University Heights unveils new city logo

After months of research and planning, University Heights has a new logo.

“University Heights will always be ‘the City of Beautiful Homes,’” said Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan. “But University Heights is so much more than home. Our new logo and branding will reflect this.”

The shapes in the new four-color logo form a U and H for University Heights; but the shapes aren’t random—they’re pulled straight from a map of the city. Just west of Warrensville Center Road and north of Fairmount Boulevard are several streets that form an H inside a U.

“We wanted our new logo to represent many things. We wanted it to be colorful, to represent a diverse mosaic. We wanted the logo to represent safe, established neighborhoods,” Brennan explained. “Once we saw how we could work the map into the logo, it all came together.”

A committee has been working for months with consultants from Guide Studio on the city’s new logo and branding.

UH City Council unanimously approved the logo at its Oct. 15 meeting.

Noble Road study is now underway

Sruti Basu

Future Heights

Noble Road study kicked off a planning study of the Noble Road commercial corridor on Oct. 29. The nonprofit community development corporation plans to work in collaboration with Noble Neighborhoods, the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), residents, business owners and other stakeholders to study the area and develop a market analysis and revitalization plan.

Throughout the approximately nine-month process, FutureHeights will seek input from neighborhood residents and other stakeholders.

Noble Road is the most significant street in the northeast section of Cleveland Heights and lends its name to the Noble Neighborhood.

The study area begins at Mayfield Road and extends along Noble Road several blocks to the west of Cleveland Heights into the city of East Cleveland.

The many goals of the study include:

• Enhancing the image of the Noble area by improving the commercial and mixed-use development at the neighborhood’s “front doors” along Noble Road;
• Improving the quality of life for neighborhood residents by enhancing retail and service businesses along the corridor;
• Providing additional jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents;
Ten years in, here’s why it matters when you shop local for the holidays

Bob Rosenbaum

We’ve been celebrating the Heights Observer’s 10th year by looking back one month at a time—at decade’s worth of headlines. This month is different; this month we bring you our annual “Shop local for the holidays” guide.

Here’s why it’s important:

**Economic impact.** Money spent over the Internet effectively leaves the community forever. The same goes for most of the money spent at big box stores. But much of the money spent at independent local merchants gets recycled back into the community, where it continues to feed the local economy.

**Quality of life.** If you like the Heights for its walkable accessibility to lively, interesting commercial districts, think of shopping in those districts as an investment in the community’s character. The environment today is tough on small retailers; we’ll lose them if we aren’t intentional about supporting them.

**Quid pro quo.** Our independent merchants support local school events and programs, community initiatives and nonprofit organizations. They donate and participate. (The Heights Observer couldn’t exist without their steady advertising support.) They cater to our local tastes and preferences. They are some of the community’s biggest boosters. They work hard to earn our business; it’s only fair to give them the first shot at it.

**It’s personal.** The people who invest their lives in local businesses generally live in or near the community. I’d rather spend my money with neighbors and friends than with faceless corporate entities whose only concern is maximizing shareholder value.

**Political activism.** Some portion of every dollar spent with large corporations is used to lobby for policies that may conflict with your values—things like wage suppression, environmental rollbacks, and cutting the power of consumer advocacy programs. Owners of small, independent businesses tend not to have lobbyists. If you see it the way I do, spending locally is like being able to vote every day for your own interests as a consumer.

**The art of gifting.** After a decade of mostly local holiday shopping, I’ve learned the process of finding unique and thoughtful gifts in neighborhood shops run by people I know seems to make gifts better. It’s something fewer people are even able to do. We’re fortunate to live in a place where it’s still possible.

This issue offers a gift guide (on pages 26–28) of ideas from local merchants. If you use it as the starting point for your mindfully local holiday shopping, it will have done its job.

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

A vote for Cordray will mean more local funding

To the Editor:

I urge my fellow Cleveland Heights residents to support Richard Cordray for governor because it will mean more and better funding for Cleveland Heights. Over the past eight years the state has slashed the Local Government Fund (LGF), and counties, cities, villages, townships, libraries and schools have been told to do more with less.

These cuts have directly impacted Cleveland Heights and caused our city and schools to lose millions of dollars. To offset these cuts, our residents gratefully supported Issue 53, an income tax increase to protect our fire and safety forces. Had Cleveland Heights residents not voted to offset the cuts from Columbus, we would have seen drastic losses, and Fire Station 2, which responds to calls west of Superior Road, wouldn’t have had enough first responders to simultaneoulsy send out the ambulance and the fire truck.

The state’s refusal to fund Cleveland Heights and other cities, the state has taken from the LGF and socked it away in the now $2.2 billion Rainy Day Fund. This fund grows every day as local governments struggle to provide basic services and to fight on the frontline of our raging opioid epidemic.

The 2018 election will directly impact the funding we receive in Cleveland Heights. Cordray has committed to working with municipalities to re-store the LGF. His opponent has been unwilling to commit to such a plan.

Our cities, libraries and schools deserve to be fully funded. We de- serve to have 84-year-old prom- ises kept. The future of Ohio, and of Cleveland Heights, rests with the fate of our governor and the LGF. A vote for Richard Cordray is a vote for that better future. Early voting is now, and Election Day is Nov. 6. Make your voice heard.

A note from the writer: These views are my own. I do not speak for any other members of CH City Council or CH government.

Melissa Yasinow
Cleveland Heights Vice Mayor

FutureHeights supports moving forward with Top of the Hill

To the Editor:

FutureHeights sent the following letter to Cleveland Heights City Council on Oct. 19...
The sign in front of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church that proclaims “See, I am doing a new thing!” refers to the hiring of the Rev. Veronica Goines as the church’s first African-American co-pastor.

The story of this historic call started in 2010, when a horrifying racial incident threatened one of the church’s young members. The young man, soliciting money for his football team, was searched at gunpoint by Pepper Pike police after a 911 caller reported a black youth trying to break into a school.

When church members demanded a public apology, the city of Pepper Pike refused, saying its response would have been the same if the call had been about a white youth with a gun.

The problem was, there wouldn’t have been a 911 call if the boy had been white. Only through the lens of implicit bias does a well-dressed, respectful and respectable young man with a cell phone, going door-to-door to raise money for his school, become a criminal suspect wielding a gun.

Forest Hill Presbyterian has long devoted itself to providing a safe place for the community. The congregant told the city leaders that, “We trust the developer and board members to keep up their commitment to the neighborhood.”

In the early 20th-century architecture compatible or complementary with the project’s architecture be one of the criteria for a successful outcome. It appears more community involvement and dialogue are needed.

The community is invited to join the Rev. John Lenz. The community is invited to join the Open House, which is being held on Saturday, November 3rd at 4:00 PM. The event is open to everyone, and all are welcome to attend.

The Rev. Veronica Goines is the new co-pastor of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church.

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The Rev. Veronica Goines is the new co-pastor of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church.
While having an arts/nonprofit center is a wonderful idea and concept for our community, I don’t feel the Coventry School site should be the location for it. A non-property tax generating building is not the highest and best use for this desirable location. It is a site that I presume would have a lot of interest from developers.

A site I presume won’t have as much interest would be the Tudor buildings at the corner of S. Taylor Road and Superior Park Drive. These buildings are being transferred to the city of Cleveland Heights due to non-payment of property taxes. The first floor retail space in these buildings is essentially empty. Let’s state some facts:

• We are in the Amazon age which is certainly hurting brick-and-mortar business.

• There are many new exurban developments moving retail further into the outer suburbs (not to mention University Circle).

• In Cleveland Heights, there are two proposed developments, Top-of-the-Hill and Lee/Meadowbrook.

The city cannot claim a few lazy workers are responsible for the level of neglect at Denison. Its neglect, and the city’s unwillingness to create parks closer to residents living further north along Noble, are symptoms of systemic racism.

Diana Hallum is a longtime resident of the north side of Cleveland Heights.

Kevin Smith is the president of the board of directors of the Cedar Taylor Development Association.

There are systemic racism in CH

While institutions give an unjust amount of resources and political-economic power to white people while denying it to people of color, this is systemic racism. According to sociologist Joe Feagin, white elites and even people of color perpetuate systemic racism. The Cleveland Heights government is such an institution.

In 1972, it was revealed that the city had been redlining—limiting black families to homeownership only on the north side of the city. In 1993, city leaders acknowledged it had not invested in that area’s infrastructure, housing stock and local business districts, and promised to change its ways. Today, after bearing the brunt of the foreclosure crisis in this city, the north side has yet to experience a change in the city’s racist ways. It razes vacant and abandoned property and hopes to attract out-of-town property buyers and developers to build high-density, high-income residential buildings along the “Noble Corridor,” to bring in a more-gentrified class of people and businesses—forget the issues facing the low-to moderate-income, primarily black residents currently living there.

The city has required minority business owners along Noble Road to raze and rebuild their buildings, or acquire unsustainable financing in order to participate in its economic-development programs and grants. CH City Council harasses other Noble Road businesses and declares them nuisances rather than work with them to deal with unruly, sometimes violent, customers, as the city and police have done for businesses in other parts of Cleveland Heights.

City boards, commissions, committees and mayoral task groups are responsible for the level of neglect at Denison. Its neglect, and the city’s unwillingness to create parks closer to residents living further north along Noble, are symptoms of systemic racism.
Lake Erie starts here

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

At various points around Cleveland Heights and University Heights, you can find the message “Lake Erie Starts Here” stenciled on residential streets. In each case, an arrow points to a storm drain grate. These words remind us that any litter or toxic waste dumped in the roadway will eventually be washed into a drain, and from there into our local streams—which in turn empty into Lake Erie a few miles north of here.

Lake Erie, of course, is the source of our drinking water, as well as our home to food fish and the organisms they eat, and a place where residents of and visitors to four states and the province of Ontario come to swim and sail.

“Lake Erie Starts Here” began on a very small scale back in the spring of 2012, as a group of residents planned a clean-up day in Grant Deming’s Forest Hill Historic District. Neighbor Susan Miller recalled having seen “Puget Sound Starts Here” stenciled on the streets of Seattle, and the group decided that such an activity would be a great addition to the day’s events.

The components of the project came together quickly. Graphic designer and neighborhood resident Laurie Garrett was asked to design the stencil as a gift to the community. Members of a Heights High student group called Project Build volunteered to wield the cans of spray paint. For its part, the city agreed to pay for the stencils, supply paint must be refreshed every couple of years. Come spring, we have access to the stencils and other materials. E-mail heightsdemocracy@gmail.com for more information.

While DBWP continues to sponsor storm-drain stenciling throughout its service area, there are many streets in Cleveland Heights and University Heights where stencils have not yet been applied; even where they have, the paint must be refreshed every couple of years. Come spring, we have access to the stencils and other materials. E-mail heightsdemocracy@gmail.com for more information.

Carla Rautenberg is a writer, activist and lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer, and has lived in Cleveland Heights for most of her life. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.
Ohio’s test-driven culture has unintended consequences

Ari Klein

The CH-UH administration has created instructional and testing pacing guides for each grade and most secondary subjects. These are calendars of material to be taught and tested at different points during the year. When these were first implemented, they were merely guidelines on curriculum that should be emphasized, but recently they have morphed into restrictive deadlines and lock-step teaching.

Teachers are now being directed to teach and test within a certain time frame, regardless of the needs of students or the distractions that may occur in class, like a fire drill, for example, that interrupts instruction. There is a need for flexibility in the pacing guides because some students may not be ready to move on as the pacing guide dictates.

I believe that exposure to curriculum content should be aligned with whatever the state of Ohio decides that students need to know. Yet, the bigger picture of what is appropriate for students seems to be getting lost.

The administration wants data, so that learning can be analyzed and compared. Supposedly, the efforts to collect, compare and analyze data will help students do better and raise the ratings of our schools on the state report card. Testing, whether students are ready or not, then collecting and analyzing the results of these standardized tests makes very little sense to me. It might be useful if it informed instruction, but we seem to be missing that part in many cases.

When I began teaching in the district, I was handed a course of study. "Here, Klein, teach this stuff." With mentoring from experienced teachers, and lots of work, I was able to shape the courses I taught to enable my students to learn the material.

I worked with colleagues to share materials and unit tests, give a common final, and everything seemed to work out well.

This is unheard of now. Teachers are told what materials to use and how to use them, with pre-tests, post-tests, and canned instruction. Little by little the heart and soul of teaching dies as more control over what, how, and when material is to be taught is taken from us in the name of collecting data.

I would like to see a backing off of the test-driven culture that our state and our district mandates and enforces. It does not work. It is a culture that fails to excite and inspire students, and it doesn’t allow teachers to facilitate learning.

Many factors affect the data, and analysis of that data must acknowledge the reality that when different classrooms generate different data results, it doesn’t necessarily mean that learning is not taking place. What it does mean is that there are different flavors of learning based on the differences in personalities among the children in those classrooms.

Personality matters because learning is based on relationships. Teachers should not have to worry about meeting the next testing deadline. Learning opportunities based on student and teacher interest within the curriculum should be respected, even when they veer from the lock-step instructional and testing regimen.

More thought needs to go into the larger goals we have for our students. The current trend toward standardization of content and knowledge has gone too far. There are better ways to help our children thrive.

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

• promoting “placemaking” and the resulting strengthening of community life;
• making productive use of sites that are currently vacant or underutilized;
• promoting walking, bicycling and transit use along the corridor;
• increasing safety by facilitating development and revitalization that puts more eyes and ears on the street;
• increasing property and income tax revenues to the cities and school districts;
• ensuring that development is sustainable environmentally, socially and economically;
• and other goals identified in the community engagement process.

FutureHeights began working with Noble Neighbors in 2017 when the neighborhood group expressed concern about vacant and underutilized properties at the gateway to the neighborhood, at the triangle formed by Mayfield, Noble and Warrensville Center roads.

“FutureHeights facilitated two visioning sessions with Noble Neighbors in 2017, where neighbors and stakeholders were invited to participate,” said FutureHeights Executive Director Deanna Bremer Fisher. “It quickly became apparent that a comprehensive plan was needed, and we began to develop an RFP [request for proposal] and search for funding.”

Meanwhile, Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), a nonpartisan coalition of faith communities and partners working for social justice in Cuyahoga County, had started a housing initiative in Cleveland Heights, focusing on Noble. Several Cleveland Heights residents, including Diana Woodward, former head of Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC), had been researching problem houses in Noble and organized a meeting at HRRC with U.S. Bank, the city, and other entities. At the meeting, FutureHeights shared its proposal.

“We are grateful to GCC for engaging U.S. Bank in its work, and to U.S. Bank for its commitment to funding the study in its entirety,” said Fisher. “We are also grateful for the cooperation and partnership of the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland; NOAA (Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope), which serves as a community development corporation for East Cleveland; GE Lighting; and Noble Neighbors.”

In June 2018, at the request of U.S. Bank, FutureHeights issued the RFP for the planning project. FutureHeights and its partners selected Camiros, Ltd., a nationally recognized urban planning firm, and The Riddle Company, a real estate and economic development marketing consulting practice, from among seven applicants in August.

On Oct. 29 and 30 representatives of Camiros and The Riddle Company met with FutureHeights and its partners, toured the neighborhood, and began to meet with residents and stakeholders.

A 15-member steering committee will help guide the work. Several community meetings and one-on-one interviews will be scheduled throughout the process to hear from residents about their ideas for the neighborhood and get feedback on initial plans.

“FutureHeights encourages all residents to become engaged in order for the project to be a success for the neighborhood,” said Fisher.

To learn more, visit www.futureheights.org, or contact FutureHeights at 216-320-1425 or info@futureheights.org.

Strati Bas is the director of community-building programs at FutureHeights.
State report cards should get an F

Sue Kouser

October was school-quality judgment month. The Ohio Department of Education issued its annual report cards this month, assigning districts single letter grades from A to F. This system uses performance on standardized tests as a proxy for school quality. The stakes are high when tests are used for more than just accountability.

Throw away your report card. It doesn’t matter if you got an A or an F! It doesn’t tell you enough about what matters, and it was built on a rocky foundation that ignores warnings about the inappropriate uses of standardized tests. When the reputation of a school or a community is on the line, or a child’s future affected by the test, judgments should be based on legitimate methods. High-stakes testing does not meet this standard.

Starting with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, lawmakers sold accountability based on testing as the way to raise achievement for all children and improve educational equity. Tests would motivate educators to do a better job and children to work harder. School quality would improve without investing in school capacity or addressing inequities and other variables affecting achievement. Ohio lawmakers continue this approach and have piled on multiple consequences over the years. They deserve an F for failure. “Line cook, server, busboy...”

—The National Observer

Koretz also notes that tests motivate educators to focus on test scores, which can have negative effects without improving learning, often at the expense of curriculum and quality instruction; and that test-based accountability focuses on what can most easily be measured, with test-based quality defined solely by measurable academic outcomes. Tests can’t measure the quality of relationships, the learning environment, social and emotional development, and the availability of curriculum and extracurricular offerings, the presence of creativity and levels of social awareness, and whether schools are preparing students to become thoughtful citizens. These purposes get lost.

A bad grade can be devastating. No one in our community liked receiving an A+ in math and an F in English, which each studentremembers from our own education as a signifier of intellectual weakness and personal and parental failure. If accepted as a credible measure of quality, a bad grade is extremely costly in terms of public confidence in public education and the desirability of a community. Test scores are used to judge schools, hold students back or prevent them from graduating, evaluate teachers, and take governance away from local school boards. The consequences are costly.

-Test corrections sold it as a panacea for guaranteeing high quality public education, and they built a system with the wrong materials—standardized tests and report cards. You can’t create a high-quality system of public schools with a test. In fact, this approach undermines quality.

-It’s time to insist that lawmakers create education policies that legitimate the amassing of information to measure educational quality. The place to start is to follow the advice Ohio State Board of Education member Lisa Woods offered at a Legislative Intern Summer Symposium forum in August: Scrap the report card and start over!

Sue Kouser has been a public school advocate and resident of Cleveland Heights for 40 years. She is co-convener of the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the retired director of Reaching Heights.

Show your pride in and gratitude for Heights schools

Krista Hawthorne

November is gratitude month. CH-UH school administrators and staff work continuously to bolster the educational experience and academic success of each of their students. While there are always ways to improve, there is also much to celebrate.

We want to hear your statements about the pride and accomplishments of the students and staff of the CH-UH public schools.

Several Reaching Heights staff and board members shared statements about the pride and gratitude for the community’s public schools:

“The school district played a huge role in helping my daughters become the intelligent, caring, successful leaders they are today. The 13 years they spent in CH-UH classrooms were academically challenging and surrounded with them with a diverse group of dedicated teachers and lifelong friends.”

Jan Vinson

“I am grateful that my son had the opportunity to be a member of the Heights High robotics team. I am proud that the team placed 1st and 2nd in the regional [competition] and placed 5th and 13th at the national level.”

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We want to hear your statements about the pride and accomplishments of the students and staff of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. Please go to www.reachingheights.org and complete the “Proud & Grateful” form. These statements will be compiled and shared on the Reaching Heights website, our Facebook page, and other media, to spread out this excitement about the accomplishments of the students and staff of the CH-UH public schools.

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UH’s first intern returns

In the summer of 1993, John Carroll University student Rachel Mullen found herself with more free time than she could handle. She needed something to do.

So, in the summer of 1993, Mullen began her first tour of duty with University Heights as the first-ever intern to Mayor Beryl Rothschild.

Now 25 years later, she’s returned to UH City Hall as executive assistant and special projects coordinator for Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan. Her first day back was Oct. 15.

“I am very excited to be here,” Mullen said. “It’s funny how life has a way of circling back.”

Mullen’s new gig—“it pays this time—includes administrative functions and managing the mayor’s schedule. Among the special projects that Mullen will manage are the Civic Awards, the State of the City Address, the Summer Concert Series and the Memorial Day parade.

She still looks back fondly on her internship.

“I put together welcome packets for new residents and worked on some lists compiling information. I also took constituent calls regarding issues. I did whatever Mr. Stinson and Mayor Rothschild needed,” Mullen recalled. “I bought a house in University Heights in 1995 and Mr. Stinson came to my home and handed me one of the Welcome Packets I used to put together.”

Mullen most recently worked as a realtor for ProEdge Realty. A former banking officer, she has served as a project manager and a policy/news writer.

Mike Cook
University Heights has been granted a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) designation by the Ohio Department of Development.

“This designation will provide the city of University Heights another tool to promote economic development,” Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan said. “It will encourage reinvestment in current housing stock, and promote new construction in the city.”

All of University Heights has been designated as a CRA, except for University Square, as the University Square parcels will be addressed separately for redevelopment.

“If a homeowner wants to expand and improve their home, they’ll receive a tax abatement on the increased value of their home,” Brennan explained. “Business owners will be offered the same incentive.”

The CRA is a direct incentive tax exemption program benefiting property owners who renovate existing, or construct new, buildings. This program permits municipalities or counties to designate areas as a CRA where investment has been discouraged, to encourage revitalization of the existing housing stock and the development of new structures.

Details on how to apply for the program will be announced soon.

Brennan said the CRA designation will help increase median housing value in University Heights and slow population loss.

“Plus, at the end of the day, this is a tax decrease for homeowners who invest in their property,” Brennan said.

More than 80 percent of University Heights homes were built before 1960.

“The need for enhanced maintenance is apparent,” Brennan said. “While the vast majority of houses are in good condition and well maintained, there are houses that show signs of deferred maintenance and declining condition.”

Mayor Brennan said credit for the CRA designation belongs to Councilwoman Michele Weiss and Community Development Coordinator Patrick Grogan-Myers.

“Michele wrote the legislation, and Patrick took care of the proposal to the state,” Brennan explained. “Without their strong work, this CRA doesn’t happen for University Heights. We owe them a debt of gratitude.”

Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.
McPhee to host UH Civic Awards Nov. 14

University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan expected to learn more about the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District at its Convocation Day back in August. What he didn’t expect, however, was to be entertained.

“I figured there’d be some speeches and a presentation or two,” Brennan said. “I didn’t count on there being an emcee who’d be putting on a performance like Tina Fey or Amy Poehler hosting the Golden Globes.”

Brennan knew then he had found his emcee for the upcoming University Heights Civic Awards.

The school event’s emcee was Maggie McPhee, a Spanish teacher at Fairfax Elementary School. In addition to her education training, McPhee has a background in dance, musical theater, sketch comedy and improv.

McPhee’s performance at Convocation Day included several stand-up routines, an act with Superintendent Talisa Dixon, and a ukulele song honoring the 2018 Master Teachers.

“I want the Civic Awards to be a fun, lively affair,” Brennan said. “I saw Maggie make the Convocation Day assembly exciting, and I’m sure she can do the same with our event.”

After a nine-year absence, the University Heights Civic Awards return on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m., at the Jardine Room on the campus of John Carroll University.

In addition to McPhee hosting the awards dinner, the Mal Barron Quartet will perform. Tickets are $25 and are available at Eventbrite.com.

The University Heights Police Auxiliary will be honored at the event, in celebration of its 70th anniversary. Awards will be presented for Citizen of the Year and Employee of the Year, plus several Good Neighbor Awards.

The new city brand will also be celebrated, with each attendee receiving a “swag bag” filled with items bearing the recently unveiled logo.

McPhee and Brennan have filmed three short promotional videos for the Civic Awards. The videos can be viewed on the city’s Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Brennan joins county planning commission

Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish has appointed University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan to the County Planning Commission. Brennan will represent the Heights Region, which comprises University Heights, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, and Shaker Heights.

In his application letter, Brennan explained to Budish that, as mayor of University Heights, he is aware “the success of our community is tied to the success of the surrounding communities,” and that he “will represent the interests of the several Heights cities in addition to my own city.”

The planning commission’s mission is to inform and provide services in support of the short- and long-term comprehensive planning, quality of life, environment and economic development of Cuyahoga County and its cities, villages and townships. The commission provides policy planning in the areas of land use, zoning and project planning.

The 11-member commission is structured as established through the Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21. It comprises three county representatives and eight representatives from the county’s planning regions, appointed by the county executive, except for the city of Cleveland representative, who is appointed by the mayor of Cleveland.

Cuyahoga County Council approved Brennan’s appointment at its Oct. 10 meeting, and Brennan attended his first meeting as a member on Oct. 11.

Mike Cook is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.

Maggie McPhee
CH receives approval for citywide CRA

Jessica Schantz

On Oct. 1, the city of Cleveland Heights announced that it had “achieved a major strategic development goal” with the state’s approval of its Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) application. A city news release, printed in its entirety below, described the CRA’s benefits:

Cleveland Heights has achieved a major strategic development goal with the announcement last week by the Ohio Development Services Agency that the City’s petition to create a City-wide Community Reinvestment Area, or CRA, has been approved.

Under the new CRA, residential properties are eligible for tax abatement incentives for both new and remodeling construction. The terms of the incentive are based on the strength of the housing market at the Census tract level using a variety of metrics identified by the city. Commercial projects would also be eligible for tax abatement, provided they meet certain criteria, and subject to the terms of a development incentive agreement required to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with the City and Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District.

“To be able to reach our strategic development goal of providing targeted incentives for new investment throughout the City is a game changer. We anticipate that the City-wide CRA will provide significant help in retaining current residents, attracting new ones, and creating new jobs and economic activity, as we convey the message that the City is ‘open for business.’ This gives us a leg up over many other Northeast Ohio cities,” according to Tim Boland, Cleveland Heights economic development director.

Businesses and property owners interested in receiving more information about this new incentive program should contact Boland at tholand@chhts.com.

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Cleveland Heights City Council
Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Khalil Seren, Jason Stein, and Michael N. Ungar.

Public comments

Constitution Day: Carla Rutzenberg, representing Move to Amend, pointed out that today is Constitution Day and discussed the right to vote and the recent addition of corporations to “we the people.”

Noble Road planters: Jill Totten thanked the city for the planters and hanging flower baskets that have beautified the Noble Road area.

Edgill/Overlook intersection

Council granted the city manager permission to go to bid for the Edgill/Overlook intersection reconstruction project.

Special Improvement District assessments

Both Cedar Fairmount and Cedar Lee special improvement districts were granted adoptions on their special assessment funds for five years. Cedar Lee will receive $155,888 per year and Cedar Fairmount will receive $66,275 per year. This will be reimbursed when the assessments are collected.

Foreclosure bonds

Upon foreclosure of vacant commercial and residential properties, the city will require a cash bond of $15,000 to be paid within 60 days of vacancy. This legislation was presented on first reading only and well be discussed further in the committee of the whole meeting before a vote is taken. The two ordinances state, “The posting of a cash bond will encourage responsible behavior in the part of foreclosing property owners and will provide further incentive for them to consider every option available to keep a property occupied.” Council has considered foreclosure bonds in the past, and other cities have adopted these with good results in proactively preventing potential blight.

Noble/Quilliams intersection

Council authorized the Ohio Department of Transportation to proceed with the request of upgrading the traffic signals and pedestrian-crossing facilities at Noble and Quilliams roads.

Immigration Task Force extension

The term of the task force will be extended until Oct. 31, 2018.

Announcements

Council Member Seren spoke with pride of the expected passage of his employer, the Cuyahoga County Council, of a fair practices ordinance designed to protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination. He pointed out that several municipalities in Ohio, including Cleveland Heights and other Cuyahoga County cities, had passed such legislation previously, and that the state still has no such law (County council passed the measure on Sept. 25.)

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy

OCTOBER 3, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Khalil Seren, Jason Stein, Cheryl Stephens and Michael N. Ungar.

Common Council Topic: Public comments

Advocate for nightlife: Jessica Gonzalez, who is a member of the Cleveland Heights Business District (CHBD), spoke in favor of legislation to raise the age for purchase and consumption of e-cigarettes and other smoking materials from 18 to 21, as a way to prevent early addiction to nicotine. Council Member Ungar recused himself from the vote (citing) potential conflict of interest because his daughter serves as director of a nonprofit that works on this issue.

Mayor’s report

In closing comments, Mayor Roe announced a public meeting on Oct. 10 which will provide an update on the Top of the Hill development. She also reported on the dedication of the former Calandra Park to Barbara Boyd, the former Cleveland Heights mayor who had played a role in the initial development of the park.

LWV Observer: Sucee Kaeber (from video)

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

To receive email postings of full meeting summaries, email to members@lwv-cuyahoga.org or join through Google groups using “lwv-chuh observer reports” or “search archives.”

These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings, and are not official statements of the Heights Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. Please do not circulate, copy, or publish any redaction of these reports.

Cleveland Heights mayor who had played a role in the initial development of the park.

LWV Observer: Susie Kaeber (from video)
Cleveland Heights to refund parking ticket overpayments

Mary Trupo

The city of Cleveland Heights is taking action to refund an overcharge of $5 for various parking violations issued between 2013 and the present. The refunds are for tickets issued for specific, non-metered parking violations and include these infractions: prohibited zone, no permit, overnight parking, fire hydrant and fire lane parking, abandoned vehicle, traffic hazard, parking on sidewalk and parking on curb or streetlaw.

The city recently learned of a clerical error resulting in the issuance of paper tickets for some parking infractions with the additional fee. “All efforts will be made to refund the extra $5, with interest, charged for applicable parking violations,” said City Manager Tanisha Briley.

In December 2012, fines were increased for a number of the city’s parking violations. These increases took effect in Jan. 2013. The Cleveland Heights Police Department ordered new tickets to reflect the increased fines at this time, and during this transition the clerical error occurred that resulted in erroneous increases being added to the paper parking tickets for various infractions.

Anyone who received a parking violation since January 2013 for the above-noted violations was instructed to pay a $20 fine versus the actual violation fee of $15. The police officers writing the tickets were not aware that there was a discrepancy; after learning of the error, the city took action immediately.

Any individuals who received and paid a parking ticket for these specific categories from January 2013 up to the current time is eligible for a refund of $5 plus interest from the city. The city will be sending a postcard notification to all those affected, with instructions for reimbursement. Information will also be available on the city’s website, www.clevelandheights.com/parkingticketrefund. Additionally, an e-mail (parkingticketrefund@clvhts.com) and a voicemail account (216-291-3012) have been set up for anyone who thinks he or she may be eligible.

“We regret this error occurred and will make every effort to make it right for our residents and visitors,” said Briley. “We will act quickly to make restitution to individuals who may have been impacted by this clerical error.”

Mary Trupo is the director of communications for the city of Cleveland Heights.

FutureHeights awards mini-grants to four Cleveland Heights projects

Malumbo Kabula

FutureHeights completed the fall 2018 round of its Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program, approving $4,425 in grants to support four neighborhood projects in Cleveland Heights. The grants are intended to spur small, grassroots projects to improve quality of life and build community.

The Old Vaudevillian was awarded $355 for its costume exchange pop-up project, located in the former Heights Music Shop space, and its plans to build community, provide low-cost Halloween costumes to children, and decorate and re-use a vacant storefront.

GardenWalk of Cleveland Heights received $250 for its garden walk project. GardenWalk is a free, self-guided tour of private and community gardens and home orchards in each neighborhood in the city. GardenWalk aims to nurture community, beautify neighborhoods and encourage civic pride.

Oxford Community Garden was granted $500 for its planning, planting and producing project. The project aims to make the garden and gardening more accessible to seniors through the installation of raised beds. As it implements this project, the organization will host two meetings aimed at educating community members on the benefits of gardening.

Litter Busters of Noble Neighborhood received a grant of $320 for its Flawk Noble project. The project aims to foster a litter-free neighborhood while encouraging residents to move around. Through this project, Litter Busters hopes that residents will become more conscious of litter and dispose of it.

Are you interested in learning more about these and past mini-grant projects? Join FutureHeights at The BottleHouse on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., for its annual mini-grants community celebration. For more information and to RSVP visit https://minigrantscelebration.eventbrite.com.

If you have an idea to improve your neighborhood, FutureHeights invites you to apply for a grant. The next application deadline is March 15 at 5 p.m.

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program awards grants of up to $1,000 to fund citizen-led neighborhood projects, events and activities that benefit Cleveland Heights. The program is guided by a grant-making committee comprising seven Cleveland Heights residents with a history of community involvement.

Learn more at www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-projects, or contact FutureHeights at sasha@futureheights.org, or 216-320-1423.

Malumbo Kabula is pursuing a Master of Science in social administration at Case Western Reserve University. He is currently an intern at FutureHeights.
Free program counsels families struggling with addiction

Wiley Smith and Kari Collier

An estimated one out of ten people who use alcohol before the legal drinking age will develop drug addiction or another substance abuse disorder, as will six of ten who use other drugs before the age of 15.

Addiction negatively impacts users’ lives and the lives of those who love them. Thoughts like “it can’t happen in my family” or “it’s just a phase” can fuel years of denial, during which behavioral and financial difficulties take their toll. Stigma often prevents family members from identifying problems and seeking help. Loved ones believe that they somehow must have caused or contributed to the user’s illness and therefore should have caused or contributed to the toll. Stigma often prevents family members “learn that letting go doesn’t mean they don’t love the addicted one, but rather that they have come to understand the things they can change and the things they can’t . . .”

The Saint Alban program differs from other group programs like Al-Anon in that it offers education and support to help family members identify problems and seek help. The program is designed for family members and significant others concerned about a loved one’s abuse or addictive use of alcohol or other drugs.

The free program is facilitated by Jim Joyner, a licensed chemical dependency counselor with nearly 47 years of experience.

Joyner brings his expertise to prevention, treatment, education and other intervention services in the battle against the ravages of alcohol and drug addiction.

“We help family members understand that when they enable (make the addict’s dysfunction comfortable), their loved one has no real motive to change,” Joyner explained.

Through participation in the program, Joyner has found that family members “learn that letting go doesn’t mean they don’t love the addicted one, but rather that they have come to understand the things they can change and the things they can’t . . .”

The Saint Alban program is financially supported by individual donations, grant funding, and Episcopal Community Services of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

For more information, call 266-760-3883 or visit www.joynerandalsocietys.com.

Wiley Smith and Kari Collier are members of Saint Alban Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights.

Afternoon with author benefits women’s education

Donna Johnson

The Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O. International will host its seventh annual Afternoon with an Author on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m., at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd. All proceeds will benefit P.E.O. International Projects for Women’s Education (www.peointernational.org).

This year’s event will showcase Cleveland-based author Claire McMillan and her second novel, The Necklace. In it, McMillan blends the present day and early 20th century with a dramatic mystery involving a Cleveland-based family of wealth and the intrigue of a precious heirloom. Cleveland was also featured her first novel, Gilded Age.

McMillan, the 2017–18 Cuyahoga County Writer-in-Residence, is a fan of Edith Wharton. She grew up in Pasadena, Calif., and now lives outside of Cleveland on her husband’s family farm. McMillan will join a noteworthy roster of Greater Cleveland authors—James Renner, Thrity Umrigar, Mary Dotia Russell, Sam Thomas, D.M. Pulley and Annie Hogsett—who have appeared at past Chapter Q P.E.O. fundraisers.

The afternoon will include a book reading and Q-and-A with McMillan, followed by a book signing and dessert reception. A Cultural Exchange, a nonprofit organization promoting literacy, will offer copies of the book for sale at the event.

Tickets cost $20. To purchase tickets, or for more information, contact Katie Rarick at 847-204-1555 or chapterqohio@gmail.com.

A resident of Cleveland Heights and proud mom of a Cleveland Heights High School graduate, Donna Johnson is a member of Cleveland Heights Chapter Q of P.E.O International.

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Church of the Saviour is 90 years old

Krisy Dietrich Gallagher

On Nov. 25, 1928, Church of the Saviour held its very first worship service. This year, on Nov. 18, the Cleveland Heights church will celebrate its 90th anniversary with a worship service held in the building's original sanctuary, essentially unchanged since its inception.

The Lee Road building, designated a Cleveland Heights Landmark in 1975, is now home to more than 1,400 congregants from the Heights and surrounding communities. Reverend Andy Call, lead pastor, describes the congregation as "diverse in every way—racially, generationally, economically, politically, and theologically—but united in the mission of bringing new life to Greater Heights by living and sharing the Gospel."

Call's description is reflected in the church's five-year plan, which includes an invitation to "see the world as God sees the world," according to Renee Leonard, who serves as the church's lay leader with her husband, Jim. This leads directly to Church of the Saviour's active engagement in its community and in the world.

"We have a long history of being out in the community, tutoring in our schools, serving at the City Mission," said Leonard. She outlined ambitious plans for the anniversary year, including "getting as many people as possible out there working." The church has fostered a special relationship with the city of East Cleveland, which both Call and Leonard say will be a major focus of their service work in the coming year. "We don't want to march in there and tell them what to do or save them from their problems," said Leonard. "We want to find out what they're already working on and then come work alongside them."

That attitude has long driven the services provided by Church of the Saviour, both to its congregation and to the community at large. Upward Basketball, a weekend outreach program that serves more than 300 area youths, has made its home at the church for a decade. Breathe Respite, another community service provided by the church, offers evenings out for parents of children with special needs, while ensuring a safe and appropriate environment for their children.

The church also engages in mission work overseas, with a primary focus on the north coast of Haiti, and an ongoing relationship with missionaries in Liberia, Zambia and Cambodia.

The public is invited to attend the anniversary service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, preached by Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Charles D. Yoost, and including worship and musical expressions spanning its nine decades. Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Road, in Cleveland Heights.

Krisy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH communications department.

Beth El celebrates 20th anniversary and a new rabbi

Carol Bruml

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue announces a gala event, planned for Dec. 1, that will mark two special occasions in the life of its community: the 20th anniversary of the founding of the synagogue, and the installation of its new rabbi, Michael Ungar.

The event will be intertwined with regular Shabbat services at the synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave. Beth El – The Heights Synagogue was founded in the fall of 1998 through the merger of the old Temple Beth El, formerly in Shaker Heights, and the Heights Synagogue that was itself founded about five years previously, in Cleveland Heights. The commemoration includes a special luncheon after services, at which all past presidents will be invited to be recognized. Ungar, who recently moved from Columbus to the Cleveland area, will be installed in a three-part fête comprising prayer, spoken word and song.

Services begin at 9:30 a.m. and the ceremonies will commence after 10:30 a.m. Participants from the congregation, the community and from Columbus are invited and expected. For further information, contact Bud Stern or Robin Dubin at 216-320-9667.

Carol Bruml is the communications chair and newsletter editor for Beth El – The Heights Synagogue.
Disciples Christian Church plans downsizing rummage sale for Nov. 10

Ronald Werman

Tenants at the Disciples Christian Church are this year’s Fund for the Heights Emergency Homelessness (IRTF) recipients. Hot dogs and beverages will be sold by the sanctuary, and there will be a silent auction to benefit the IRTF. The rummage sale will take place Nov. 10, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the church (3663 Mayfield Road). There will be an assortment of reasonable priced items including children's toys and books, holiday decor, housewares, jewelry, and small furniture, as well as a few free items. Also for sale will be fair trade items from Latin American cooperatives, offered by the Interreligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia (IRTF). Hot dogs and beverages will be available to purchase.

For more information, call Disciples Christian Church at 216-387-5344 or e-mail info@discipleschristian.org.

Ronald Werman is an elder and communications chairperson of Disciples Christian Church.

Library foundation honors three

Nancy Levin

Draupadi Pradhan, Suzanne DeGaetano and Rachel Wayne Nelson are this year’s Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries Honor Roll award recipients. The awards—recognizing those who have made a sustained, outstanding contribution to the Heights community by promoting literacy or educating through literacy—are inspired by Heights Libraries’ mission of “Opening Doors, Opening Minds.”

A Door Opener is someone who provides access to education, literature and opportunity through literacy. A Mind Opener stimulates the minds of community members, through thoughtful discussion, or connections with though-provoking ideas or individuals. Pradhan, a Nepali refugee, works tirelessly to help the refugee community in Cleveland Heights.

She has served as an interpreter, advocate and liaison, and has been instrumental in working with Noble Neighborhood Branch staff to offer services for refugees. She will receive a Door Opener award from the library foundation.

DeGaetano, owner of Mae’s Backs Books on Coventry, has hosted a monthly poetry reading since 1984. It is one of the longest-running poetry series in the country. The store also hosts book clubs, writer’s workshops and community programs. DeGaetano has encouraged and supported new and established writers for decades, and has partnered with the Coventry Village Branch on numerous fundraisers. She will receive the Mind Opener award.

Nelson was the director of Cleveland Children’s Museum and an instrumental board member of the Cleveland Foundation. She was the director of the Cleveland Museum of Art and worked in education and engagement in visual and performing arts. She was the director of the Cleveland Children’s Museum and an instrumental board member for Project Learn and the Global Issues Resource Center.

Nelson remains an avid community volunteer and mentor well into her 90s. She will receive a Lifetime Achievement award.

The award recipients will officially be honored at a dinner banquet on Sunday, Nov. 11, 5 p.m., at the Dolan Center of John Carroll University. Tickets are available at https://ffhonorodinner.eventbrite.com.

Nancy Levin is the director of Heights Libraries.

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“I help the FRIENDS out in the bookshop twice a week, sorting and organizing books, things like that. The FRIENDS volunteers are all super friendly and care a lot about supporting the library. I’m so glad I can be a part of that. I also love seeing all my favorite staff around the library. I see everything about the library, and check out books and DVDs all the time.”

— Courtney Bradney

“I’ve been coming here since I retired from the Cleveland Fire Department. I was in a wheelchair at the time, having just been hurt in the line of duty. The library taught me how to use computers, and gives me access to movies, books, really any kind of information I seek. For me, the library helped to keep my mind occupied while I recovered from my injury. And being single and retired with no children, it’s like a second home. And the staff is phenomenal. They go far beyond their call of duty to make my day and days and years so pleasant.”

— Phillip Martin
Traffic projects mean progress for pedestrians and bicyclists

NOACA installed a counter at the top of Cedar Hill (the intersection of Cedar Road, Euclid Heights Boulevard, Overlook Road and Harcourt Drive) that records pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic. The counter NOACA previously placed on Edgell Road, between Overlook and Murray Hill roads, recorded almost a quarter million walkers in its first year!

Perhaps the most important development in the long run was that, with the recommendation of the Cleveland Heights Transportation Advisory Committee and an endorsement from Heights Bicycle Coalition (HBC), Cleveland Heights City Council enacted a Complete and Green Streets Policy to specify that city streets must accommodate all users (not just motor vehicles) to the extent possible as they are planned and renovated.

Cleveland Heights participated with South Euclid, Lyndhurst and Mayfield Heights in the Mayfield Road Corridor Multimodal Plan to establish a unified vision for future road work and redevelopment (also with funding from NOACA).

The Mayfield Road Signalization Project will start a modernization of the city’s aging traffic signal infrastructure with new poles, mast arms and signal heads, as well as ADA-compliant curb ramps at each intersection on Mayfield. It will be the first traffic signal system in Cleveland Heights using a fiber optic interconnection where all of the signals communicate together to enhance traffic flow, with all 16 intersections controlled from a base station. Other enhancements include emergency vehicle preemption to activate the red light in all directions when an emergency vehicle approaches, and video detection to activate the signal when a car or bicycle is stopped at a red light (too often, detection coils embedded in streets fail to detect bicyclists; video detection is expected to be a big improvement).

The interconnected traffic signals should enable vehicles to move more smoothly through the corridor and reduce emissions caused when cars idle at stops. Ultimately, the city plans to have all signals in Cleveland Heights connected through fiber optics and controlled through a single base station. The approximately $3.2 million Mayfield Road Signalization Project is funded largely by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, with about 20 percent of the funds coming from the city of Cleveland Heights.

Major additional projects planned for 2019 are improved crosswalks and signals at Noble and Quilliams roads (thanks to Safe Routes to School funding); a reconfiguration of the intersection at Overlook and Edgell roads, to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety; renovation of Meadowbrook Road between Taylor and Canterbury roads; a new waterline on Selwyn Road, followed by street repair; and ongoing Dominion work to replace gas lines.

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 Mary Dunbar and members of the coalition’s Communications Committee.

Church bazaar supports fair trade and cottage industry

Jennifer Blakeney

Shop for unique holiday gifts that make a difference in our community and in communities around the world at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church’s annual fair trade bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Vendors will include the Inter Religious Task Force, Holy Land Handicrafts and Noonday Collection, and local business Golden Goddess—a line of sustainable, organic cosmetics produced and sold by Cleveland Heights resident Ajah Hales. The sale of jams and other edibles will benefit Camp Lilac for transgender teens.

Items from more than 13 countries will include jewelry, purses, clothing and more—offering perfect gifts for all ages. Prices range from $4 to $50 and up.

Fair trade helps to break the chains of poverty in economically disadvantaged regions. It ensures that no child or forced labor is used, and that goods are produced in safe and healthy working conditions using environmentally sustainable resources and practices. Supporting local business keeps economic benefits in our community while maintaining similar guidelines.

All festival proceeds go directly to the vendors and their fair trade partners. Forest Hill Church is located at 3031 Monticello Blvd. For more information, call 216-321-2660, or visit www.fhpres.org.

Jennifer Blakeney has been a Forest Hill Church member for 20 years.
Pickleball is increasingly popular

Dennis Keating

Cleveland Heights Community Center visitors may see a group playing a game with paddles on courts there. They are playing pickleball—a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It’s played with a paddle and a hard plastic ball with holes, on a court about half the size of a tennis court. It’s usually played as doubles, and players rotate. Pickleball is quickly learned, and information is available through USA Pickleball (www.usapa.org).

In Cleveland Heights, from October through May, it’s played Tuesday and Thursday mornings indoors at the community center. In the summer months, it’s played outdoors on four courts at Denison Park.

About 20–25 people play regularly in Cleveland Heights. Most have taken up pickleball within the past three years, learning about it from a variety of sources. Player Judy Hauser said, “I cannot envision my life without pickleball. It has given me a new skill, new friends and much joy—I wish I had discovered it earlier.”

In addition to the exercise, CH’s pickleball players enjoy meeting people and making friends. A majority of them are CH residents. Others live in nearby suburbs. With an exception, they range in age from 62 to 80. The majority are retired. Their professional backgrounds include computer engineer, book buyer, restaurant manager, social worker, journalist, CPA and librarian, and they have worked at the Ohio Health Care Administration, Planned Parenthood, the Cleveland Clinic, the Veterans Administration, the Hospice of the Western Reserve, Heights High, Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University.

This diverse group volunteers at a variety of places, including Meals on Wheels, the Cleveland Food Bank, Toastmasters International, the Cosgrove Center, The Cleveland Clinic (therapy dog), Heights Libraries, the Chagrin Valley Horseman’s Association and the Maltz Museum. One of the players, while on vacation in 2018 in Chennai, India, took donated pickleball equipment to introduce the game to residents there.

Cleveland Heights residents pay $3 per session, or $25 for 10 sessions, at the community center. Non-residents pay twice that.

Coordinators Judy Hauser (judy.hauser2988@gmail.com), Peg Zitzner and Dave Tomberg facilitate the CH pickleball group. For additional information, visit www.chparks.com or call 216-691-7573.

Pickleball players in Cleveland Heights.

Heights takes home the Golden Racquet

Nicole Pellechia

For the second time in six years, the Cleveland Heights High School girls’ tennis team took home the coveted “Golden Racquet,” triumphing 4-1 over Beaumont School on Sept. 26.

Mike Pellechia, Beaumont tennis coach, created the Golden Racquet in 2013. An actual tennis racquet painted gold, it is the trophy claimed by the yearly match between Heights High and Beaumont School. The recipient of the racquet then keeps it for an entire year, and is required to bring it to the rivalry match the following year.

To properly encourage his team to fight for a win, Heights High Coach John Laskarides did his best to hype the rivalry, and even e-mailed his team pictures of the Beaumont team holding the golden racquet, to get them fired up.

His tactic proved effective, as Heights defeated Beaumont on four out of five courts, losing only 1st doubles. In the end, both coaches were excited that their rivalry is becoming something the girls look forward to.

“I knew that it was going to be a tough match this year. We won all five courts last year, but they were close and we had five seniors,” said Pellechia. “I’m disappointed we lost possession of the racquet this year, but the Heights girls played very well and deserved the victory. We definitely will have this match circled on our calendar next year, and look forward to trying to win the racquet back.”

Dennis Keating is a Cleveland Heights pickleball player and member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

The Beaumont and Heights High tennis teams and coaches, pre-match.

Overwhelmed by Medicare options?

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Dixon to leave CH-UH schools for Columbus district

Jessica Schantz

On Sept. 21, both the CH-UH school superintendent, Talisa Dixon, and the Board of Education released statements regarding Dixon’s recent decision to take the position of superintendent of the Columbus City Schools. Dixon expressed how honored she was to be chosen for the prestigious post, but affirmed her commitment to complete the 2018-19 school year with the CH-UH district, citing the need to “finish important work” and “see through our initiatives.”

In its statement, the board expressed regret at losing “a dynamic leader,” but also its pride that “Ohio’s largest public school district has selected [Dixon] as its next superintendent.” We believe this validates that we as a district are working on the right things: equity, community partnerships, improving communications with our families and community, and building strong relationships with our teachers and staff.”

Dixon echoed this shared pride in the accomplishments of her four-year tenure, crediting “the collective efforts of our teachers, administrators, staff, and community.” Dixon also credits the district’s improvements as part of the reason she was considered for the new post.

‘The board publicly thanked the Columbus City Schools for its flexibility in letting Dixon stay through the school year in order to complete tasks related to the district’s five-year strategic plan, an initiative begun under her leadership. According to the board, the task of seeking out and hiring Dixon’s successor will begin “as quickly as possible.”

Dixon thanked the CH-UH community for welcoming her four years ago, and expressed confidence in the continued success of the district. “Whomever the leader is, the work will continue because of the support of the Board of Education and because of our dedicated staff who give their best efforts every day on behalf of our students.”

Jessica Schantz is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and the e-news editor for the Heights Observer.

Cleveland Heights University Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

President James Pasch, Vice President Jordana Sourcing, and board members Dan Heinz and Beverly Wright were present. Malia Lewis was absent. Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Quigley were also present. The meeting began at 7:05 p.m., after a board training session, and adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

2018 state report card update

Allison Byrd, director of data and assessment, reported on the six components of the report card (achievement, performance, gap closing, prepared for success, social K-3 readers, and graduation rate). She compared all state and firming district schools. Byrd will present additional reports at two future board meetings. Her report can be found in the Sept. 23 agenda on Board Docs on the Board of Education website: www.chuh.org/boardofeducation.aspx.

Summer programming update

Assistant Superintendent Felisha Gould and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Robert Swaggard reported on the summer programs: Camp Invention, Third Grade Reading Guarantee, Reading Matters for English Learners, Algebra Bridge Program, Explore Your Future, Middle and High School Summer School, Afterschool Camp, and C1ST (out of school time) Summer School. The “I am Going to . . . Camp” program is for kindergarteners and students about to enter first or second grade.

Board approvals

The board approved $1,976,075 for renovation of the Monticello Middle School kitchen, which will improve the kitchen’s efficiency. The kitchen also serves the Boulevard, Oxford and Noble elementary schools. The money will come from the permanent improvement fund.

Superintendent Dixon’s departure

Pasch commented on Dixon’s departure for a position with the Columbus schools. He thanked her for all she has done for the district, and thanked the Columbus district for letting her stay to the end of the school year. The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) will meet with the board on Oct. 9 to start a search for a new superintendent. DWV Observer: Adele Cohn.
Heights Career Tech partners with Tri-C culinary program

Scott Wörtman

Students in the Heights Career Tech program will soon have another professional pathway to choose. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, the five-district consortium will partner with Cuyahoga Community College's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program.

The two-year program will begin with 18 juniors taking two courses, Hospitality Fundamentals and Fundamentals of Food Production, at Tri-C’s Eastern Campus in 2019-20.

The following year, the program will expand to 18 juniors and 18 seniors. The senior courses are Restaurant Management and Room Service and Operations. Students will receive 10 college credits after completion of the program.

“We are excited to announce this new partnership with Tri-C,” said CH-UH Superintendent Talisa Dixon. “But we are more excited about the opportunities that the partnership will provide to our students.”

“A culinary program was removed from our original Master Facilities Plan with the promise that we would explore a partnership for it in the future. This agreement with Tri-C fulfills that promise and affords our community’s students another viable pathway from which to pursue success in college or a career.”

Students who are interested in the program can learn more at the annual Career Fair on Nov. 15 during the school day at Cleveland Heights High School. There will be an informational session for parents that evening from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Heights Career Tech Consortium allows junior and senior students to explore potential career fields with hands-on experiences in the classroom. The courses are offered through a five-district consortium, which comprises Cleveland Heights, Bedford, Maple Heights, Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights high schools. Heights Career Tech students currently have the opportunity to earn professional certifications, industry-recognized credentials and college credit in 25 unique pathways.

For more information, visit www.heightscareertech.com.

Scott Wörtman is the supervisor of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.
Library launches new digital collections

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries recently launched four new, free digital collections that customers can access through the library’s website, at any time of the day or night. All that’s needed is a Heights Libraries card and an Internet connection.

“Heights Libraries now offers three new movie and TV streaming services,” said Heights Libraries Deputy Director Kim DeNero-Ackroyd. “Acorn TV, which specializes in British and Australian movies and television shows, like Doc Martin and all kinds of British mysteries. Then there’s StingRay Qello—the largest online collection of full-length concert films and music documentaries, featuring artist-as diverse as Imagine Dragons, Beyoncé, Miles Davis and Frank Sinatra.

All of the library’s streaming and online collections—which also include eBooks, audiobooks, comic books and magazines—can be accessed from just about any device: smart phones, tablets and laptops, as well as through Apple TV, Roku, Chromecast and Samsung Smart TV.

“I think the best thing about our online collections is the fact that you can access them at any time of the day, and from anywhere,” said DeNero-Ackroyd. “As long as you have access to the Internet and have a device like a smart phone or a tablet, you can be watching a movie or a concert, or reading a great book. It’s kind of like having the library in your living room or in your pocket.”

To learn more about Heights Libraries’ new digital collections, go to www.heightslibrary.org or call 216-932-3600.

Sheryl Banks is the communications manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System.
Heights Observer November 1, 2018

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New UH clinic offers customized physical therapy

Shari Nacson

Evgenia Tararova became a physical therapist because she loves making people feel good, whether it’s rehabilitating a patient’s injury or training them for personal wellness. She said she founded her own clinic, Physio Heights, so she can customize patient care without insurance restrictions. Treatment is based on the mix of services that work best for the client, not a pre-designated boilerplate plan.

Tararova chose University Heights for her home and workplace after growing up in Mayfield Heights. “I chose UH because I love the area,” said Tararova, citing the livability, pedestrian access, and diversity. Physio Heights opened earlier this year at 2245 Warrensville Center Road. Client sessions can include a mix of manual physical therapy, neuromuscular therapy, myofascial release, dry needling, therapeutic yoga, deep tissue and sports massage.

“This business model allows for a complete focus on what clients need,” Tararova said. She collaborates with patients on the treatments they choose and how often they meet. While clients typically pursue physical therapy providers based on what insurance will cover, the clients who come to Physio Heights often have been down that route and want something different. “Clients come very motivated to be better after not-so-positive experiences at clinics which are directed by insurance companies,” said Tararova.

Physio Heights client Anna Winfield, who has had back issues over the years, said she found the services cost effective. “By the time you do co-pays and deductibles,” Winfield said, “using insurance adds up. I feel like I got my money’s worth.” In fact, she said she got back to work faster than with classic clinic-based therapy, meaning less lost wages. “I’ve never gotten such quick and lasting results before,” she said.

Winfield said she liked that Tararova used a combination of individualized methods—in her case physical therapy, yoga, deep tissue massage and dry needling—to help solve her back pain. She was also pleased it took six sessions of therapy, and not prescription pain medication, to get relief. That’s a focus of Tararova’s practice. “There are better ways of managing pain than medicines and surgery,” Tararova said, “options that people might not have heard about.”

Tararova received both her Doctor of Physical Therapy and Bachelor of Science degrees from Cleveland State University. She also does work at The Cleveland Clinic.

Tararova said Physio Heights is able to offer flexible scheduling and mobile services, meeting clients out in the community when it makes sense. For more information, visit www.physioheights.com.

Cedar Fairmount SID seeks new executive director

Jessica Shantz

After nearly 19 years of service, Kaye Lowe, the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District’s (CFSID) executive director, will retire at the end of December.

CFSID’s board of trustees is currently searching for Lowe’s replacement. The position is for a part-time, 1099 independent contractor. Qualified candidates must possess a minimum of five years of experience, a bachelor’s degree, excellent communication skills and strong project-management skills. The nonprofit serves to promote and improve the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood for its businesses and property owners.

The full job description is available at www.cedarfairmount.org.

Cleveland’s Pilates master goes international

Shari Nacson

Evgenia Tararova teaching Pilates in Venice, Italy.

Cleveland’s Pilates master Troy McCarty, owner and director of White Cloud Studios, has been dedicated to his craft since the early 1980s. Now, he has taken his passion and talent abroad, working as an international teacher for Balanced Body Inc.

McCarty discovered the world of Pilates while working as a professional dancer in New York City in the 1980s, eventually opening Cleveland’s first Pilates studio in 1992 in his Lakewood apartment.

As business boomed, McCarty found himself spending more time on the East Side, attending events with the orchestra or at the Cedar Lee Theatre.

“I soon moved [White Cloud] into a retail space and then opened up [studios] in Cleveland Heights and Chagrin Falls,” McCarty explained. He even moved his personal residence east, too.

Using a modern, “intelligently designed” machine called The Reformer, Pilates is a full-body workout that targets core muscles in the abdomen and back. According to White Cloud’s website, Pilates “relies on your own body strength, proper alignment, and careful technique . . . correcting the postural misalignments that frequently contribute to chronic back pain.”

White Cloud has continued to grow since the 1990s, diving into the worlds of professional athleticism and international training. “We regularly work with the Cleveland Cavs. I also train other teachers to teach Pilates,” McCarty said. “We just had a visiting teacher from Italy [who wanted] to sharpen his skills, stay with us, and hang out at our studios for two weeks.”

As a master teacher for Balanced Body, a Pilates company, McCarty is familiar with the international Pilates community and recently returned from Istanbul where he trained new instructors. “I have taught in Seoul, Korea; London, England; Florence, Italy; Hong Kong and Beijing, China; Venice, Italy; Sitges, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; and I regularly teach in Havana, Cuba,” McCarty recounted.

McCarty credits his international work with strengthening his skills. “I get to be around other master teachers. I always bring back new ideas when I travel internationally,” he said. “I love working with new teachers from different countries and showing them my background in Pilates.” McCarty even trained with two instructors who originally worked for Pilates founder Joe Pilates himself.

While White Cloud Studios takes up much of McCarty’s time, he also enjoys cooking and photography, and resides in Cleveland Heights with his spouse and fellow White Cloud teacher and co-owner, Raudel Nacson. Together they have two dogs, Amigo and Onion, and love spending their time in the Heights.

We love Cleveland Heights for the people that choose to live in this great city. We love that we are five minutes from great art and great music and delicious food. When I travel, I always enjoy coming back home!” McCarty said.

White Cloud Studios in Cleveland Heights is located at 2450 Fairmount Blvd. and can be contacted via e-mail (pilateshts@me.com) or phone (216-229-3323). First-time clients should sign up for initial consultation classes to prepare them for full-on group Pilates.

Laurel Brown has lived in Cleveland Heights her whole life. A recent college grad, she’s excited to pursue writing, music and photography in the future.

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Cinderella story turned on its head in ‘Ella Enchanted’

Colin Anderson

Dobama Theatre celebrates the holiday season with a regional premiere of ‘Ella Enchanted.’ This family-friendly musical, adapted from the best-selling novel by Gail Carson Levine, is directed by Nathan Motta and will run from Nov. 30 through Dec. 30.

Dobama is thrilled to be partnering with Robin VanLear, community arts director at the Cleveland Museum of Art, to create puppets for the production. With music, puppets, adventure, and plenty of girl power, “Ella Enchanted” is a modern Cinderella story. Ella is given the “gift” of obedience as an infant by a misguided fairy and cannot disobey any order. The strong-willed Ella goes on a quest to rid herself of this so-called gift.

“Ella Enchanted” is a modern Cinderella story turned on its head in ‘Ella Enchanted’

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 216-932-1396, or visit Dobama’s website, www.dobama.org, for special holiday performances and added family matinees.

JCU art gala to benefit refugee foundation

Alexia Bifro

On Nov. 10, 7-10 p.m., John Carroll University’s (JCU) Student Union will host its first-ever art gala and silent auction in a collaborative effort to raise money for US Together, a refugee foundation with an office in Cleveland Heights.

The gala, which has as its theme “Art has no language barrier,” will showcase student and faculty talent while bringing together communities throughout JCU and University Heights. The art will be auctioned off and all proceeds will go to US Together.

There will also be raffle baskets, free food and drinks, and music. In addition, clients of US Together will be selling their handmade jewelry at the art gala, to support their own business.

While admission is free, donations at the door will be appreciated. Starting bids for the art pieces will range from $25 to $50. Raffle winners and high bidders can leave their contact information; they do not have to be present to win.

The event will take place in JCU’s Dolan Atrium. Everyone is invited to attend, to show support for the Heights community and for refugees. For more information, e-mail abifro19@jcu.edu.

Alexia Bifro is a senior at John Carroll University and an event coordinator on its student union. She is lead advisor for the student-run charity fundraiser on campus.
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4th of July (2018), by David King.

Laurel Brown

The work of two Cleveland Heights residents, Sarah Curry and David King, will be part of the Ohio Arts Council’s (OAC) Art Educators as Artists exhibition.

The show will be on view at the Riffe Gallery in Columbus, Nov. 1 through Jan. 5.

As a state agency, OAC is dedicated to supporting and expanding Ohio’s artistic community. The organization has provided funding for Heights organizations and events, including FutureHeights’ 2018 Heights Music Hop. Its new gallery exhibit showcases 68 pieces from 46 accomplished art educators from across Ohio, including Curry and King.

Laurel Brown has lived in Cleveland Heights her whole life. A recent college graduate, she’s excited to pursue writing, music and photography in the future.

Tyler Whidden

John Steinbeck’s masterpiece, “East of Eden,” is making its Ohio stage premiere at Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights. Shows continue through Nov. 11.

Adapted by Chicago theater legend Frank Galati and directed by Ensemble artist and board member Ian Wolfgang Hinz, the epic play tells the story of the attempts of the Trask family to set roots in Salinas Valley, Calif.

“East of Eden” is widely accepted as John Steinbeck’s greatest work, and American classics have always been a part of Ensemble’s core mission. With past productions like ‘The Great Gatsby’ and now ‘East of Eden,’ we have been able to build a bridge to classic literature through theatrical adaptations,” Hinz said.

A biblical allegory and family epic, the play offers up themes of good vs. evil, love and loss, and the human quest to emerge from past sins. Hinz sees the production as offering a unique experience for audiences: “There is nothing like live theatre when it comes to audience experience, and to be able to experience this great story in an immediate visceral setting opens up audiences for conversations as a shared experience.”

The show stars Cleveland-based actors Dana Hart (Sam Hamilton), Scott Miller (Adam Trask), Jill Levin (Kate), Joy Cayabyab (Lee), Kyle Huff (Caleb), August Scarpelli (Aron), Leah Smith (Abra Bacon), Greg White (Mr. Bacon), Val Young (Mrs. Bacon), Whit Lowell (Will Hamilton), Sarah Blubaugh (Eva), and Mia Radabaugh (Nurse). Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. on Ensemble’s Mainstage at 2843 Washington Blvd. in the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus.

After “East of Eden,” Ensemble will co-produce Shahrazad Theatre Company’s new adaptation of “Around the World in 80 Days.”

For tickets and more information, visit www.ensembletheatrecle.org, call 216-321-2930, or e-mail info@ensemble-theatre.org.

Tyler Whidden is a playwright and associate artistic director at Ensemble Theatre. He also co-hosts “The Cleveland Stage Podcast.”

Laurel Brown

Ensemble presents ‘East of Eden’
Again, what has changed?

There it is again. It won't go away— that tired old “I’ve heard Cleveland Heights has really changed” thing that people say, people who no longer live here. I’ve written about this before, but it keeps coming back.

Just recently, someone in a Cleveland Heights-related Facebook group posted a photo of kids sledding down the hill at Cain Park in the 1970s. One of the first comments was “Those were the good old days.” I figured the commenter must have moved out of state and has assumed that kids no longer go sledding there. So I said to him, “It’s also the present. It’s exactly the same today.”

He responded, “I’ve heard that it changed.” I said, “Not at all. I’ve lived in Cleveland Heights for my whole life. I used to go sledding at Cain Park when I was a kid. Then I took my kids there when they were little. And now my son takes his kids there. And I also go to many concerts there during the summer.”

He said, “That’s good to know. I always loved Cleveland Heights.”

But there are two things you need to know about that. One is that it turns out he does not live in Florida or Arizona or California; he lives in Lakewood. The other one is that I’m pretty sure that when I said sledding at Cain Park hasn’t changed, and he said, “That’s good to know,” he was relieved because he interpreted that to mean there really aren’t a lot of black people there, as he’d been led to believe.

Because that’s what people mean when they say, “I’ve heard that Cleveland Heights has really changed.”

When I attended Heights High, in the late ’60s, the school had, maybe, six black students, out of 3,000 kids.

When my son started at Heights in 2002, he and the other white students were very much in the minority. I was asked to volunteer for many things at the school, so I was often inside the building.

I admit that I felt a little frightened for a while. But I figured out that I was not scared to be among so many black teenagers; I was scared to be among so many teenagers, period. But then I learned that these kids, black or white, were nice people. Most of them. These kids, black and white, always held doors open for me—which was kind of amusing, because it meant they saw me as old. But it was nice of them. And they called me sir. And, best of all, they laughed at my jokes. No, really.

The hallways, between classes, were noisy. But so were they when I went to Heights. There were occasional fights in halls and in the courtyard—but not as many as there were when I attended Heights.

My kids graduated from Heights in the early 2000s, but I’m still in the Cedar Lee area often. And my daughter-in-law teaches at Heights, and my son is the coach of the swim team, and manages Cumberland Pool in the summer. So, I’m still around the school and Cain Park and Cumberland Park a lot. And, yes, things have changed in the schools and in the parks—if you mean the percentages of white and black kids. But kids haven’t changed, as far as I can tell. Many carry cell phones today. But we would have, too, had they been available.

When you take your children or grandchildren sledding at Cain Park this winter, and you see the kids, all bundled up and covered up and wrapped up, and you watch and listen to them playing, see if you can tell which ones are black and which are white. Spoiler alert: You won’t be able to. So, then, what has changed? The attitudes of people who think something is different, and don’t like it.

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

2018 Holiday Gift Guide

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Custom Scented Candles and Lotion. Create a one-of-a-kind gift for friends and family by blending a custom-scented product. ($16.00 to $36.00, Cleveland Candle Co.)

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GIFTS FROM $50.00 TO $150.00

Leather Wrap Belts. ($78.00, Blush Boutique)

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Children’s Rocking Horse with Padded Seat. ($150.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Corinthian Bells Wind Chimes. ($68.99 and up, Bremec on the Heights Garden Center)

Lampe Berger Home Fragrance. ($33.99 to $88.99, Bremec on the Heights Garden Center)

Customizable Wine Gift Baskets. ($50.00 to $150.00, CLE Urban Winery)

Opalescence Go Teeth Whitening Kit. Get your teeth whiter for the holidays with this professional-strength, easy-to-use kit. ($125.00, Fairmount Circle Dentistry)

Color Swatch Bowls by Shayna Roth Pentacost. ($58.00 and up, Heights Arts)

Lee Clutch in Leather. High-grade belting leather purse. ($135.00, Still Point Gallery)

Gift Pouch. Hand-dyed and hand-sewn linen pouch, contains big heart tea and tea bags, healing salve for rough skin, bath salts and porcelain heart ornament. ($69.00, Gikena Ceramics)

50-Minute or 80-Minute Warm Stone Massage. ($80.00 and $120.00, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)

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Geometric Mosaic Necklace: Made of Swarovski crystals and other materials. ($208.00, S’Wonderful Gifts) 25
Mid-Century Modern Cooper Coffee Table. Shown in hickory. ($772.00, Eastwood Furniture) 29
Central Air Conditioning with Pre-Season Discount. (Verne & Ellsworth Hann) 27

Group Workshops. These include leather craft, sewing, weaving, and embroidery. [$40.00 and up, Studio How-To]

Custom-Made 18K and Sapphire or Gemstone Earrings. ($750.00 and up, Wanderlust Jewelers) 30

“Barnes I.” Archival framed fine-art canvas print, 40” x 66”. ($995.00, Still Point Gallery) 27

Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 9
4:30 p.m. Handbell Prelude
5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

A gem of the Anglican choral 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!

SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN FORMATION
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11 a.m. Christian Formation for All Ages
Morning Prayer (2nd Sunday)
3 p.m. Choral Evensong, as scheduled

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Book of Seeds: A Life-Size Guide to Six Hundred Species from Around the World by Paul Smith. Next time you pick up an acorn you will know which tree it came from. ($35.00, Mac’s Backs - Books on Coventry) 23

GIFTS MORE THAN $150.00

One-Year Pass. Give friends and family the gift of play at Family Connections. ($175.00, Family Connections) 23

Five-Drawer Jewelry Chest, shown in maple. ($167.00, Eastwood Furniture) 28

“Repeating Waves” by Preston Sheeks. ($185.00, Heights Art) 26

Birkenstock Boston Black Suede Shearling Clog. ($165.00, Passport to Peru) 23

Cycling and Yoga Class Packages. (2$44.00 per 20-class pack, $350.00 per 30-class pack, $380.00 for 3 months of unlimited classes, and more, Confluence Cycle Yoga)

Porcelain Serving Set. Set of three pieces: 16-inch tray, 14-inch tray, 5-inch side/dip bowl. ($225.00, Gleena Ceramics) 24

Gift Certificate for an Aveda Signature Dream Ritual Package: Includes a 50-minute Swedish relaxation massage, 50-minute Aveda Customized Facial, Signature Manicure, and Dream Pedicure. ($230.00, Quintana’s Barber & Dream Spa)