Tiera Briggs, Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis and Jodi Sourni—are all parents of children in the district. They agreed on many issues and often built off each other’s answers. They were never disrespectful of each other. The forum was not only informing the audience but seemed to be building understanding among members of a new team whose exact membership is yet to be determined. They came across as collaborators, not competitors. This is important for a job that depends on listening, learning and weighing options. The more the members know and trust each other, the more they will hear and consider different perspectives so together they can make better decisions.

My career and my personal life have been dedicated to uplifting the importance of public education in a democracy. I have focused on our school district and our responsibility as citizens to contribute to the success and stature of our local branch of public education, the Heights schools. It makes sense for me to remain focused on this issue, because I am part of the public that benefits from public education, but all effective advocacy relies on perpetual engagement of new voices.

I was reassured that evening that the next generation is invested! Whether there as a candidate or a voter, they had taken up advocacy for the common good. They stepped up to be elected leaders and a community that owns its schools.

The meeting was right up the street at Boulevard Elementary School, so I had no excuse. This is my school. I’ve been a volunteer there since my daughter started kindergarten in 1988. It has always been my most authentic source of connection to public education and inspiration about the work that teachers do every day, and it was hard to ignore the invitation to attend from fellow Boulevard enthusiast Kristi Bidinger. I headed up to school.

As is always the case, once I arrived I was glad I had left home. So much happens when people who care about their community come together.

This was a meeting for parents. As the oldest person there, I could have been the parent of most of those in attendance. The turnout was thrilling. The younger generation had overcome their own barriers to leaving home, so they could become informed about the candidates who want to lead the school district that their children attend.

Food and socializing preceded the business meeting. The sponsors smartly used the event for community building among the many individual school communities that make up our Tiger Nation. Most loyalty begins with your school, but that night they were there out of shared interest in their school district. They were there to help each other, the more members know and trust each other, the more they will hear and consider different perspectives so together they can make better decisions.

Whether there as a candidate or a voter, they had taken up advocacy for the common good. They stepped up to be elected leaders and a community that owns its schools.

I left the meeting happy. The school board’s old guard is passing the leadership torch to a fresh and thoughtful lineup of concerned parents and citizens. As a member of the community’s old guard, I could see that a new generation of invested parents is owning and aiding our schools. They have taken up the torch of community commitment to the common good—the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Schools.

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

SEPTeMBER 18, 2017

Present were Mayor Susan Infeld, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, Council members Cameron, John Rach, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Councilman Philip Eitel was unable to attend. Also absent were Luke McCormile, law director; William Sheehan, finance director; and Kelly Thomas, clerk of council. The meeting was held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Public comments

Firefighters union member Michael Dylan Brennan, who is running for University Heights mayor, said it was high time for the city to address the fire fighters union’s concerns, which were resolved by union representative Keith Kenner during public comments in June. The union is currently in contract negotiations with the city.

Cleveland Heights Community Center

Mayor Cameron and Resident Council board President Patrick Grogan-Myers said extending Cleveland Heights Community Center Road intersects Milford Road, which is pedestrian- and bike-friendly. The $100,000 for Livable Communities grant program, to apply for a grant from the Transportation Development Department for more information.

Firehouse renovations

Council approved a resolution, on emergency, for a grant from the federal government, to build the Firehouse renovations, to convert the space into an office. The project was approved by the city of Cleveland Heights. Councilman Rach also expressed disappointment that the project didn’t go out to bid. Although Councilman Weiss was vocal about her support for council’s position, she made the motion to approve the fund transfer saying it was unwise to have a negative account balance in the general fund.

Public works grant

Council approved a resolution, on emergency, for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to repave Washington Boulevard from Cedar to Wynne roads. The $1.1 million project would be shared with Cleveland Heights, which has funded $50,000 of the project. The city of Cleveland Heights will fund $200,000, and $500,000 will be funded by Cleveland Water. The remainder, $380,000, would be funded by the grant.

Leaf collection

Curbside leaf collection will begin on Monday, Oct. 16.

Park replaced

Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny is asking the contractor who seeded and planted the Noble Road project, which is located at the intersection of Noble Road and Euclid Avenue, to replace the park, benches and planters. Sidewalks on the east side of Cedar and Taylor roads would be extended for pedestrian safety. Councilman Weiss said that council unanomously approved a similar project on July 17, and set aside $25,000 to create four gateways.

Cedar-Taylor project

The mayor’s $1.98 Cedar-Taylor project, which will be presented to the University Heights Planning Commission, would comprise a park, benches and planters. Sidewalks on the east side of Cedar and Taylor roads would be extended for pedestrian safety. Councilman Weiss said that council unanimously approved a similar project on July 17, and set aside $25,000 to create four gateways. Councilman Weiss expressed concerns about the mayor’s spending, citing her $5,000 spending limit. Councilman Rach pointed out that council’s plan was designed to create businesses, not spend money on park projects. The mayor noted that she has sold four public spaces in her own community in the past.

Special permit denied

Council denied a South Beverly Boulevard resident’s appeal to overturn a ruling denying him a special one-year permit to park a commercial truck in his driveway. Councilman Sims said overturning the ruling would make it difficult for the city to enforce the new rules, and should not receive a special permit.

Regular comments

Sweatons Drive in Berkeleywood residents said Sweatons Drive is scheduled to open by year-end, will reduce their quality of life. Several cited concerns about ongoing early morning construction, while others worried that restaurant traffic will turn onto Fenway Drive. They suggested a noise, trash, and light pollution would lower their property values. Residents were vocal in stating that the cities of Brookline and University Heights did not notify them about the project.

John Carroll University: Two senators and a representative from the Cleveland Heights Development Department for more information.

GLEw OF WOMEN VOTERS

WEEKLY VOTER NEWSLETTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS’

University Heights Public Works Director Alex Mannarino attended a Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works meeting with officials from other cities. At that meeting, the county signaled a change in funding policy. County officials were looking for projects that were shovel-ready, that they could fund immediately, instead of waiting for the funding that was scheduled years later. Briley and Mannarino took advantage of the offer, citing Noble Road as a shovel-ready project and filling out the paperwork that day.

Noble Neighbors has noted that the resurfacing of Noble Road is significant beyond its contribution to smooth automobile travel. In the organization’s view, the resurfacing project signals Noble’s readiness for economic development projects, and fits with the knowledge and momentum that FutureHeights and Noble Neighbors gained from workshops they hosted about the Triangle District—the mixed-use area bounded by Noble, Warrensville Center and Mayfield roads—a gateway to Cleveland Heights.

Anticipating new development in the Triangle District, Briley and Mannarino have scheduled for 2018 the resurfacing of the single block of Warrensville Center Road that is north of Mayfield Road. This will complete road repairs for the entire district.

Other preparations for planning and development are already in motion by the city of Cleveland Heights.

Files of surplus materials, asphalt and concrete, as well as impounded cars, have been removed from the large city-owned service yard on the site of the former dairy in the Triangle District. Trees will be planted along the fence line on Noble Road, to mask the service yard while city officials determine its future.

Melissa Yasnow, chair of CH City Council’s Municipal Services Committee, considers the economic development of the Triangle District as critical for the city. Accordingly, her committee has placed a high priority on figuring out how the city uses the large parcels it owns in the district. The committee is considering whether there are better uses for these properties, and weighing how city services could be maintained if some of the properties were developed for other purposes.

Noble Neighbors has expressed its appreciation for the way city officials are responding to its requests for resources that will support development, some of it soon. The organization notes that first impressions of Cleveland Heights are formed daily by commuters westbound on Mayfield Road toward University Circle. Noble Neighbors sees a rebuilt Triangle District as a place that could contribute to a new narrative for the whole city.

For more about Noble Neighbors, visit www.nobleneighbors.com.

Brenda H. May is one of the leaders of Noble Neighbors.
Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

SEPTEmBER 18, 2017
Present were Mayor Cheryl Stephens, Vice Mayor Jason Stein, and council members Mary Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahil Seren, Michael Ungar and Melissa Yasnow. The meeting lasted from 7:55 to 8:15 p.m.

New firefighters and police officers
Before the regular meeting began, Fire Chief Dave Freeman conducted a swear-in ceremony for two new firefighters, and Police Chief Annette Mecklenburg conducted a swearing-in ceremony for five new police officers.

Objection to liquor permits
City Attorney Tamisha Briley reported that Police Chief Mackett is writing a letter to the Ohio Department of Liquor Control objecting to the liquor permits requested by Family Dollar Stores of Ohio Inc. (doing business as Family Dollar at 3070 Mayfield Road) based on a history of police calls and nuisance activity. Council approved a motion of support for the city attorney.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Council approved a resolution proclaiming October 2017 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Welcoming City guidelines
Council Member Seren announced that, building on council’s decision in February to declare Cleveland Heights a Welcoming City, he would be introducing a resolution to provide regulation and guidance for local activity relative to federal immigration enforcement. Public input will be welcomed.

Public comments
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus Residents Amy Dunbar, Carol Roe, Kahil Seren, Michael Ungar and Melissa Yasnow. The meeting lasted from 7:55 to 8:25 p.m.

Small business grant program
Council approved a grant agreement with Cuyahoga County to establish and fund the Cleveland Heights Small Business Performance Grant Program. The city will be able to make grants to local businesses using a $50,000 fund created with $50,000 from the city and $150,000 from Cuyahoga County.

Mayor Stephen’s report
As each council member gave their reports they commented on their support for the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus, their great related to the mass shooting in Las Vegas, and concern for gun violence. Mayor Stephens directed the city manager to set up a meeting with Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus to develop a framework for moving forward on the resolution (Cleveland Heights to an arts center) to an arts center. She also called for a moment of silence in honor of those who died in Las Vegas.

Public comments
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus Residents Amy Rosenbluth, Paul Volpe and Frank Lewin all reported on student activities (regarding the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus and asked for a meeting with the city to discuss their concerns). Mayor Stein asked if city support is critical and the time frame for action is limited.

Cleveland Heights City council candidates address Noble neighborhood concerns
Vince Reddy
Noble Neighbors sponsored a Cleveland Heights City Council candidates forum on Oct. 3, at Noble Road Presbyterian Church. Incumbent candidates Cheryl Stephens, Melissa Yasnow and Michael Ungar participated, and T. Nadia, who is running for a first term. Council Member Jason Stein, who is seeking re-election, was unable to attend and was represented by council Member Jason Stein.

Noble Neighbors leader Brenda May opened the forum. She explained that questions had been sought from residents, winnowed down to three, and sent to the candidates in advance of the event. May noted that the area served by Noble Neighbors covers two of the city’s eight square miles and is home to more than a quarter of its approximately 14,000 residents.

“The health of this part of the city is critical to the health of the city and school district,” she said.

Candidates were given time to make opening and closing remarks, and respond to the three questions: what they saw as assets and opportunities in Noble, how they would promote owner-occupancy, and how they would support the work already being done in the community.

Nadas talked about his experience working in health care, which involves working with people and listening to others, and went on to name some of his ideas: “one-stop shopping” for city services, an improved recycling system, and more collaboration between council members and city agencies.

Roe relayed Stein’s message about his lifelong residency, his education in the public schools, his work in support of children’s programming (Coventry), and his ideas: “There should be no barriers between citizens and members of council,” he said. Both he and Ungar stressed the importance of making the neighborhood welcoming.

According to Roe, Stein reported seeing Noble as the city’s greatest opportunity for development, and the importance of revitalizing its commercial districts. Roe also noted Stein’s efforts to strengthen rules related to certificates of occupancy, which could result in landlords having their certificates pulled if their taxes were delinquent, and his support for tax abatement for home improvement.

Stephens told the group her entire professional career had been focused on economic development and housing and “getting things done now.” She noted the importance of collaborating with regional and state organizations toward such goals as reversing the decline in home values in the Noble area.

A video of the forum, recorded by Richard Stewart of Dzigizo Media, can be viewed at www.nobleneighbors.com.

Vince Reddy is a FutureHeights board member and a 21-year resident of Cleveland Heights.
Fifth-grade students from Fairfax and Boulevard elementary schools helped beautify the Cedar Lee Business District earlier this fall when they painted a mural on a blank retaining wall at the long-vacant lot at Lee Road and Meadowbrook Boulevard.

At the start of the project, the students first learned about the architectural styles prevalent in Cleveland Heights. They then made their way to the wall, which had been painted a pale blue, creating a canvas upon which they painted their images for the public to view.

The fifth-graders were assisted by the Heights High Art Club’s Londyn Crenshaw and Mila Zelic, who designed parts of the mural and spent many hours before and after school working on it.

“This is a great example of place-making, or residents elevating places in their own community,” said Sruti Basu, director of community-building programs at FutureHeights, a community development corporation. “It is an acknowledgment of the artistic integrity of our community.”

Parent volunteers Krissy Dietrich Gallagher and Bill Schubert spearheaded the project to make-over the wall, which they said had been an eyesore.

“I hope this shows the kids that when you see something ugly in your community, you have the power to do something about it,” said Dietrich Gallagher.

The students completed the project prior to the 2017 Heights High Homecoming Parade on Oct. 6, which began at Fairfax Elementary School and traveled down Lee Road, past the site of the mural, to the high school at Cedar and Lee roads. The mural provided a colorful backdrop for the parade watch party, which took place in the Lee-Meadowbrook lot.

Ranen Reichstein is a FutureHeights intern and a student at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences with a concentration on community practice.
Schools now have a bike fleet to teach safe cycling

Cleveland Heights city employee First to use the fleet was Julie tires. The fleet includes 24 bikes, plus other gear from school to school. With that endorsement, Cleveland Heights looked to the example of the Chagrin Falls Safe Routes to School program. Its founder said that assembling a bike fleet to teach students safe cycling was the single best thing the program had done.

To make the most of its limited Safe Routes to School funding, Cleveland Heights city employee Jennifer Kuzma worked to purchase a trailer to convey bikes and other gear from school to school. The fleet includes 24 bikes, plus helmets and a compressor to fill tires.

First to use the fleet was Julie Lustic, physical education (PE) teacher at Canterbury Elementary School. She reported, “This is a fantastic addition to our curricu-

To make the most of its limited Safe Routes to School funding, Cleveland Heights looked to the example of the Chagrin Falls Safe Routes to School program. Its founder said that assembling a bike fleet to teach students safe cycling was the single best thing the program had done.

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Watch my video at brennan4uhvideo.com

Peace Lutheran Church will host two fall events

Louisa Garlok

Peace Lutheran Church, the consoli-
dation of Hope Lutheran and Bethleh-
em Lutheran churches, is planning two fall events—Permaculture Day on Saturday, Nov. 4, and Novemberfest on Saturday, Nov. 11.

The church’s garden committee is offering a free half-day permaculture ses-

I’D BE HONORED to be your next mayor

My name is Michael Dylan Brennan, and I am a candidate for Mayor of University Heights. I first moved to this beautiful city in 1998. My wife, Gina, and I have made this our home for the last eleven years. In addition to volunteering my time to community and charitable organizations both in the Heights and across the region, I’m an attorney practicing in the areas of business litigation, consumer protection, employment rights, and animal rights.

University Heights is a beautiful, livable community with tremendous unrealized potential. I’m running for Mayor because I believe University Heights is missing too many opportunities that are right in front of us. We need a leader in city hall with vision and a plan who listens to residents and works collaboratively with city council to move us forward together. I believe I can be that leader and I respectfully ask for your vote.

Together, we will reach new heights!

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7

Free books mailed to your young child!

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

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St. Paul's offers new adaptive worship

Kim Fry

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is offering a new experience of ecumenical worship. All God's Children service is designed to appeal to families with children of any age, and is especially appropriate for people with special needs. The community is invited to gather in the church's Tucker Hall at 5 p.m. on Nov. 19. Services will be held on the third Sunday of the month thereafter.

In this service—a lively combination of music, prayer, Bible stories, movement, and Communion—there is no need to be still or quiet. The essential message of God's love and joy for all God's children is presented in a simplified, meaningful way.

Meg von der Heydt, director of Children's Ministries at St. Paul's, designed the All God's Children service to be participatory as each person's ability permits, and to accommodate the widest range of behaviors. Parents and aides may also attend the short service followed by a time of fellowship. St. Paul's rector, the Rev. Jeanne Leinbach, will celebrate. All God's Children provides a way for all families to connect with the community of faith, and experience meaningful, full-bodied faith formation while being nourished at the Lord's table.

The church is located at 2547 Fairmount Blvd., and is wheelchair accessible. To find out more about the service, contact Meg von der Heydt at 216-932-5815.

Don King

Forest Hill Church hosts annual bazaar

Peg Weissbrod

If the closing of Cleveland Heights' fair trade stores Revive and Ten Thousand Villages has left you searching for local, fair trade gifts this holiday season, consider attending Forest Hill Presbyterian Church's annual fair trade bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Featuring fair trade vendors, as well as local artists and craftspeople, this year's bazaar will include One World Shop, Canaan Fair Trade, Holy Land Handicrafts, Around the World Treasures, and Revy Fair Trade. Local businesses will include Golden Goddess, a line of sustainable, organic cosmetics produced and sold by Cleveland Heights resident Ajah Hales.

New this year will be special low-cost items, so children can shop for their friends and family. Fair trade commerce helps to break the chains of poverty in economically disadvantaged regions, ensures that no child or forced labor is used, and that the goods are produced in safe and healthy working conditions using environmentally sustainable resources and practices. In addition, supporting local business keeps economic benefits in our community.

As in the past, all festival proceeds go directly to the vendors and their fair trade partners. The church is located at 3031 Monticello Blvd., and is wheelchair accessible. To find out more about the festival, contact Peg Weissbrod at 216-932-5815.

Kim Fry is the director of communications at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Interfaith Thanksgiving eve service welcomes all community members

Don King

The Heights community is invited to an interfaith Thanksgiving eve service on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m. Serving as host for this special service will be the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church, 3745 Mayfield Road, just east of Severance Town Center.

The theme for the evening's service is "Welcoming the Stranger: We're All Foreigners." Those gathered will be invited to consider how each of us is an outsider in some way, and how we can try to offer the gift of hospitality to all persons within our area. Following the evening's worship, all attendees will be invited to the fellowship hall for refreshments and further conversation.

The service is an offshoot of the work of the InterFaith Council of Cleveland Heights, which offered this annual gathering for many years. The council no longer meets regularly, but members of the Heights community have continually expressed an interest in gathering ecumenically at this time of year. Representatives from several local congregations are serving on the planning team. All are invited to attend.

Don King serves as Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church. A resident of Cleveland Heights since 1985, he has served congregations, and been active in the local interfaith community, since 1999.
Heights Observer November 1, 2017

Cleveland Heights appoints 15 to charter review commission

Kim Sergio Inglis

At its Oct. 16 meeting, members of Cleveland Heights City Council named 15 appointees to the city’s Charter Review Commission. They are: Patrycja Ajdukiewicz, Jessica Cohen, Craig Cobb, Michael Gaynier, C. Randolph Keller, Howard Maier, John Newman Jr., David Perelman, Carla Rautenberg, Vincent Reddy, Maia Rucker, Allosious Snodgrass, Katherine Solender, James Vail and Sarah West.

Cleveland Heights voters originally adopted the city’s charter in 1921. The document defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city’s government. In 1972, an amendment to the charter set forth that “Council shall, at least once during each ten-year period, by ordinance or resolution, determine whether to appoint a Charter Review Commission to review the entire Charter. The first ten-year period shall end December 31, 1982. Thereafter each successive ten-year period shall commence on the date of Council’s ordinance or resolution making such determination.” The last time the city convened a charter review was in 1982.

The commission’s charge is to “conduct fact-finding as appropriate and identify issues to study and address, including, as examples only, Cleveland Heights’ form of government, anti-discrimination language, ‘emergency actions,’ term limits, etc. If the commission should decide to consider any significant changes to the current form of government, thorough due diligence is expected as part of the process.”

Council selected the 15 members of the charter commission from among 57 residents who applied. Each council member appointed one individual; the remaining eight were appointed by council as a whole.

“I want to thank all these individuals for their time and commitment to Cleveland Heights and its future,” said Cleveland Heights Mayor Cheryl Stephens. “The work they are about to undertake can have a meaningful impact on our city for the long-term. In addition to welcoming our 15 members, I’d like to thank all of the residents of the city of Cleveland Heights who took the time to apply. I applaud your effort and interest.”

The city has contracted with Lawrence F. Keller, associate professor emeritus of the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, to serve as the independent facilitator for the commission. His role will be to lead the charter review process, and assist the commission in reaching conclusions and making recommendations.

All charter commission meetings will be open to the public. Once the meeting dates have been finalized, they will be posted on the city’s website, at www.clevelandheights.com.

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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EXPERIENCE, DEDICATION, & FAIRNESS

Cleveland Heights Residents, I am James Costello and I am running for Cleveland Heights Municipal Court Judge. Our Court is one of the busiest municipal courts in the area dealing with everyday issues that affect all of us. This is an important position and deserves your thoughtful consideration and your vote, on November 7th. I am dedicated to Cleveland Heights, I was raised here. I delivered the Sun Press, bagged groceries at Russo’s, and sold cars at Motorcars. Growing up here helped shape who I am. My wife, Alicia, and I have chosen to make this our home and raise our two sons in this diverse and creative community.

I have the experience needed to serve as your Judge. I am a current Acting Judge in the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court, appointed two years ago by our retiring Judge Buchanan. I sit on the bench as Judge and decide cases, conduct pretrials, determine appropriate protection orders, set bail, and sentence those found guilty. After graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, I opened my practice here in Cleveland Heights, representing indigent defendants in traffic and criminal cases in our Court. In my twelve years as a practicing attorney, I have handled a vast array of every type of case that gets heard in our Municipal Court including civil and small claims cases, evictions, and housing code violation cases.

I understand what it takes, and I am prepared to be your Judge. I am engaged in our community. I served on the Cleveland Heights Recreation Advisory Board and the Cleveland Heights Civil Service Commission. I am a graduate of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy, which improved my understanding of our Police Department and its operations. I am a longtime member of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club. I mentored in the Cleveland schools through the 3Rs program set up by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. My oldest son is a first grader in our public schools and I am an active PTA member. I am known and respected throughout Cleveland Heights. I have a strong base of supporters who know me as a kid, have seen me advocate on behalf of my clients as an attorney, and have served this City with me. As a result, I have already been endorsed by many of our public servants as well as a wide range of Cleveland Heights citizens. I am proud to be endorsed by the Cleveland Heights Democrats in this race. However, I will never let any individual or my political affiliation interfere with my independence, integrity, and impartiality. I am committed to the vitality of Cleveland Heights.

I have extensive experience handling housing code violations cases in municipal courts throughout Ohio. As an Acting Judge in Cleveland Heights, I know both the power of the Court to address housing issues and the limitations of that judicial power. I believe the preservation of our housing stock is essential to the future success of our community, and I know there are steps the Court can take to ensure the best outcomes. I am ready to commit the Court to ongoing community forums to address these issues, seeking involvement from homeowners, commercial and residential landlords, tenants, nonprofits, our housing inspectors, and our City government. I also have the expertise to bring innovative solutions to the problem of absentee landlords and vacant bank-owned properties on day one.

I am committed to the safety of our community. Offenders need to be punished for their crimes, but they may also need to be given the tools necessary to change their path. Shipping the problems of Cleveland Heights off to another court is not the solution. We need to move closer to the problem and take innovative solutions to the housing stock is a step in the right direction.

I am a longtime member of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy. I have the expertise to bring innovative solutions to the problem of gang activity and the driver’s license suspension diversion program that helps youth stay away from these issues. As Judge, I will do everything in my power to serve as an agent of justice and protect our community.

Your vote for Municipal Court Judge, and the outcome of this race, will have a serious and lasting effect on Cleveland Heights. I seek your vote to be the Judge and public servant that Cleveland Heights needs and deserves. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your vote, James Costello
Scott Wortman

The North Coast Ohio Chapter of US Lacrosse has honored Terry Saylor, Heights High's girls lacrosse coach, for his outstanding contributions to the sport of lacrosse in the region, and his accomplishments as head coach at Cleveland Heights High School.

The organization inducted Saylor into its Hall of Fame at a Sept. 15 ceremony held at the Urban Community School in Cleveland, the site of the new Lacrosse Communities Pilot Project.

Two Cleveland Heights High School alumnae, Eve Tranchito ('10) and Zoe Jones ('07), presented the award to their former coach.

Also in attendance at the Sept. 15 ceremony were Heights alumni and former lacrosse player Kelly Jones ('11), and current Heights senior Lauren Iott, captain of the 2017-18 Heights lacrosse team.

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

Heights High seniors Melanie Graham and Mary Jane Reinhardt have been named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists in the 2018 competition, and now have the opportunity to advance to the finalist level and qualify for National Merit Scholarships. William Hopkins and Rosalind Madorsky were named 2018 Commended Students, placing among the top 1 percent of the students who entered.

Nationally, 16,000 semifinalists were recognized, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, as were 34,000 commended students. More than 1.6 million students entered the National Merit Scholarshipqualifying competition by taking the PSAT test in the fall of their junior year.

Hopkins is enrolled in Ohio’s College Credit Plus (CCP) and takes physics and English literature at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and statistics at John Carroll University. Her Heights High courses are AP calculus and symphony. She plays violin in the Heights High Symphony and the Cleveland Youth Orchestra, and mellophone in the marching band. “I like being around others who are interested in music,” she said. Graham is also a captain of the swim team and a member of the National Honor Society. After graduation she plans to study aerospace or mechanical engineering.

Reinhardt is enjoying Heights High’s AP literature and composition class. “The literary analysis is very high caliber and really interesting,” she said. She is president of the Model UN club, and plays bass drum in the marching band. “The marching band is a great place to have fun and meet friends,” said Reinhardt. She has had lead roles in several school musicals, is part of the theater program and is a member of the National Honor Society. In college, she plans to study political science and journalism, in preparation for law school.

Madorsky especially liked the AP economics class she took last year and enjoyed reading about the connection between the social sciences and economic issues. Part of the CCP program, Madorsky is taking an English class at CWRU, and is a member of the National Honor Society. As a member of the City Club Youth Forum, she helped plan the September affirmative action forum, and is the social action vice president of the Reformed Jewish Youth Movement’s regional board. Madorsky plans to study economics and environmental studies in college.

Hopkins is taking AP calculus, literature and composition, chemistry, and psychology, and participates in symphonic winds and the jazz ensemble. “Music has taught me that if I am persistent and work hard, I can see the results,” said Hopkins. He plays trumpet in both music groups and, in the marching band, he is sergeant of the trumpet section. He is a member of National Honor Society and Heights High’s tennis team, and plans to study computer science in college.

On Friday, Oct. 6, Heights High’s homecoming celebration embraced community. "The literary analysis is very high caliber and really interesting," said Hopkins. He plays bass drum in the marching band. "The marching band is a great place to have fun and meet friends," said Reinhardt. She has had lead roles in several school musicals, is part of the theater program and is a member of the National Honor Society. In college, she plans to study political science and journalism, in preparation for law school.

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Gesu dedicates new STREAM center

On Sept. 10, Gesu Catholic School hosted a Mass of Thanksgiving and Dedication of the new Gesu Educational Center for STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math) Learning. Pastor Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, Principal Lucy Iemmolo, STREAM Coordinator Marjorie Gessner, and eighth-grader Annie K. Koppitch all spoke to the donors and guests about the new STREAM center and the opportunities it is providing the 630-plus students at Gesu.

The $1.1 million renovation project and STREAM initiative began about three years ago and, with the funds raised, the school began construction in fall 2016. The construction occurred in three phases, with phase one including a new science lab. In phase two, the largest renovation, the old religious education center transformed into a modern STREAM center featuring two maker spaces, a classroom, two offices and a renovated chapel. The new spaces feature a laser cutter, three 3D printers, one large and two small vinyl cutters, two sewing machines, a T-shirt press, a poster maker and two Clevertouch boards. In the final phase of construction, which occurred this past summer, the Art Room, Boy Scout/Community Room and hallways received fresh paint, flooring, lighting and furniture.

The faculty and staff have worked to integrate STREAM into the school’s kindergarten through eighth-grade curriculum. STREAM education emphasizes problem-based learning, in which students learn about a subject through the experience of solving an open-ended problem. Students often work in teams to discuss and analyze the problems and possible solutions. The faculty continues to participate in professional development and modify its teachings so they are modern and impactful on student achievement.

To strengthen and enhance the STREAM initiative, Gesu has established formal and informal relationships with higher education institutions, businesses and community organizations. These partners support Gesu’s STREAM program by providing learning experiences, materials, and financial support. To date the following organizations have formally partnered with Gesu’s STREAM initiative: John Carroll University, Hyland Software, Cleveland Clinic, Ursuline College, Cleveland Museum of Art and Accenture.

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

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CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

November is National Alzheimer’s Awareness month. On Nov. 9, 13:00-3:30, the Center 4 Brain Health will offer free memory screenings, by appointment, at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC).

Memory screenings are not used to diagnose memory impairments, but are an initial step toward finding out if further medical testing might be beneficial. Memory screenings are also appropriate for individuals who want a baseline measure to which they will be able to compare future memory performance.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you may want to consider calling 216-691-7377 to schedule a screening appointment:

- Am I becoming more forgetful?
- Do I have trouble recalling words or names in conversation?
- Do I forget where I am or where I am going?
- Am I becoming more forgetful?
- Have family members or friends told me that I am repeating questions or comments? Are they noticing changes in my mood, behavior or desire to do things?

Exercise, socialization and learning new activities have all been found to aid memory and benefit brain health. SAC offers many brain-stimulating activities. SAC, located in the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a 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 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.

UH Senior Happenings

Senior Happenings, sponsored by the city of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by 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.

- Nov. 2: Karen Gahl-Mills, chief executive officer and executive director of Cayahoga Arts & Culture, will reflect on the organization’s first decade. In 10 years, 2007-2017, it has distributed $158 million in public funds to 350 community organizations.
- Nov. 9: Rachel Kribbs, Cleveland Institute of Music’s director of community programming, will introduce instrumentalists and vocalists from the school, who will perform.
- Nov. 16: Brian Zimmerman, chief executive officer of Cleveland Metroparks, which is celebrating its centennial, will discuss the park’s many assets. These include 18 reservations, eight golf courses, 300-plus miles of trails, Edgewater Beach and Euclid Creek.
- Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day. No program is scheduled.
- Nov. 30: Edgerton Road resident Neil Gould, and his longtime jamming partner from Bay Village, Dave Franduto, will perform an eclectic mix of tunes on their acoustic guitars.
The Heights High annual fall production, “Shrek, The Musical,” takes place Nov. 2, 3 and 4, at 7 p.m., and Nov. 5, at 4 p.m. The show, which will be presented in the renovated Heights High auditorium, will feature more than 200 high school students performing in the two casts and the pit orchestra, and managing backstage operations. Nearly 175 elementary students and 60 middle school students will sing in the chorus. The show’s theme of friendship and acceptance is relevant to the lead performers, who spoke about the show recently. “The finale song [“This Is Our Story”] is really the theme of the show,” said senior Hannah Gilson, who plays Fiona, as does her twin sister, Sophie. “The chorus is ‘we are different and united, you are us and we are you, this is our story.’ That describes Heights High and the Vocal Music Department.” Senior Bella Marotta, who plays the dragon, said, “Part of the show’s message is ‘yes, you might be a freak, but we accept you.’” Junior Alyssa Smith, also in the role of dragon, loved learning the dance steps, while senior Malcolm White, who plays the donkey, said, “Learning more about comedy and playing a role that gets to annoy people has been really fun.”

The show’s producer is Vocal Music Director Jesse Lange. “This show is family-friendly but with some great adult humor,” he said. “It has a healthy message for students and adults and uses our deep talent pool.”

For the past two years the high school was temporarily located at Wiley, and the space was not big enough to accommodate a larger cast with the younger students. “We love including the younger students,” Lange said. “It adds so much fun to the show. Most of our lead performers remember being in the fall musicals when they were younger. Now they get to be the role models for the next generation of Heights High performers.”

Tickets, $15, $12 and $9, are available online at www.clevelandheightschoirs.com/purchase-tickets-for-shrek.html, or by calling 866-967-8167. For more information, call 216-320-3069.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.
‘The Hairy Ape’ opens Nov. 17 at Ensemble

COURTESY ENSEMBLE THEATRE

Heights Arts seeks next CH poet laureate

Rachel Bernstein

Heights Arts has begun the process of selecting the ninth Cleveland Heights poet laureate, who will serve from April 2018 to March 2020. The term of the current Cleveland Heights poet laureate, Christine Howey, ends March 31, 2018.

Poets from across Northeast Ohio are encouraged to apply. Candidates are not required to live in Cleveland Heights, but must demonstrate a strong connection to the city.

Heights Arts will accept online applications through Dec. 31. Detailed information about the responsibilities of the Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate are available on the Heights Arts website, www.heightsarts.org.

The Heights Writes Committee of Heights Arts will review applications and conduct interviews in January and February. A final selection will be made by March 2018.

Rachel Bernstein is the executive director of Heights Arts.

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Judson is the perfect place for us!”
— Jim and Nina Gibans, Judson Park residents since 2016

Stalwarts of the Cleveland arts-and-culture scene, Nina and Jim Gibans had accumulated a lifetime’s worth of memories in their Shaker Heights home. But when health demands challenged their independent lifestyle, the couple agreed it was time to move to Ambler Court - a beautifully renovated assisted living neighborhood that offers signature programing and care in an ideal environment for those in need of increased assistance.

“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.

Learn about Assisted Living at Judson Park. Call (216) 446-1845 to arrange for a tour today.

Visit www.judsonsmartliving.org and click Judson Park
November 1965. I had just started 11th grade at Heights High, though I wasn’t involved or engaged in school very much. I just showed up in the morning and left in the afternoon. In the morning I smoked a cigarette right up to the school’s property line; in the afternoon, I lit up a cigarette the second I hit Lee Road. In the morning I hitched a ride to school from Mayfield and Superior roads. After school, I walked down Washington Boulevard to Coventry Road and stopped at one of the three bakeries there to get a sweet roll to eat on the rest of the way to my house on Belmar, just off of Mayfield. I skipped school a lot, and often cut classes on days I did show up.

So, in other words, I spent that formative time learning bad habits—and I haven’t mentioned several others.

One particular early-November weekend that year, my friend, whom I’ll call Stuart, and I started out Friday evening at his mother’s apartment on Hampshire Road, writing a song—a fairly-weak pretend-Beatles song—sitting on two beds in his room, each with a guitar, facing each other and hammering out the music and lyrics.

This wasn’t my first song, and I wrote hundreds more after that. It was not a great song. But just three years later I was in New York signing a contract with a music publisher. So it was part of my training, and that’s what was important.

Stuart and I then left his apartment, dressed like Beatles—me with tight black pants, “Beatle boots” (high-top, soft-leather shoes with two-inch Cuban heels), black turtle-neck sweater and black sport coat—and started walking all around the Coventry area, and talking. Coventry was not yet the hippie haven it became a couple of years later, though the transition had somewhat subtly begun.

Around midnight, we found ourselves on the Coventry School playground. The original school had two playgrounds. The gigantic upper one ran along Washington Boulevard and the smaller lower playground was situated on the Euclid Heights side.

The lower playground had two of those big concrete sewer pipes, perpendicular to each other. Stuart and I each crawled into a different one and continued talking. We could hear each other well because it was quiet out there, plus the pipes amplified our voices. We talked for a couple of hours more before falling asleep.

We woke up early, probably because the pipes were so uncomfortable, and resumed walking. We reached the Cedar Fairmount district and headed directly to the Toddle House, a diner-type restaurant that got burned down a year or so later. We had toast and coffee, and chatted with various unsavory characters, one of whom later became the arsonist in question.

We went back to Stuart’s apartment and played music together for most of the day, and then headed to a third—equally unsupervised—friend’s house to play music with him, and then crashed at his place for the night.

It was my training ground. Most of our contemporaries spent that time of their lives in school, learning math and science and things they’d use in life. I spent those years learning bad habits, practicing being homeless, and playing music. All of which I would soon use in life. Within a couple of years I was taking drugs, living as a homeless person and becoming a professional musician.

A bad drug experience led to my quitting all drugs, drinking and smoking, forever. The homelessness lasted a couple of years, then I got myself together. The music thing never went away—though of the three areas discussed, that one is the least destructive. Stuart’s doing fine. I’m doing fine. The third guy, not so much—still homeless and with untreated mental problems.

Cleveland Heights was and is a beautiful place to live. Heights High was and is a great school. But not all of us use those things in the same ways. I used the city to learn how to live on the streets. I used the school for music training only. But all of it didn’t only prepare me for life. It also led to my development as a proud bleeding-heart liberal. I understand how and why people feel the need to escape parts of their lives via drugs and alcohol. I empathize with people who live in non-traditional situations, because of conditions that have gotten out of their control and/or maybe due to some form and degree of mental illness. And I appreciate how important learning music and other arts can be and how it can literally save people’s lives.

Cleveland Heights—the city and the school system—values arts and arts education, for which I’m glad I grew up here and still live here. Neither condones drug use or encourages homelessness. Somehow, I discovered those on my own.

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

Help us celebrate! Mark your calendars so you don’t miss the grand re-opening of our beautifully renovated University Heights branch.

Tour the space, bring your little ones to play in the new Children’s area, enjoy refreshments courtesy of Whole Foods, and more.

The Heights: training ground, for better or worse.
Future Heights grant benefits refugee-outreach efforts

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System has received a FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grant in the amount of $875 to help pay for its Driver’s Education Scholarships for Refugees program at its Noble Neighborhood branch.

“Cleveland Heights’ Noble neighborhood is home to roughly 300 legally resettled refugees, the majority of whom are Nepali speakers from Nepal and Bhutan. The library already offers support services to the community through a variety of programs such as English classes, citizenship classes, and the drop-in Welcome Hub, which offers refugees and immigrants an informal space where they can find resources and fellowship.

“Since I started working with the refugee community here at Heights Libraries, I’ve heard from the community’s representatives that a lack of access to transportation holds the group back in many ways,” said Stephen Sanders, adult services librarian. “We hope this program will help them.”

The program will provide scholarships to pay for driving instruction for five adult participants who have temporary driving permits. Lessons will be provided by Heights Driving School, a local business.

In addition to expanding job opportunities, the ability to drive will also give refugees expanded access to shopping, childcare, and places outside of their immediate neighborhood.

“I think that a community as diverse as Cleveland Heights will only benefit from seeing these refugees around town,” said Sanders. “They would no longer just be ‘those refugees on the other side of town;’ they would be visible members of the community.”

Sheryl Banks is the communications manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.

Library establishes teen council

Jay Rozen

New this fall to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System is the establishment of a Teen Library Council. The council is open to all teens and seeks to increase teen participation at Heights Libraries, strengthen teen library programming and give teens an opportunity to positively impact the community.

The council first met on Sept. 6 and meets the first and third Wednesday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m., at the Lee Road Library’s Levey Room. Council meetings are open to all teens, and participation can count toward volunteer requirements students may need to graduate.

The council hit the ground running in its first three meetings. Though primarily focused on coordinating hurricane relief efforts, it also planned a number of teen library programs and is organizing a food and clothing drive for local homeless shelters. It has also worked to establish a Black fiction section in the Teen Room of the Lee Road Library.

Payton Meeks, circulation assistant, and Becca Fisher, youth services associate, are the driving forces behind this project. Motivated by a desire to increase teen involvement at Heights Libraries, and correct what they see as an unfair perception of teens as irresponsible and unruly, they came together last spring to brainstorm solutions. The result was the establishment of the Teen Library Council.

“I’m very glad and proud at the involvement at Heights Libraries, by a desire to increase teen participation at Heights Libraries. It includes results of completed surveys on library programs and services, such as the summer reading program, as well as programs that are in the process of being surveyed or that will be surveyed in the future, such as the Hotspot Lending Program. Twenty-five parents and caregivers, and 36 children and teens completed evaluation surveys for the summer reading program. According to the surveys, 96 percent of parents and caregivers reported that their children maintained or increased their reading skills, and 92 percent said their children are more confident readers. Ninety-one percent of children and teens want to use the library more often, and 85 percent enjoy reading more. Board Member Ross asked that the number of survey responses seemed low, and there was discussion and inquiry about methods to increase survey responses.

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Kensington Pub to open in former TavCo space

Longtime Cleveland Heights residents and restaurant enthusiasts Brad Po and Jeff King took their time shopping around for the perfect spot in which to open their own pub and eatery. When the two storefronts at the corner of Lee and Kensington roads, formerly occupied by The Tavern Company (before that business moved across and down Lee Road), became available, both men saw it as an opportunity to revive the iconic, local space as a neighborhood hangout.

Friends for more than 20 years, Po and King worked together previously at local and regional establishments, including Johnny’s Little Bar, Red, and Moxie. King currently manages La Cav du Vin in Coventry Village.

They hope to open Kensington Pub’s doors by December of this year, but Po is hesitant to name a definitive date. “We are working to revitalize as much of the original charm as possible,” Po said.

One of their first tasks was to strip and refinish both the original bar and all of the original dining tables. The result is a glossy sea of wood that both dresses up the space while revealing its long history—including old nicks and cigarette burns beneath the shiny new coats of polyurethane.

They also repainted all 87 dining chairs, and Po’s girlfriend is currently reupholstering each seat to match accents in the dining rooms. The entire interior will be repainted in the next couple months, including parts of the ceiling that were formally concealed by foam board, which, in keeping with Po and King’s vision, should open up and brighten the space.

Their most ambitious design plans involve reinstalling windows on the Kensington Road side of the building, and potentially opening up space between the front of the restaurant and the outdoor patio on Lee Road.

Specifically, they’re discussing plans with their landlord to install a garage door or inside/outside bar in the spring, in what is now a front window. King expressed much pride in “being able to give the place a facelift.”

The partners are also ordering equipment, supplies and menu items. Po explained that Kensington Pub will be a scratch kitchen.

“We will offer good, upscale pub fare; no heavy or fried foods,” he said. “A diner will be able to order a traditional sandwich, burger, or salad, or try something off of the moderately higher priced la carte menu.”

Po wants customers to have “lots of options to eat relatively inexpensively or indulge.” The restaurateurs don’t plan to keep an industrial freezer on the premises, so “the food is guaranteed to be fresh.”

Kensington Pub will be open seven days a week, with food served until 2 a.m. on some nights, and there will be a regular Sunday brunch offering. As Po puts it, “We want everyone to feel comfortable: families, students, people returning late from work or out-of-town.”

Po and King said they have marveled at the “couple hundred” people who have already peeked their heads in or stopped by to talk, and they’re excited that so many have expressed enthusiasm to have a neighborhood pub and restaurant once again fill the vacant corner space. “We haven’t put any papers in the window because we want people to see the changes we’re making.”

Jessica Shantz is the Heights Observer’s e-news manager and a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.
Heights Arts Holiday Store opens Nov. 3

Mary Ryan

What began in 2002 as a tiny Lee Road pop-up with a few local artists has blossomed into the 16th annual Heights Arts Holiday Store, featuring creative items by about 100 Northeast Ohio visual artists and artisans, writers and musicians.

“We’ve been planning this year’s store since June, and are fortunate to have intern Megan Jones, a student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, help us identify new and exciting artists for the expanded holiday store,” said Executive Director Rachel Bernstein. “Megan is collaborating with manager Courtney Young to make this the best holiday store in our history!”

Visitors will find new giftable art from many of their favorite makers, plus an impressive curated selection of items by artists new to the store.

“In addition to ceramics, jewelry, art on paper, and glass by popular favorites such as Mark Yasenchak, Catherine Butler, Julie Edberg, and Sue Berry, we’re thrilled about the variety of new works from more than 20 new artists—ranging from adorable, needle-felted animals by Erin Carlson to handcrafted ceramicware from Amy Halko, and abstract prints from Nicole Schneider,” said Young.

New this year is a holiday gift registry, which enables visitors to jot down items they’d love to receive as gifts; friends or family members can then access the registry when they stop in.

In addition, Heights Arts has commissioned handmade Judaica, thanks to funding from the Mandel Foundation, and will have a custom ceramic menorah and pewter mezuzot available for order.

The holiday store is stocked with new, handmade items on a weekly basis, so visitors can shop early and often, and always find something new. A public opening celebration is planned for Friday, Nov. 3, 7–9 p.m., with a members’ preview 5–7 p.m. Special holiday shopping nights are planned throughout the season, including “Manly Mondays” on Nov. 20 and Dec. 11, when “significant others” can sip and shop and enjoy free gift wrapping for all purchases.

For more information on participating artists and expanded holiday store hours, visit www.heightsarts.org or call the community arts nonprofit at 216 371 1547.

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

Studio How-To brings handmade to the holidays

Sruti Basu

Studio How-To owner Sarah Nemecek hopes to help people enjoy the holiday season even more by offering special gift-making classes. In her studio at 2140 Lee Road, Nemecek provides instruction on how to make things for friends and family, both for the pleasure of giving and for the experience of learning and socializing with others while creating.

Nemecek’s goal is to remove the stigma of the handmade gift, replacing the weird-colored, ill-fitting handmade sweater with cool, modern, useful handmade gifts that anyone would be thrilled to receive, proud to give, and capable of making.

For the past several years, Nemeeck has been making and exchanging handmade gifts, activities and tools with her family and friends. The spirit of giving got lost with the stress of crowds and shopping. We started questioning why we were giving presents that no one needed or wanted,” said Nemecek. She got her whole family and several friends involved, and now their focus is on finding new ways to impress and delight one another with handmade items.

Nemeeck teaches handcraft and art workshops at Studio How-To year-round, but will focus on skills and projects for gift-making during November and December.

Her approach is to teach students the skills to get started and send them home with a completed project, along with enough know-how to repeat the process, customize, troubleshoot and expand.

Studio How-To offers classes for both adults and kids, primarily on weekends and evenings. For the holidays, Nemecek will offer parent and child combination classes. “My son loves taking classes with my husband or me, and it can be a lot of fun and great bonding for parents and kids to learn together,” Nemecek explained.

Nemecek also hosts private workshops and parties for groups that want to tackle something new and fun together. “Picture getting a group of friends together to learn how to knit or sew a basic project, and then making several for everyone on your list,” suggested Nemecek.

Studio How-To recently added a small gallery space, SH 2 Gallery, which exhibits works for sale by local Cleveland artists who also teach or lecture at the studio. Studio How-To also has partnered with ARTneo: The Museum of Northeast Ohio Art to display pieces from its permanent collection at SH 2 Gallery and combine themes from the collection with special classes.

For the holidays, the gallery will exhibit ARTneo’s collection of holiday cards, made by Cleveland artists from the past several decades, and Nemecek is planning one or more holiday card-making workshops. For those who like the idea of handmade, but not making something themselves, Nemecek offers gift certificates for classes.

For more information, visit www.studiohowto.com.

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

Heights Arts annual holiday store.

Sat NOV 25

Inside Studio How-To.
2017 Holiday Gift Guide

Find something for everyone on your list at the many independent merchants in the Heights. Most will gift wrap or ship your items, too. Here are some of our favorites:

**STOCKING STUFFERS ($10 OR LESS)**

1. **Stress-Fix Body Crème**, trial size. De-stress on the go with this soothing lavender cream. ($9.00, Quintana’s Barber and Dream Spa)

2. **Notecards, posters and postcards of signature Reproduction Freedom Flag**, an art quilt to celebrate women’s reproductive rights. (Notecards $10.00 for a pack of 8, posters $12.00, The Liberal Artist) www.theliberartist.com

3. **Hand-stitched toy mice** with catnip by artist Jen Craun. For each purchase, one is donated to the Cleveland APL. ($7.00, Heights Arts)

4. **Beer Prepared**, a bottle opener that fits in your pocket ($3.99, Mac’s Backs)

5. **Morning Song gardens soaps, locally made, assorted scents**. ($7.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

6. **Morning Song gardens soaps, locally made, assorted scents**. ($7.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

7. **Ouch! Bandages, assorted designs**. ($5.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

8. **Mini karaoke microphone**. The mini mike attaches to your phone for karaoke on the go. Plug the mike into the headphone jack on the phone, download the free app identified on the package, choose your song and sing along. You can make a video of your performance. ($10.00, Pinwheel Kids)

9. **Assorted coasters**. ($5.00 each, In the 216)

10. **Essential oil lip balms**. ($3.00 each, The Cleveland Candle Co.)


12. **Sandwich Anarchy** by author/illustrator John G. A collection of 10 years of Melt Bar & Grilled posters into one volume, from the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon Melt to the Brat Pack Breakfast Club Melt (Pixy Stix included!), along with the stories behind the images ($25.00 to $30.00, depending on location, Melt, Appletree Books, Mac’s Backs)

**GIFTS LESS THAN $50**

- **Bath bombs made with shea butter**. ($7.50 to $9.50 each, The Cleveland Candle Co.)

- **Flowers & herbs grow kits**. ($7.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

- **Mini gift boxes in more than 60 styles**. ($5.00, Big Fun)

- **Morning Song gardens soaps, locally made, assorted scents**. ($7.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

- **Bennington soy tin candles**. ($8.00, Atma Center)

- **Lucky Cat figurine, assorted colors**. ($9.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

- **Beer Prepared**, a bottle opener that fits in your pocket ($3.99, Mac’s Backs)

- **Blue Q Sassy Socks**. (Women $9.95; Men $11.95, S’Wonderful Gifts)

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**HOLIDAY MAKER WORKSHOPS**

Learn and make your own gifts in one or more of our special holiday workshops. Workshops available for adults and kids. ($35.00 to $50.00, Studio How-To)

**SHOP LOCAL!**

This year, give a gift of therapeutic laughter compiled with loving care right here in Cleveland Heights. **Funny Times** has been entertaining a large national audience for over 30 years.

24 pages of ad-free humor, politics and fun delivered right to your doorstep, whether that’s on Scarborough or in Scottsdale, on Meadowbrook or in Montreal.

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Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 10
4:30 p.m. Handbell Prelude
5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols
A gem of the Anglican church tradition, this service leads us into the season of light and expectation, featuring readings for Advent and anthems by the Senior, Children's, Youth and Handbell Choirs of St. Paul's. Free - no reservations needed.

The Rev. Jeanne Leinsbach, Rector • Karel Paukert, Associate Organist-Choirmaster
Dr. Richard Nelson, Director of Children’s & Youth Choirs
Luis Davis, Handbell Choir Director

SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN FORMATION
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Morning Prayer (2nd Sunday)
10 a.m. Christian Formation for All Ages
5 p.m. Choral Evensong, (2nd Sunday)

Full Residential Tree Services
- Tree Removal
- Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Cabling
- Deep Root Fertilization
- 24-Hour Tree Service

Handmade artisan cocktail drink mixer set. Includes mixer, coordinating glass and recipe. Six different flavors available ($28.00, Blush Bouquet) 13

Versatile showstall wet, many colors available. ($38.00, Blush Bouquet) 14

Hats, gloves, and scarves. (Prices vary, Blush Bouquet)

Aegean Sea yoga mat ($22.95, Ama Center)

Red Daisy cooking set. This life-sustaining campaign everything kids need to make dinner ($22.00, Pinwheel Kids)

Construct a Truck. Take this dump truck apart and put it back together again with your own set of tools. Truck operates on battery-free friction power. ($22.00, Pinwheel Kids)

Infrared Mini Flyer. This toy uses an infrared sensor to keep it flying. Small enough for indoor play. ($20.00, Pinwheel Kids) 16

Needle-felted winter toadstool houses, Erin Carlson. ($30.00, Heights Arbor) 17

Ohio peg game. 18 ($23.00, In the 216)

WAFF journals, assorted colors and sizes. (min $12.50, medium $20.95, large $28.95, 5’Wonderful Gifts)

Kids’ backpacks. ($29.95 to $37.95, 5’Wonderful Gifts)

Refrigerator magnets. Featuring Ruth Bader Ginsburg. ($7.95, Eastwood Furniture)

24 oz. insulated tumbler. Serves for both coffee and cocktails. ($19.95, Eastwood Furniture)

Customized gifts for your favorite Pet. ($25.00, In the 216)

Handmade pillows featuring Ruth Bader Ginsburg trimmed with vintage lace and glass beaded “earrings.” ($25.00 dollars, The Liberal Artist) www.theliberalartist.com

Support your local businesses.
Photoframe: wood, acrylic, leather and copper ($15.00 to $150.00, Wood Trader) 21

Rainbow roll-up piano. This portable keyboard is a great first keyboard! Features eight different instrument modes, and recording capability. ($62.00, Pinwheel Kids)

Pair of Close Encounters season 12 concert tickets, featuring musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra and their associates ($90.00 to $110.00/pair, Heights Arts)

Tailgater sweatshirt with built in Koozie and bottle opener ($60.00, In the 216) 22

GIFTS MORE THAN $150.00

A gift certificate for our Couple’s Restoration package featuring two simultaneous Swedish Relaxation Massages. ($170.00 Quintana’s Barber and Dream Spa)

100% silk charmeuse scarf, Mavec Collections ($189.00, Holiday Pop-Up Shop in Eastwood Furniture Loft) 23

Bentwood rocker. ($226.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Handblown glass halo sculptures, Mark Sudchuk. ($280.00 to $290.00, Heights Arts) 24

Handmade glass halo sculptures, Mark Sudchuk. ($280.00 to $290.00, Heights Arts)

FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS IT ALL

Custom holiday centerpieces. ($24.99 to $44.99, Bremec on the Heights Garden Center) 25

Dickens writing desk. ($1,582.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Declutter for the holidays! Kick off the New Year with a cleaner slate. ($250.00 for a 4 hour decluttering session, Creative Moves LLC) www.creativemovesllc.com

Wine Club membership. ($30.00/month, The Wine Spot) 27

Exquisite bronze mask of Ganesh, the remover of obstacles, from Kathmandu, Nepal. ($500.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads) 29

1800 piece Nanoblock Titanic Kit ($95.00, S’Wonderful Gifts) 30

Rough diamond in 18k gold-setting necklace. ($1,330.00, Wanderlust Jewelers) 31

 SUITES AVAILABLE

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• Walking distance to CWRU, Shaker Square and RTA
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GIFT GUIDE continued from page 1

discover what our local businesses have to offer, and encourage them to shop local first. This year’s guide begins on page 25.

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

Celebrating 20 Years!

30 DAYS UNLIMITED YOGA & BEGINNERS’ WORKSHOP $59 (NEW LOCAL STUDENTS ONLY)
2100 Lee Road, Cleve. Hts. (216) 371-9760 www.atmacenter.com

Handmade artisan jewelry. ($75.00 to $300.00, Blush boutique)

The gift of yoga (Beginner’s special: $19.00, 5 class pass: $75.00, Atma Center)

“Winter in the Flats,” framed oil painting, Jeremy Tugese ($1,200, Heights Arts) 28

RAINBOW ROLL-UP PIANO
“Hayden’s zeal for change [is] tangible. Cleveland Heights voters should choose Nadeen Hayden Nov. 7.” – The Plain Dealer

See what your neighbors are saying:

“Nadeen is a person of great character and is fair and balanced. She approaches every decision thoughtfully and cares about all people.” - Melissa & Jeff Rink

“You get change by voting for it, and I will be voting for Nadeen Hayden For Judge. I’ve known Nadeen and her family for several years, and to me she represents the best of Cleveland Heights: involved, informed, inspiring.” - Frank Lewis

“What Cleveland Heights needs is a fresh perspective who can see the current problems with the system and will work to solve them with a progressive and compassionate eye. Nadeen Hayden is a self-driven, accomplished lawyer who values family and community—and she will fight for you to make it easier and more efficient to navigate the courts.” - Megan Kuhar

“Nadeen will be a fair judge and relentlessly pursue solutions for housing violation enforcement.” - Jennifer Lang

“Nadeen Hayden has worked in the court system. We need a judge with her unbiased experience, not one that represents landlords.” - Andrew Pollis

“After 16 years, our unique and beautiful community has the opportunity to select the most qualified candidate for judge. Our municipal court sees a plethora of case types and many are complex. Nadeen has the first-hand legal experience, intellect, and empathy to fairly distribute justice. She is passionate about our citizens’ wellbeing and their struggles, and she has creative solutions to serve our unique community.” - Vikki Nowak

“Nadeen Hayden is focused on our families, our communities, and supporting Cleveland Heights in any way possible.” - Steven Walker

“I’m supporting Nadeen for Judge because she’s smart, driven, and involved in the community. I’ve known her to have an unbelievable work ethic, and impeccable personal integrity.” - Elizabeth Radivoyevitch.

WWW.NADEENHAYDEN.COM
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Nadeen Hayden