Heights Music Hop kicks off Sept. 13

Julie Hultz

The sixth annual Heights Music Hop, a free live-music festival, kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 13. This three-day weekend of more than 60 musical performances takes place in more than 28 venues across three business districts in Cleveland Heights. Each night of the Hop takes place in a different neighborhood: in Coventry Village on Sept. 13, in Cedar Fairmount on Sept. 14, and in Cedar Lee on Sept. 15.

This annual event offers a variety of musical genres at each free concert, such as classical, rock, rap, country, reggae, bluesgrass and American roots. Since it started in 2013, Heights Music Hop has attracted more and more concert-goers, adding more venues and performances.

“It’s a festival of local talent,” says Heights Music Hop Coordinator Ann Koslow. “It just keeps getting bigger and better.”

Last year, nearly 7,500 people attended Heights Music Hop, with an estimated economic impact of $200,000.

The concerts take place in an assortment of Cleveland Heights businesses, including restaurants, bars and small shops. On Thursday, in Coventry Village, the venues are Mac’s Backs, B-Side Liquor Lounge, Grog Shop, the Coventry Village branch of Heights Libraries and Panini’s Bar & Grill.

On Friday, in Cedar Fairmount, the venues are AppleTree Books, Luna Bar/Café. The Fairmount Nighttown, Pavilion Home & Floral.

Memorial at Noble honors Steve Kanner

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Steve Kanner loved creating spaces that brought people together and fostered a sense of belonging and community. That is exactly what his memorial at Noble Elementary School is designed to do.

Kanner, a Heights High graduate (1978) and father of Mira Whitaker-Kanner, a Heights Middle School seventh-grader, was treasurer of the Noble PTA when he died unexpectedly in August 2015. The PTA worked with his wife, Karly Whitaker, to install a memorial—a weeping cherry tree and a bench—on the school playground.

“To see people sitting on that bench, listening to kids laughing and watching them play—there’s nothing that would make Steven happier,” said Whitaker.

The dedication of the memorial was held at Noble Elementary School on Sunday, July 1, the morning after Mira’s bat mitzvah, which included many out-of-town family and friends. The community was also invited to celebrate the life and legacy of Steven Kanner, a man who was deeply committed to his neighborhood public school.

“One believed that schools aren’t just for the children; they’re community centers for everyone,” said Whitaker.

Kanner’s involvement at Noble included establishing a scholarship fund so that all students could participate in after-school activities, spearheading a potluck dinner to engage the families of refugee students, and fundraising for park improvements.

CH City Council undertakes branding study

Julie Hultz

Cleveland Heights City Council approved a promotional branding initiative at its July 2 meeting. The branding study is intended to define and refine the Cleveland Heights (CH) story, to help tell prospective homeowners and business owners why CH is a great place in which to work and live. The study is expected to begin by early August.

The city hired Align2Market, an Ohio-based branding and consulting firm, to conduct the study, collect and review the data, and create a strategic marketing plan. Data collection is expected to take about two to three months, with the analysis, message development, creative design and rollout expected to take another four to five months. The cost of the study is not to exceed $85,000. Align2Market will also study five other cities, not yet chosen, that will be involved in creating a master plan and fundraising for park improvements.

Earlier this summer, building tenants signed leases with a base rent of $35 per square foot, and additional fees for shared amenities such as Wi-Fi and security systems. They have agreed to fund a reserve for the maintenance of and repairs to the building. Heights Libraries reports on the expenses and revenues associated with the building every month at its regular board meetings. Heights Libraries took over the Heights Observer August 1, 2018 • Read more at www.heightsobserver.org

Library seeks public input on Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries is surveying the community to gather public input about the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus. The short survey covers topics that include safety, sustainability, parking, the playground, and possible improvements to the park. It also encourages community members to write in their own ideas with a variety of open-ended questions. Survey results will be published in the fall.

The survey is available online, at www.heightslibrary.org/coventry-peace-campus-project, and on paper at Heights Libraries’ Coventry Village branch, at 1925 Coventry Road.

“The P.E.A.C.E. Campus is a community resource,” said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Quin, “so it’s crucial that we hear the community’s opinions and ideas about it before any decisions are made about its future.”

Heights Libraries recently formed a committee to plan the programming, facilities and future uses of the park. The committee—comprising representatives from the city, the former Coventry School building’s tenants, P.E.A.C.E. Park representatives, citizens, and library representatives—will be involved in creating a master plan and fundraising for park improvements.

Heights Libraries took over the Heights Observer August 1, 2018 • Read more at www.heightsobserver.org
The hardest issue we've ever produced

Bob Rosenaun

Of all the issues, the most difficult was August 2014, which covered the community’s response to the shooting death of Jim Brennan, owner of the Colony on Lee Road.

There were layers of grief— for the man, for the business and its employees, and the community itself.

The Heights Observer didn’t actually cover the crime, which had taken place on June 30— even as we were distributing the July issue. That’s because most opportunities have been absorbed by other newspapers in three ways:

• It only comes out once a month.
• We don’t have a staff of reporters who are paid to cover stories simply because they happen. Our writers are volunteers—community members who typically write about things that have meaning to them. Meaning takes time to emerge.
• We’re non-profit and mission-based; the impact to the community of what we publish is important to us who work on every issue. I raised my hand to write the main story on the August 2014 issue because somebody had to.

It ended up being about the way we were dealing with the grief, including the “We are a Colony” campaign that put the Colony logo on T-shirts (I still have mine) and car magnets.

The headline on that story was Brennan’s ‘colony’ comes together over T-shirts and a beer. It’s what journalists call a second-day story—reflecting the realities of our monthly frequency and volunteer contributors.

It demonstrates the Observer’s optimism—a quality that doesn’t exist by design or intent, but rather as a reflection of the people who show up every month to fill its pages. There are some who feel this quality is a weakness—that newspapers should be more confrontational and less boosterist.

There are times when I agree. But the Observer is driven by its community. Our tone is fine. Key questions before them should be: ‘What is the problem, and how will a change in government solve it?’ Advocates for change have beencritically engaged in the status quo did not say how keeping the status quo would make the immediate details well before we get out the next issue.

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The Charter Review Commission endorsed the status quo, deciding at-large councilmen/city manager government is just fine. What a missed opportunity to create badly needed change for a better future.

After months of interviews and input, there was little discussion beyond the County. Even as we were distributing the August 2014 issue before its worst.

That lead story wasn’t the only coverage the issue contained about Brennan’s murder.

Letters, essays and blog excerpts from community members talked about Brennan himself, about crime, about the coming change. That led story had no chance of turning headlines as a reflection of the community of what we publish is important to us who work on every issue. I raised my hand to write the main story on the August 2014 issue because somebody had to.

The Observer is not an ordinary newspaper; it is a non-profit publication for residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

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

As journalists, we know that the community decide what stories they want to write, to then submit them for publication. Anyone in Cleveland Heights or Cleveland Heights is welcome to contribute regularly, occasionally or even just once.

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

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

• To make a submission of any kind, go to www.heightsobserver.org and click on “Member Center” at the left.

For information about writing style, article length, etc., click on “Become an Observer” at the left. For questions that aren’t answered there, call the Heights Observer office at 216-401-9342 or e-mail info@heightsobserver.org.

Articles to be considered for the September issue must be submitted by Aug. 15. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

Letters Policy

The Heights Observer welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, writing with the writer’s name, phone number and e-mail address to www.heightsobserver.org/members.

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CH judge provides court update

James Costello

What is the status of that abandoned house around the corner? We here at the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court have recently updated our website, www.clevelandheightscourt.com, to make it more user-friendly and to give it more functionality. One update is that the city has filed a criminal case with the court for that property. If it does turn up in the search result, you will be able to see the court docket and find out the status of that case.

I hear all housing code violation cases, generally on Tuesday mornings starting at 9 a.m. If a case you are interested in is set for an upcoming hearing, I encourage you to come to court to watch and, if you would like, make a statement on the record concerning the property. If you wish to make a statement, when you arrive at court let the bailiff know why you are there, and he/she can let you know if you will be able to make a statement on the record—cases that are set for sentencing or are in the status hearing stage are examples of times when it may be appropriate for a community member to make a comment.

If there is no case pending, the court does not have any power to affect that property. In such a case, the appropriate next step may be to contact the Cleveland Heights Law Department or Housing Department and report the nuisance.

In addition to the updates to the website, I have also drafted proposed new local rules. The Supreme Court of Ohio promulgates rules such as the Rules of Superintendence, Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules of Civil Procedure, as well as others meant to eliminate unnecessary expenses and delay, and to secure the fair, impartial, speedy, and sure administration of justice. Those rules, in turn, require local rules of practice that, while they cannot be inconsistent with the rules promulgated by the supreme court, promote procedures to facilitate the administration of justice and the expeditious disposition of cases. With that guidance in mind, several of the rules are being updated.

Some of the rule changes deal with developments in technology. For example, the rule concerning decorum in the courtroom now prohibits not just cell phones and beepers, but the use of all electronic devices. On the more substantive end, with the software upgrade that is currently underway, and which will make electronic filing available, the proposed rules set forth the procedure on how litigants will be able to utilize that option for filing. Some of the proposed changes will facilitate cases moving through the court more efficiently, such as allowing 30 days leave to plead in civil cases, and allowing a written not guilty plea in many criminal cases.

There are also changes aimed at making the judicial process more transparent and fair. For example, there is a proposal for a brand-new rule that would require a landlord in an eviction case to attach to the initial filing a valid, current Certificate of Occupancy for the premises that is the subject of the eviction action.

You can find a copy of current rules and proposed rules under the Court Information tab on the court’s website. You can comment on a proposed rule by sending an e-mail to chlocalrules@gmail.com.

It is my sincere hope that improvements to the website and the local rules will allow the court to be more transparent and accountable, and allow us to be fair, impartial, and resolve cases without unnecessary delay.

James Costello is a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident and judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court.

Letters continued from page 2

sider able-bodied folks who could do that, but have snow-filled driveways during the winter.

We already pay quite high taxes. How much more would we pay if, as he suggests, we purchase high-end garbage lift trucks? And I would prefer to keep our trash collectors employed rather than ditch them for new trucks.

One of the blessings of living in Cleveland Heights is that we can put usable items in our tree lawns and “trash pickers” come by and take them, thus giving some items new life rather than throwing them away.

Anne Billington

Cleveland Heights

Anne Billington, Cleveland Heights
A ‘Fool on the Hill’

Paul Volpe

The hill I am referring to is the near legendary “Top of the Hill” in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood. Is it a place, a property, or maybe even someday a project? For me, and probably many others, it is it more likely a dream that never seems to end? Can this dream become reality?

Looking back over two years ago, the city distributed requests for proposals, seeking a development partner. Five interested teams responded. (Full disclosure: I, along with my former architectural firm, submitted a detailed proposal in partnership with a local development group. We were not selected and moved on.)

Fairmount Properties was first chosen. About a year later, for undisclosed reasons, Indianapolis-based Flaherty and Collins replaced Fairmount Properties. In July 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was executed, and three months later, promising transparency, the city held the first public meeting to solicit public comments on the development. Unfortunately, due to limited planning information and project details, there was little of consequence to comment on.

The vocal public was mostly supportive and offered thoughts related to mixed-income and for-sale housing, compatible new businesses, and high-quality design. Density was considered acceptable and important. A call was made for the planners to consider urban design/placemaking implications, such as pedestrian connections, public space, building scale, streetscape, distributed parking, traffic movement, and other community priorities. The city promised transparency and an open public process.

So “now” arrives, and, almost nine months later, the city arranged the second public meeting in June. With anticipation and enthusiasm, we arrived at the community center to see and hear the updated planning for Top of the Hill. After introductions, history, schedules and other minutia from city officials, we were unfortunately treated to very little new or encouraging progress from the developer.

Flaherty and Collins's attorney spoke in aspirational generalities and basically said the firm did not have time to produce any meaningful design or planning. The architects showed vague site plan diagrams, which were less compelling than the one produced at the first public meeting. This was followed by nebulous perspective images of nondescript building forms that could have been anywhere.

Apparently, the current thinking includes limited retail space, no hotel, no office space, an enlarged parking garage with a driveway adjacent to Nighttown's garden room, no identifiable public space, no townhomes, no for-sale housing, and an interconnected building filled with “resort-style” apartments. Maybe I missed something?

The meeting wrapped up with viewing stations lined up for the city, developer and consultants to answer questions. Comment cards were also provided. There was no open public commentary, no discussion, and no real sense of positive, productive timing or direction.

I must be the fool, because even after all this, I remain an ardent supporter of redeveloping the Top of the Hill property. I live in the district, get groceries, enjoy restaurants and bars, hear music, eat great pastries, visit my dentist, buy gas, purchase jewelry for my wife, meet friends, and live a nice life in Cleveland Heights. Why change anything?

I am absolutely convinced that well-conceived change, stimulating positive growth, can and will be very good for everyone. This gateway site into our city is an enormous opportunity to invest in a vital neighborhood main street district and infuse renewed identity and vitality. But we first need to establish the primary goal to plan it right, with the unwavering objective to get it done.

Our remarkable neighbor University Circle, working in partnership with many others, set a high target for development which it has achieved over the last 10 years. Within the greater regional framework, there is currently a serious and timely discussion about Northeast Ohio’s future. Our collective response to the challenge was simply stated by the Plain Dealer: “Let’s get together and headed in the right direction”.

Maybe, with a collective will, this could begin in Cleveland Heights. Or maybe not.

Paul Volpe is an architect and community proud FutureHeights member.

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5G wireless technology is coming. Municipalities throughout the country have been suing state governments to try to retain some local control over the placement of small cell antennas and associated equipment. According to Crain’s Cleveland Business, the telecommunications industry wants to install 100,000 antennas a year nationally over the next five years. Wireless companies, however, have been unhappy about the labyrinthine task of securing permits from tens of thousands of local governments.

Enter ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. According to the Center for Public Integrity, the corporate-funded, self-described think tank is only too delighted to have its ALEC's help. 

In 2017 the state of Ohio had ALEC’s help. After its August recess, Cleveland Heights City Council passed a law overriding local home rule rights. Both Cleveland Heights and University Heights joined a suit initiated by the city of Hudson. The law ultimately was found unconstitutional because it was tacked onto a bill regulating pet shops, thereby violating the Ohio Constitution’s single-subject rule for legislation.

Months of negotiations followed, as—at the legislature’s behest—attorneys for the cities and the OML conferred with the telecommunications industry to achieve a solution: House Bill 478, which Gov. Kasich signed into law. It is better than the ALEC version, but the “telcos” still hold almost all the cards.

Before its August recess, Cleveland Heights City Council passed legislation adding Chapter 943 to the city’s Codified Ordinances. Entitled “Use of Public Ways for Small Cell Wireless Facilities and Wireless Support,” it regulates, to the extent permitted by HB 478, the installation and operation of wireless small cell technology within the city. In July, University Heights passed its own version of legislation conforming to HB 478. Increasingly, as this issue exemplifies, state legislation reflects corporate, not public interests. Accordingly, state laws preempt the ability of cities to make even the most basic local decisions.

As fish do not analyze the nature of water, for the past century few Americans have questioned the power that private corporations have come to exert over many aspects of our daily lives. That began to change with the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision in 2010. Early Ohio settlers knew the dangers posed by corporate power. The English monarchy’s imperial ambitions had been pursued largely through corporations chartered for that purpose. Ohioans fought in the American War of Independence to seize sovereignty from the monarchy and entrust it, not to governments or corporations, but to the people.

Early Ohio legislation stipulated that corporations be created one at a time through petitioning the General Assembly, under rigid conditions. Corporate privileges, not rights, included limits on duration of charters (or certificates of incorporation), extent of land ownership, and amount of capitalization or total investment by owners, plus restriction of each corporate charter to a specific purpose. What did the Ohio General Assembly do to a corporation that violated these terms? It revoked its charter. How dismayed the founders of our state would be if they dropped in on the Ohio Statehouse today, and witnessed proposed laws actually being written by private, corporate-funded entities, such as ALEC. Citizens must reclaim Ohio’s proud history of reining in corporate abuse.

To learn more about the history of corporate vs. people’s power in Ohio, e-mail us. We’ll send you Cleveland Heights resident Greg Coleridge’s Ohio Democracy vs. Corporations History Quiz.

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

Ari Klein

In June, Superintendent Dixon invited me to attend racial equity training. I have to admit that I was not thrilled. Still, I decided that it would be helpful to see what this training was all about. I am not sure if my reluctance to attend was because I believed I had nothing new to learn about racial equity, or because I sometimes feel worn out by the racial issues facing our community and our nation.

The workshop was a collaborative effort by the city of Cleveland Heights and the CH-UH City School District. The Racial Equity Institute, based in North Carolina, presented a session on “Measuring Racial Equity: A Groundwater Approach.” It turned out to be one of the most worthwhile workshops that I have attended and I am really glad that I participated.

Examples of research given during the workshop clearly showed that in several distinct systems a person’s race often correlates with outcomes in disturbing ways. When compared with other racial groups, African Americans have poorer outcomes in child welfare, health care, juvenile justice, education and economic development. They are more likely to die from diabetes, have a higher infant death rate, are suspended from school more often, have a higher rate of incarceration, have more children in foster care, have higher rates of unemployment, and more.

The studies presented to us showed that when you compare people of the same socio-economic class but different racial groups, these same disparities occur. I have always thought that a socio-economic disaggregation would show that race is not the main factor in these outcomes, but my preconceptions proved wrong again and again. For example, a white woman without a high school diploma or GED has the same chance of losing an infant in childbirth as an African-American woman with a master’s degree. This is startling!

To me, this information points to obvious systemic issues that even some of the most enlightened people fail to see or acknowledge. What made the presentation so powerful is that it did not place blame or dictate what anyone should do going forward. It was a presentation of facts and studies that make a compelling case for the need for more open conversations about equity.

Another eye opener concerned economic development opportunities and wealth attainment for African Americans. For example, when a job seeker’s name on his or her resume has a white-sounding name, that person has a far better chance to be selected for an interview than someone with an African American-sounding name.

This type of discrimination is compounded by the fact that African Americans had little chance to build any wealth before the 1950s. The workshop presented an excellent example using the study “When the Rules Are Fair, but the Game Isn’t” (Jost, Whiffeld, and Jost, 2005). Basically, if a group of people have opportunities to advance over a longer period of time, they are more likely to have something tangible to show for it. Imagine starting a 100-yard dash five seconds after the other runners, and you don’t have shoes. For me, this study validated how uneven the playing field is.

I believe if more people are open to participate in this kind of training, then we have a better chance to have meaningful conversations about taking action to find solutions. Leaders from both the city of Cleveland Heights and the school district are committed to improving our community. This type of information, followed by open and honest dialogue, might be the key toward a better understanding of what we are all up against. The first step to solving a problem is recognizing that the problem exists.

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

Susie Kaeser

For more than 30 summers my family has spent two or three weeks at our cottage in northern Wisconsin. The closest town is Boulder Junction. Each day starts with an eight-mile drive to town to pick up the morning newspapers from Milwaukee, Madison and New York. Sometimes it includes a stop at the bakery. We devour the news and then use the papers to start fires on cold summer days.

This summer was different. Newspaper distributors no longer deliver papers north of Route 70, a crossroad about three quarters of the way up the state. To get a paper we must drive more than 25 miles south of our summer retreat. It’s not environmentally acceptable or a good use of precious vacation time to travel that far for the news, and because our cottage does not have reliable phone or Internet service, there is simply no way to read the news!

While this deprivation certainly falls short of being lost in the desert without water, there is something threatening about living in the woods without access to legitimate, consequential, ethical journalism. We are on vacation in a news blackout, which in many ways is a relief. Purposefully ignoring the news for two weeks, though, is quite different from not having access to the information that lets us know what is taking place in the world and how to understand and interpret what is happening. Without a newspaper, it is impossible to learn how people are affected by public policies like zero-tolerance immigration or standardized tests.

We are on vacation in a news blackout, which in many ways is a relief. Purposefully ignoring the news for two weeks, though, is quite different from not having access to the information that lets us know what is taking place in the world and how to understand and interpret what is happening. Without a newspaper, the president can tell a lie and go unchallenged. Without a newspaper, it is hard to learn how people are affected by public policies like zero-tolerance immigration or standardized tests.

Editorials provide important insights and provoke readers to be thoughtful about policies and events. When policymakers do not have to stand up to the public scrutiny that investigative reporters offer, a powerful piece of public accountability is gone. How do you make a decision about candidates if you don’t know how they conduct themselves in public or what actions they have taken? It’s hard to be an informed citizen without this kind of information, and informed citizens are the central players in a democracy.

While northern Wisconsin is suffering from a distribution problem, some major cities no longer have any newspaper. No one is reporting about what is happening in those places, some of which are quite important. The media is under attack from many directions, which is a threat to all of us. Powerful voices like to discredit the media to protect their interests, but the loss of access to the news because of the cost of producing or distributing it is also a serious threat to our need for reliable information. A free press is essential to the free exchange of ideas and meaningful public discourse about our communities. Without it there is less accountability, and our electoral process is weaker. Citizens have less power. Democracy is diminished.

It often takes losing something to make you aware of its value. The loss of easy access to the news on my summer vacation clarified the significance of the free press. These days, being informed is exhausting, but being uninformed is terrifying. It makes you vulnerable and powerless and disables your capacity to participate as an informed citizen.

In Cleveland Heights we are lucky to have access to a full spectrum of national and international news. We have a daily newspaper that reports on state news and metropolitan Cleveland, and we have the Oberver, which covers very local concerns.

For the last five years I have had the pleasure and honor of sharing my understanding of the many forces that shape public education in our community. My bias is explicit: My priority is the common good. My writing is opinion, but I try my best to share credible information that allows readers to draw their own conclusions.

So I submit this column with renewed appreciation for journalism. I’m glad to write and to once again read the news.

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and former director of Friends of Reaching Heights. She serves on the national board of Parents for Public Schools.
A complaint-driven housing policy isn’t enough to save our neighborhoods

Kermit Lind

Few places have as much potential for attracting residents as the racially and culturally vibrant Heights suburbs east of Cleveland. Yet, like many aging suburban communities, these suburbs are confronted with the residual of disrepair, predatory home sales and financing practices, along with persistent middle-income wage stagnation. Although recovery is evident in many upscale neighborhoods, reported data shows most neighborhoods still face dire realities.

These realities pose a serious threat to housing quality and neighborhood sustainability. Increasing code compliance failures tend to normalize more negligence, abandonment and distress, leading to lower housing values, more absentee-investor home ownership, and property tax-base erosion. Communities cannot afford to stand by and watch their most affordable housing stock turn into solid waste. Virtually all candidates for municipal office in the Heights said so in their 2016 election campaigns.

Increasing code compliance—a collaborative, data-driven, communitywide commitment to organize fragmented components into coordinated systems of code-compliance policies, practices and programs—is not working. Getting them to work well together is the trick. Although technology can be expensive to maintain and requires special skills—and convincing various government agencies to collaborate on obtaining and sharing information can be difficult—it is essential to do so now.

The Vacant Abandoned Property Action Council (VAPAC) is a 13-year-old, gathering of community development practitioners and public officials that does just that. VAPAC members rely on data from the NEO CANDO website at the Case Western Reserve University Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, along with information gathered by neighborhood organizations. The group examines code compliance in the context of the full range of data relative to residential property maintenance to facilitate trend analysis and the consideration of causal factors that enable strategic thinking and planning. The Heights needs to do more of this.

Organized and sustained community action is an essential ingredient for strategic code compliance to work well. Neighborhood and community organizations need to develop competency in order to work alongside municipal enforcement agencies to obtain more voluntary compliance. They can often see emerging neighborhood problems before those problems rise to a crisis level. They can operate programs designed to inform homeowners and assist in violation correction, property maintenance and repair. They can conduct studies, share information, advocate constructively and appear in court to provide evidence. Residents, after all, are those with the greatest stake in compliance with home safety and neighborhood quality-of-life regulations. They must be ready and competent to act accordingly.

Strategic code compliance is a community-based approach to smarter, more effective code compliance that joins government and non-government actors into a cohesive system for creating just and sustainable neighborhoods now and in the future.

Kermit Lind is a Cleveland Heights resident and clinical professor of law emeritus at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. To view some of his many publications visit https://works.bepress.com/kermit_lind/.

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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

JUNE 18, 2018
Preseent were Mayor Michael D. Brennan, and council members Pamela Kanner, Shelly Cameron, and Pamela Smith. Absent were Joe DiCicco, Deb Even and Jack Fine. The meeting was held from 7:50 p.m.

Honoring Walter Stinson
Mayor Brennan presented a declaration to Walter Stinson on his 90th birthday, honoring his many years of continuing service to the community. Stinson was honored in 1970 as the city’s first full-time constable—a position in that role for 30 years. He is still actively involved, organizing the senior program at the Heights University Library.

Rental permits
During public comments, many owners of rental properties made statements protesting council’s recent fee increase, from $300 or $400 biannually, to $600 or $800 annually. Several stated that the decision seemed to have been made in secret, and that it received much less publicity than the chicken ordinance. Ben Greenwald, who owns a house on Ashurst Road, said that, although he understands council’s concerns, raising the fees would reduce the market for property owners to make improvements and would make many properties more difficult to rent if the fee is passed on to the tenants. Donna Simmons suggested that council conduct a study to determine a better way (and offered the help of her husband, a professor at Cleveland State University’s Levin College). She noted that although the rental fees in Beachwood is $500 annually, property taxes there are much lower, and the communities aren’t comparable. She also said that the city should embrace rental properties as the housing market remains soft. She also said that the city could recommend it to the Heights University Library. The community was still actively involved, organizing the senior program at the Heights University Library.

Community Reinvestment Area
Councilwoman Weiss reported that council has submitted a request to Ohio to establish the city of University Heights in a Community Reinvestment Area. If approved, the city will be able to establish a 10-15 percent tax abatement on all new construction or additions. The city has to submit a substantial housing report to show that investment has been discouraged. Invest- ment of $2,500 to $25,000 would be eligible for the abatement on the increase in the assessed value of the property for a certain number of years. Ordinance 2018-33 was presented on first reading.

Community Reinvestment Area Councilwoman Weiss reported that council has submitted a request to Ohio to establish the city of University Heights in a Community Reinvestment Area. If approved, the city will be able to establish a 10-15 percent tax abatement on all new construction or additions. The city has to submit a substantial housing report to show that investment has been discouraged. Investment of $2,500 to $25,000 would be eligible for the abatement on the increase in the assessed value of the property for a certain number of years. Ordinance 2018-33 was presented on first reading.

Parnell’s Pub and Still Point Gallery
On the final night of the Hop, the confirmed venues in Cedar Lee are CLE Urban Winery, Dewey’s Pizza, Lopez, New Heights Grill, Phoenix Coffee, Heights Arts, Heights Music Shop, Marotta’s, Mitchell’s, Rudy’s Pah, The Rib Cage Smokehouse & Bar, The Social Room, Washington & Lee Service, Stone Oven, The Tavern Company and Boss Dog Brewing Company. CLE Urban Winery, 2918 Lee Rd., will host a grand party beginning at 7:30 p.m. Then, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., The BottleHouse Brewery and Meadery, 2030 Lee Rd., will host an afterparty—a last “hurrah” for festival attendees and volunteers. Featured bands at the after-party are SamFox, Outside Voices, and The Bush Administration. While attendance at all of the venues is free, the afterparty has a ticket price of $10/

Looking for events and your favorite performances, you can click on the ‘view all’ button to see a list of all events.

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Anomalies continued from page 1

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“Kathy nailed it with this idea,” said Watkiner. “The school’s PTA helped Whitaker organize an online fundraiser to purchase the tree, bench, and the accompanying plaques. The tree bears a bronze image of the famous “War is not healthy for children and other liv- ing things” painting, while the bench features a Bruce Springsteen quote that was a favorite of Kanner’s: “It ain’t no sin to be glad you’re alive.” Whitaker hopes the space will be a comfort to her daughter, a place she can visit and think of her father. “Mira was definitely a daddy’s girl,” said Whitaker.

Krispy Dirtich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a gradu- ate of the Heights schools and a former Courier staff writer. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CHH-University Heights News.

ANIMALS

anomalies continued from page 1

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Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights
JUNE 18, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasnow, Cheryl L. Stephens, Jason Stein, Cheryl Ungar and Kahlil Sereen. Mary Dunbar was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. and adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Public comments
Immigration Task Force: Anne Hill of York-
shire Road complimented Mayor Roe for
creating the Immigration Task Force and
urged the city to welcome immigrants, encouraging more immigrants to move to
Cleveland Heights, and adopt policies to protect them. She decreed the federal practice of separating children and the
failure of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to free from Geauga County
Jail a Haitian who has won his asylum
request but is still detained.

Meadowbrook and Lee Development
Proposal: Garry Kantor of Cummings Road
asked council to reject the development
proposals for this site because they exagger-
ate the economic benefits.

Year 44 CDBG awards
Council approved resolutions to award
Community Development Block Grants
(CDBG) to seven Cleveland Heights non-
profit organizations:
• $20,000 to Family Connections for
the Family School Connections program
• $7,000 to the Cleveland Tenants Or-
ganization to subgrant with the Legal
Aid Society for telephone information to
tenants
• $6,000 to Heights Community Congress
for its diversity education programs.
• $172,705 to the Home Repair Resource
Center for operations and special grant
projects to help seniors and other
income-eligible homeowners with home
maintenance.
• $35,000 to the Heights Youth Club for
its education enhancement program.
• $11,962 to Open Doors Academy for
year-round enrichment for youth.
• $12,128 to Lake Erie Ink for after-
school programs with youth at Noble-
 Neighborhoood and Coventry Village
libraries.

Dugway East Culvert Emergency
Rehabilitation project
Council authorized the city manager to
apply for participation in the Ohio
Public Works Commission State Capital
Improvement and/or Local Transpor-
tation program to fund the Dugway
East Culvert Emergency Rehabilitation
project.

Change order for skating rink
Council approved additional funds for
repair work to increase energy efficiency of
the south rink of the recreation center at
a cost of $194,576.

Mayor’s report
Mayor Roe noted that the Immigration
Task Force had its first meeting on June
27, the next is scheduled for July 12, 7
p.m. All of the meetings are being re-
corded, and recordings of those for city
meetings, can be accessed from the
city’s website. The audio recording of
this evening’s Committee of the Whole
meeting will be on the website as well,
as will recordings of all such meetings
going forward. The mayor stated that
the council meets three times each year with
the Cleveland Heights-University Heights
school board. Roe concluded with a
mention of her recent participation in a
program of Common Ground Solutions—a
private entity that has developed ways
to assist and encourage development
in specific areas that have not enjoyed
throughout the city of Cleveland Heights
“to assist and encourage development
in specific areas that have not enjoyed
incentive review council. The aim is
to assist and encourage development
among the private property owners
in Cleveland Heights. The measure also
authorizes the city manager to
request the renewal of all current state-issued
licensing permits for Noble Roman Inc., do-
ning business as Noble Gas, 2610 Noble Road, and requesting that a hearing on the renewal be held in Cuyahoga
County.

Immigration Task Force term
Council amended Resolution No. 32-
2018, Immigration Task Force Resolution
to extend the task force’s term from July
31 to Sept. 30. Because the group began
its work later than anticipated, this will
allow time for identifying and examining
issues and making recommendations to
council about possible future city action.

Community Reinvestment Area
Council heard a second reading of
an ordinance to establish boundaries of a
Community Reinvestment Area in
Cleveland Heights. The measure also
designates a housing administrator to administer the
program and creates a community reinvestment housing council and a tax incentive review council. The aim is
“to assist and encourage development
to the Creation of a Community Invest-
ment Corporation (CDC) focusing
mainly on housing rehabilitation and
infill. Consideration is also being given
to the creation of a Community Invest-
ment Corporation (CIC) to facilitate the
transfer of property. Two speakers spoke
against a CICC, saying that CDCs can
better attract funds, focus on community
development, and allow greater citizen
involvement.

Objection to liquor permit
Council passed a resolution objecting
to the renewal of all current state-issued
licensing permits for Noble Roman Inc., do-
ning business as Noble Gas, 2610 Noble Road, and requesting that a hearing on the renewal be held in Cuyahoga
County.

Council members absent. The meeting lasted
52 minutes.
CH City Council creates citywide Community Reinvestment Area

Julie Hullett

The city of Cleveland Heights passed an ordinance creating a citywide community reinvestment area (CRA), an economic development opportunity to encourage building and remodeling in the city. The CRA program, created by the state of Ohio, is a tool designed to stimulate economic growth in cities. A citywide CRA designation will provide owners of Cleveland Heights properties—whether residential, commercial, industrial or mixed-use—tax exemptions to renovate existing buildings or construct new buildings.

All property owners in Cleveland Heights who are remodeling their properties or constructing new buildings are eligible to apply for this tax exemption. There is an initial negotiation process between the property owners and the city for commercial, industrial and mixed-use properties. Residential property owners must fill out an application before beginning their renovations.

The tax exemption is not the same for all property owners. The rate fluctuates with various factors, including the location of the property, the amount of money invested in the redevelopment, and the type of construction. For example, a minimum investment of $25,000 per unit, or $500,000 in project costs on redeveloping multi-family dwelling units, would make the property owner eligible for a 50 percent tax exemption for seven years on the county auditor’s increased valuation of the property. If the owner spent a minimum of $1 million he or she would receive a 100 percent tax exemption for 20 years.

For new construction, areas in the city are designated as CRA target reinvestment criteria zones that help determine what areas are eligible for the highest level of exemption percentages and terms. Zones are scored from zero to 10, and areas scoring six or greater are eligible for the highest tax-exemption opportunities.

Areas in Cleveland Heights with high CRA scores include the neighborhoods north of Mayfield Road and east of North Taylor Road, and a section of the city east of Lee Road.

At the earliest, this program may be implemented in the fourth quarter of 2018. City council first began to consider this plan in September 2017 and has discussed it at various council meetings and with city stakeholders, including realtors and FutureHeights.

The ordinance creating the CRA passed on fourth reading by a unanimous vote at Cleveland Heights City Council’s July 30 meeting. Now that council has passed the legislation, information about the program will run in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks before being sent to the Ohio Development Services Agency for approval.

Julie Hullett, a 2018 graduate of John Carroll University, is thrilled to serve as a summer intern for the Heights Observer.
Church hosts block party

Katrice Cain

Central Bible Baptist Church will host its annual neighborhood block party on Saturday, Aug. 18. The block party will take place at the church, located at 2285 Noble Road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is free and open to the entire community.

For the past 10 years, the church has hosted the block party to engage, educate and empower adults and children of all ages. This year’s event will feature words of empowerment, food, music, games, crafts, special performances, a clothing drive, face-painting, cooking demonstrations, free Christian books and resources, and a puppet show. There will also be free health screenings and educational materials focused on important health issues.

Free backpacks filled with school supplies for children in grades K-12 will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the block party, contact the church at 216-291-4406. To view Central Bible Baptist Church’s worship services, led by Pastor Harry Cain Jr., and weekly activities, visit the church’s Facebook page.

Katrice Cain is a member of Central Bible Baptist Church.

HRRC class for women will cover exteriors

David Brock

Beginning Aug. 8, Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will offer another course in its women’s home improvement series: Exteriors and Landscapes. The six-week series will take place on Wednesdays and run through Sept. 12, at 2520 Noble Road.

Participants will learn up-close, through hands-on experience, and with their own hands. Each class will feature words of empowerment, food, music, games, crafts, special performances, a clothing drive, face-painting, cooking demonstrations, free Christian books and resources, and a puppet show. There will also be free health screenings and educational materials focused on important health issues.

HRRC will offer participants the opportunity to work with tools that may be unfamiliar, including angle grinders, cordless drills, trowels and pressure washers. Participants will also get a chance to work with tools that may be unfamiliar, including angle grinders, cordless drills, trowels and pressure washers. Participants will also get a chance to work with tools that may be unfamiliar, including angle grinders, cordless drills, trowels and pressure washers. Participants will also get a chance to work with tools that may be unfamiliar, including angle grinders, cordless drills, trowels and pressure washers. Participants will also get a chance to work with tools that may be unfamiliar, including angle grinders, cordless drills, trowels and pressure washers.

David Brock is the education and outreach coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center.

Observe!

Submitting an article to the Heights Observer is a piece of cake!

1. The Heights Observer is written by people like you. So write something. Use a computer.

2. Register/log in at the Member Center (www.heightsobserver.org).

3. After logging in, click the Submit New Story button in the lefthand column (Don’t see it? It’s nestled under “Write”). Then follow the prompts.

4. Reward yourself: you’re about to be published. We’ll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.

Local news that speaks to you

Catch the HeightsNow podcast from WJCU

Live: Mon-Fri at 9 am and 4 pm
Stream on demand: wjcu.org/heights-now

 Heights Observer

Enticing group bike rides in the Heights and NEO

Heightscycle Coalition

A good way to become more comfortable with riding a bicycle around town and beyond is to join a group ride. Group rides are also a way to meet like-minded people. Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC) is just one group that plans bicycle rides, and Cleveland Heights is steadily adding bicycle infrastructure to make bicycling more comfortable and safe.

Infrastructure improvements: With the multipurpose trail on the south side of Cedar Glen Parkway now complete, bicyclists and pedestrians have an excellent way to separate themselves from motorized traffic along a heavily used roadway. This summer, the bicycle lanes on North Park Boulevard between Harcourt and Shelburne roads are getting painted buffers, which further separate bicyclists and cars. Going eastbound on North Park, a “bike box” has been added at North Woodland Road. Watch for signage to come soon for how to use this feature, which makes the intersection easier to navigate for all users of the road.

In group rides for your consideration: On Sunday, Aug. 5, from 1-2:30 p.m., Sarah O’Keeffe is calling all riders to ride back up Cedar Hill with the group or take the RTA bus to downtown Cleveland. Riders can ride back up Cedar Hill with the group or take the RTA back to Cleveland Heights.

Please note that parents must accompany children under 16 for these and all family rides. Children must be confident riding two-wheeled bikes without training wheels. Children on or in trail-a-bikes, bike trailers, cargo bikes and bikes with child seats are also welcome.

Coming in September: HBC and Heights Community Congress will once again collaborate to offer discounted tickets to those who reduce parking congestion by bicycling to see the Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour on Sunday, Sept. 16. Bicyclist tickets will be sold on the day of the tour at the bike fix-it station at the corner of Coventry Road and North Park Boulevard. Information will be available on the HBC website as the event approaches.

For information on more local and regional rides, visit HBC’s website, www.heightscycle.org, and Bike Cleveland’s website, www.bikecleveland.org. Summer is a great time for bicycling and riding creates a nice breeze that can cool you off while you get some exercise.

Heights Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to educating and encouraging Heights community members to use bicycles as a sustainable and healthy form of transportation and recreation. This article was written by HBC board members Jamison Babb, Mary Dunbar and Debra Franke.

The new bike box at the intersection of North Park Boulevard and North Woodland Road in Cleveland Heights is the first in Northeast Ohio.
Home and garden tour Sept. 16

Pam Wetherill

The 41st annual Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour, sponsored by Heights Community Congress (HCC), is set for Sunday, Sept. 16, from noon to 6 p.m. It will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the landmark Fair Housing Act of 1968. This milestone is reflected in this year’s theme “Our Fair City,” with a variety of homes and gardens on display throughout Cleveland Heights.

One featured property will be Harcourt Manor (the home you catch a glimpse of while driving up Cedar Hill), which has undergone extensive and elegant renovations to honor the early 1900’s era of this historic structure. The tour will feature other architecturally lovely and unique Cleveland Heights homes of all sizes, as well as gardens—from a “Food not Lawns” concept garden to the formal Alcazar courtyard. The Alcazar will also be this year’s Sunday tour refreshment stop, from 2 to 4 p.m.

A special preview party will be held the night before the tour, on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Harcourt Manor. Patrons will be permitted to view the entirety of the property at this gala event, while listening to live music throughout the grounds, enjoying unique food tastings, and sipping on cocktails at the historic bar, in a Gatsby-like atmosphere. For tickets to this unique evening, visit www.heightscongress.org or call the HCC office at 216-321-6775.

Sunday tour tickets are on sale beginning Aug. 1. Tickets are $20 before Labor Day and $25 after that, until and including tour day. Tickets can be purchased online at www.heightscongress.org, or in person at Zagara’s Marketplace on Lee Road, Heinens on Green Road, Appletree Books on Cedar Road, Stone Oven on Lee Road, Dunn Hardware in Lyndhurst and Bremec’s on the Heights on Cedar Road.

For information on group discounts, and additional tour details, including tour day, tickets can be purchased online at www.heightscongress.org, or call the HCC office.

Pam Wetherill is a volunteer with Heights Community Congress, and a resident of University Heights.

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LIBRARY continued from page 1

operations of the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus—the former Coventry School building and the nearly six acres of land surrounding it—in April 2018 by purchasing the property from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District for St. Heights Libraries purchased the property for several reasons:

• to secure the continuing use of the parking lot, an amenity totally missing from the Coventry Village Library Branch adjacent to the property.
• to allow the tenants who represent nonprofits and arts organizations two years to organize themselves and operate the building as the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Cooperative;
• to ensure the continuity of the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park as a community asset that is open to all.

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

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Here’s what we can do for you:

A. At home, sitting on the couch with a bad cold and an iPad, bored and cranky
B. On the RTA, riding home from work, playing with your smartphone and wishing you could start that new John Grisham novel
C. At the kitchen table with a stressed out child who’s trying to write a school report after the library has closed, and whose teacher has forbidden the use of Wikipedia
D. Just laid off, needing to sharpen up your resume and interviewing skills
E. A recent immigrant, looking for information on becoming a citizen
F. Trying to find affordable advanced training in Photoshop to stay competitive as a freelance designer
G. Just retired, wondering what to do with your newfound freedom
H. Looking for a cozy place to read the paper

So, where are you right now?

A. At home, sitting on the couch with a bad cold and an iPad, bored and cranky
B. On the RTA, riding home from work, playing with your smartphone and wishing you could start that new John Grisham novel
C. At the kitchen table with a stressed out child who’s trying to write a school report after the library has closed, and whose teacher has forbidden the use of Wikipedia
D. Just laid off, needing to sharpen up your resume and interviewing skills
E. A recent immigrant, looking for information on becoming a citizen
F. Heights Libraries card holders get free access to Lynda.com, an extensive online learning company
G. Oh, so, so many programs. Book clubs, concerts, local history, tai chi, art study, film, home improvement…
H. Four easily accessible buildings with comfy chairs
I. Yes, we still have thousands of books. On shelves.

Heights Libraries Is Here for You, Wherever You Are.

You may have noticed libraries have changed quite a bit over the past few decades, and Heights Libraries has been at the forefront in Northeast Ohio. We were an early adopter of online services and technology training, and we’re always expanding our services. More than a place to check out books and movies, Heights Libraries has evolved since its founding to adapt to the changing needs of the community it serves. We meet you where you are, and help you get where you want to be.
Communion of Saints looks back and ahead

As the coming schoolyear approaches, Communion of Saints School would like to share some of its accomplishments during 2017–18:

**Sports** The Communion of Saints Sabers seventh-grade boys won the CYO City Championship (Division II). The eighth-grade boys were the St. Francis tournament runners-up. The fourth- and fifth-grade girls team went 6–2, finishing in third place in its 10-team division.

Seventh-grade teacher Molly Moran brought the Girls on the Run program to Communion of Saints School. Principal Gerry Whiteley, eighth-grade teacher Carole Tooker, and a parent volunteer coached the program’s twice-a-week training sessions for girls in grades 6–8. The 10-week program concentrated on developing essential skills to help the girls navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness, and culminated in a celebratory 5K event.

**Science** Seven students participated in the Northeastern Science and Engineering Fair and won top honors, including the Cleveland Clinic Award for Scientific Enthusiasm, the William R. Sweet Award for Chemistry, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Cleveland Section award, as well as many honorable mentions.

**Catholic Schools Week** The theme of Catholic Schools Week was “Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed.” On Jan. 23, the school kicked off the week with Mass, followed by an open house, art show and book fair. Students created Valentine’s day cards and collected hats and mittens for the Ozanam Center, and organized a game day. The week ended with an all-school Mass to celebrate faith.

**Funding** The first annual Meet Me In The Middle at MOCA, a parish and school fundraising event, was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art on March 3. The proceeds raised will benefit St. Ann’s and St. Philomena’s churches and Communion of Saints School.

Communion of Saints School offers preschool through eighth-grade classes. Centered on a Catholic faith-based education, the challenging curriculum inspires students to excel and prepares them for a successful future. For more information, visit www.communicationschools.org or call 216-912-4477.

Liz Fisher is marketing specialist at Communion of Saints School.

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**Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights**

MAY 15, 2018

Board President Jim Posch, Vice President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Hantz and Molly Sewer were present. Beverley Wright was absent. Superintendent Talus Dixon and Treasurer Scott Garner were also present. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. and was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**Middle school facilities update** Project Management Consultants reported on progress in the Monticello and Roxboro middle schools. At Monticello, the plumbing, HVAC and electrical subcontractors have started temporary services and cutting and capping. At Roxboro, the electrical subcontractor has begun putting temporary power and electric services in place. At both sites, demolition and abatement are continuing. P3I (a consulting firm working with the construction company) is on site to monitor the abatement activities. Because most of the demolition is complete, no unexpected issues are likely to arise. A full report can be found on Board Docs or the district website: www.chuh.org/boardofeducation.aspx.

**Board approvals and contract awards** The board approved the Heights Libraries alternative tax budget and sent it to the county. It also approved contracts for construction of the high school baseball/softball field dugouts, repair of the Roxboro tennis courts, and improvement of the Oxford playground.

**Minority participation in AP courses** Also Lewon-McConna, 10th-grade assistant principal, reported a 39 percent increase in minority registration in advanced placement (AP) courses for 2018–19 compared to 2017–18.

**OCR review of discipline practices** Karen Anderson, student services director, reported on the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) compliance review. In 2014, the district became part of an OCR compliance review concerning potential discrimination in disciplinary action taken against black students compared to white students in regard to all discipline practices. OCR found that the district’s disciplinary practices were carried out in a discriminatory fashion because black students were disciplined more frequently and more harshly than similarly situated white students, and systemic inconsistency in disciplinary sanctions and practices was present.

In response to the compliance review findings, the district’s discipline task force has developed and will implement a new Student Code of Conduct Guide, based on OCR-specified criteria. The guide was developed under the guidance of UpSlope Solutions, a consulting group with expertise in employee conduct, student behavior and special education.

After OCR and board approval of the conduct guide for the 2018–19 school year, copies will be made available to students in print, online and in the central office at each school.

-JWV Observer: Adele Cohn

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**Critical Feedback**

Cleveland Heights University

**Cleveland Heights University**

**Heights Board of Education**

**Meeting highlights**

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**Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa**

Score Tickets to see Hamilton
in our Summer Referral Contest

When each new client you refer to Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa fills out a referral card with your name, during their visit, you automatically enter into our Referral Contest. One winner who referred the most new clients to Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa will win and receive two tickets to the dress circle tickets for Saturday, August 25th at 1:30 pm. Winners will also receive a gift certificate to the Speakeasy at Quintana’s & Aveda swag bag.

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Catholic Institute of Art

Creative Matters

Cleveland Institute of Art

2018 Faculty Exhibition

Opening Reception
Thu Aug 30, 5-8 pm through Oct 7

Also on View
FRONT International: Great Lakes Research

11610 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland OH 44106

cia.edu/exhibitions

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CIA

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Nobody Under Bids Us

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Artwork ‘discovered’ at UH branch in donated book

In April, Heights Libraries’ University Heights branch received a piece of art that serves as the final flourish in its extensive renovation: Jerry’s Map, by artist Jerry Gretzinger.

When it reopened in November 2017, the building had a large blank wall over the fireplace mantle in the lobby. Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin knew the spot needed something special. “We were looking for art that would complement the geography theme of the building,” she said. “I didn’t want to simply cover the walls.”

Enter John Jarvey, a member of the FRIENDS of the Heights Libraries who oversees the sorting room at the Lee Road branch, where volunteers sort donated books and get them ready for FRIENDS book sales. Jarvey found a book—The Map as Art: Contemporary Artists Explore Cartography, by Katherine Harmon. Knowing Levin was trying to find geography-related art for the University Heights library, he gave it to her.

One of the artists featured in the book was Gretzinger, whose sole work, Jerry’s Map, is a 1,500-square-foot map of an imaginary city, composed of more than 3,200 individual 8” x 10” panels created over decades, beginning in 1963.

“I was thrilled at the effort and thoughtfulness of his work as well as the aesthetic,” said Levin. “I decided it was a perfect fit for our new building, so I did what librarians do, and did some research until I found him!”

Levin worked with the artist to purchase a few reproductions of the original. The $400 cost was covered by the Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries, the library’s foundation, as a long-lasting contribution to the new building.

More information about Gretzinger and Jerry’s Map can be found at www.jerrysmap.com. Anyone wishing to see the reproduction at the University Heights branch can do so during regular library hours: Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-9 p.m.; and Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board Meeting highlights

JUNE 18, 2018

Present were President Abby Botnick, Vice President Chris Mantle, Secretary James Rossa, Suzanne Moskowitz, Dana Fluxellen, Marc Gerboc and Vikas Tondhia.

Financial report

The Libraries’ fiscal officer provided a resolution to accept the financial report for the months of April and May 2018. Contents of the report were reviewed and the resolution approved. Highlights included a report of a total cash balance from all fund accounts of $13,698,060.85. The financial forecast through 2025 was also reviewed and approved. Highlights of this report included 2018 budgeted expenses and receipts. Some of the receipts include money from the Public Library Fund (PLF), general property taxes, sales to patrons, including passports, property rental, interest, and donations. Expenditures include salaries and benefits, supplies, and capital investments.

Ohio House Bill 292

Library Director Nancy Levin reported that the Ohio legislature passed a bill affecting libraries’ ability to borrow for capital expenses. The House concurred with the Senate’s changes to House Bill 292 by a vote of 86-1. The bill has been sent to the governor for his signature.

The first part of the amendment would increase the percentage of borrowing power against the PLF. This is currently set at 30 percent of the average PLF receipts for the two previous calendar years. Increasing this percentage doesn’t resolve the borrowing issue for libraries that are primarily locally funded through property tax levies, but it takes into consideration a larger percentage of their ability to repay the debt. Increasing the percentage in the statute from 30 to 40 percent is a small change, but it allows for more flexibility.

The second part of the amendment would change the maximum term of the bonds, from 25 to 40 years. This would be consistent with other sections of the Ohio Revised Code that apply to counties and school districts. Under current law, there is a 25-year maximum term limitation on bonds for libraries. School districts and counties have broader authority to finance similar projects over as long as 40 years. Replacing the 25-year limitation with a longer term would extend the period of time over which library real property could be financed.

Public service highlights

In May, Youth Services Librarian Sarah Rosenberger and Associate Colin Marshall visited Heights High and spoke with 55 students. Lee Road Library youth services staff visited 19 preschools and elementary schools to share stories with 1,350 children and promote the library’s summer reading program. Youth Services librarians Sarah Biscuso and Charlotte Blaiser performed the puppet show “Tales from Around the World” for 50 children and caregivers.

Wage increases and insurance

The board approved a modest increase for eligible employees. The renewal of employee health care insurance.

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CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC), located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center’s newsletter, and available online at www.clevelandheights.com.

Research has found exercise to be extremely beneficial in managing the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease. SAC offers a group exercise program, Delay the Disease, designed specifically for those living with Parkinson’s. There is no cost to participate, and the program takes place on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 2 p.m.

Individuals with Parkinson’s can participate with or without their care partners, in a fun, positive, motivating environment, which promotes socialization and improved quality of life.

The program emphasizes Parkinson-specific functional training with research-based exercise. It utilizes Delay the Disease and PWR (Parkinson’s Wellness Recovery) principles to promote improved strength, balance, mobility, function, coordination and cognition. Exercises are specifically geared toward managing the physical symptoms of Parkinson’s.

Faith Gilbert, a physical therapist and senior fitness trainer, leads the class with the help of Amy Nieman, an exercise specialist.

The program is supported by the Amalia Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded to fund Cleveland-area exercise programs to help those living with Parkinson’s disease.

SAC membership is $5 for Cleveland Heights residents. 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@chhts.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 e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or send an e-mail to info@universityheights.com.

Aug. 9: CLVHTS.org presents, “The Chronicles of Narnia” author C.S. Lewis, will discuss the celebrated writer’s work.

Aug. 10: William Barrow, special collections librarian at Cleveland State University, will share historic photos of Terminal Tower, the most iconic building in Cleveland’s landscape.

Aug. 16: Megan Thompson, director of education and outreach at Cleveland Opera Theatre, will highlight some of opera’s most beloved stories and melodies.

Aug. 21: Steven Harrison, curator of the recent Jazz Age exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Art, will partake in a conversational interview with Henry Adams, professor Case Western Reserve University.

Aug. 23: Ann Heyward, vice president of Ohio Aerospace Institute, founded in 1988, will discuss its work to bring universities and federal agencies together with industry.

Aug. 30: David Calvis, math professor at Baldwin Wallace University, and an authority on “The Chronicles of Narnia” author C.S. Lewis, will discuss the celebrated writer’s work.
HEIGHTS BUSINESS

Heights Music Shop on Lee has closed

Julie Hullett

After three years in business, Heights Music Shop closed its doors for the last time on July 31.

According to co-owner Greg Hido, this is a difficult economic time for music shops. He explained that people have created a “society of convenience,” in which people can sit at home and order everything they need for their guitars, instead of buying the items at a store. After selling guitars for 16 years, Hido said that he has never seen the market struggle more than now. “Online has destroyed the brick-and-mortar store,” he said.

When Heights Music Shop opened in 2015, the owners wanted to fill the space left in the community by the closing of Heights Guitar the previous year. Heights Guitar sold similar merchandise, such as luxury guitars, and attracted the same demographic to its store.

Heights Music Shop had been engaged with the community. It held jam sessions, workshops with professional guitarists, and concerts featuring local bands.

The shop’s owners, Greg Hido and Rick Szekelyi, said they would like to thank everyone who shopped at their store and attended their concerts.

“This was really a community thing,” Hido said, “especially with the other business owners on Lee Road. It was important to us to be a part of this. We appreciate all of the support.”

Julie Hullett, a 2018 graduate of John Carroll University, serves as a summer intern for the Heights Observer.

Loving Hands plans Tibetan monk visits

Julie Hullett

Cleveland Heights-based Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki is planning events for the Cleveland stops of two touring groups of Tibetan Buddhist monks.

The events will be held Aug. 12–18 and Oct. 17–22. Presentations, including lectures, healing rituals, empowerment ceremonies and debates, will be non-religious and open to the public, regardless of faith.

Classes on yoga, cooking, art, calligraphy, butter sculpture and Tibetan language will be offered. The monks will also perform blessings for individuals, homes, businesses and public buildings; create mandala artwork using colored sand; and attend private lunches and dinners, for conversation and to answer questions.

Children’s programs will include cultural learning, mandala artwork, chanting demonstrations and performances with traditional Tibetan instruments.

Judith Eugene, founder of Loving Hands Yoga and Reiki, is seeking businesses, schools, churches and other organizations interested in hosting events related to the tours. Eugene previously organized events for three similar tours.

“There are suggested donations for each event, but no one is turned away for inability to pay,” said Eugene. “All donations are tax-deductible. The monks will also have Tibetan and Buddhist jewelry and artifacts for sale at each event.”

The monks are Tibetan refugees living in monasteries in India. The monasteries each house more than a thousand monks, and their populations continually increase.

All funds raised on the tours go directly toward housing and education for the monks, so that they may “be of service to the world community by nurturing peace, harmony, compassion and tolerance.”

For more information and a program schedule, visit www.lovinghandsyoga.com/tibetan-outreach.

To host an event, call Judith Eugene at 216-408-3578.

Julie Hullett, a 2018 graduate of John Carroll University, serves as a summer intern for the Heights Observer. Julie hopes to connect her community through the art of storytelling.

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Julie Hullett, a 2018 graduate of John Carroll University, serves as a summer intern for the Heights Observer.
Dobama Theatre announces the ninth year of its Emerging Actors Program (DEAP), the summer intensive acting program for high school and college students, which culminates in the performance of a play. This year’s production is “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder, co-directed by Nathan Motta and Leighann Delorenzo.

“Our Town,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning American classic, is a meta-theatrical take on an American small town. The setting for the play is the fictional town of Grover’s Corners, between 1901 and 1913, and concerns the everyday lives of the town’s residents.

In the world of the play, the main character, called Stage Manager, guides audiences through life lessons with the use of several “guest lecturers” in addition to the characters in the play. Ultimately, the audience faces a tough question: whether it is possible to appreciate life while actually living it.

Motta, Dobama’s artistic director, is also the founder of DEAP. Now approaching its 10th year, the program has become popular among local high schools, particularly Cleveland School of the Arts, while also welcoming students from throughout the country who are attending local colleges. Dobama prides itself on its commitment to accessibility and has ensured that financial aid is available to eligible students.

This year’s DEAP ensemble production of “Our Town” runs Aug. 2–5 at Dobama Theatre, 3140 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. Admission is free and open to the public. Performances are Thursday, Aug. 2, at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Aug. 3–4, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 5, at 2:30 p.m.

For more information and to reserve tickets, call the box office at 216-932-3396 or visit www.dobama.org.

Colin Anderson is the assistant to the man for more information, contact University Heights City Hall at 216-992-7800, ext. 205.

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Music Hop continued from page 9
Culture grant. The event is also made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

The festival’s goal is to enhance Cleveland Heights’ reputation as a community for the arts by providing a platform for rising musical talent. The Hop also celebrates the city’s diversity, introduces its unique spirit to the region and displays its vibrant business climate. In addition, Heights Music Hop generates a positive financial impact for Cleveland Heights, influences the city’s image and competes with other destination neighborhoods in the region.

The event relies on volunteers throughout the weekend to staff music venues, canvas the business districts with maps and answer questions, and assist with musician check-in. Volunteers receive an event T-shirt and their choice of a FutureHeights Chance Raffle ticket or a ticket to the after-party.

“It is a great evening to come out and enjoy all the wonderful things that Heights residents know are present in our community,” said Clare Taft, 2017 Heights Music Hop volunteer coordinator. “It’s an easy volunteer project; you get to be an ambassador, enjoy music and have a good time.”

Sponsors include: MetroHealth; Dominion Energy; Dollar Bank; Zagara’s Marketplace; The Marketplace; Coventry Village; Cedar Fairmount, and Cedar Lee special improvement districts; Confluence; Keller National; Greg Bonanno, Bolt & Spool; Montlack Realty; Heights Observer; and Northeast Ohio Parent and Boomer and Beyond magazines.

Family Connections, Ensemble Theatre, Artful and other nonprofit partners, will stage additional programming for all ages in grassy areas around each business district. Interested sponsors should contact Bob Rosenbaum at brosenbaum@heightsobserver.org. Those interested in volunteering should visit www.heightsmusichop.com/volunteer.

Heights Music Hop is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Heights Music Hop website, www.heightsmusichop.com, its Facebook page, @heightsmusichop on Instagram, and @HeightsMusicHop on Twitter.

Julie Hullett is a 2018 graduate of John Carroll University and a summer intern for the Heights Observer.