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FutureHeights  
2843 Washington Blvd. #105  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## High schoolers launch lip gloss company

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Parents of teenagers often wonder if their kids ever listen to their advice. Well, the parents of Logan Wallace and Nia Farrow, freshmen at Heights High, and Santasia Farrow, a junior at Brush High School, need wonder no longer. After a particularly expensive trip to the mall last spring, the girls' parents joked that because they spend so much money on cosmetics, they should just launch their own lip-gloss company.

And that is what they did.

After months of research and planning, including a trip to New York City to visit a makeup manufacturing warehouse where they selected and purchased their colors and finishes, the three girls launched Glitty Cosmetics, makeup "for girls, by girls."

The company, which is registered in the state of Ohio and is seeking federal licensure, currently offers only lip gloss, but the teens



Ramona Robinson with Santasia Farrow, Nia Farrow and Logan Wallace on 19 Action News.

hope to expand into a full-scale cosmetics, skincare and fragrance brand. The lip gloss is manufactured in New York and shipped to the girls for branding and marketing.

"Lip gloss is a girl's first love," said Wallace. "But we want to keep up with the trends and continue to offer new products. We want the company to grow up with us."

Available online, most of their sales so far have come from family

and friends, especially other students. But they've also had tables at several vendor events, including Success Her Way, a nonprofit that seeks to elevate female business owners, and at youth pageants. The public is invited to a launch party on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Marcus Thomas, an advertising firm in Beachwood.

Wallace is currently taking the entrepreneurship elective at Heights High and Sarah Parker, her teacher,

*continued on page 11*

## UH Civic Awards honor 'good neighbors'



Award winners gathered at the University Heights Civic Awards on Nov. 14.

Mike Cook

After a decade-long absence, the University Heights Civic Awards returned on Nov. 14. An overflow crowd packed the Jardine Room at John Carroll University (JCU)

for an evening of awards, live jazz, dinner and a comedic performance from local teacher and emcee Maggie McPhee.

The event was more than just a great party, said University

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## Last minute gift ideas



Jessica Schantz

Each year, the *Heights Observer* urges residents to support local businesses, and think of them when shopping—especially during the holidays.

For many of them, purchases made at the end of the year make the difference between turning a profit or operating at a loss.

Here, we've listed a few last-minute gift ideas, to provide inspiration as you search for the perfect gift—hopefully right here in the Heights.



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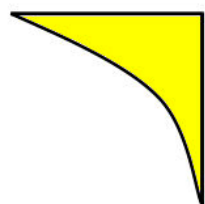
**12 oz. Animal Tumblers.** (\$29.00, Gleena Ceramics) **3**

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## Noble Road planning study continues

Sruti Basu

On Oct. 29 and 30, consultants from Camiros, Ltd., a nationally recognized urban planning firm, and The Riddle Company, a real estate and economic development marketing consulting practice, made their first visit to Cleveland Heights to begin a planning study of the Noble Road corridor. FutureHeights commissioned the study with the goals of revitalizing the corridor to enhance the neighborhood's image and improve residents' quality of life.



**Noble Road  
Corridor  
Planning  
Project**

During the two days, the consultants toured the Noble neighborhood and the city of Cleveland Heights, and met individually and in small groups with almost 40 residents and business owners. They also met with members of organizations such as Noble Neighbors, Home Repair

Resource Center, Central Bible Baptist Church, Noble Neighborhood Library, and the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland.

"FutureHeights is working in partnership with the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, Noble Neighbors, Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), and GE Lighting on the study," said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. "Our hope is that the resulting market study and revitalization plan for Noble Road

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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

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## About the Observer

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

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

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

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

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

- To make a submission of any kind, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](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 January 2019 issue must be submitted by Dec. 10. We publish some articles online as they come in—and still consider them for the next print issue. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

## 10 Decembers: looking back on a decade of the *Heights Observer*



OPENING  
THE OBSERVER

Deanna Bremer Fisher

December is the height of the holiday season, when hope and excitement for the future are in the air. The community has processed and pondered the meaning of November election results, with either hope or trepidation for the coming year. For local business owners, the holiday season is make-or-break time. The strength of holiday shopping sales often determines if they will remain a going concern or close up shop come January.

The **December 2008** issue celebrated the opening of two new businesses in Cleveland Heights: Cleveland Violins at 2917 Mayfield Road and Taste at 2317 Lee Road. Cleveland Heights residents had just voted down an income tax increase proposal, and resident Toby Rittner reported on the various cuts to government services that would result and the need for economic development of "the top of the hill." In an effort to help local retail businesses, the *Heights Observer* debuted its first-annual Holiday Gift Guide, a one-page listing of offerings from local businesses.

**December 2009** featured

University Heights Mayor Beryl Rothschild reflecting on her lengthy public service career as she prepared to retire in January, while the city's vice mayor, Adele Zucker, also announced her retirement.

**December 2010** featured the heartwarming stories of Mister Brisket sending salamis to U.S. armed forces in foreign lands and the Make-A-Wish Foundation building a treehouse for a local cancer survivor. The city of Cleveland Heights named Howard Thompson its first economic development director, and the CH-UH City School District announced that it would lease space in the Coventry Building to Ensemble Theatre.

**December 2011** announced that Heights Libraries had won a top rating from *Library Journal* for three out of the four years since the journal began publishing the rating in 2008. The library also announced its hiring of Kim DeNero-Ackroyd as its new deputy director. Voters passed a CH-UH school levy handily, but results of the CH City Council election were still too close to call when the issue went to press on Nov. 29. Votes for candidates Phyllis Evans, Mary Dunbar and Jeff Coryell were so close that they triggered an automatic recount.

The **December 2012** issue featured a story about a demonstration garden on the lawn of Grace Lutheran Church and celebrated the life of CH resident Vivian Rogers who had just

turned 106 at the time. Two opinion pieces urged residents to "shop local" during the holiday season (The *Heights Observer's* annual Holiday Gift Guide had moved to the November issue, recognizing that holiday shopping starts before Dec. 1).

**December 2013** brought the news that CH-UH schools would close Wiley Middle School as a first step following the passage of a bond issue to enable the renovation of the district's high school and two remaining middle schools. Coventry Village Special Improvement District announced plans for a holiday festival, FutureHeights encouraged residents to "shop local," and Gigi's on Fairmount opened its doors.

The **December 2014** issue featured Coventry Village's independent business owners, and two local business owners wrote letters encouraging residents to "shop small." Janine Boyd won her bid to become the Ohio House District 9 Representative, while UH voters passed a bond issue to create a new city park, and Heights residents voted in favor of a Heights Libraries levy to enable the restoration of hours and renovations at the system's branches.

**December 2015** featured a joint holiday stroll for three CH business districts and election results. CH resident Bob Rosenbaum

*continued on page 9*

## November opinion lacked evidence

To the Editor:

Two questions about Diane Hallum's opinion piece in the November issue of the *Heights Observer* ("There is systemic racism in CH"):

Question one: "In 1972, it was revealed," Hallum writes, "that the city had been redlining—limiting black families to homeownership only on the north side of the city." [i.e., the Noble neighborhood.] What exactly does she refer to? Who revealed this? And to whom? This is a highly charged, very damaging, controversial statement, made with no supporting evidence.

Here is the short version of similar statements she also makes: the Noble neighborhood is sadly neglected—even abused—by the public sector, especially Cleveland Heights' "lily white" council and commissions, the perpetrators and sustainers of "systemic racism." So let's look at the public support and investment in the Noble neighborhood: two public elementary schools, one public middle school, two public parks, a police station, and a public library. The two food pantries—Heights Emergency Food Center and Start Right Food Program—are significantly supported with federal block grant funds allocated by city council. So is the Home Repair Resource Center. So are the Open Doors Academy program at Monticello Middle School and the Lake Erie Ink program at Noble Elementary School. In addition, city council just voted block grant funds

to Central Bible Baptist Church and the Bhutanese Community of Greater Cleveland. FutureHeights, aided by public funds, will sponsor a study of the Noble Road commercial corridor. This doesn't sound like neglect, abuse, or systemic racism to me.

Question two: Why does the *Observer* publish highly charged, very damaging, controversial accusations like this without checking them out, or at least, asking for some evidence? Even a column that is clearly opinion should be based on fact, and surely the *Observer* bears some responsibility for the accuracy of what it publishes. This is disappointing.

Marian J. Morton  
Cleveland Heights

Editor's reply: Thanks for writing to express your concerns. As editor, I should have changed the wording to state, "redlining was taking place in the city," not being done by the city.

Here's what the writer had to say re: her source: "The information I found was in newspaper articles that discussed a report detailing redlining actions within the city of Cleveland Heights. The articles were in the *Plain Dealer* in 1972; there was also an article in the *Cleveland Press*, I believe, as well. As I remember the article, since I could only read using a microfilm reader and the machine was not working well enough to make a copy of those pages on the day I was at the library using that machine, it appeared to be a work-

ing relationship between realtors and the city leadership in ensuring that black families were kept from seeing or considering homes on the south of the city and were directed to look only at homes on the north side of Cleveland Heights."

The *Heights Observer* does give some leeway to writers of opinion pieces and letters to, indeed, express their opinions. It exists to provide a forum for all residents, to promote dialogue and exchange information. With that goal in mind, we're usually going to err on the side of publishing something. —*Kim Sergio Inglis*

## Design should reflect Cedar Fairmount architectural style

To the Editor:

If a vote would had been taken after each of the three public meetings concerning the Top of the Hill Project, I believe the majority of those attending would have said that they think the "look doesn't fit the location."

The existing Cedar Fairmount buildings have four to five architectural styles. The most prominent have an English Tudor influence. That style is reflected in the Cedar Fairmount District logo. The basic materials are brick, stone, stucco, wood and glass. Those materials and some of that style can "easily" be incorporated into parts of the new design.

Connecting with the Cedar Fair-

*continued on page 3*



## CH's brand survey reveals diversity 'most valued'

Mary Trupo

It was a busy summer moving forward with the city of Cleveland Heights' branding effort. Over a two-month period, our branding consultants held a series of one-on-one interviews, focus groups, expanded outreach and a community survey. All in all, we heard from around 1,000 Cleveland Heights residents and business owners. We also gathered input through our Facebook page and at [www.clevelandheightsbrand.com](http://www.clevelandheightsbrand.com). In addition, a competitive analysis was completed on seven other Northeast Ohio cities.

What was discovered will be no surprise to many of you. Cleveland Heights is a remarkable community nestled in the inner-belt of Cleveland's East Side. With a purposeful, intentional focus on the values of diversity, acceptance, and a fervent sense of "home," the city has a powerful distinction relative to peer cities.

Diversity stands out as the most valued characteristic. In our case, diversity encompasses races, faiths, incomes, education and thought. Diversity in Cleveland Heights is really more than a characteristic—it is a foundational and purposeful tenet that is protected and embraced by the city.

LETTER continued from page 2

mount character should be required. The buildings do not need to mirror or replicate every detail of existing structures. What we are looking for is a link, a connection, a comfort level that acknowledges that this new development is part of the Cedar Fairmount District.

The designs presented so far have the same multi-textured architectural character common to many of the new shopping/housing projects in our area and other major cities. Why do we have to copy them?

A lot of energy goes into a project of this scale. There are a lot of creative people working on this design. There has to be a way to make this work for everyone. We have an opportunity to highlight the interesting qualities that have survived and thrived in the Cedar Fairmount District.

Richard Bozic  
Cleveland Heights

This is not to say we are without our challenges. However, the strong sense of home seems to outweigh many of these weaknesses. We heard over and over again that "there is no place else I would ever live," or that Cleveland Heights "may not be for everyone, but for some it's the only one."

Through the branding initiative, we will take all the information gathered and develop an authentic (another strong characteristic valued by Cleveland Heights residents) brand story and messaging. This effort will lead us to the development of creative elements including a logo and tagline.

A well-branded city, with its businesses and residents sharing a unified message, can help position the city as a desirable place to live, visit and build a business—all of which can result in increased economic prosperity.

We have our work cut out for us throughout the holidays, but our plan is to roll out our new brand early in 2019. Having our community—residents and businesses—be brand ambassadors to help support the new brand will be a critical component of our success. We'll be sure to keep you abreast of new developments and ways to remain engaged.

Visit our branding website at [www.clevelandheightsbrand.com](http://www.clevelandheightsbrand.com) to review the results of the research and for ongoing updates and information.

*Mary Trupo is director of communications and public engagement for the city of Cleveland Heights.*

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# Citizens Police Academy alum urges other residents to apply

John Comatos

Have you ever had “nystagmus?” Do you even know what it is? You will if you read on.

Earlier this year, I attended the Cleveland Heights Citizens Police Academy. In a nutshell, it gives the com-

munity an opportunity to look inside the complex world of law enforcement, to see the processes and procedures that guide police officers every day, and to remind us that police officers are part of our community, often our neighbors.

To be selected I had to pass a background check and commit to attending

three-hour classes two nights a week for six weeks at the police academy—a historic former firehouse.

Day one began with greetings, introductions, an overview of what was to come and a lesson plan outlining the learning objectives for each topic. We were about to experience a full-on, albeit highly abbreviated, police academy, covering everything from civil liberties to handling medical emergencies, from self-defense techniques to the Juvenile Diversion Program.

Each instructor was a true expert in his or her subject matter. The criminal law class was lead by a police captain who is also an attorney. At the police firing range we were taught to handle firearms by a SWAT marksman. We explored the issue of domestic violence with an experienced police investigator who has advanced education in this field, and our CPR certification was taught by a police investigator/paramedic.

What is a crime? This simple question steered our first class deep

into criminal law statutes, fostering discussions on topics such as what constitutes “probable cause,” and the Fourth Amendment (search and seizure) as it applies to a police officer’s use of force.

During our Patrol Techniques and Speed Enforcement class, we learned to operate hand-held radar equipment “clocking” local traffic. Then off we went with the road patrol to practice what we had learned. I was surprised at the amount of gear inside a police car. It’s actually a mobile office with everything needed to do the job.

Armed with gloves and goggles for Drug Investigation class, we handled various drugs that the police encounter every day and learned how a drug bust is managed—from search and seizure to chain of custody rules. Did you know that the drug Fentanyl can enter your system through your skin and that a simple brush against the drug can be fatal? Our gloves weren’t just props. Officers carry their own medical kits that include a Narcan injection in case they become exposed.

OVI (Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence)—“I only had two beers, honest.” There’s actually a Standardized Field Sobriety Test Manual defining scientific tests to be given to a suspect. Points are assigned for failure to perform each part of a test. Exceeding certain point thresholds gives the officer probable cause that you are under the influence. Do you know why the officer has you follow his finger first to the left then to the right during one of the sobriety tests? Well, here’s where we learned a new word, nystagmus. At a certain blood alcohol level, your eyes simply cannot track smoothly from left to right while trying to follow the officer’s finger. This involuntary eye movement is nystagmus and a huge giveaway that you’re “under the influence.”

Our six-week immersion culminated with a final exam and formal graduation ceremony. Upon graduation, we became members of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

As alums, we may assist the police department and the academy. An example of how we may help is to partner with officers controlling traffic during events like the 5K race through the Heights, or role-play for academy cadets learning to deal with crowd control and domestic violence calls.

These brief snippets into the CH Citizens Police Academy are but a small part of the story. What I experienced in 36 hours of lectures and hands-on training only touched on the processes, procedures and tools officers need to do their jobs and improve their odds of making it home every night. There’s so much more.


As an aside, we learned that the Cleveland Heights Police Academy has trained more than 5,000 cadets and is a star among police academies. Police departments from across Ohio pay to send their recruits here.

If this unique experience sounds interesting, I strongly urge you to consider applying to the CH Citizens Police Academy (216-291-3836).

*John Comatos is a retired corporate planner who moved to the Heights from New York in 2017.*

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# Trash talk



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

If there's one subject that gets Cleveland Heights residents riled up, it's trash collection. The pros and cons of plastic bags vs. wheeled carts are hotly debated on social media. CH City Council members frequently find themselves confronted by constituents with strong opinions.

At an Oct. 22 meeting of council's Safety and Municipal Services Committee, City Manager Tanisha Briley noted this is the third time during her five-year tenure that the city has considered major changes to its handling of refuse and recycling. About two dozen residents squeezed into city hall's executive conference room to hear what staff and council members had to say, and to make their concerns known.

Cleveland Heights Capital Projects Supervisor Joe Kickel and Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Executive Director Diane Bickett made informative presentations. [Kickel's slides are posted on the Refuse page at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com); a link to the audio recording of the meeting is on the

website's 2018 Agendas and Minutes page.]

Following questions from council members and residents, Michael Ungar, council member and committee chair, proposed creating a citizens' task force to study the options presented. We have space here to summarize and comment on only a few points that the task force will be asked to consider.

Change is coming to the way we process our refuse, whether we like it or not. Recycling centers will no longer accept items in plastic bags because the bags jam their sorting machines. Due to rapidly diminishing global markets for recyclable materials, recycling is poised to go from generating revenue to actually costing cities money. Nevertheless, it is an essential part of managing solid waste.

A shift from bagging recyclables to setting them out in wheeled carts will almost inevitably require conversion from manual to automated collection. Instead of leaving the truck to pick up the bags and toss them in, the driver operates a mechanical arm that lifts the carts and empties them. If recyclable collection is automated, it makes sense that refuse collection would be as well. One effect of such a change would be far fewer injuries to city employees, and lower workers' compensation premiums for the city.

Bickett reported that 38 of the 59 municipalities in Cuyahoga County have automated refuse and recycling

pickup. Thirty-nine of 59 contract with private haulers (most of which use automated collection); others have kept the service in-house.

Cleveland Heights' fleet of refuse and recycling trucks has aged past the point where retrofitting is cost-effective. Automated trucks are \$350,000 each. Grants and loans are available to help cities purchase automated equipment, including 96-gallon wheeled trash carts and 64-gallon recycling carts for all households.

One of Kickel's slides raised questions for us. Titled "Cost comparison," it consists of a table showing, among other things, the total cost of refuse and recycling per housing unit per year, for Cleveland Heights and eight other Cuyahoga County communities (Bay Village, Euclid, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, North Olmsted, Parma, Parma Heights and Westlake). Cross-referencing this slide with materials Bickett provided showed that all but Cleveland Heights have outsourced their refuse collection to private companies. And—surprise!—Cleveland Heights' costs are the highest on the chart. Could this comparison be laying the groundwork for another privatization move, not unlike what happened to the building department two years ago?

Automating trash collection does not have to mean privatizing it. Lakewood, Lyndhurst, Beachwood, Solon and Brookpark are just a few cities in the county that have automated while

maintaining the service in-house. We hope the task force will insist on studying those communities' experiences carefully as well.

If you feel strongly about this essential city service, indicate your interest in the citizens' refuse task force by contacting Ungar, at [mungar@clvhts.com](mailto:mungar@clvhts.com), as soon as possible.

*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](mailto:heightsdemocracy@gmail.com).*

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## Accountability can't deliver quality



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

I've been thinking a lot about the concept of accountability, a strategy policymakers have adopted to guarantee quality education. It assigns consequences to teachers and their schools when student performance on standardized tests falls short of defined levels. This is supposed to improve results.

When parents assign their children weekly chores and then make their allowance contingent upon completing those chores, they are holding their children accountable. Kids are perfectly able to put away their toys or take out the garbage. They aren't being asked to clean the gutters or repair the roof. The expectations are appropriate and attainable, and fully within the control of the child.

Being held accountable for your actions is reasonable, high achievement for all children is certainly desirable, and, without question, teachers are the key players in the school experience. A combination of these ideas serves as the basis for test-based accountability, but, as David Koretz points out in *The Testing Charade: Pretending to Make Schools Better*, the combination does not add up to a fair or effective approach to closing gaps in learning among individuals or across schools.

Supporting test-based accountability requires accepting the following assumptions: Teachers have full control over student achievement; all children, despite differences, can achieve at the same level on the day they take a test; and, if students do not meet these expectations, punishment will drive teachers to do a better job. Education will then improve without additional investment.

Connecting consequences to test performance is serious. It should be fair and appropriate. Expectations must be realistic and attainable, and whoever is

being held accountable must have adequate or complete control over the results. Common sense will tell you high-stakes testing is built on invalid assumptions. Expected outcomes are not attainable, and there are powerful factors that teachers don't control.

The federal No Child Left Behind law of 2002, which launched high-stakes testing as a national policy, required that all students achieve test-measured proficiency by 2014, an aspirational goal. Many children who do not achieve at high levels can certainly do better, but expecting equal test performance ignores real differences among individuals and the opportunities they have access to—differences that have a profound effect on school engagement and success.

Teachers can work miracles with individual children, but they don't hold all the cards when it comes to student learning or test performance. Long before test-based accountability took center stage, research showed income to be the primary driver of differences in standardized test results. That hasn't changed, but policymakers continue to ignore this fact. Teachers cannot control everything students do on a test, and teachers cannot control the unequal distribution of resources available to support instruction or the impact of concentrated poverty on classroom challenges.

Accountability to me seems like a simplistic and useless way to provide the kind of education and growth and development we want for children. It has inflicted serious damage on children, teachers, schools and communities, and it has shaken our confidence in our public education system.

We don't need a better report card or other devices to hold people accountable for things they don't fully control. We need a different strategy.

*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.*



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# Teachers union members are committed to the community



A TEACHER'S VOICE

Ari Klein

Many young people are surprised to see their teachers outside of school, believing we are somehow confined to the classroom day and night. Though teachers work long hours, many are also community leaders. Our members are volunteers at churches and synagogues, scout leaders, band boosters, and PTA members, to name a few. In our teachers union, we believe strongly in community service as part of our core values of promoting social justice and democracy. Here are some examples of the types of activities CH-UH faculty participated in recently:

In September, our members volunteered for the Heritage Home Tour run by Heights Community Congress (HCC). We have been participating in this event for several years by hosting one of the homes on the tour. Many community organizations help out during this community event that showcases special homes and gardens while supporting HCC programming that promotes fair housing, integration, and more.

In August, we asked to be paired with a child through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which raises money for granting the wishes of children who have critical diseases. For these children, having something special to look forward to can make an enormous difference in their emotional health that can sometimes result in a positive change in the trajectory of their diseases, or can have a beneficial effect on family dynamics.

We were paired with 15-year-old Megan, who lives in Lakewood and has struggled her whole life with seizure disorders. Megan's wish was to have a service dog to help her with daily tasks, as well as for companionship. Ser-



Team Fairfax raised more than \$3,200 for a service dog for a child in need.

vice dogs can be trained to sense when a seizure is starting and alert family members. In addition to participating in the annual Walk-For-Wishes at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, CH-UH team members from all of our schools raised more than \$10,000 toward granting Megan's wish. A puppy will be identified and trained for several months. Megan expects to be paired with her dog next spring.

This fall, we co-hosted a tailgate party with CH-UH administration for the first home football game, something we have not done for a long time. It was not only fun to do, but we were also able to add to our Make-A-Wish campaign with the profits we earned.

During a busy fall, we hosted other social gatherings for our members. We believe it is important for us to patronize local businesses when we plan these events. This year we distributed candy and pencils to an estimated 1,000 Halloween goblins, ghosts and other masked creatures at the Lee Road Candy Crawl. What fun!

Being part of the community means more to us than just coming to work. Our union will continue to participate in projects that align with our values, while supporting our community so that no child will be surprised to see his or her teacher outside of school.

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



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## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 3, 2018

Present were Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan and council members Pamela Cameron, Phil Ertel, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Vice Mayor Sue Pardee was absent. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director James Goffe, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. The meeting was held from 7 to 10 p.m., at which time council went to executive session.

### Public comments

Community Internet service: Founders of Citizens for Heights Municipal Broadband notified council that they are working to establish a community Internet service provider that would ensure net neutrality and privacy. It would be revenue neutral, charging only enough to cover the cost of the equipment and maintenance. They presented their proposal to Cleveland Heights and the school board, where the vice president of the board—a resident of University Heights—urged them to include University Heights in their plan. They are currently working to get funding to conduct a feasibility study.

### Finalizing the CIC

At the recommendation of council, the independent University Heights Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) was increased from five to seven members. While including some council members in addition to community members, the CIC will function independent of council. The plan was approved, authorizing the mayor to file the articles of incorporation with the state. Council will then appoint the members of the CIC, who will then meet and adopt a code of regulations and policies.

### Cleveland Jewish Publication Company contract

Council authorized the Cleveland Jewish Publication Company to begin producing a glossy magazine every four months for the city of University Heights, similar to the magazines produced for South Euclid and Lyndhurst. The city will provide the content for up to 32 pages, and the publisher will produce and distribute the magazine at the cost of \$5,500 per issue plus postage. The city can anticipate receiving \$1,000 per issue in advertising revenue. This publication will be in addition to the city's current newsletter, which will now be e-mailed or mailed to homes and apartments instead of being delivered by the garbage crews.

LWV Observer: Wendy S. Deuring.

OCTOBER 15, 2018

Present were Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan, Vice Mayor Susan Pardee, and council members Phil Ertel, John Rach, Steven Sims, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Also present were Law Director Luke McConville, Finance Director James Goffe, and Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. The meeting was held from 7 to 8:45 p.m., at which time council went to executive session.

### New city logo

Guide Studio has been working with members of the administration, council and community to develop a new brand and logo for the city of University Heights. A brand is what people think of when they hear a name—it is more than just a logo. After many listening sessions, discussions and surveys, Guide Studio developed a design that is an artistic capital U with an H bisecting it, mimicking the shape of the intersection of streets bordered by Tyndall, Fenwick and Saybrook roads and Meadowbrook Boulevard. The sections are colored in vibrant jewel tones reminiscent of stained glass. The appearance is modern yet conservative. The current door-knocker logo has reportedly been in use for at least 40 years.

### Releasing University Square for development

The council heard, on second reading, a proposal to release University Square from the city's lien, which was put in place to ensure the collection of funds for the bondholders. This will enable the bondholders to work with a new developer to redevelop the property at the southeast corner of Cedar and Warrensville Center roads. Mayor Brennan will present this proposal on three readings to ensure that the public has the opportunity to be fully informed. The decision must be presented to the county prosecutor by Nov. 16. The new plans are not yet finalized but are closer than they have been for many years.

### Director reports

Law Director McConville praised members of the board of zoning appeals who were able to mediate a highly contentious dispute between two neighbors, enabling them to come to a seven-point agreement and to pledge to work with one another going forward.

Mike Cook, head of communications and civic engagement, announced that the "trash tribune" will now be mailed to senior citizens; e-mailed to others, including residents of apartments; and delivered to local businesses. He also said that citizen committees are starting up once again.

LWV Observer: Wendy S. Deuring.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to [heights@lwvgreatercleveland.org](mailto:heights@lwvgreatercleveland.org) or join through Google groups using "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

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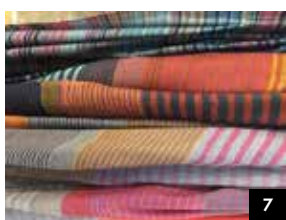
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*Jessica Schantz is the e-news manager at the Heights Observer and a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.*

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OPENING THE OBSERVER continued from page 2

offered his hopes for changes in the city as a result of voters passing an income tax increase.

In the **December 2016** issue, Noble Neighbors invited residents to Light Up Noble in conjunction with the annual holiday lighting display at GE Lighting, Heights voters passed a school operating levy and Heights Libraries won its eighth consecutive five-star rating.

In the **December 2017** issue, UH Mayor-elect Michael Dylan Brennan announced his plans for proactive economic development and cultural change at city hall. Both CH and UH retained their incumbent city council members, while voters elected three new CH-UH Board of Education members and a new CH municipal judge. And Boss Dog Brewery opened on Lee Road.

*Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer. To commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Heights Observer, we are taking a look back at stories that appeared in these pages from 2008 through 2017.*

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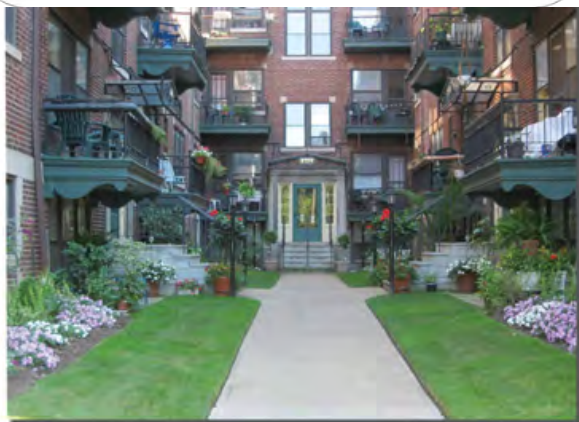
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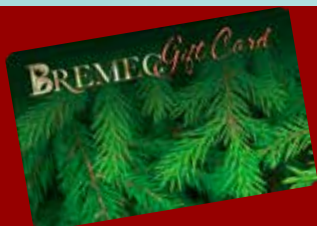
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## FH's Neighborhood Leadership Workshop Series begins in January

Sruti Basu

FutureHeights is proud to launch the fifth round of its Neighborhood Leadership Workshop Series, a multidisciplinary leadership development program. Participants will develop leadership skills and gain knowledge and tools they can use to help make Cleveland Heights neighborhoods strong, safe and vibrant.

Since 2015, 47 Cleveland Heights residents have completed the workshops. Participants were interested in learning more about Cleveland Heights and meeting other civically minded people, and some had a community or neighborhood project in mind when they signed up. Many workshop series graduates have gone on to receive project funding through the FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grant Program.

Trudy Andrzejewski, a resident who grew up in Cleveland Heights, took an interest in getting involved in the community when she returned after graduate school. With training in historic preservation, she and her partner, Conner Karakul, a landscape architect, channeled their shared passion for public spaces to make a positive impact. Under the group name CUE, the two are working to preserve and enhance a unique space at the southeast intersection of North Park Boulevard and Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights, just west of Lower Shaker Lake Park.

Like Andrzejewski, Karakul grew up in Cleveland Heights, and each has spent more than two decades enjoying the Shaker Lakes as an integral feature of their hometown.

"The site has a layered history, from a Shaker community sawmill, to a public garden beautified and maintained by neighboring women," Andrzejewski said. "The site, however, is sunken below street-level and, as such, has become somewhat forgotten. We propose that neighbors reclaim the site once more with the goal of recreating a common space that honors and enhances its historical and ecological significance, while adding social and recreational functionality."

Andrzejewski completed the FutureHeights Neighborhood Leadership Workshop series in 2016, with this project in mind.

"Participating in the FutureHeights workshop series not only introduced me to means and

## Future Heights

methods for becoming a more engaged community member, but also inspired me to act. Now, as a mini-grant awardee, Conner and I are working with neighbors to improve a public space in our community. The grant has helped us get the project off the ground, engage additional residents, and leverage partnerships with the city and a local nonprofit for support. Work is just getting underway, but this positive community support—all made possible through FutureHeights—will enable us to take small steps that hopefully lead to more engagement and stewardship over time."

The Neighborhood Leadership Workshop Series takes an asset-based community development approach, which means that it seeks to build upon neighborhood strengths.

"We have several principles that guide the program," said Mark Chupp, an assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and former chair of the FutureHeights Civic Engagement Committee, which oversees the program. "We believe that institutions lead best by stepping back and supporting residents and voluntary groups, and that everyday people have the power to do extraordinary things right where they live."

The workshops will take place once every two weeks, on Sunday afternoons, beginning Jan. 27. Sessions are held at the FutureHeights office, 2843 Washington Blvd. Topics include individual leadership, asset-based community development, project planning, local history, leveraging community resources and building community. Cleveland Heights residents are encouraged to apply. Child care will be provided.

The program is partially funded by the city of Cleveland Heights with Community Development Block Grant dollars and by individual contributions.

The two-page application, due Jan. 4, can be found at [www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs/](http://www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs/). For more information, call 216-320-1423 or e-mail [sbasu@futureheights.org](mailto:sbasu@futureheights.org).

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

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## Metro Life Flight lands in Cleveland Heights

Tina Arundel

MetroHealth's hospital in Cleveland Heights is now accessible by air.

In October, MetroHealth opened a new Metro Life Flight helicopter landing pad at its Cleveland Heights Medical Center, located at 10 Severance Circle.

The new helipad gives MetroHealth the ability to transport patients in critical need of care from its emergency room at Cleveland Heights Medical Center to its renowned Level I Trauma Center at MetroHealth's Main Campus in Cleveland.

MetroHealth thanks officials from the city of Cleveland Heights, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration for helping through the process of con-



The new helipad at MetroHealth's Cleveland Heights hospital at Severance Town Center.

structing and opening the helipad.

*Tina Arundel is the manager of public and media relations at The MetroHealth System.*

## Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 15, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Saren, Jason Stein, Cheryl Stephens and Michael Ungar. The meeting began at 7:37 p.m. and adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

### Public comments

Top of the Hill design: Cedar Road resident and designer Ann Ianarelli expressed concern that the design and scale of the proposed development does not adequately "melt" with the neighborhood.

Smoking age: Terry Allen, Cuyahoga County commissioner of public health, spoke in support of the proposed legislation to increase to 21 the age for legal sale and purchase of tobacco products, and thanked council for its leadership.

### Minimum age for tobacco purchases

To promote public health, council passed legislation that increased the minimum age for legal purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21. Council Member Ungar recused himself from the vote because of potential conflict of interest; his daughter serves as director of a nonprofit that works on this issue.

LWV Observer: Susan Kaeser.

OCTOBER 22, 2018

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, Jason Stein and Michael Ungar. Cheryl Stephens was absent. The meeting lasted from 6:33 to 6:46 p.m.

### Top of the Hill project

Kara O'Donnell, a planner on the city's staff, gave a short presentation describing the extensive review and planning process the city has undertaken. She stated that the next step is essentially to rezone the permanent parcels of land located at the intersection of Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cedar Road, and Edwards Road to establish a Planned Development Overlay District. Council heard a first reading and voted to transmit the ordinance to the Planning Commission for its recommendation.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in council chambers on Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. Council will hold a public hearing on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m., prior to the council meeting at which the ordinance will have a second reading and possibly a vote. There will also be several neighborhood meetings. Mayor Roe urged citizens to attend the Planning Commission meeting or use the city website to obtain information: [www.clevelandheights.com/988/Top-of-the-Hill](http://www.clevelandheights.com/988/Top-of-the-Hill).

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

NOVEMBER 5, 2018

Council members present were Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Jason Stein and Cheryl Stephens. Mayor Carol Roe, Michael N. Ungar and Kahlil Seren were absent. The meeting lasted from 7:32 to 8:22 p.m.

### Public comments

Fairmount at Queenston traffic safety: A resident

of Queenston Road expressed grave concern about traffic safety around the intersections of Fairmount Boulevard with Queenston and Kingston roads, despite the city's efforts. The problems include illegal parking down the side streets, pedestrians walking unsafely, and limited sight lines for cars pulling onto Fairmount. Vice Mayor Yasinow referred him to Police Chief Mecklenberg.

Top of the Hill financing: A local lawyer questioned the financing of the Top of the Hill project, especially rumors of a \$25-million gap to be paid for by tax increment financing (TIF). City Manager Tanisha Briley reassured him that this TIF funding would be backed by the developer almost entirely, not by the city.

Shootings in Pittsburgh and on Lee Road: Five citizens spoke about the Oct. 27 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, and the frightening proximity of a shooting that very evening at a bar close to the back door of Congregation Zemach Zedek, an Orthodox synagogue on Lee Road.

The president of Zemach Zedek stated that, although the Cleveland Heights crime was neither a hate crime nor related to the house of worship, the safety of the congregants, especially the numerous children present, is of grave concern. The presence of the recently opened bar is alarming. He appreciated the increased police presence, including an off-duty CHPD officer on the Nov. 3 Sabbath.

Another Zemach Zedek member, who is an attorney, pointed out that the congregation had not receive notification from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control before the bar opened, but should have because they are a "church" in close proximity. They will protest this omission to the state. He suggests that the city join their protest.

A board member of Beth El-The Heights Synagogue, located a few blocks away, expressed his appreciation that a police car was at his congregation on Sabbath. He referred to an article written by a local rabbi about the limited response from the federal government to the shooting, and expressed gratitude that "in Cleveland Heights we are not alone." All council members present responded with messages of support and protection.

**Stephens' city council resignation**  
Cheryl Stephens announced her resignation from council, necessitated by her election to Cuyahoga County Council. She will be sworn in to her new position at the end of November. She will attend one more city council meeting. She thanked citizens for their support over her nine-year tenure and spoke about the characteristics desirable in a replacement member.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

LIP GLOSS continued from page 1

hopes that both she and Farrow will enroll in the two-year marketing and management class in their junior year. She also plans to connect the girls with potential investment opportunities that are available exclusively to student entrepreneurs.

Parker will encourage them to join the DECA program, in which they can compete with other emerging student-run businesses at the local, state and national level. "It's great that they're so young," said Parker, who usually sees businesses launched by juniors and seniors. "We have so many opportunities to mold and guide them in this process."

Wallace has already taken much of what she's learned in class and applied it to her new business. In addition to the importance of a strong business plan and a meaningful mission statement, the definition of what makes a profit has really hit home. "We were kind of surprised," admitted Farrow. "Everything we make goes right back into the company instead of into our pockets."

"I also learned about the pros

and cons of running a family business," said Wallace, with a hint of sarcasm. "Sometimes our parents think they know best," added Farrow.

Their parents just want them to succeed. Everyone was thrilled with the trio's recent interview with Ramona Robinson, of Channel 19 Action News, which aired on Nov. 1. "I didn't expect to be on TV so soon," said Wallace. "Everything is moving so fast."

If you move fast, you too can "get lit" and purchase some holiday lip gloss "for girls, by girls" while supporting this unique local business.

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*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. She is a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District.*

UH continued from page 1

Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan.

"The Civic Awards did a lot to bring the community together," Brennan said. "It was a celebration of great people who work hard to make University Heights a great place to live, work and raise a family."

Brennan said it was important to him to shine a spotlight on the "good neighbors" in University Heights, including people who are well known as well as those who may not have received as much attention.

Receiving Good Neighbor awards were Jim Lentine of A Cut Above, crossing guard Albert Rawlinson, Chris Wenzler from the JCU athletic department, and Alvie Markowitz and Gary Lebowitz from Jack's Deli & Restaurant.

Marie Hood was recognized for her relentless efforts to get her street repaired, while cancer survivor Anita Bartel was honored for being an inspiration to so many.

The University Heights Police Auxiliary received an award from Lt. Dale Orians, in honor of its 50th anniversary.

The University Heights Library was honored for its services to the community and its recent renovation.

Barbara and Harvey Blankfeld, who volunteer with many Northeast Ohio organizations, were recognized as Volunteers of the Year. They are perhaps best known for their efforts on the University Heights Memorial Day Parade.

Mark Selent was named University Heights' Citizen of the Year, in recognition of his work in creating the Facebook page "University Heights Ohio Discussion." This online forum has enabled University Heights residents to better communicate with one

another, and Selent's page gives a voice to residents who are unable to attend city council meetings.

Retiring Fire Lt. Keith Kanner was honored as Co-Worker of the Year.

Outgoing Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District Superintendent Talisa Dixon was honored as Educator of the Year.

Councilwoman Michele Weiss was presented with the Elected Official of the Year award, while Community Development Coordinator Patrick Grogan-Myers took home the Employee of the Year award. Weiss and Grogan-Myers were praised for their work to get University Heights designated a Community Reinvestment Area. Their efforts will enable residents and business owners to receive tax abatement for making improvements to their properties.

The Mal Barron Quartet, which entertained attendees during dinner, became a quintet when Mayor Brennan sat in with his alto saxophone for a rendition of Ella Fitzgerald's "Blue Skies."

Emcee Maggie McPhee made the ceremony entertaining, from her opening monologue to her closing ukulele performance—an ode to the new University Heights logo and motto.

All attendees left with a gift bag filled with items featuring the city's new logo, including a coffee mug, winter cap, pen, water bottle and chip clip. In addition, to celebrate chicken-keeping legislation passed earlier this year, each attendee also received a stuffed toy chicken wearing a University Heights shirt.

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



## Forest Hill Church introduces new co-pastor

Dave Bell

Forest Hill Presbyterian Church is changing to a new ministerial model. On Jan. 2, the Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines will join the Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz Jr. as the church's new co-pastor.

The new co-pastor model reflects the church's mission and vision [to be] a church where all of God's children are heard, seen, exalted and equal.

After an extensive national search, the church called Goines to share equally in leading the 100-year-old congregation further along the path of restorative justice.

Since 1995, Goines had led the



The Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines and the Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz Jr.

historic, multicultural St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Marin City, Calif. She earned a Ph.D in interdisciplinary studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., in 2017; a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) in 1995; and a diploma in pastoral counseling from SFTS. She

*continued on page 14*

## Tips for winter bicycling



LIFE CYCLE

Heights Bicycle Coalition

Bicycle riders in the Heights have wintertime challenges to overcome. One is keeping themselves warm and safe in cold and snowy weather, and another is protecting their bikes from harsh elements. Luckily, our neighborhood bike stores have a wealth of knowledge, and a quick visit can provide good advice on how to keep rolling during winter.

Both Mike Bednarz, of Cain Park Bicycle, and John Reinker, of Cycle Fitness and Sport, agree: salt, grime and moisture will harm your bike.

Reinker suggests that people who commute by bicycle year-round may benefit from using an inexpensive bike and keeping the bike chain clean and lubed so it will be functional as long as possible. Yet some of his customers opt for the opposite: riding higher-end bicycles that have fewer components exposed.

For the occasional or recreational rider, Bednarz recommends cleaning the bicycle as soon as possible after each ride. A light wax coat on the bike frame and main components will keep moisture away, and a dry lube for the bicycle's chain will reduce the amount of grime it collects. Reinker recommends having a designated space for cleaning the bike, especially since there will be grime and gunk coming from the bicycle during maintenance.

For those who want to ride in the snow, Cain Park Bicycle carries studded tires. The metal studs in these wider tires increase traction in the snow, especially when there is ice. Fat tires are another option that facilitates riding in the snow, and they have become popular in recent years. A visit to one of the local bike shops could help riders

decide whether these options are appropriate for their needs.

Winter is harsh on the rider as well. Andy Bielski of Cain Park Bicycle suggests layering to stay warm throughout rides. Bielski emphasizes that riders should keep in mind that they will warm up as they ride. When layering, it's important to decide whether they want to be colder at the beginning of the ride, or if they are OK getting somewhat too warm as the ride progresses.

He also recommends protecting exposed skin from the cold by wearing gloves, a hat and, if it's really cold, a facemask.

To stay safe while riding, Reinker suggests taking advantage of Heights bike lanes, such as those on North Park Boulevard and Cedar Hill. Bike lanes give the rider more space, especially when roads are narrowed by snow.

Both back and front lights are needed for visibility in winter, as shorter days mean cyclists may find themselves riding in the dark. Bright, reflective clothing will also make bicyclists more visible to motorists.

For those who opt to store their bicycles for the season, Reinker, Bielski and Bednarz all recommend storing them in a dry place. Bednarz suggests storing the bicycle in the house, if possible.

If that's not feasible, and storing the bike in the garage is the only viable option, he recommends keeping it elevated, away from moist floors. While there are nice racks to keep bicycles elevated, Reinker said that any large hook will work as long as the bicycle is elevated, even if it hangs by just one of the tires.

*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 Ángel L. Reyes-Rodríguez and members of the coalition's Communications Committee.*



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 9

4:30 p.m. Handbell Prelude

5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols



### Join us for Christmas Worship!

#### Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

- 2:00 p.m. The Christmas Story for the Young with Eucharist
- 3:15 p.m. Organ Noëls and Carol Sing-a-long
- 4:00 p.m. Pageant with Live Animals, Eucharist (ASL)
- 8:00 p.m. Music of the Season
- 9:00 p.m. A Choral Service of Lessons and Carols
- 10:30 p.m. Festival Eucharist

#### Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with organ and vocal solos

#### Sunday, December 30: The First Sunday after Christmas Day

- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106  
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## Students get work started on Langton Road pocket gardens



Heights High students and an instructor helped spread 20 cubic yards of compost and mulch on 11 Langton Road gardens. From left: Jachelle Knowles, Jay Ward, instructor Steven Warner, Chris Edwards, Mi'Kail Williams and Saunjae Andrews.

Tom Gibson

In early November, six Cleveland Heights High School students helped the Noble Neighborhood's pocket garden project take a step forward. The project, launched last spring, aims to build community spirit and increase property values through coordinated landscape beautification. (A March article in the *Heights Observer* provided background information on the project and can be found at <http://heightsobserver.org/read/2018/03/27/pocket-gardens-planned-for-noble-neighborhood>.)

The students—Martin Vaynshtok, Mi'Kail Williams, Jay Ward, Jachelle Knowles, Christopher Edwards and Saunjae Andrews—spent six hours spreading cardboard and 20 cubic yards of compost, topsoil and mulch on 11 frontyard garden beds on Langton Road. The six are students of Steven Warner, career-based intervention instructor at Heights High. “I am proud of the work the students did on Langton Road,” said Warner. “It was great to see them working together in the community.”

The neighborhood coordinator of the project is Langton Road resident Madeleine Macklin, who made her first public request for greater community focus on collective street beautification at a Noble Neighbors meeting last winter. As the project took shape, she recruited 10 of her neighbors to take part in the project by making a financial contribution.

The bulk of the pocket garden project's funding—close to \$6,000—came from individuals living in the neighborhood and foundations, with additional support coming from Heights Community Congress, Noble Neighbors and the Home Repair Resource Center.

The funding enabled the project coordinator, Green Paradigm Partners, to purchase high-quality, biologically enhanced soil-building components that are expected to reduce the amount of watering and maintenance needed. The funds also enabled the project to pay the students and other implementers.

“We regard the Langton Road effort as a pilot project for the broader Noble Neighborhood,” said Brenda May, a leader of Noble Neighbors. “That means scaling up beyond what is possible with pure volunteerism—which can only get you so far. I’m hoping that we can get enough financial support to implement similar projects on multiple streets around the neighborhood.”

The project also fits the emerging direction of the Noble Neighborhood, she said, as an ideal site for “eco-pioneers”—residents who want to experiment with the area's high-quality, low-cost housing stock and landscapes to develop new approaches to food-growing and beautification.

*Tom Gibson, a resident of Cleveland Heights since 1980, is the principal of Green Paradigm Partners, a community organizing and landscape design firm. He serves on the board of Reaching Heights.*

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# Heights Libraries launches new tech podcast



Technology trainers Alyse Turner and Ann MacNamara.

users can safeguard their privacy.

The podcast is the latest way that the library's continuing education staff is helping customers keep up with, and better understand, trends in technology. The format allows for an in-depth

approach to topics.

"The idea came out of a conversation we had about how we can't cover every topic in the blog because the text-based format is limiting," explained Turner. "The Tech Blog comes out once a month, and we try our best to keep it relevant and informative, but the simple fact is that it's not expansive enough for us to talk about all the things we want our customers to know about."

The podcast is a natural outgrowth of the relationship between MacNamara and Turner. "When we previewed the podcast to staff, the main comment we got back was that Ann and I have a really good rapport," said Turner.

MacNamara agrees, and commented, "We are known around the office for our banter and similar interests. A podcast—whether for work or fun—was a logical extension

of our ability to riff off of each other. It's fun to have a conversation about things we both enjoy and inform other people at the same time."

In addition to providing helpful information through conversation, the podcast itself provides customers with an example of the kinds of projects they can do in the library's publicly available Media Lab, which is where Turner and MacNamara produce "Library Binary."

"We use the Media Lab at the Lee Road branch to create the show, since it features everything we need: microphones, audio editing software, and a nice sound-proof

space to sit in," said MacNamara. "Anyone can do what we're doing with a little practice."

The monthly podcast can be found at [www.heightslibrary.org/library-binary-podcast](http://www.heightslibrary.org/library-binary-podcast).

Customers 18 and older can reserve the Media Lab at the Lee Road branch by calling 216-932-3600, ext. 1221. Reservations can be made for up to two hours per person per day. Users must present a photo ID and CLEVNET library card in good standing to use the room.

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

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries has launched a podcast aimed at making technology and online living a little less intimidating and a lot more fun. Called "Library Binary," the monthly, half-hour show features Ann MacNamara and Alyse Turner, technology trainers at Heights Libraries, chatting about upcoming computer classes, new services, and technology news and trends.

It also features practical advice on common technology issues. The October show, for instance, offers advice on a common problem faced by smart phone users: how to manage the multitude of photos they take with their phones. The September show features a discussion on the potential dangers of sharing information on Facebook, and how

NOBLE ROAD continued from page 1

will enhance the image of the entire neighborhood, improve quality of life for residents, promote place-making, provide additional jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, and increase walkability and safety in the neighborhood."

Through meetings and focus groups, the project consultants learned about the history of Noble neighborhood, and about its culture, assets and challenges, as well as ideas for the future. FutureHeights also convened a Steering Committee comprising representatives from the various stakeholder groups to help support and guide the project.

"This project will only be a success if we are successful in engaging as many Noble residents and stakeholders as possible throughout

the planning process," said Bremer Fisher. "FutureHeights is working with volunteers from Noble Neighbors and NOAH to facilitate an online survey and a series of focus groups and neighborhood meetings to learn what residents and business owners think are the assets and challenges of the neighborhood, as well as their ideas for the future. These comments will be shared with the project consultants, who will return to Cleveland Heights in January."

To learn more about the project, see meeting dates and locations, and access the online survey, visit [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org) or [www.nobleneighbors.com](http://www.nobleneighbors.com). Contact FutureHeights at 216-320-1423 or [sbasu@futureheights.org](mailto:sbasu@futureheights.org).

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

FOREST HILL continued from page 12

is also certified in basic and advanced clinical pastoral education at the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Dublin, and at Stanford University Hospital.

In addition to having experience as an associate pastor, a chaplain to incarcerated youths and adults, and a hospital chaplain, Goines has held various positions in the local, regional and national bodies of the Presbyterian Church, USA.

She is affiliate faculty of SFTS, and preaches, teaches and keynotes at the local, regional and national

levels of the Presbyterian Church.

Forest Hill Church awaits the arrival of this published writer, poet and avid outdoors-woman with great excitement, and looks forward to sharing her gifts with the greater community.

*Dave Bell was one of the co-chairs of the Forest Hill Church team that nominated the Rev. Goines as co-pastor. A solo practice environmental lawyer, he and his wife, Chris, have lived in Cleveland Heights for 40 years, and all three of their children attended CH-UH schools.*

## What's going on at your library?

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400

Monday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m.

*Tech Talk: Digital Collections from the Library.* Your library card gives you access to more than just books! Learn about the eBooks, movies, magazines and more, available free with your library card—wherever you are. (Registration required.)

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

*In My Day: Heights Oral History Project Winter Watch and Discussion Sessions.* Which In My Day video is your favorite? Come to our watch party and talk about which videos truly left a lasting impression on you and why. This is also a great time to give us feedback on how our project is going. Cookies and cocoa will be provided to all who register.

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665

Monday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

*Pajama Storytime - Winter Wonderland.* Families with preschoolers of all ages are invited to cozy up at the library for a special evening storytime celebrating the winter season. Books, music, rhymes and fun will be shared! (Registration required.)

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Saturday, Dec. 29, 1 p.m.

*Classic PC Gaming.* Come, hang out, and play some classic PC games from the 1980s and '90s. Introduce the next generation to these timeless games, or just relive the good old days of gaming. Just a warning—while all ages are welcome (accompanied by appropriate caregivers), not all games may be suitable for everybody.

## Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library Board

### Meeting highlights



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OCTOBER 15, 2018

Present were President Abby Botnick, Vice President Chris Mentrek, and board members Vikas Turakhia, Dana Fluellen and Suzanne Moskowitz. Max Gerboc was absent.

#### Seeking library trustee

Heights Libraries is seeking a new trustee to serve a seven-year term. Applications will be available at the Lee Road Administration Office from Oct. 8 until Nov. 19. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is Nov. 19. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education will interview applicants.

#### Library policy on political campaigns

The library board approved a proposed amendment to the library's Service and Administration Policy. This paragraph was added to the policy: "Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library does not support, endorse, or advocate the viewpoints or beliefs of any candidate, political party, non-partisan political organization, non-profit group or any other such individual or entity. The library does not allow posting or distributing of any partisan

political election or campaign materials within its facilities and does not provide its space for related activities except in the case of non-partisan materials or forums as may be approved by the Director."

#### Financial report

The libraries fiscal officer reviewed the September financial statement. The total cash balance across the operating accounts, Bauer Fund accounts, and investment accounts at the end of September was \$15,075,847.37. The fiscal officer reported that the library is in good financial shape. The board approved a resolution to accept the September financial report.

LWV Observer: Khaliyah Fisher-Grace.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 8.



Heights stage crew lets the magic fly



Members of the stage crew on one of the many elaborate sets for “Mary Poppins.”

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Members of Cleveland Heights High School’s Vocal Music Department have enjoyed cheering crowds, bouquets of flowers, praise and admiration from all corners of the community. But their impressive four-day production of the musical “Mary Poppins” would not have been nearly as impressive—or even possible—without the time, commitment and expertise of the stage crew.

Heights High’s stage crew may exist in the shadows, but its work is front and center. The students spent months building sets, painting scenes, mastering the sound technology, designing the lighting, and learning to safely operate the flying equipment. Yes, that’s right: the flying equipment. Flying by Foy, the company that developed modern stage flying, came to Heights High to train three students—Dani Ontaneda, Michael Schomisch and Gabe Gosselin—and two parent volunteers so that Mary and Bert, characters in the play, could fly across the stage.

Stage flying is rare, especially for a high school production, said Keith Newman, director of the stage crew. “All the pieces have to fall into place: the right facility, the right talent level, and the right backing from building leaders. Everyone has to be on board.” And for “Mary Poppins,” everyone was.

“Having a stage crew like this takes the show to a whole new level,” said senior Sylvie Crowell. “We’re under a lot of pressure. We have to keep everyone’s safety in mind. Plus be very, very fast.”

The intensity of the work takes its toll on the students, who don’t enjoy the same recognition as the lead singers and dancers. “But we have a common goal holding us together, especially for a big production like this,” said Molly Lawson, a senior and stage manager. “Stage crew is like a family. We like to have fun and goof off, but we can be ready in a snap to get to work.”

That work pays off not only for the musicals, theater performances and public events that the crew works on, but also for the rest of their lives. Dani Ontaneda wants to be an architect and knows that his backstage experience has prepared him well. “Measure twice, cut once, as Linda always says,” he joked, referring to Linda King, prop master and 1964 Heights alumna.

Other alumni returned to watch “Mary Poppins,” to cheer on their old friends, or work on the show. Cory Molner (Class of 2004) was hired as the lighting designer for both “Shrek” and “Mary Poppins.” Currently the executive director of Convergence-Continuum Theater in Tremont, Molner appreciates working with students, and said, “This is where they get their foundational knowledge. Some will stick with it in college or beyond and some won’t. But the skills they learn here will last a lifetime.”

*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.chuh.org](http://www.chuh.org).*

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# Heights High remodel wins preservation award

Scott Wortman

The recently renovated Cleveland Heights High School building was honored by Heritage Ohio with its Best Public Building Rehabilitation Award. The award was presented to Board of Education President Jim Posch and Superintendent Talisa Dixon during a ceremony on Oct. 23 at the Allen Theatre in Cleveland.

“Winning the Best Public Building Rehabilitation award is an honor for our school district and our community,” said Posch. “We appreciate the support of FutureHeights for helping to make this happen. This honor gives me a great sense of pride for my community and all the great people



Heights High renovations won Heritage Ohio's 2018 Best Public Building Rehabilitation Award.

who worked so hard on the project.” (Full disclosure: The *Heights Observer* is a volunteer-written publication of FutureHeights.)

FutureHeights, the community development corporation serving Cleveland Heights and University Heights, nominated and pursued the award for the school district.

The award is presented to a municipality or governmental office that has completed the best total building improvement project based on proper

preservation techniques. Projects completed between Jan. 1, 2016, and Dec. 31, 2017, were eligible for the award.

The Cleveland Heights High School building at Cedar and Lee Roads originally opened in 1926, and several additions were added over the past century. A massive renovation project began in 2015, preserving the original building while removing the additions, and adding a natatorium, cafeteria and media center. The result is a blend of historical architecture with a 21st-century learning space. The building was officially reopened in August 2017, and has also been honored for engineering aspects of the renovation.

As Ohio's official historic preservation and Main Street organization, Heritage Ohio fosters economic development and sustainability through the preservation of historic buildings, revitalization of downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts, and promotion of cultural tourism. For more information, visit [www.heritageohio.org](http://www.heritageohio.org).

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

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### How Great Our Joy

An Advent Celebration featuring the music of Rutter, Wilberg, Forrest and others

**Friday, December 7th**  
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Free admission - Childcare provided

# O Come Let Us Adore Him!

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9: 6-7

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b>
4pm St. Ann	4pm St. Ann
4pm St. Philomena	
12am {midnight} St. Ann	<b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
10am St. Philomena	10am St. Philomena
11am St. Ann	11am St. Ann

**We would like to invite you to celebrate Christmas December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**Communion of Saints Parish**  
St. Ann (Office) 2175 Coventry Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH  
St. Philomena 13824 Euclid Ave, East Cleveland, OH

## Cleveland Heights University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

OCTOBER 16, 2018

President James Posch, Vice President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Heintz, Beverly Wright and Malia Lewis were present, as were Superintendent Talisa Dixon and Treasurer Scott Gainer. The meeting began at 7:32 p.m. and adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

**Middle school renovation change orders**  
Doug Myers, senior project consultant, Project Management Consultants (PMC), presented change order requests (total cost \$303,273), with photos documenting the two problems. Additional unforeseen floor replacement is required due to hazardous materials at Monticello Middle School, as well as lower tunnel repairs at Roxboro Middle School. Dan Heintz thanked [PMC] for the quality of work thus far. He asked for warranty information on the new installations. PMC will search prior to purchasing to get the best warranty. The board unanimously approved the request. The next scheduled tour, for the district Bond Accountability Commission, is at Roxboro on Nov. 7.

**Finance presentation**  
Treasurer Gainer gave an interactive presentation on district finances that was modeled on the TV show "Jeopardy." The questions and board members' answers showed the board's knowledge concerning district finance.

**Citizens' Task Force Committee**  
The board discussed approving the language concerning the Citizens' Task Force Committee; a committee volunteer had provided the language. Malia Lewis [said she] felt that additional revision was needed for clarity. The proposed language change will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

LWV Observer: Vanessa Fitzgerald.

**Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 8.**

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# Heights sisters launch app for home-schoolers

Shari Nacson

Two Cleveland Heights teenagers have launched a new app that helps home-schooled students with the tedious task of logging their study hours to earn high school credits. High school junior Maya Serna and her eighth-grade sister, Nina, launched HomieSchooler in November through a website, and they've applied for a grant to expand operations.

Each high school credit comprises 120 hours of study, which must be tracked over time. Students usually experiment with methods of logging their hours. Maya tried coloring in graph paper squares, which became cumbersome. "It was very inefficient. I would forget," she said, "then the squares would blend together and it would be hard to count." Then she tried a spreadsheet, with pull-down tabs for each course, which wasn't readily accessible and was also easy to forget. When her sister, Nina, took a course for high school credit, they commiserated and wished for an app that could easily log hours.

"We noticed other kids tracking their hours," said Maya. "Some parents would track for the kids. It was a lot of work," Nina said. When the siblings wanted to take College Credit Plus Classes at Cuyahoga County Community College, they needed transcripts, which were tedious to compile. The Sernas imagined there might be an easier way.

The wish quickly became an object of study. Via their father's work in tech, Maya and Nina gained access to a team of app developers, and HomieSchooler was born. The user-friendly app lets students track individual classes, dragging blocks of time to fill the 120-hour requirement for each credit. The first year is free. An upgrade includes the capacity to store all four years of high school, upload images of any certificates received, and build a transcript along the way.

During the almost two years of app development, there was a lot of brainstorming. Maya and Nina's parents, Victor and Danielle, note app development requires a flexibility, unlike some other learning. As ideas elevate, there are times when there is no choice but to delete what was built and start over from scratch. "You learn a lot and the project gets better," said Victor. "You have to accept that loss



Cleveland Heights sisters Nina and Maya Serna are excited about the launch of their app to help home-schoolers track their work.

and start over when the original code won't work."

A visit to the website includes a demo of the colorful and easy-to-navigate app, which is fun and inviting to use. "I love adding time," said Maya. "And you can do it wherever you are," added Nina, noting that no teen is without her cell phone.

They have applied for a grant from the KidBacker Foundation for Entrepreneurship and have been profiled on Hatchpad ([hatchpad.co/ideas/Hkj7DSaFX](http://hatchpad.co/ideas/Hkj7DSaFX)), a fresh ideas incubator. The next layer of development for HomieSchooler is to build resources to cover operational costs: patents,

marketing, accounting, legal fees, and app fixes. They must be able to support their user base long term.

Visit [www.homieschooler.rocks](http://www.homieschooler.rocks) to learn more about the app developers, see the app demo, and follow the launch process. And catch a Nov. 12 interview with Maya and Nina on Ideastream's "Start-Up Kids" segment on Sound of Ideas on WCPN radio ([www.ideastream.org/programs/sound-of-ideas/issue-1-alternative-50-years-since-landmark-free-speech-decision-start-up-kids](http://www.ideastream.org/programs/sound-of-ideas/issue-1-alternative-50-years-since-landmark-free-speech-decision-start-up-kids)).

*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.*

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# CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging is excited to be partnering with University Circle Incorporated (UCI) to bring the world-class resources of University Circle to the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC).

Beginning in January, monthly lectures will be offered using video-conferencing technology. The lectures will be followed by trips designed to bring the lecture to life.

The inaugural program will be about artist Georgia O'Keefe, and will start with a lecture on Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m. Titled "The Evolution of Georgia O'Keefe," the lecture, by the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, will provide a look at O'Keefe's life, including her inspirations, setbacks and rise to fame. The subsequent trip, scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will be to the Cleveland Art Museum for a guided tour of its *Georgia O'Keefe: Living Modern* exhibit.

Registration is limited to 15 people, and there will be a participation fee that will include the cost of transportation.

Anyone interested should plan to attend a Coffee and Conversation event with UCI at the senior center on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m., for an introduction to this new learning opportunity.

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@clvhts.com](mailto:ajenkins@clvhts.com).*

## UH Senior Happenings

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

**Dec. 6:** Georgia Davis, a flight nurse with the U.S. Air Force, will look back on her wartime service aboard a C-141, ferrying wounded soldiers from Vietnam back home to the States. After 10 years of military service, Davis retired with the rank of major.

**Dec. 13:** Joy Henderson, parent/community liaison for Heights

High, will be accompanied by a group of AFS international exchange students. Henderson will describe the work of AFS, promoting understanding among nations and building cultural awareness through student exchange.

**Dec. 20:** Marc White, a graduate of Kent State University Fashion School, will discuss his diverse career. He designs clothes for celebrities and others, all while managing a nonprofit farm in Cleveland's Kinsman neighborhood, where he also consults on community gardening.

**Dec. 27:** No senior citizen meeting today. The program will resume in January, after the holidays.

## Residents create aging-well guide

Judy Charlick and Sue Kenney

Did you know that Heights Libraries will deliver and pick up books for seniors? This is just one bit of information that is now available in the *Cleveland Heights Aging Well at Home Resource Guide*.

Two Forest Hill residents created the 30-page guide, which contains a listing of local nonprofit and governmental programs and resources, organized by the general needs of senior citizens.

They had two purposes in mind in designing the guide and creating a CH Aging Well At Home Initiative: (1) to provide seniors with useful information to enable them to stay in their homes longer as they age;

and (2) to offer a tool for neighbors and other volunteers and caregivers, to initiate conversations, provide a helping hand, facilitate connections, and expand supportive relationships within the city. FutureHeights and the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging support this initiative.

To view a copy online, visit [www.futureheights.org/our-community/neighborhood-organizations](http://www.futureheights.org/our-community/neighborhood-organizations); to order a printed copy for a \$5 donation, or for additional information, e-mail [sjkenney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjkenney@sbcglobal.net) or [jcharlick@ameritech.net](mailto:jcharlick@ameritech.net).

*Judy Charlick and Sue Kenney are residents of the Forest Hill neighborhood and the creators of the resource guide.*



# Little Italy restaurateur now owns Inn on Coventry

Judith Eugene

The Inn on Coventry, located at the corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard, has been serving up delicious breakfast and lunch fare for 37 years. Popular among many Heights locals, it's not uncommon to run into someone you know at The Inn. The casual, open dining room creates a social atmosphere while also maintaining a cozy, homey feel.

Under continuous family ownership since its 1981 opening, the inn changed hands in January 2018 when the owners decided to retire. Eddie Zalar, a Chardon native and the former owner of Nora, an upscale Italian eatery in Little Italy, purchased the restaurant.

Zalar, who now lives in Lakewood, is a graduate of The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in New York. He worked in several restaurants before moving back to Ohio in 2015 to open Nora. Creating and maintaining a successful business at Nora required Zalar to work long hours. With his second child on the way, the daytime operating hours of the inn were appealing, and so he made the switch.

Zalar's CIA training prepared him with skills that he uses at the inn. "They taught classical French cooking like omelets. It was a good fit with The inn's menu," he said. Among the first things that Zalar learned how to cook as a child were crepes—coincidentally a longtime mainstay of the inn's menu. "My parents taught me how to make crepes when I was little," he said. "My training has come full-circle."

When Zalar took over ownership



The Zalar family, owners of The Inn on Coventry.

of the inn in January, he knew he was inheriting a business that was not only successful, but also a Heights favorite.

"Keep what works" became his motto. Aside from deleting a few low-selling lunch dishes, he has kept the menu much the same. "We kept all the favorites," he said. "The inn has had a good thing going for over 30 years, why change it?"

A welcoming and friendly staff has also been a hallmark of the inn over the years. Zalar encouraged all of the existing staff to stay on. "Many of our staff members have been here for years, all the regulars know them. Our cook has been here for 30 years," he said. The restaurant business generally has a high staff turnover rate, so Zalar recognized that having a veteran staff was an asset.

Although the inn's menu doesn't allow Zalar to use much of what he

learned in his culinary training, the daytime hours allow him to spend more time with his family. "I get to have some fun with the daily specials," he said, "but I also get to cook for my family now."

Running the inn remains a family effort. Eddie's wife, Erica, is co-owner of the inn, and his daughter, Nora, is teaching him sign language so he can better communicate with a hearing-impaired customer.

Zalar loves the diversity of the restaurant's patrons, and commented, "The customers are great. We have students, nurses, doctors, lawyers, and people from all walks of life. Everybody is welcome."

The inn's lunch menu is small and concise, including classic favorites such as soup and salad, club sandwiches, and grilled cheese. The menu's Burger Shop allows patrons

to create their own burgers by choosing from a beef patty, chicken breast or black-bean burger, and adding their choice of toppings.

Breakfast and brunch are the most popular mealtimes at the inn. The menu includes standards such as eggs any style, corned beef hash and French toast, as well as specialties such as Eggs Mando (Eggs Benedict with avocado), and Croissant Sisterhood (lox and scrambled eggs with Hollandaise sauce). For any first-time visitors, Zalar recommends coming for breakfast and trying his favorite dish, the lemon-ricotta pancakes.

Asked what he thinks has given The inn on Coventry its staying power over the years, Zalar replied, "Every neighborhood needs a diner. Fine dining restaurants come and go, but neighborhood diners are timeless, they never go out of style."

The Inn on Coventry (216-371-1811) is located at 2785 Euclid Heights Blvd. Its website, [www.innoncoventry.com](http://www.innoncoventry.com), is currently under construction.

*Judith Eugene is a native of Cleveland Heights who provides life-enrichment classes and activities for senior adults and those with physical and mental challenges through [www.lovinghandsgroup.com](http://www.lovinghandsgroup.com).*



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# Coventry SID welcomes new executive director

Shari Nacson

It's a behind-the-scenes job that makes a ton of difference for our community. In her role as executive director of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District (SID), Mallory Phillips attends board meetings; oversees neighborhood events, marketing, and street beautification; connects with property owners and merchants; communicates among the board, city staff, merchants and neighbors; and increases awareness of, and the direction for, the Coventry Village district.

Phillips was drawn to the opportunity because she has long felt that there is something special about

Coventry Village. Phillips moved to Cleveland after visiting a friend in Westlake several times over the years. Every time she came to town, Coventry Village was a destination. "Coventry was part of my first impressions of Cleveland and became a quick part of my own experience," she said.

Coming from Los Angeles, the "east/west thing didn't matter," said Phillips, who found herself hopping over from Ohio City to spend the full day in Coventry Village. "Where else can you spend the afternoon at a coffee shop, have dinner, run errands, and end the day with a late-night show at the Grog Shop?"

It is with this profound affection that Phillips lights up. Noting how condensed and walkable the community is, Phillips pointed out that Coventry Village touts many values "for a regular lifestyle." Since she began work on Oct. 1 Phillips has been most impressed with the rapport and sense of investment among the merchants. "Something that is really special about the Coventry merchants," Phillips reflected, "is they are a really wonderful group who care about the people who live there. They care about the history of the neighborhood and the future of the neighborhood."

According to Suzanne DeGaetano, owner of Mac's Backs, "The



Mallory Phillips

Coventry merchants are really looking forward to working with Mallory Phillips. She is enthusiastic about indie retailing, collaborations, and community partnerships."

Phillips is excited to amplify what the merchants are already doing. "I'm really excited to be able to help in this way," she said. On the docket are some new ways to engage the community. Watch for a Dec. 8 Coventry Village Holiday Festival full of new flavors and twists that will appeal to all ages, all day long.

Visit [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org) for more information.

*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.*

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# Cafe Tandoor marks 26 years in CH

Shari Nacson

Just before New Year's Eve in 1992, Raj Singh put the finishing touches on what would become a local legend—Cleveland Heights' long-lived Cafe Tandoor. As another new year approaches, the restaurant is wrapping up its 26th year of business.

Seeing a niche opportunity in the 1990s, Singh wanted to open an Indian restaurant as, back then, there was only one Cleveland restaurant serving Indian food.

Singh said he chose to open his restaurant in Cleveland Heights because of its metropolitan and open-minded nature. To craft a rich menu with fine ingredients, Singh relied heavily on Chef Satpal Kashyap, a five-star chef from Mumbai, India, and Kashyap's brother-in-law, Chef Pishori Lal, who remains Cafe Tandoor's head chef today.

Singh attributes Cafe Tandoor's longevity to the quality of the food and the commitment of the chef—the same chef since its opening. Citing customers who travel from as far as Youngstown for a Cafe Tandoor meal, Singh said he is grateful to his patrons for their continued loyalty: "We've had great support from the community."

Cafe Tandoor customer Laura Robbins, of Cleveland Heights, said, "We go there so often. It's the most comfortable place, with fabulous food. We know everything will be perfect." She noted that the menu's variety is a draw, especially for vegetarians. Robbins and her husband like going to a



Celebrating Cafe Tandoor's longevity, Beverly Singh, former owner; Pishori Lai, executive chef; and Raj Singh, owner.

friendly and accommodating place, and Robbins said they feel known at Cafe Tandoor—to the degree that the staff knows their standard order before asking.

Singh agreed that the diverse and well-organized menu is one of the things that customers most enjoy about Cafe Tandoor. He explained that the kitchen uses nine different sauces, allowing for a variety of flavors across the ample menu.

The menu changes every few years, though that often brings customer laments. Favorite dishes are a comfort food, Singh observed, noting, "People want what they know."

Cafe Tandoor's Cleveland Heights location serves sit-down meals and offers carry-out service. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5:30-10 p.m.; and Sunday 3-9 p.m.

Visit [www.cafetandoorcleveland.com](http://www.cafetandoorcleveland.com) for menu details, and for hours at the Aurora and West Lake locations.



# Heights Arts holiday store open through Dec. 30

Laura Yurko



Nutcracker card by Claire Marks.

What began in 2002 as a tiny pop-up shop with a few local artists has blossomed into the 17th annual Heights Arts Holiday Store, featuring creations by 100 Northeast Ohio visual artists and artisans, writers

and musicians.

"In addition to Cleveland darlings—including William Brouillard, APEmade, and Benita Cullinan—we welcome more than 20 artists who are new to the Holiday Store this year. Heights Arts is excited about adding more artists working in the graphic arts, jewelry and painting," noted Genevieve Schwartz, program manager for the nonprofit arts organization. Visitors will also find handmade cards and ornaments, photography, handknits and printed tees, artisan items for the home and littlest family members, plus local music CDs and chapbooks by Cleveland poets.

Available again this year is a

gift registry where visitors can jot down the items they'd love to receive as holiday gifts, which friends and family members can access when they stop in.

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

Open seven days a week through Dec. 30, the Heights Arts Holiday Store is stocked with new items on a weekly basis, so all are encouraged to support local artists by shopping early and often. Artists also volunteer their time to help visitors in the store and share information about their craft.

For a list of artists participating in the 17th annual Holiday Store, and upcoming community programs, visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org) or call 216-371-3457.

Exhibitions and public programs are generously supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Additional support comes from the Ohio Arts Council, which helps fund Heights Arts with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Laura Yurko is Heights Arts' marketing intern.

## Coventry holiday fest is Dec. 8

Mallory Phillips

Coventry Village will host its annual Holiday Festival on Saturday, Dec. 8, starting at 11 a.m. and running through the evening. Offering events and activities for all ages, the district is proud to present something for everyone this holiday season.

This year's festival is taking place in cooperation with the Grog Shop and B Side Lounge's Jingle Bell Shop, and reflects the partnership between the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus and Coventry Village merchants.

With special music, holiday characters, Coventry Cash, holiday treats, crafts, classic movies and, of course, photos with Santa Claus, Coventry Village is bringing back all of the festival favorites to this beloved neighborhood event.

The Jingle Bell Shop, a flea market of local makers, vendors, and Coventry Village merchants, will run from noon until 6 p.m. at the Grog Shop and B Side Lounge, and offers a unique chance to find the perfect

gift for a loved one while supporting local businesses.

Bring the kids out for storytime at the Coventry Village Branch of Heights Libraries, a performance of "Around The World In 80 Days" at Ensemble Theatre, a Creative Expression workshop at Lake Erie Ink, arts and crafts with ARTFUL, a holiday movie at the former Centrum Theater, and a chance to interact with favorite holiday characters.

For the rest of the crew, merchants will be offering special activities, open houses, workshops, games and treats.

Adults can keep the holiday spirit going into the evening with the Coventry Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl, or dance the night away at Grog Shop or B Side's Cruel Winter Fest or Gumbo Dance Party.

Mallory Phillips is executive director of the Coventry Village Special Improvement District and the owner of Dreamhouse Marketing. She is passionate about her community and helping to create connection and access for all.

## Communion of Saints holiday shop Dec. 16

Amy Fischer

On Sunday, Dec. 16, Communion of Saints PTO invites the community to shop local at its inaugural Holiday Pop-Up Shop. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 20 businesses and artisans will gather in Walsh Hall, at Saint Ann Church, 2175 Stillman Road.

The shop will feature jewelry, clothing for all ages, functional pottery, Cleveland Heights- and Cleveland-themed ornaments and prints, stationery, honey and jams, and unique, one-of-a-kind pieces. There will be a variety of items in every price range.

StudioCat at Artful will be on

site, offering, for a small fee, crafts for young creators.

Light lunch options from local restaurants will also be available for purchase, along with homemade baked goods ranging from individually wrapped treats, to beautifully wrapped party-sized platters ready to take home, or to a holiday function.

For additional information, contact co-chairs Eileen Ryan Ewen and Jenny Thomas at [cospto@gmail.com](mailto:cospto@gmail.com).

Amy Fischer is a volunteer at Communion of Saints School. For more information call 216-932-4177 or visit [www.communionofsaintsschool.org](http://www.communionofsaintsschool.org).



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## Winter show runs through Feb. 24



A landscape by Jamie Morse.

Robin Outcalt

The Nicholson B. White Gallery's Winter Show, featuring four local artists, will be on view through Feb. 24.

The exhibit comprises creations of cut-paper collage by Maggy Brown; art glass objects by Jerry Keller; landscape paintings by Jamie Morse; and prints, including a variety of landscapes, by Jane Petschek.

The mood of this group exhibition is upbeat, as the artists share their passions and provide a sense of time and place in their work. Show visitors will see a variety of subjects depicted in the work,



A vase by Jerry Keller.

including horses, dogs, coastal landscapes, beach scenes, guitars and other musical instruments.

The gallery is located within St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at the corner of Fairmount Boulevard and Coventry Road. The gallery is open on weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Robin Outcalt is co-director of the Nicholson B. White Gallery.

## Shahrazad premieres 'Around the World in 80 Days' at Ensemble

Tyler Whidden

As part of its 39th season, Ensemble Theatre is co-producing Shahrazad Theatre's adaptation of Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*. Directed by Shahrazad co-founder August Scarpelli, the play will be a world-premiere production, running through Dec. 16 in Ensemble's PlayGround Theater (2843 Washington Blvd.).

The story follows the adventures of Phileas Fogg and his newly employed French valet, Passepartout, as they attempt to travel around the globe in 80 days.

"I consider Jules Verne to have been a very lucky man," Scarpelli

said, "because the natural curiosity and sense of adventure that we are all born with was something that he held close to his heart for his entire life, and there is little that is more important than that, especially today."

Seeking to adapt a work that would be fun for the whole family, the company chose Verne's story.

"Like Shahrazad herself, our mission is to shed new light on old wisdom so that we may move forward and spend our short lives on this big earth wisely," Scarpelli explained. "We have chosen to adapt the book ourselves, following the spirit of Ensemble Theatre's productions of classic literature such as *"The Great Gatsby"* and *"East of Eden."*

Dubbed "an interactive adaptation for the whole family," *"Around the World in 80 Days"* will star local actors and provide entertainment for adults and children alike.

Showtimes for *"Around the World in 80 Days"* will be Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., with matinee performances on Saturdays at 3 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

For tickets and information, visit [www.ensembletheatre.org](http://www.ensembletheatre.org), call 216-321-2930, or e-mail [info@ensembletheatre.org](mailto:info@ensembletheatre.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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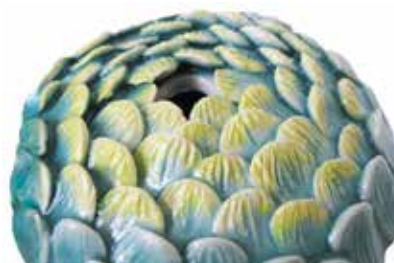
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# Remember when Coventry wasn't cool?



## SONGS AND STORIES

Some guy, in a Facebook group about growing up in Cleveland Heights, posted the comment “Remember when Coventry used to be cool?”

That drew dozens of responses, almost all of them saying that Coventry still is cool.

The guy who posted that was referring to Coventry in the early 2000s—a time, he'd be surprised to learn, when people were also saying “remember when Coventry used to be cool,” referring to the 1990s. The fact is people have been saying this since about 1971 (referring to 1968). Really. It's a thing. People who hang around Coventry for a few years eventually see changes happening and decide that the whole place is ruined—from whenever their first experience was in the area.

I lived near Coventry for my whole childhood. In fact, both of my parents, at times in their youth, lived on Coventry Road. When my father was born, his family lived on Washington Boulevard, three or four houses behind the Coventry library. Then they moved to a house on Coventry, in the block north of Mayfield, in a house that backed up to Mayfield Cemetery—a house from which you could probably see my father's grave. In his teens, my

father worked on Coventry, in the fish market whose space later became the original Big Fun location. Apparently, it was not “big fun” when he worked there: When my parents started dating, in high school, my mother's mother wouldn't allow him in their apartment because he smelled of fish.

That apartment, where my mother lived with her mother and baby brother, was upstairs of what is now Hunan Coventry. At the time, it was Uberstine's Drug Store. It was still Uberstine's when I was a kid, and later became Carroll Drug, before the current Chinese restaurant. My mother lived there until the building burned. My mother and grandmother and uncle got out—though my mother ran back into the burning apartment to grab the box that held all of my grandmother's money; money she made working across the street at the Cottage Creamery (later Pick-N-Pay, and now Marc's). This was during the Great Depression, so their money was not in a bank, and saving it was essential. But they lost her late father's Stradivarius violin in the fire. And their grand piano, which crashed through the floor.

Uberstine's rebuilt and reopened. In the 1950s, when I was a child, it was still there. It had a long soda fountain along the south side of the store. And they had pay phones in big phone booths with glass doors that closed and built-in seats to sit on.

I grew up on Belmar, close to

Mayfield. And I went to Coventry School, where my father had also attended. I used to walk to and from school, usually via Coventry Road. Though sometimes I jay-walked across Mayfield from Belmar, and walked up the semi-secret stone staircase that led into someone's backyard driveway on Hampshire, and then across Hampshire to Rock Road, the almost-hidden dirt road that went from Hampshire down a hill and past the back of the Pick-N-Pay parking lot, ending at Euclid Heights Boulevard, directly across from Coventry School.

Coventry Road was full of Eastern European shops—Kosher meat markets; the fish monger; a kosher chicken slaughtering place (where kids would stop on their way home from school and stand outside to hear the chickens squawking and see feathers flying out the door); two or three delis; three Jewish bakeries; a couple of corned beef restaurants; a fancy fur shop; a dusty, dark appliance store and repair place; a music store, Motter's (now located

on Mayfield Road in South Euclid); three drug stores; a barber shop and a beauty salon; a bank (which is still there); the Pick-N-Pay grocery; and a “toy store,” which, I'm guessing, was a front for something, because when kids wandered in and saw that there were no toys there, the gruff old men inside would yell at them to beat it.

So Coventry was not cool back then. It didn't become cool until the mid-'60s. And every couple of years since then people notice that certain places have closed and new ones have taken their place. And if the new places aren't the places that were there when they first started hanging out, the new places must not be cool.

Maybe they're right. I don't know. But I remember Coventry when it really wasn't cool, and when I go there, which is often, it always seems cool to me.

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



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