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Volume 11

Number 11

November 1, 2018

# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Published by **FutureHeights**

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FutureHeights  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105  
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## Ohio's poet laureate is a neighbor

Evan Komito

What does it take to become the state's poet laureate? In Ohio, one might say, "It takes one to know one."

When Dave Lucas, who lives in Cleveland Heights, met Ohio's first poet laureate, Amit Masmudar, of Columbus, they discovered that they shared many similarities. With Masmudar's encouragement, Lucas expressed his interest in the position to the Ohio Arts Council, and was granted an interview.

He was asked to submit samples of his work and to write a proposal for furthering the mission of the poet laureate position, which is to encourage literacy and learning. Now, almost halfway into his two-year term, Lucas's proposal will carry him across the state to cities, suburbs, rural towns and college campuses—wherever people gather to share the love of words in the form of poetry.

While spreading poetry across the state, Lucas hopes Ohioans will come to recognize its presence in the everyday—in slang, jargon, song lyrics, tweets, dramatic scripts—wherever words take on a deeper meaning.

According to Lucas, people should not always press to "get" a poem. Its significance can lay simply in the sound of the words.

Asked about his proposal, Lucas said that he planned to spread the appreciation of poetry through a monthly column, which he titled "Poetry for People Who Hate Poetry." He is distributing the column free of charge to newspapers and other media outlets. It can currently be seen in indie papers, such as *Cleveland Scene*, Case Western Reserve University's (CWRU) *The Observer*, *The Bargain Hunter* (Tuscarawas), *The Devil Strip*, and others.

A big fan of Cleveland Heights, Lucas relocated here twice, after



David Lucas, Ohio's poet laureate.

stints in academia out of state.

"It's an interesting time and place to be in the Heights," he said, where he regularly runs into talented people and colleagues Kathy Ring and Thrity Umrigar. "Its backyard neighborliness

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## Homegrown chef opens Elite Bistro on Lee

Fred D'Ambrosi

Executive Chef Alvin Harris thinks Cedar Lee is poised to be the Cleveland area's next Tremont, a center of what he calls the "Progressive American" culinary movement, a place where you can "put on jeans and a nice shirt" and still enjoy "fine dining." That's why Harris and his partners chose to open their new restaurant, Elite Bistro (2195 Lee Road), in the evolving Cleveland Heights neighborhood.

"It's getting there now. Boss Dog Brewery, that was a major plus in this neighborhood. Taste up the street. Lopez. Good pizza, good bars," Harris said. He hopes Elite Bistro will add to the Lee allure for foodies.

Harris grew up in Shaker Heights. His culinary career started by accident and took him through many of Cleveland's best kitchens. He fell into cooking when he dropped out of college in Atlanta and returned to Cleveland to crash at his brother's apartment. He responded to a Craigslist ad for a dishwashing job at Marigold Catering,



Chef Alvin Harris displays his Jamaican Jerk Airline Chicken with garlic roasted green beans and Parmesan redskin mashed potatoes.

and was hired on the spot. Soon he advanced to arranging dessert trays and helping catering crews.

"At that point, I was like, maybe I need to go back to school," said Harris. "I really like where this is going." But Michael Smith, who was then director of food operations at Marigold (and is now owner of the

*continued on page 7*

## Noble Road study is now underway

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights kicked off a planning study of the

# Future Heights

Noble Road commercial corridor on Oct. 29. The nonprofit community development corporation plans to work in collaboration with Noble Neighbors, 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;

*continued on page 6*

## University Heights unveils new city logo

Mike Cook

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

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## Letters Policy

The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to: [www.heightsobserver.org/members](http://www.heightsobserver.org/members).

## HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life.  
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the *Heights Observer*, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

Seed funding for the *Heights Observer* generously provided by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, the Dominion Foundation, and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation. Powered by the 9th Estate.

# Ten years in, here's why it matters when you shop local for the holidays



OPENING  
THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

We've been celebrating the *Heights Observer's* 10th year by looking back—one month at a time—at a 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 access 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, environmen-

tal 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.*

## Information about the Heights Observer

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

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

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

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

If you're writing a news article,

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

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

Articles to be considered for the December issue must be submitted by Nov. 6. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

## 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 graciously 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 simultaneously send out the ambulance and the fire truck.

The state's refusal to fund Cleveland Heights and other municipalities is a severe breach of the 84-year-old pact between Ohio's communities and our state government. The state got to impose a sales tax in 1934, and in return, the revenues are shared with municipalities to deliver essential services such as police, fire, trash pickup, and roads.

Rather than sharing with Cleve-

land Heights and other cities, the state has taken from the LGF and socked it away in the now \$2.7 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 restore the LGF. His opponent has been unwilling to commit to such a plan.

Our cities, libraries and schools deserve to be fully funded. We deserve to have 84-year-old promises 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:

*continued on page 3*

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# Forest Hill Church's 'new thing'

Peg Weissbrod

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 houses with a gun.

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 protested structural racism and

fought for fair housing, but this racial profiling of one of its own was a wake-up call to new action.

Educational initiatives and letter-writing campaigns were being discussed when longtime church member Ron Register stood up and said, "Wait a minute. What about the log in our own eye?"

Register, an African American and former president of the CH-UH school board, confessed he sometimes felt uncomfortable mingling with the predominantly white congregation after worship on Sundays. "Instead of marching on city hall, or writing letters to the newspapers, maybe we should work on relationships between blacks and whites here at Forest Hill Church," he said.

A long conversation about racial inclusivity within the more than 80-percent white congregation ensued. Members realized that their past efforts, including shared programs and activities with predominantly black churches, weren't enough. Finding themselves a long way from the beloved community described by Christ, they resolved to change the congregation itself.

They looked at their goal of being

a warm, diverse and inclusive church and recognized that not everyone perceived this warmth. They looked at their staff and realized that, despite the congregation's commitment to racial inclusion, the only African Americans were custodians. They looked at their pews and saw that, despite the growing numbers of African Americans in the congregation, the numbers didn't reflect the neighborhood around them. And they realized that Martin Luther King Jr.'s claim that the Sunday morning worship hour was the most segregated hour in America was still true.

In response, they began "Courageous Conversations on Race," teaching members to recognize subtle racial bias in themselves and others. They fostered interracial relationships and educated members to recognize and confront both covert and subtle bias.

When their longtime associate pastor moved to Denver, they aspired to seek a wide diversity of candidates to fill the position. They also committed to replace the traditional church model of a senior pastor assisted by an associate and instead sought a co-pastor to share equally in leading the church further along the path of restorative justice.

After interviewing scores of applicants of all races and genders, Forest Hill Presbyterian Church found Goines to be by far the most outstanding candidate and the best choice to join the Rev. John Lentz.

The community is invited to join



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

in celebrating Goines' arrival, and to learn more about her at [www.fhcbpresh.org](http://www.fhcbpresh.org).

Peg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and publicity coordinator for Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights.

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LETTERS continued from page 2

FutureHeights supports a mixed-use development project at Top of the Hill and urges council to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation to initiate the Planned Development Overlay District Procedures and Rezoning Process. FutureHeights staff and board members participated in the Aug. 30 design focus group meeting, attended the Oct. 10 community meeting, and reviewed the updated plans and renderings.

We are pleased with the responsiveness of the developer to our comments and [those of] others in the community. However, we are also aware that there remain community concerns about several important issues: traffic/parking, compatibility/quality of architecture, and the 30-year tax abatement. In addition, we are unsure that all business owners and residents in the neighborhood understand the project and have had a chance to provide input and suggestions. It appears more communication and dialogue are needed.

We share community concerns about the impact of the project on traffic volume and parking—issues that are already evident in the neighborhood. We became aware on Oct. 17 of the impact of the project on residents of apartments on Lennox and Surrey roads, who currently use a portion of the existing parking lot. We trust that the developer and city will work with neighborhood residents and businesses to resolve current issues and mitigate any new ones that result from the project.

We share the community's desire that the project's architecture be compatible or complementary with the early 20th-century architecture in the neighborhood. We recognize,

however, that the historic homes and commercial buildings in the neighborhood are significant and valuable precisely because they cannot be replicated in our current time. Therefore, we support construction that is of our era, and of high-quality materials that will withstand the test of time. In addition, the building at the point should create a signature gateway to Cleveland Heights in its own right.

As the city's community development corporation, we understand the need for tax-abatement for this project. As residents, we know well the tax burden that homeowners face in our city; however, we know that this development would not be possible without this incentive. Our city needs development in order to shore up our tax base and reduce the tax burden in the long run. A high-quality mixed-use development at the top of Cedar Hill will also enhance the reputation of the city, appropriately increase density to support existing businesses, and improve the quality of life for existing residents by providing goods and services that they need, including the addition of new housing options.

We look forward to working with the city, the developer, Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, residents, local businesses and other stakeholders to ensure a thorough process that will result in a development project that will strengthen the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood and our city.

Deanna Bremer Fisher, Executive Director of FutureHeights  
 Julia Kious Zabell, President of FutureHeights Board of Directors

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# Coventry School should be sold

Kevin Smith

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.

• While we have many wonderful businesses, we also have a fair amount of vacant storefronts.

With all of these challenges, should retail go into the first floor of those Tudor buildings? COULD retail go in? It is old, obsolete retail space and we already have some of that to go around.

Arts organizations and nonprofits are wonderful to have in our community and provide countless benefits for us all. That said, unfortunately, they also undoubtedly operate on shoestring budgets and can't afford high rents.

Coventry School is a desirable location. I'm sorry to say the Tudor buildings on S. Taylor are not. Coventry School should be sold and the organizations located there should create an arts and nonprofit center, with prominent exposure, on S. Taylor. The organizations could transform this section of S. Taylor by relocating there, and would further positively impact our community in doing so.

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

POET continued from page 1

is a real plus," he added. "You have to be able to like where you live and work."

Lucas gives a shout-out to some of the people who influenced his career as a poet, including George Bilgere, Rita Dove, Charles Wright, Mark Strand and Linda Gregerson.

Lucas's first book, *Weather* (The University of Georgia Press, 2011), received the Ohioana Book Award for Poetry in 2012. Named by Rita Dove as one of 13 "young poets to watch," he has also received a Discovery/The Nation Prize and a Cleveland Arts Prize.

A lecturer in the English department at CWRU, Lucas is co-founder of

Brews + Prose at Market Garden Brewery and of Cleveland Book Week. He also teaches at the Sweet Briar Creative Writing Conference, the John Carroll Young Writers Workshop, and the Cleveland Clinic Program in Medical Humanities.

Looking ahead, Lucas sees more poems, more teaching, local projects and a reading series in his future. He has a second book of poetry ready for publication, and is hoping it will attract more attention when word gets around it comes from a poet laureate.

*Evan Komito is a resident of Cleveland Heights an occasional contributor to the Heights Observer.*

# There is systemic racism in CH

Diane Hallum

When institutions give an unjust amount of resources, rights 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 lily-white, with the only hint of color being two or three higher-income black residents (one from the north

side of town and close friend of an ex-mayor) who are cycled through these different municipal entities.

Denison Park is on the north side. It is the poster child of systemic racism. (Pictures posted on my Facebook page demonstrate how differently it is managed from other city parks.)

The majority of trees are unpruned and weed-choked. The playground contains about an inch of colorless, decomposed bedding that resembles wood chips only on close scrutiny. A muddy track leads through heavy, sagging gates too large for most children to move. Children then face a nearly 1-foot drop over the concrete footers forming the boundary of the play area. Compare that to the deeply mounded fresh and bright wood chips in the Forest Hills and Turtle Park playgrounds, the concrete sidewalks that lead to smaller gates, and the presence of benches and tables in or immediately adjacent to the playground.

A soggy, inaccessible, decrepit baseball field has no discernible infield features, such as a pitching mound, base lines or a batting area. Benches are mired in mud and the backstop is damaged and rusting.

Where there was once a swimming pool and verdant picnic area now sits a gated all-purpose field that is off limits to local residents without costly CH Community Center IDs, membership and program fees. Claiming it could not afford to keep the pool open, the city decided to expend \$650,000 from the city's Recreational Bond to bulldoze the pool and install a field that stole half of the park's land.

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.

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

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# Lake Erie starts here



**HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY**

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 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 generously agreed 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 the paint, and provide two service department employees and a pick-up truck for the initial effort.

On Earth Day 2012, residents walked the neighborhood, picking up litter and yard waste, and sweeping the storm drains clean. Project Build members followed, stenciling every storm drain in the Grant Deming district. The attractive design and compelling message elicited smiles and approving comments. Inevitably, a passer-by documented the project on Facebook,

and word really began to spread.

The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP) asked Garrett for permission to use her design, which she graciously granted. DBWP began organizing volunteers to extend the project. Today, many streets around Cuyahoga County, and some as far as Lorain and Sandusky, have storm drains proclaiming “Lake Erie Starts Here.”

Even as we and our neighbors in the Great Lakes region face a certain future of ever-higher water and sewer rates, we enjoy a jewel beyond price: access to one-fifth of the surface fresh water on Earth. Every way we can spread the message to protect and sustain it is surely worthwhile.

Making a difference in one’s community can be a daunting prospect. Pressing for legislation, supporting a candidate, or campaigning for a citizens’ initiative require hours of research, meetings, organizing and canvassing. These efforts are vital. But it is refreshing to know that we can have a small but significant impact with tools as simple as a stencil and a spray can.

You might visit another city, observe an example of civic involvement, and think, “Wouldn’t that be a good thing to do in the Heights?” Or a solution to a hyper-local problem might simply come to you. Instead of letting those thoughts drift away, share them with your neighbors. Envision the steps it would take to make your idea a reality. Gather your tools and your team and begin.

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.*

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# Ohio's test-driven culture has unintended consequences



A TEACHER'S VOICE

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 curricula 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.

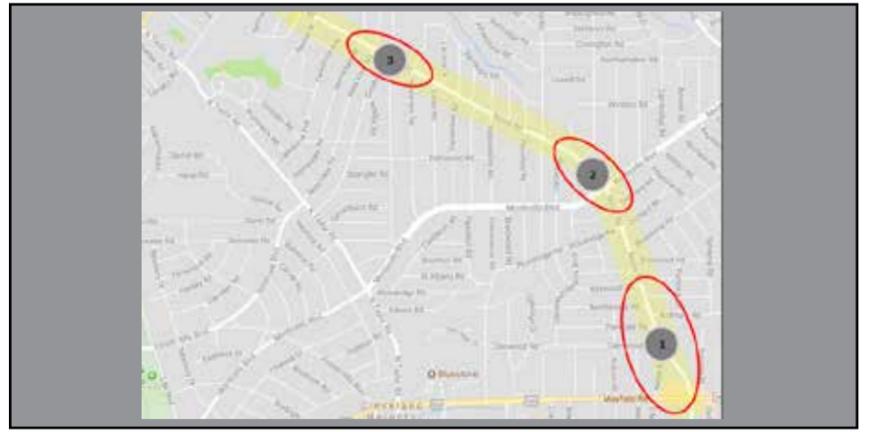
Many factors affect the data, and analysis of that data must acknowledge the reality that when different classrooms generate different data results, it doesn't necessarily mean that learning is not taking place. What it does mean is that there are different flavors of learning based on the differences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

NOBLE continued from page 1



A map of Noble Road in Cleveland Heights showing the three commercial nodes: Noble/Mayfield/Warrensville Triangle, Noble/Monticello, and Noble/Nela.

- 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 Woodbridge, 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; NOAH (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](http://www.futureheights.org), or contact FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org).

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



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## State report cards should get an F



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

October was school-quality judgment month. The Ohio Department of Education issued its annual report cards that assign school 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 making judgments like this.

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 is going to be affected, 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 education quality. 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 income inequality 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 to use common sense, protect children and invest in education, and for endorsing a deeply unreliable measurement system.

In his 2017 book, *The Testing Charade: Pretending to Make Schools Better*, testing expert Daniel Koretz discusses issues that make judgments about children or school quality based on test results inappropriate. While tests are useful for monitoring achievement and comparing groups of children, individual scores can change from one day to the next. While tests can estimate what students know, they cannot determine why they know it. In-school and out-of-school factors affect achievement,

so tests, in their imprecision, do not provide a basis for decision-making and do not accurately measure school quality.

Koretz also notes that tests motivate educators to focus on test scores, which can be raised 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. That is, with testing, quality is defined solely by measurable academic outcomes. Tests can't measure the quality of relationships, the learning environment, social and emotional development, the breadth 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 a D, something that each of us remembers 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 report card 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.

Architects of accountability 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 legitimately contribute to education quality. The place to start is to follow the advice Ohio State Board of Education member Lisa Woods offered at a League of Women Voters-sponsored forum in August: Scrap the report card and start over!

*Susie Kaeser has been a public school advocate and resident of Cleveland Heights for 40 years. She is co-convenor 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 of pride and gratitude about the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. Please go to [www.reachingheights.org](http://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 positive statements about the accomplishments of the students and staff of the CH-UH public schools.

Several Reaching Heights staff and board members shared statements of 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 them with a diverse group of dedicated teachers and lifelong friends." *Jen 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." *Michelle Gore*

"My children are receiving a phenomenal education, rich in diversity, academic rigor and the arts. They are academically challenged by their peers, and their teachers care deeply about their students." *Joyce Roper*

"I'm so grateful for Keith Newman's well-run high school stage crew and proud that my son has been part of the team that helps every high school musical production run smoothly." *Beth Woodside*



Michelle Gore is proud and grateful for the education her son, Grant Gober, receives at Cleveland Heights High School, especially the opportunity to participate on the award-winning robotics team.

"I am grateful that my children had the opportunity to take a combination of Advanced Placement courses, College Credit Plus classes, and career and technical education programs at Heights High. They were prepared and confident when they started college, which saved time and money." *Krista Hawthorne*

"I am a proud and grateful CH-UH resident, alumna, former parent, and teacher." *Tina Reynolds*

"I am grateful for the life lessons my son learned from his Heights sports teams and especially from his coaches. Baseball came easy to him, but he had to work hard at cross-country. I'm most proud of his perseverance to make the ice hockey team in his junior year." *Linda Dudzinsky*

"I'm proud of our students, who represent some of the best and brightest of the Heights community. And I'm grateful for the dedication and commitment of the entire district staff for making our schools safe and nurturing learning environments." *Lance Godard*

*Krista Hawthorne is executive director of Reaching Heights and a proud and grateful Heights Tiger.*

ELITE BISTRO continued from page 1

Krav food truck) talked Harris out of culinary school. "He said, 'No, I'll teach you everything you need to know,'" Harris said.

Harris stayed at Marigold. With Smith's encouragement, he eventually left to work for Brandon Chrostowski at Edwins in Shaker Square. In 2013, Harris was part of the team that opened the innovative restaurant serving award-winning French cuisine while training formerly incarcerated adults. "Line cook, server, busboy. I worked the fromage (cheese) cart. I did everything," explained Harris.

His Edwins experience opened doors to other restaurants. He worked under Executive Chef Andrew Gorski at both Tremont Tap House and Butcher

and Brewer. When Gorski left to launch Parker's in the Kimpton Schofield Hotel downtown, he asked Harris to come with him as executive sous chef. It was a huge break for Harris, who said, "I felt like this guy was going to elevate my game. I owe it all to him."

Harris won't categorize his cuisine. He wants to surprise guests with riffs on familiar dishes, for example the Soft Grits with Seared Scallops and New England Street Corn. "You see shrimp and grits all over the place," said Harris, but his version has "amazing U10 (10 or fewer per pound) scallops with a nice brown sear on them. You get the soft bite of the grit with the nice crunch of the corn then you have a mix of American

cheese and queso cheese. It just ties in well together."

He's also excited for patrons to try his Airline Jerk Chicken. (Note: "Airline" refers to the skin-on boneless breast cut with the first joint of the wing still attached, not what's served in the friendly skies.) "It's not overbearing on the heat," he said. "I don't want to scare people off with too much spice."

Harris said all entrees will include a vegetable and starch to keep prices in a reasonable range. Menus, which will be available on the restaurant's website, [www.elitebistrocle.com](http://www.elitebistrocle.com), will change with the seasons and based on customer feedback. The restaurant has a full bar with

an extensive wine list and cocktail menu.

Elite Bistro serves dinner only Tuesday through Thursday, lunch and dinner Friday and Saturday, and brunch on Sunday.

The interior of Elite Bistro has been remodeled along clean, contemporary lines. It's at the site of the former Fix Bistro, which closed in July. Despite the name similarity, Harris said there's no relationship between the two restaurants. Elite Bistro held its grand opening Sept. 30.

*Fred D'Ambrosi has been a journalist for 40 years, most recently as news director at WOIO/WUAB Cleveland 19. He's lived in Cleveland Heights since 2015.*

# UH receives CRA designation from state

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 en-

courage 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 Uni-

versity 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.*

## UH’s first intern returns



Rachel Mullen is back at University Heights City Hall after 25 years away.

Mike Cook

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.

At the time, Mullen lived in a duplex across the street from University Heights City Hall. She walked across Warrensville Center Road, marched up the steps to city hall and asked the first person she saw if there were any internships available.

Community Coordinator Walter Stinson told her nobody had asked to intern before. “Mr. Stinson said the city

couldn’t pay me,” Mullen said, “but they could use the help.”

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 is the communications and civic engagement coordinator for University Heights.*

LOGO continued from page 1

meeting.

Brennan said Guide Studio outlined several objectives for a new city logo and brand, including that it:

- Highlight the quality of life in University Heights
- Differentiate [the city] from surrounding communities
- Demonstrate the city is going somewhere
- Elevate perception and awareness
- Improve and enhance communication with residents and businesses

“The process was thorough. I’m pleased we met all of our objectives, and we are all thrilled with the result,” Brennan said.

The process began with a review of the city’s current brand and marketing materials, followed by a survey [sent] to city stakeholders and leaders. From there, tours of University Heights were conducted, and workshops began.

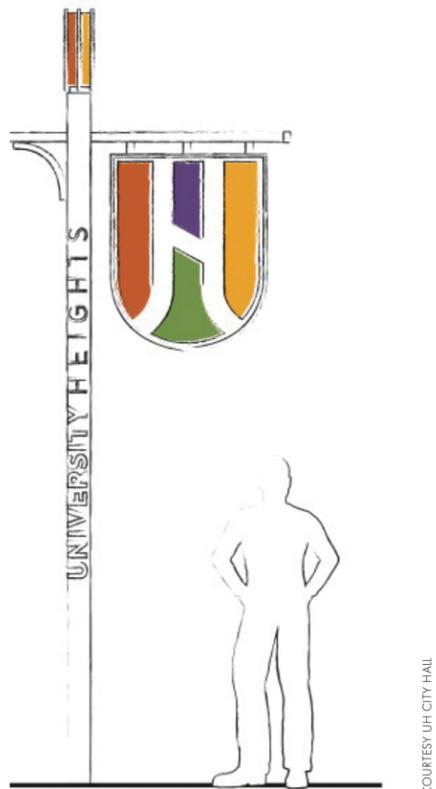
Data and insights were combined into a Brand Strategy Platform, which included identification of audiences and a positioning statement.

The next step of the process is implementation.

Over the next few months, the new logo will replace the old door-knocker logo, and the city’s website and social media accounts will be redesigned. City vehicles will be remarked with the new logo, and new business cards and stationery will be ordered.

Next spring, new signs will be installed, and banners will be posted on light poles.

“Visitors to University Heights often don’t know where our city starts and where it ends,” commented Brennan. “Banners will



Concept art for new banners and signs bearing the new University Heights logo.

help solve this problem.”

Those attending November’s University Heights Civic Awards will receive a “swag bag” filled with items bearing the new city logo.

Brennan plans to make city merchandise available to everyone.

“I’d like to see us open an online store, where people can buy items with the new city logo,” Brennan said. “We’ll have the usual items, like shirts, hats and mugs, but I’d like to see us have items like Frisbees, water bottles, playing cards. The more creative, the better.”

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

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## McPhee to host UH Civic Awards Nov. 14

Mike Cook

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



Maggie McPhee

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 50th 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.

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

## Brennan joins county planning commission

Mike Cook

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 represen-

tatives 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.*



## 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 streetlawn.

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](http://www.clevelandheights.com/parkingticketrefund). Additionally, an e-mail ([parkingticketrefund@clvhts.com](mailto: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 \$1,425 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



Oxford Community Garden received a Future Heights mini-grant for raised beds.

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 Plawk 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-programs](http://www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs), or contact FutureHeights at [sbasu@futureheights.org](mailto:sbasu@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.*

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## 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 be able to cure or at least control it. The truth is the opposite.

The family education and support group at Saint Alban Episcopal Church 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 differs from other group programs like Al-Anon in that it offers education.

The first hour of each meeting is devoted to providing information to help family members understand addiction as a brain disorder,

and help them learn to respond to addicted loved ones' behaviors without taking responsibility for them.

The second portion of each meeting is about support, providing a caring environment for participants seeking to make healthier choices for themselves and those they love.

The program takes place at Saint Alban Episcopal Church, 2555 Euclid Heights Blvd., Cleveland Heights, every other Wednesday evening, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., with upcoming dates being Nov. 14 and 28.

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

For more information, call 216-780-3883 or visit [www.joynerandasociates.com](http://www.joynerandasociates.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](http://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 Doria 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](mailto: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

Krissy 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



An aerial view of Church of the Saviour.

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, Zimbabwe 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.

*Krissy 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 work 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.*

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## Disciples Christian Church plans downsizing rummage sale for Nov. 10

Ronald Werman

The upcoming rummage sale at Disciples Christian Church is a result of the church building's downsizing. With a building that is now too large for its current vibrant congregation, Disciples Christian Church has been working with a developer to downsize its building and open up a large part of its property to the development of a condominium community, to be built along the rear of the property and at the corner of Mayfield and Yellowstone roads.

Two large sprawling wings of the building would be demolished, and its sanctuary reconfigured to comprise a smaller sanctuary as well as offices, classrooms, a fellowship hall and kitchen, all occupying a little more space than the current sanctuary itself. Space is also planned that will enable the Heights Emergency Hunger Center to continue to operate in the church building.

The rummage sale will take place on Saturday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the church (3663 Mayfield



Disciples Christian Church

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 216-382-5344 or e-mail [info@discipleschristian.org](mailto:info@discipleschristian.org).

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

## Library foundation honors three

Nancy Levin

Draupadi Pradhan, Suzanne De Gaetano 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 literature and thoughtful discussion, or connections with thought-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 Mac'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 Heights Libraries from 1988 through 2008, and currently serves on the board of the Rainey Institute, which develops positive growth for Greater Cleveland's youth through 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://ffhblhonordinner.eventbee.com>.

*Nancy Levin is the director of Heights Libraries.*



Draupadi Pradhan



Suzanne DeGaetano



Rachel Wayne Nelson

## Heights Libraries Is Here for You, Wherever You Are

"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 like 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."

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# Traffic projects mean progress for pedestrians and bicyclists



Heights Bicycle Coalition

The Heights continues to become more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly, and city of Cleveland Heights staff earned many grants to help pay for important recent improvements.

Substantial developments in 2018 included the completion of the Cedar Glen Parkway Multipurpose Pathway, first planned in 2009; the installation of buffered bicycle lanes on North Park Boulevard, thanks to a Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) implementation grant of \$30,000; and the inclusion of sharrows ("share the road" symbols) painted onto Cedar Road as part of the resurfacing project, and onto Mayfield Road as part of the city's annual road striping program. Lanes on Cedar Road were also painted to move traffic further away from pedestrians walking on the sidewalks.

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 Edgemoor 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



Only one lane is closed as work progresses on the Mayfield Road Signalization Project.

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 Edgemoor 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.fhcpresh.org](http://www.fhcpresh.org).

*Jennifer Blakeney has been a Forest Hill Church member for 20 years.*



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# 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](http://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. A slight majority are females. Their profes-



Pickleball players in Cleveland Heights.

COURTESY MIAMI HARGRAVE

sional 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](mailto:judy.hauser2988@gmail.com)), Peg Zitzner and Dave Tomberg facilitate the CH pickleball group. For additional information, visit [www.chparks.com](http://www.chparks.com) or call 216-691-7373.

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

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# Heights takes home the Golden Racquet



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

COURTESY MIKE PELLECHIA

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 winner of the yearly match between Beaumont School and Heights High. 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."

*Nicole Pellechia is Mike Pellechia's daughter, and an avid tennis lover. She earned a bachelor's degree from Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, and currently resides in Columbus.*

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# Dixon to leave CH-UH schools for Columbus district

Jessica Schantz



Talisa L. Dixon

COURTESY CH-UH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

On Sept. 21, both the CH-UH schools 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 Posch, Vice President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Heinz and Beverly Wright were present. Malia Lewis was absent. Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer 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, at-risk K-3 readers, and graduation rate). She compared all state and first-ring district schools. Byrd will present additional reports at two future board meetings. Her report can be found in the Sept. 25 agenda on Board Docs on the Board of Education website: [www.chuh.org/boardofeducation.aspx](http://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, AP Success Camp, and OST (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 \$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

Posch 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.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.



OCTOBER 2, 2018

President James Posch, Vice President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Heinz and Malia Lewis were present. Beverly Wright was absent. Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer were also present. The meeting began at 7:10 p.m., after an executive session, and adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

### New master teachers

Master teachers for 2018 are Danielle Copeland, Courtney White, Kathryn Craig, Tiffany Jordan-Shaw and Christine Smrdel.

### Board approvals

The board approved field trips to Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Guatemala and Belize. The third and final reading of policies, group C, was held. (The policies can be found online at Board Docs: [www.chuh.org/boardofeducation.aspx](http://www.chuh.org/boardofeducation.aspx).)

### Future use of buildings

The board started discussion about the future use of buildings and creating committees to look at the choices.

### Career and technical education fair

The career and technical education program has 19 offerings and will hold a career fair on Nov. 15.

### Ohio School Boards Association meeting

The OSBA will meet with the board on Oct. 9 at 6 p.m., at the board of education offices, to discuss procedures in hiring a superintendent. Superintendent Dixon will be part of the process.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 10.

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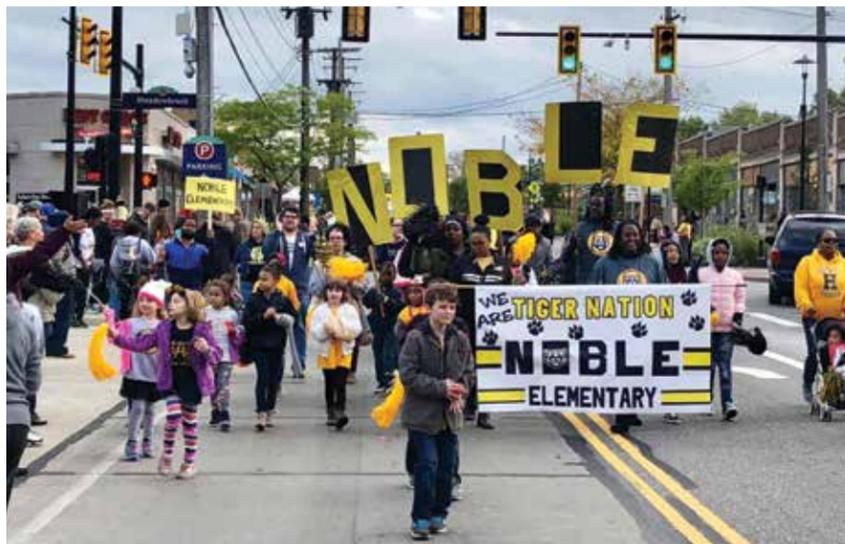
# Tiger Nation celebrates homecoming weekend

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

The Heights community came together in spectacular fashion as Tiger Nation celebrated Homecoming 2018 on Oct. 12 and 13. After spirit days at many of the district's schools and an afternoon pep rally at the high school, more than 27 groups—representing sports teams, extracurricular clubs and every one of the district's seven elementary schools—marched in the Homecoming Parade.

Making its way through the heart of the Cedar Lee Business District for the second year, the parade comprised more than 600 participants and drew countless spectators.

With the speedy cross-country team racing the route, and the loud and lively Heights High marching band keeping the beat, the parade began at Fairfax Elementary School and headed north on Lee Road. Parents, alumni and community members gathered at various Cedar Lee businesses, including The Wine Spot, where the Heights Schools Foundation hosted an alumni watch party



Students, staff and parents from Noble Elementary School show their spirit on Lee Road.

as part of the Class of 1988's 30th reunion. The grassy field at Meadowbrook Boulevard and Lee Road transformed into a district-sponsored Rock the Block party featuring a DJ, snacks and giant board games such as Connect Four and Jenga.

Among the parade participants were fall and winter sports teams; extracurricular clubs, including Student Council, SADD (Students Against

Destructive Decisions), AFS foreign exchange students and Heights Middle School's Environmental Club; community groups including Reaching Heights, Noble Neighbors and the CH-UH Board of Education; and PTAs, school leaders, parents and elementary school students.

Members of the high school Vocal Music Department serenaded the crowd with previews of songs from the upcoming production of "Mary Poppins." The talented and tiny youth cheerleaders wowed with their precision and enthusiasm. Canterbury Elementary School families recited an original chant that proclaimed "Public is the school for us!" And Gearing Professional Development School's tiger-decorated pickup truck featured physical education teacher Fiona Connor firing up her dancing students

with the help of a tiger costume and a megaphone.

At the end of the procession, 2017's Best of Parade winner, the district's Transportation Department, turned the corner wearing matching T-shirts and singing "We Are the Champions." They didn't take a break from singing, dancing, hula hooping and jump roping their way down Lee Road, followed by a honking bus complete with tiger ears and tail.

"I wanted to try to pick a new winner this year," said parade judge and Superintendent Talisa Dixon. "But I just can't! They are simply the best." She proudly waved a copy of the song the bus drivers had written and performed along the route, which included the lines, "You trust us with your children," and "We try to never disappoint you because we love you and adore you." The feeling along Lee Road was definitely mutual.

The weekend's other homecoming activities included a victorious 34-0 football game against Warrensville Heights, alumni gatherings at various Lee Road establishments Friday night, a community open house with high school tours on Saturday, and the homecoming dance on Saturday night.

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, is a former district teacher and a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District. A longer version of this story appeared at [www.chub.org](http://www.chub.org).*

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## Heights Career Tech partners with Tri-C culinary program

Scott Wortman

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 23 unique pathways.

For more information, visit [www.heightscareertech.com](http://www.heightscareertech.com).

*Scott Wortman 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 are 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-Ack-

royd. "Acorn TV, which specializes in British and Australian movies and television shows, like Doc Martin and all kinds of British mysteries. Then there's Kanopy, which offers items from the Criterion Collection, including classic movies from directors like Ingmar Bergman and Akira Kurasawa, and all kinds of documentaries and art films. And then IndieFlix, which is just what it sounds like— independent films and documentaries that promote social

causes."

In addition, the library also now offers a service called StingRay Qello—the largest online collection of full-length concert films and music documentaries, featuring artists 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](http://www.heightslibrary.org) or call 216-932-3600.

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

## Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library Board

### Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Present were President Abby Botnick, Vice President Chris Mentrek, Secretary James Roosa, and board members Max Gerboc, Suzann Moskowitz and Vikas Turakhia. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

#### Staff recognitions and awards

Michelle Stys, the liaison director for the state auditor, presented the Ohio Auditor of State award with distinction for "excellence in financial reporting" to Deborah Herrman, Heights Libraries' fiscal officer.

Noble Neighborhood Branch Youth Services Department Librarian Mary Looby and University Heights Branch Manager Sara Phillips were both selected to attend the Library Leadership Conference presented by OH- NET and the State Library of Ohio. Attendees were selected based on outstanding leadership potential, communication skills, and initiative, among other qualities.

#### Security update

Presented by Kevin Echols, the security update report indicated that as of Aug. 31 the rate of incidents is less than one incident per 1,000 visitors. There have been 120 incidents this year compared to 193 at this time last year and 205 in 2016.

#### Materials Policy

The board of trustees completed its annual review of the Materials Evaluation and Selection Policy, which guides staff in the acquisition of library materials, and approved it as amended for 2018. The amended policy can be found on the Heights Libraries website.

#### Outreach Report 2017

The Outreach Report for 2017 was presented and distributed to the board. Library staff visits schools, day care centers, senior centers and community events for the purpose of increasing access to all library services. The total number of persons served rose 67 percent over the previous year. The activities reached 8,526 youths (every public school and a number of private schools were visited) and 368 adults. Homebound customers checked out 1,176 items. There are also a number of drop-off collections in the community, including recently added barbershops.

The board approved a new full-time position, community engagement associate, to fulfill these expanding outreach needs.

#### Public service highlights

Local history resources, including archival

documents on the history of the library and the city of Cleveland Heights, and 60 years of the *Black and Gold*, the Heights High school newspaper, are being digitally scanned with a new overhead scanner and will be uploaded to the local history repository on Ohio Memory. The project is in partnership with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and the Heights Schools Foundation.

In August, 137 employees attended drug-free workplace training, focused on "vaping" and Ohio's new medical marijuana law.

A 21st Century Grant, a five-year grant from the Ohio Department of Education, was awarded to the school district for after-school enrichment programs at Noble and Roxboro elementary schools. The library will assist with programming on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Sept. 25.

The adult summer reading program, Around the World in 80 Days of Reading, had high participation in all branches this summer. Entries were reported up 67 percent at the Lee Road Branch and a new record was set for the University Heights Branch, with 754 entries. Grand-prize drawings will be held in September.

Summer reading for young people was high as well; there were 472 more registrations this year compared to the end of the 2017 program, making it the highest since 2014 for all age levels. Teen circulation was up 39 percent over last August.

#### Coventry Conversations Series

Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin and several community partners offered the summer installment of the Coventry Conversations Series. Thirty-five community members attended the event to learn about plans for the P.E.A.C.E. Park and to share their questions, concerns and suggestions.

#### Cleveland Heights Immigration Task Force

Stephen Sanders, Noble Neighborhood Branch refugee librarian, and Levin addressed the Cleveland Heights Immigration Task Force in August. Work toward a cooperative agreement between the city, schools and Heights Libraries is underway to provide resources and communication regarding issues that arise for the immigrant population of Cleveland Heights.

LWV Observer: Elizabeth Tracy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 10.

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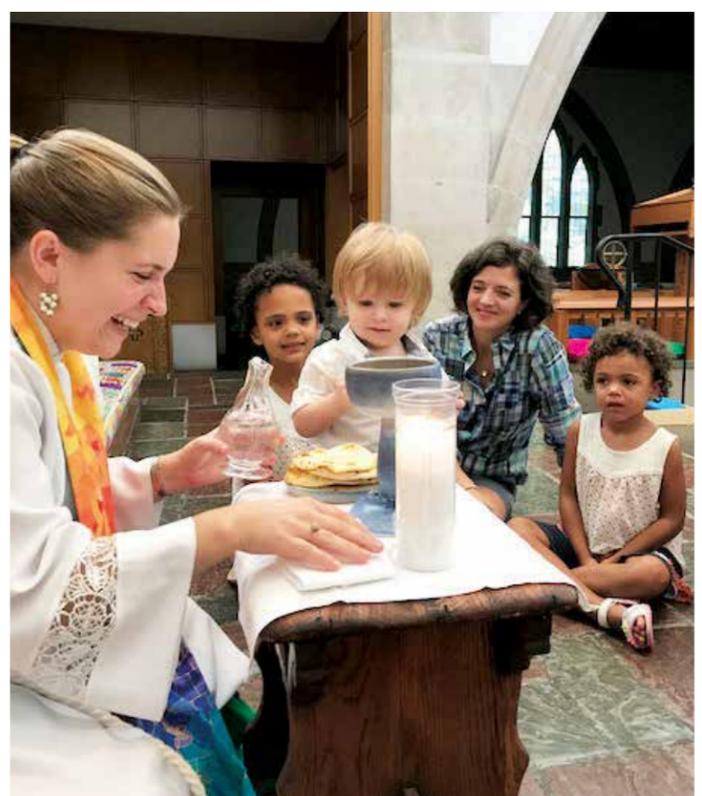
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# UH Senior Happenings

Senior Happenings, sponsored by the city of University Heights, are open to all senior citizens. Events take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the University Heights Library. To receive the monthly schedule by e-mail, call 216-932-7800, ext. 205, or send an e-mail to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

**Nov. 1:** Nancy Levin, director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library System, will discuss Heights Libraries' outreach to refugees in our community. She reports that 25.4 million people around the world are refugees, and 53 percent are children younger than 18.

**Nov. 8:** Heather Grice, executive assistant to the CEO at the Lantern of Chagrin Valley, will describe the

facility and its approach to assisted-living care. It is one of only three assisted-living facilities in Northeast Ohio to use architecture and sensory stimulation to improve the lives of residents.

**Nov. 15:** George Leggiero will discuss his work as distinguished carillonneur for the Church of the Covenant in University Circle. Its McGaffin Carillon, comprising 47 cast-bronze bells, was made in the Netherlands and dedicated in 1968.

**Nov. 22:** No senior citizen meeting today, Thanksgiving Day.

**Nov. 29:** Rachel Kribbs, director of community partnerships at the Cleveland Institute of Music, is back with instrumentalists and vocalists.

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# CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) is offering new classes to keep you feeling healthy and fit. Enrolling in any of them can have a multitude of benefits, and you can try each of them one time for free. It's a chance to meet new people and enhance your quality of life.

Pilates Primer is offered Wednesdays at 10 a.m. with instructor M. Valentin. This basic Pilates class includes modifications made especially for seniors. Pilates has been shown to increase strength and flexibility in both the core and the legs, which can positively affect balance and prevent falls.

Zumba Gold classes meet Tuesdays at 11 a.m. with instructor Anita Bartel. Zumba Gold, geared specifically toward seniors, is fun and is credited with increasing muscular strength and endurance, and improving cardiovascular function, range of motion and posture. Zumba can also reduce depression, stress and anxiety.

Tai Chi 2.0 is scheduled on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. Jeannie Koran's focused Tai Chi instruction is designed to take your practice to a new level by going more deeply into the various moving forms (some previous Tai Chi training

is recommended). Studies have shown that regularly practicing Tai Chi benefits seniors by improving symptoms of arthritis and Parkinson's disease, effectively reducing stress, providing pain relief and enhancing feelings of well-being. Tai Chi improves flexibility and balance, and has been credited with lowering blood pressure.

The Cleveland Heights SAC, located in the CH Community Center at 1 Monticello Blvd., offers a variety of programming for those 60 and older. A complete schedule of programs is published in the community center's newsletter, and is available online at [www.chparks.com](http://www.chparks.com).

SAC membership is \$5 for Cleveland Heights residents. To sign up, bring a recent piece of mail (such as a bill) and a photo ID.

University Heights residents who would like to join SAC must first register with Patrick Grogan-Myers, University Heights community development coordinator, at 216-932-7800, ext. 203, or [pgrogan@universityheights.com](mailto:pgrogan@universityheights.com). Membership is \$10 for University Heights seniors.

*Amy Jenkins is supervisor at the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging and the Senior Activity Center. She can be reached at 216-691-7379 or [ajenkins@chvhts.com](mailto:ajenkins@chvhts.com).*

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# New UH clinic offers customized physical therapy

Shari Nacson



Evgenia Tararova

COURTESY SHARI NACSON

Evgenia Tararova became a physical therapist because she loves making people feel good, whether 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](http://www.physioheights.com).

*Mostly a mom, Shari Nacson, LISW-S, is a freelance editor, child development specialist, and nonprofit consultant who makes her home in Cleveland Heights. More than anything, Nacson is inspired by kids and adults who build connection through kindness.*

## Cleveland's Pilates master goes international



White Cloud Studio's Troy McCarty teaching Pilates in Venice, Italy.

COURTESY TROY MCCARTY

Laurel Brown

Local 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 athletics 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 Napoles. 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](mailto:pilateshts@me.com)) or phone (216-229-3232). 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.*

## 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](http://www.cedarfairmount.org).

*Jessica Schantz is the e-news manager at the Heights Observer and a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.*

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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. During her adventure, she encounters a wicked stepmother, ogres, giants, a magical bird, and a best friend.

BroadwayWorld described the

play as "admirably balanced between humor and pathos . . . [with] wonderful messages: learning to communicate with one another, appreciating the differences, being true to oneself, exploring the world, never giving up."

"I grew up in Mexico, where the Cinderella myth is alive and well in both good ways and bad," said playwright Karen Zacarías. "Cinderella is both a story of hope, redemption and justice while also being a story of passivity, obedience and physical attraction. ['Ella Enchanted'] sets Cinderella on her head by giving her grit and vision."

"'Ella Enchanted' is a fun and frolicking musical," said Zacarías, "but it also carries a powerful message about each child's responsibility to discover his or her own unique voice and use it to make the world a better and more inclusive place."

The cast for this holiday production includes Natalie Green, Joshua McElroy, Tina D. Stump, Amy Fritsche, Kelly Elizabeth



Smith, Neely Gevaart, Eugene Sumlin, Madeline Krucek and Arif Silverman.

Performances are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices for this holiday show range from \$37-\$40. Senior, student and military discounts are available. The performance on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m., is pay-as-you-can.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at 216-932-3396, or visit Dobama's website, [www.dobama.org](http://www.dobama.org), for special holiday performances and added family matinees.

Colin Anderson is an assistant at Dobama Theatre.

## JCU art gala to benefit refugee foundation

Alexis 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 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.

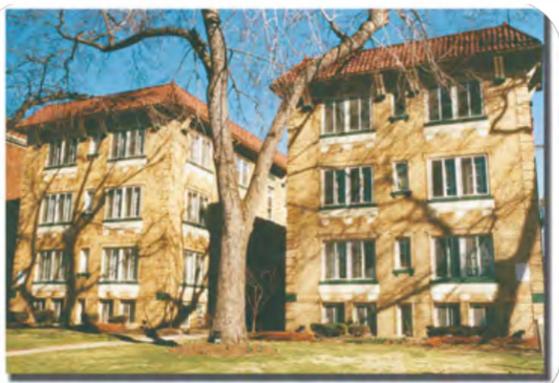
The event will take place in JCU's Dolan Atrium. Everyone is invited to attend, to show support for the Heights community and for refugees. For more information, e-mail [abifro19@jcu.edu](mailto:abifro19@jcu.edu).

Alexis Bifro is a senior at John Carroll University and an event coordinator on its student union. She is lead advisor for the student-run committee that has started putting together a new charity fundraiser on campus.

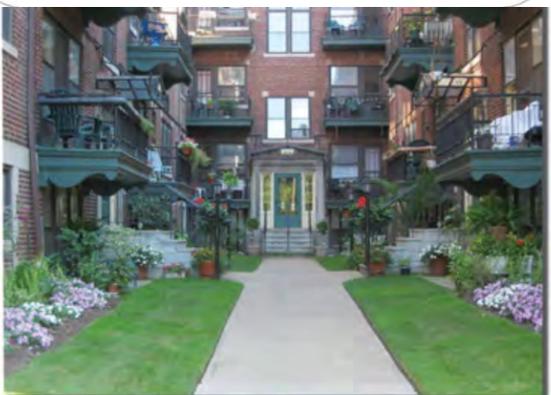
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## Two Heights artists part of OAC exhibit

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.*



4th of July (2018), by David King.



Farming Out Music (2017), by Sarah Curry.

## Ensemble presents 'East of Eden'

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 experi-

ence 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," running Nov. 30 through Dec. 16.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.ensembletheatre.org](http://www.ensembletheatre.org), call 216-321-2930, or e-mail [info@ensemble-theatre.org](mailto:info@ensemble-theatre.org).

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

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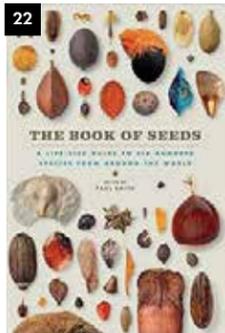
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