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FutureHeights
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CH soccer player's trip sparks philanthropic alliance

Rosie Ford

When 12-year-old Nate Ford arrived in Roatan, Honduras, in March, he was looking forward to a brief respite from the Cleveland winter. Ford, from Cleveland Heights, figured he'd spend a lot of time swimming, snorkeling and exploring this Caribbean island, about 40 miles off the coast of the mainland. Little did he know that a chance encounter in a remote Honduran village would spark an idea for philanthropy, close to his heart.

During a cultural tour of the island, Ford visited Crawfish Rock and was introduced to groups of Honduran children by Denise Mazu of Clearwater Adventures. He had the opportunity to see their school, share a meal in a local family's home, and learn about the challenges many



Nate Ford, 12, with some of the many pairs of soccer cleats the Ohio Premier Futbol Club has donated to children in Honduras. Ford started Project Pitbull after seeing kids playing barefoot during a trip there this spring.

of these kids face.

Ford noticed the kids playing soccer on a makeshift field, mostly barefoot with limited equipment. "Soccer's kind of my thing," Ford

said, "and when I saw kids my age playing the game without adequate equipment, it got me thinking."

Soccer is certainly Ford's "thing."

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Members of the Heights Middle School team that competed nationally in Chicago are, standing (from left): Tony Jolivette, Nathaniel Tisch, Kenji Sakaie, Laurel Buescher, Natalie Bier, Nikolai Bell, Noah Sears, Arthur Schmiel, Ella Watterson; kneeling: Malcolm McPherson, Charlotte Benham.

Heights team competes nationally

Michael Bier

Could you name the biological domain composed of all cells that have membrane-bound organelles, in less than two seconds, without using Google? (Keep reading for the answer.) The Heights Middle School Academic Team can.

Over Mother's Day weekend, they competed at the National Championship Tournament in Chicago, tying for 49th place among 176 teams from across the nation.

The Heights team, comprising seven students from Monticello and six from Roxboro middle schools,

qualified for the tournament after strong showings locally, including two first-place finishes in 20-team competitions.

Eleven of the 13 team members made the trip to the national tournament.

The tournament matches teams of four players who answer up to 24 "toss-up" questions on a variety of topics, including science, history, literature, current events and math.

The first team to buzz in with a correct answer is then offered three bonus questions about which players

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CH voters may face competing charter revisions in November

Bob Rosenbaum

Citizens for an Elected Mayor (CEM), a grassroots campaign to change the structure of Cleveland Heights' government, has been collecting signatures since mid-May to put a voter referendum on the ballot this November. The proposal would revise the city charter to allow residents to elect the mayor directly.

In the current system, in place since the original city charter in 1921, citizens elect seven part-time city council members, who in turn hire a full-time city manager to run the city. A so-called "weak mayor" is a member of council, chosen by council as a first among equals.

Meanwhile, the Charter Review Commission (CRC), appointed by CH City Council, has spent 18 months assembling a wide-ranging set of proposed charter revisions—but declined to include the change to a strong mayor.

City council members will decide which, if any, of CRC's proposed revisions will go before CH voters in November.

This means there could be two-competing issues on the ballot this November—one, based on CRC findings, recommending dozens of small changes; and the other, from CEM, recommending a single large change.

Tony Cuda, 64, is chairman of the effort by CEM. He teaches sociology and government at Shaker Heights High School. He grew up in Cleveland Heights and graduated from Heights High. After years outside the city, he has lived here continuously since 2003.

Following is a distillation of a May 2 conversation with Cuda:

Confidence that CEM's refer-

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Coventry library becomes mobile pantry site

Sheryl Banks

On May 20, Heights Libraries' Coventry Village branch became one of the newest sites for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Mobile Pantry program.

According to the Food Bank, a mobile pantry is defined as a truck full of food that is brought to a central location where clients can pick items up, just like they would from a regular pantry, with a focus on healthy, fresh produce: "Mobile pantries distribute the healthiest and most nutritious

food at the Food Bank. A truck will usually contain 90 percent produce (fruits and vegetables), including apples, cabbage, greens, sweet potatoes, onions, carrots, oranges, melons and more. The remaining 10 percent usually consists of bread, yogurt or another donated item."

Maggie Kinney, Heights Libraries' special projects manager, who oversees the program, said the community's poverty rate is one reason the library applied to be a pantry site.

"Our community is vibrant and thriving, but we do have poverty here

as well, a rate of roughly 18 percent according to the U.S. Census Bureau," Kinney said. "Our buildings have really become the center of our neighborhoods, and residents already look to us for help with all kinds of things, so the Mobile Pantry is a natural fit."

The Mobile Pantry is the library's latest collaboration with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, which over the past few years has included after-school snacks for kids at the Noble Neighborhood branch and

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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.

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 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.

Articles to be considered for the July issue must be submitted by June 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.

CH residents should support our council-manager governance structure

Mike Gaynier and Jack Newman

The *Heights Observer* has published news articles and opinion pieces regarding Citizens for an Elected Mayor, a local group that advocates abandoning Cleveland Heights' existing council-manager structure in favor of a "strong mayor-council" form of government. This position is inconsistent with the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission (CRC), which voted 10-2-1 (1 abstention) against adding a strong mayor and 11-2 to retain our council-manager structure.

The CRC was tasked by Cleveland Heights City Council to answer the question: "What is in the best interest of the residents of Cleveland Heights?"

The CRC undertook an extensive 16-month study of our charter and best governance practices for Cleveland Heights, as we look toward our future. The result was a modern, well-organized charter that residents will find easy to understand regarding how the government of Cleveland Heights best operates.

Our proposed "First Amended Charter" and supporting documents can be found on the city's website, at www.clevelandheights.com/875/charter-review-commission.

Members of the CRC are preparing a series of articles that will explain

our strong support for maintaining and strengthening our council-manager structure, and demonstrate the risks inherent in changing to a less-accountable and possibly less-transparent government.

Below are some facts comparing strong mayor vs. council-manager structure, in Ohio and around our nation:

- Nearly all lists measuring business friendliness and quality of life are dominated by cities with a council-manager structure that employ an appointed, professional local government manager to serve as the community's chief executive, rather than a popularly elected, politically focused mayor.
- Nearly two-thirds of Moody's Aaa-bond-rated communities operate under the council-manager form.
- Council-manager cities—according to the IBM report, "Smarter, Faster, Cheaper"—are nearly 10 percent more efficient than those with strong mayor forms of government. They accomplish more and waste less with the same resources.
- The majority of All-America City Award recipients for the past five years have been council-manager governments.
- Most cities that change their form of government move away from strong mayor to a council-manager structure.

Abandoning Cleveland Heights' current council-manager structure in favor of a strong mayor-council form of government, and centralizing all executive authority (including power of veto and political appointment) in a mayor rather than a professional administrator employed by and responsible to the entire council, will not strengthen the city's ability to capitalize on opportunities for revitalization and development.

Instead, strengthening the policy leadership role of the city council and enhancing the power of the professional manager, as provided in our First Amended Charter, will move the city forward efficiently, without the problems we see throughout much of Cuyahoga County, with partisan-focused, unaccountable governance.

Cleveland Heights needs both the leadership of an elected governing body and the proven-effective, day-to-day oversight of a professional and talented city manager. Retaining the council-manager form of government rather than switching to the mayor-council form is the best strategy for ensuring success in Cleveland Heights.

Jack Newman, a retired attorney, was chair of the CRC. Mike Gaynier, a leadership consultant, was a CRC member.

ELECTED MAYOR continued from page 1

endum will be on the ballot this November: "We will be there 100 percent. I don't see a way we won't do it."

Concern about confusion, if voters are presented with two competing issues: "First, it's not certain the city will be ready with its own [ballot issue]. The Charter Review Commission has about a hundred items to go over. . . . What they're doing is very time-consuming. It's a tall order to get it done in time." [As an elected body, CH City Council does not need to go through the same petition process as a citizen referendum, but it faces the same procedural deadlines.]

"We knew early on that there would be an important education piece to this. We had volunteers talking with people on their way out of the polls last November, and most . . . were surprised to learn that we don't elect our own mayor. So am I

concerned about confusion? Yes. But we have a pretty simple message: Do you want to elect a mayor or continue to have an appointed mayor?"

Why do it this year, given the possibility of confusion? "This is the year that people who care about local government show up to vote. Next year is 2020; we'll all be dealing with the national issues. We need to do it now because the issue has been raised and elevated. . . . I give city council credit for doing the charter review, because it brought the issue to light. If it comes to a head-to-head thing, I like the choice: Either you want an elected mayor or not."

When there are two competing issues, how does it work? "As we've been advised, people can vote for one, or the other, or both. If both pass, the one with the most votes wins and the other loses. Both issues

can fail, but only one can win.

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

Thank you to Heights Libraries

To the Editor:

I'm a Cleveland Heights native, and I just wanted to say thank you to Heights Libraries for acquiring and preserving the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus.

The P.E.A.C.E. Campus is dear to my heart. In 1976 my mother, Ro Eugene, started a "Coventry Kids for PEACE" movement in the wake of disturbing bullying incidents at the school. Parents and kids had several meetings together, and made a plan to be nicer and more accepting of each other. It worked.

I'd like to think that movement was the predecessor of the P.E.A.C.E. park, but in any case, peace has been an inspiring energy there for decades.

Acceptance of diversity is just one of the many forms that peace takes in Cleveland Heights, and one of the many characteristics that make it a special, livable and lovable community. The P.E.A.C.E. park is a living symbol of all of that—many thanks to everyone at Heights Libraries for preserving it.

Judith Eugene
Cleveland Heights

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A city manager form of government works well

Alan Rapoport

A pending proposal seeks to change the Cleveland Heights city manager form of government to a strong mayor form, via a charter amendment proposed for the November 2019 ballot. Before any rush to judgment, we all should consider what our present form of government is.

The city manager system adopted in 1921 was a “good government” reform to put less emphasis on political decision-making. Our municipal corporation operates like a traditional corporation. Voters are “stockholders.” They elect a city council as a “board of directors.” Council members are elected at large, not by wards. This board elects one member as its presiding officer with the title of Mayor. It hires a city manager as the “chief executive officer.” Managers are chosen based upon qualifications and experience. Cleveland Heights has prospered with this system for almost 100 years.

The city council appropriates money, sets policy, and passes laws. Then, the city manager spends the money, implements the policies, and enforces the laws. City employees report directly to the city manager, and council members may not direct their performance. For this reason, there has been little political interference with how municipal business is conducted, unlike in other cities such as Cleveland.

The system works. Significant projects have been initiated because of the professionalism of city managers. We have a new modern city hall. Two fire stations provide better service at less cost than the three we had before. We have great ambulance service with fast response times. We have glorious facilities at Cain Park. Our revised financial system has earned us a bond rating that greatly reduces borrowing costs to fund capital improvements. Excellent administrators have been hired to run the police, fire, and service departments. Only the real man-

agement talent of professional city managers could have accomplished all this.

A city manager form of government IS a system dedicated to providing services based upon objective needs.

A city manager form of government is NOT a system based upon favoritism or prejudices. It is not one in which decision-making is based on the ego of one individual or on the need of one person to curry favor with voters. Managers are accountable. They can be discharged at will at any time. The city manager meets with all council members regularly and reports to each of them. Council members can question any city employee; a city manager is not their only source of information. Checks and balances are very much in place.

As a board of directors, council members donate their individual skills and knowledge of the community. They question the city manager and members of city staff. They exercise extensive oversight of operations. Because they run at large, not in wards, all voters get frequent opportunities to judge council members. Government works in a collaborative manner with little partisan bickering.

A change in the form of government is no magic solution. Ask citizens of East Cleveland. They changed their form of government. Two indicted mayors later, they are no better off. The way to maintain good governance in Cleveland Heights is not by adopting a new form of government. It is by all of us paying a lot of attention to the election of talented members to our city council.

Eleven of 13 members of the Charter Review Commission recommend that our city retain the city manager form of government. This form has been well tested, and I believe strongly that we should keep it.

Alan Rapoport, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, served on CH City Council 1980-1987, and was CH mayor 1982-1987.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL continued from page 1

can confer. Rounds are 18 minutes, so the pace is rapid-fire.

“Playing 10 matches over two days was an intense experience,” said Laurel Buescher, a Monticello seventh-grader. “The questions were tough and definitely challenged us. Besides playing the games, I had a lot of fun being with my teammates in Chicago.”

Here’s another toss-up: Name the African terrorist group led by Abubakar Shekau, which kidnapped 276 girls from a school in Chibok in 2014. (Don’t know? Keep reading.)

“I’m so impressed with all the kids and their hard work,” said volunteer coach Kari Elsil. “Not many middle school students would voluntarily spend their weekends at practices and tournaments, but this team really embraced it. I was constantly blown away by how much they knew. Certainly, there were many, many questions that I didn’t know the answer to that they did.”

The team finished the Saturday competition with five wins and three losses. The winning record allowed

them to advance to Sunday’s playoffs, where two tough losses ended their tournament.

This is the second year in row a Heights Middle School team has made it to the national tournament.

This year, in addition to the strong team finish, Roxboro eighth-grader Kenji Sakaie’s individual score was ninth among 919 players in the tournament.

The Heights Schools Foundation sponsored tournament registration, and Zagara’s Marketplace provided additional team fundraising.

For more tournament information, check out the website of the competition’s organizer, the National Academic Quiz Tournament (www.naqt.com).

Quiz answers: Eukaryotes and Boko Haram.

Were you smarter than a middle schooler?

Mike Bier is a graduate of Heights High and a member of the FutureHeights Board of Directors.

Students are more than the core



A TEACHER’S VOICE

Ari Klein

When I was vice president of the teachers union, 2006–2012, one of my responsibilities was to select three pieces of student work from the annual CH-UH art show to purchase for display in our union office. The artwork that our students create is so personal and interesting that it always took me a long time to choose. Once I had selected, I’d contact the art teacher to find out if the art I had chosen was, in fact, for sale. Most students were happy to sell their work, but not always.

If you visit our office at Lee and Mayfield roads, you will see that all of the art on the walls is from these student shows. It is a constant reminder of not only how important our students are, but also how important non-core academic courses are as a source of enrichment in our lives.

Students in the CH-UH schools are lucky to have the opportunity to take visual and performing arts classes. Many school districts see these classes as unimportant “fluff,” because they are not tested by the state. The state seems uninterested in whether our students are well rounded or interested in school, but is concerned only with how they perform in a few subjects.

I agree that the core skills are foundational and need to be mastered. Everyone should be functionally literate and computationally savvy, but those may not be the most important skills our students learn in school.

The state does not measure if students have empathy, patience, or work well with others. The state and, in some instances, local school boards, show little interest in whether students can create a significant piece of art, perform an instrumental solo, or move people

with an original poem.

Most everything that makes a student unique is overlooked. In fact, there is a subtle movement by education “deformers” to use the word scholars to refer to students. The implication being that nothing is as important as what students learn for the state tests. Scholars first and athletes second, leaving no room for an artist or a dancer, a novelist or an oboist. But students are multifaceted and complicated, and not one-dimensional.

In my classroom, I have students who do so many amazing things outside of academics.

Some of my students are employed, learning really important life skills that you don’t get in a classroom. Others are involved in a myriad of activities. I know these outside pursuits can sometimes interfere with learning algebra, but students who are enjoying interesting pursuits outside of school usually find a way to keep up with their studies. It would be hard to imagine how dull life would be for kids who had only academics and no other outlets.

I believe that students who have difficulty academically are at risk of having creative opportunities closed to them. In elementary school, students who don’t finish their work, or who need extra test preparation, may be kept in from recess or steered away from learning an instrument.

Taking away the enriching parts of life for our students will not produce vibrant, curious and thoughtful adults. We feel the pressure to prepare students academically, but often creative or physical activities help focus a student’s mind for the core learning. I believe we need to take a step back and think about the bigger picture of what students should be learning in school. We need to ensure that our students learn what our community values.

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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Lawsuits threaten housing code enforcement



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

If you have owned a house in Cleveland Heights or University Heights, at some point you may have received from your city housing department a list of code violations, with a deadline for correcting them. It might have arrived following a systematic (routine) inspection of your home or rental unit, or a point of sale inspection (POS). Regardless, it's only human to grumble a little before getting down to the work of bringing our properties up to code.

Most of us understand, however, that code enforcement is key to protecting our greatest assets as older communities: safe, healthy, attractive and, in many cases, historically significant housing. In addition, regular inspections of rental properties can ensure the rights and well being of renters.

Cleveland Heights and University Heights are among 22 Cuyahoga County cities with ordinances requiring a POS inspection. It ensures a house meets interior and exterior codes, and protects the buyer from major unanticipated expenses. It allows the seller and buyer to negotiate with all cards on the table. It's a good thing.

Maurice Thompson doesn't agree. Thompson is a lawyer and executive director of the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law, a nonprofit law firm in Columbus. He seems to believe that individual property rights trump all other interests, including maintenance of a city's housing stock for all of the above reasons.

Thompson was the keynote speaker at April's "Pancakes and Politics"—an annual event sponsored by the Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors (ACAR), and attended by real estate professionals and local government officials. ACAR opposes POS, on the grounds that it delays housing sales and may result in lower prices.

ACAR's leaders perhaps failed to sufficiently vet their speaker. According to several people present, Thompson railed against city governments in general, and showed particular virulence toward a few local communities. He reportedly declared, "Any community in Northeast Ohio with

the word 'Heights' in its name is just like Nazi Germany."

We are tempted to dismiss Thompson as a crank; however, he has successfully filed class-action lawsuits against two Ohio communities: Oakwood (a suburb of Dayton) and Bedford. He argued that POS and rental inspections are, in effect, warrantless searches, and thus violate Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

On that basis, the court found Bedford's POS and rental inspection ordinances unconstitutional. As a result, Bedford has had to amend its ordinances so that (1) a property owner can refuse an inspection unless the city obtains an administrative warrant, and (2) failure to correct violations is considered a civil offense, not a criminal one. The court also ordered Bedford to cease collecting inspection fees, and to refund \$40,677 collected 2014-2017.

The village of Newburgh Heights recently made similar amendments to its ordinances in order to avoid being sued. Cleveland Heights' ordinances already provide for warrants should a property owner refuse inspectors entry.

Thompson's rhetoric created an unnecessary divide between groups at the ACAR event, according to Newburgh Heights Building Commissioner Kristine Pagsuyoin. "Cities want to get along with realtors. You want dialog, you want discussion," she said.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Carol Roe, who also attended the April event, agreed. "We value the real estate people, who perform an essential service," she said, adding, "They have been so supportive of our efforts here in the Noble area." It is the city's responsibility, she said, "to make sure POS inspections are not bogging down the process of bringing in new homeowners."

In a democracy, lawmakers must balance individual rights with the well being of others, and of the community as a whole. Rigorously enforced housing codes benefit homeowners, home buyers, renters, neighborhoods and entire cities. Weakening them would tip the balance in the wrong direction.

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg are longtime residents of Cleveland Heights. Contact them at heights-democracy@gmail.com.

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Ohio LWV votes to reject high-stakes testing



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Patience and perseverance have their rewards.

On May 12, at the annual policymaking meeting of the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWV Ohio), delegates from across the state unanimously approved a resolution declaring test-based accountability to be a misuse of

standardized tests. Advocating for the end of using tests as a means of holding schools accountable is now part of the organization's action agenda.

LWV Ohio, a nearly 100-year-old defender of democracy and advocate of sound public policy, has more than 30 chapters and 3,000 members.

Its legitimacy comes in part from its commitment to serious research on its positions and a requirement that its members participate in deciding what matters and what positions to take. It does not jump into issues without serious consideration, and it adheres to democratic methods and principles. The league's process is a model for our lawmakers. There is nothing half-baked about its positions.

The motion to approve the high-stakes testing resolution was the outcome of nine months of work that started in Cleveland Heights. I was part of a small committee of league members who decided to tackle the issue and pursue

the process that is required to gain the organization's support.

The league does not lobby or advocate for legislation until an idea has been researched, vetted by every local chapter, recommended by its board of directors and then adopted by a vote taken at LWV Ohio's state convention.

By raising the issue, the league, at a minimum, educates its members and gauges support from engaged citizens. Having the credibility of the League of Women Voters behind our challenge to a destructive public policy made the nine months of research, writing and meetings worth the effort.

Maryann Barnes, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights LWV unit chair, is an expert at navigating league process. With her help, we built a committee, gained support from the Greater Cleveland league to pursue the issue, and made sure we followed the league's process for adopting new positions. Barnes also applied her meticulous editing skills to shape our support materials.

Cleveland Heights members Robin Koslen and Adele Cohen, and Westlake member Karen Dodson, completed the team that surveyed positions of league chapters in other states, hammered out our rationale and then attended the policy-planning meetings that are held each year to consider what issues to address.

Enough local chapters supported the proposal to make it onto the agenda for the state convention.

Our committee held two caucuses at the convention to share our ideas and clarify the position with delegates who voted at the final plenary session. The conversations were energetic and heartfelt. It was a thrill to discover that members of LWV Ohio reject high-stakes testing. They understand that it damages students and the quality of education in classrooms, and undermines public education.

This process made it evident to me that the public is way ahead of our state policymakers in understanding that testing students does not improve public schools.

In March, the CH-UH Board of Education passed a resolution challenging test-based accountability, and I hope that other communities will follow suit.

LWV Ohio is one more voice in the conversation. Our next challenge is to make sure league involvement encourages others to add their voices.

Susie Kaeser is a 40-year resident of Cleveland Heights and the former director of Reaching Heights. She is active with the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the League of Women Voters.



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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

APRIL 15, 2019

Present were Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan and council members Pamela Cameron, Phil Ertel, John Rach, Michele Weiss and Mark Wiseman. Susan Pardee and Steven Sims were absent. Also present were Luke McConville, law director; James Goffe, finance director; and Kelly Thomas, clerk of council. The meeting was held from 7:05 to 8:45 p.m.

Mayor's report

Mayor Brennan reported that a recent breakfast with realtors at the library was very well attended—more chairs were needed, and there was strong interest in what the city has to offer home buyers. He also announced that Ari Jaffe is the new chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor's Municipal Future Committee

Winifred Weizer, chair of the Mayor's Municipal Future Committee, reported on the findings of the committee, which was tasked with looking at the city's properties and making recommendations on needs and options. The committee found that the current city hall is inadequate, the fire station doesn't have facilities for female fire fighters, and the new fire engine will barely fit (options were limited by the size of the station bays). The police department is having to disperse to adjacent sites for administrative functions, and the jail has been closed for failing to meet current standards. The committee unanimously agreed that something must be done, but the "what" is less clear. The Wiley school building is under consideration, depending on what the Board of Education decides to do with the property. The committee suggests contracting with a firm to conduct a professional audit of all properties and their uses, and then recommend alternatives where needed. Two committee members voted against that proposal, due to the cost.

Councilman Wiseman noted that city funds being spent for jail space in Solon and for space in the annex might be saved if facilities could be reorganized. Councilman Rach noted that it is a responsibility of the city to maintain adequate facilities. Councilman Ertel noted that the city has a very long history of being frugal, but now is the time to develop a capital budget.

UH City Beautiful Corporation

Council authorized the mayor to enter into an agency agreement with the University Heights City Beautiful Corporation so that the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) can enter into agreements on behalf of the city for community development projects, property refurbishment, and other such activities as required. [The CIC has been rolled into the City Beautiful Corporation.]

New zoning category

A proposal to combine properties into a new zoning category, Residential Attached District, was presented to council and will now be considered by the planning commission before returning to council for final approval. This option is being proposed for just seven vacant and contiguous properties between South Taylor and Wynn roads. Combining



these parcels will allow the developers to propose high-density housing projects—an option they have been seeking. These properties will constitute the specified district.

Fire safety and EMS equipment

Council authorized five grant applications for new equipment: safety vests from the Ohio Emergency Medical Services organization; RIT Intervention Paks (for retrieving people trapped in a fire without oxygen) from the Ohio Department of Commerce; smoke detectors from the Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program (no match [is required] but limited [funds are available]); additional smoke detectors from FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (5 percent match is required but larger sums are available); and diesel exhaust extraction units for the fire department bay floor area from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. By reinstating the smoke detector residential program, fire fighters will be able to provide smoke detectors to homes, inspect homes for safety, and install detectors for residents who purchase their own.

Department and committee reports

Susan Drucker, economic development director, announced that the city has received its first storefront improvement application for a building on Cedar Road with six storefronts, which has several new businesses coming in.

Councilman Wiseman reported that the building committee discussed license regulations for rental properties and is concluding that inspections should be conducted every other year, and the limit of residents should be three adults per home whether related or not. Fees for inspections are still under discussion. The building committee also reviewed the status of University Heights residents keeping chickens. There seems to be only one active coop at this time, and none of the fears have come to pass. The temporary status of the chicken ordinance will be allowed to sunset and the law is now permanent until council decides to reconsider it.

LWV Observer: Wendy S. Deuring.

MAY 6, 2019 - No LWV Observer was available to cover this council meeting.

The LWV continues to seek volunteer meeting observers. If you are interested in helping the LWV cover University Heights City Council meetings, please contact Maryann Barnes at mbarnes@lwvgreatercleveland.org.

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

To receive email postings of full reports, send an email to 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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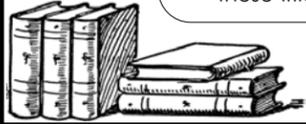
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Veteran and his family get mortgage-free home

Betsy O'Connell

On May 18, a long-serving, decorated veteran and his family received a newly renovated, mortgage-free furnished home in Cleveland Heights, through an ongoing partnership between Citizens Bank and the Military Warriors Support Foundation.

The home was presented to U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Charlie Pepinrivera, who served his country for more than 24 years, with tours of duty in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Bosnia.

Wounded during several military operations, Pepinrivera also suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury as a result of his deployments. His service commendations include the



The Pepinrivera family at their new Canterbury Road home.

Combat Action Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

Pepinrivera, who retired in 2017, started his service in the Puerto Rico National Guard, where he served for four years before joining the U.S. Army.

Citizens Bank partnered with the Military Warriors Support Foundation to find and renovate a home that met the family's needs. Nearly 100 bank employees and their families volunteered their time to clean, paint, rake and plant to get the home ready.

Pepinrivera, his wife, Maribel, and their six children, Joseph, Mariela, Joyce, Gabriel, Joimar and Jonnel, had been living in San Antonio, but needed to move to the Cleveland area in order to be closer to family and friends who can help with his recuperation.

The family has always been active in their community, volunteering their efforts to feed the homeless and provide clothing and school materials for children. They look forward to playing an active role in their new community.

Community residents and Citizens Bank employees lined Canterbury Road as a parade led the bus carrying Pepinrivera and his family to their new home.

"I've been crying since I got here," Pepinrivera told the crowd before he and his family saw the inside of the home. "People call me hero, but I'm not a hero. I'm just a guy who wanted to make a differ-

ence." Touring the home—filled with donated furniture, appliances and outdoor tools and games—clearly overwhelmed the family as they went from room to room.

"We never got anything for free, not even a shirt going to a game," said Pepinrivera. "Having a home—and all this—and the community is just amazing."

"We're so used to giving to other people that when it's our time to receive, it feels so weird," said Maribel.

"We are proud to honor Charlie's brave service by providing him with a home that has been refurbished with pride and great care," said Brad Conner, vice chairman and head of Consumer Banking, Citizens Bank. "Our colleagues are committed to supporting the communities where we live and work, and we are truly excited to have helped renovate this home for Charlie and his family."

"It is a privilege and an honor to award a mortgage-free home to Charlie and his family," said Kathy Feeney, executive advisor of Housing Initiatives with Military Warriors Support Foundation. "This amazing opportunity doesn't get to happen by itself. Together, with donors like Citizens Bank, we are given the opportunity to serve those who have served for us."

Betsy O'Connell is a freelance writer and media relations professional. Citizens Bank is a client.



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Final community meeting on Noble Road project is June 20

Sruti Basu



On June 20, 7 p.m., FutureHeights will host the last in a series of community meetings to share plans for, and gather input about, the Noble Road commercial corridor.

At the meeting, which will take place at Central Bible Baptist Church, 2285 Noble Road, project consultants Camiros LTD and The Riddle Company will present to the community their final iteration of research and ideas. This final presentation will encompass ideas and feedback gathered from the community over the past several months.

Noble Road is the most significant street in the northeast section of Cleveland Heights, giving its name to an area known as “Noble neighborhood.”

FutureHeights, in cooperation with several community partners, kicked off a planning study of Noble Road in fall 2018. The study comprises a market analysis and revitalization plan for the commercial/mixed-use districts along the Noble Road corridor. The many goals of the study include revitalizing the corridor, enhancing the neighborhood’s image, and improving residents’ quality of life.

“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 study will result in a revitalization plan for Noble Road that is both exciting and actionable. Noble Road is the ‘front door’ to a

charming neighborhood. A revitalized Noble Road should attract new residents and businesses to the area.”

This will be the consultants’ fourth visit to Cleveland Heights, and the third and final community meeting about the project.

At the last two meetings, held on Jan. 17 and April 4, the consultants proposed strategies for corridor revitalization, infrastructure improvements, place-making ideas, infill development opportunities, potential business recruitment programs, and market research. Follow-up small-group meetings, along with an online survey on the FutureHeights website, have enabled residents to give feedback on the proposals. In addition, FutureHeights has convened a 13-member steering committee, comprising residents, business owners and other stakeholders.

“This project will only be a success if we are able to engage 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 online surveys, focus groups and neighborhood meetings, to hear from residents and business owners to understand the assets and challenges of the neighborhood, as well as their ideas for the future.”

To learn more about the project, visit www.futureheights.org or www.nobleneighbors.com, call 216-320-1423, or e-mail sbasu@futureheights.org.

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

SOCCER continued from page 1

He has been playing competitively since he was 5. He began in the Cleveland Heights Recreation League, transitioned to Cleveland Heights-based Eastside Kickers Travel League, and has been playing for Ohio Premier Futbol Club (OPFC) since 2015. Through OPFC, Ford plays in the Great Lakes Alliance (GLA), where kids compete at the highest youth level.

According to OPFC Director of Coaching Dennis Weyn, “What sets OPFC apart from most other local soccer clubs is our commitment to being family friendly, financially accessible, and culturally and socio-economically diverse.” With this in mind, Ford and his parents knew the club would be open to an idea inspired by his spring break adventure.

Project Pitbull officially launched in April. Working with Mazu, Ford and his family formed a partnership with OPFC and the Crawfish Rock soccer club, Pitbull Futbol. Ford hopes to collect enough gear—including balls, cleats and jerseys—to outfit all the village children.

So far, the response from OPFC families has been overwhelming, and Ford has collected more than 100 pairs of cleats.

By collecting and redistributing soccer equipment, Ford and the

OPFC community will be able to recycle gear and enrich the lives of children who love the game of soccer. The Honduran club currently has two teams supported solely by donations of cleats, balls and other equipment.

Mazu, who organized the Honduran club, has a few simple goals: “More than anything, I want these kids to develop a strong sense of discipline and always give 100 percent effort as they develop into accomplished futbol players.”

According to Cleveland Heights resident Paul Eyre, current OPFC coach and former Heights High Varsity Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer head coach, “This initiative will be a continuing effort to expand OPFC’s commitment to building strong soccer communities and to encourage our players to have a more global understanding of the power of futbol.”

“Remember, one soccer ball or pair of cleats can change the life of a child,” said Ford.

If you have new or gently used soccer gear and want to contribute to this effort, e-mail opfcinfo@gmail.com.

Rosie Ford, Nate’s proud mom, is a longtime Cleveland Heights resident (since 2004) and soccer enthusiast.

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



APRIL 15, 2019

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, Jason Stein and Michael Ungar. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 21 minutes.

New council member Craig Cobb

Council Member Ungar moved for the approval of Craig Cobb, from among the more than 35 applicants, to fill the vacancy on council created by the departure of Cheryl Stephens. Following a unanimous vote of approval, Cobb was sworn-in by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Michael Donnelly.

Council priorities update

In March 2018, council agreed on eight overall priority areas: Housing; CDC and Economic Development; Operations/High-Performing Organization; Collaboration and Regionalism Efforts; Quality of Life/Green Initiatives; Fiscal Stability; Measuring Progress and Metrics; and Miscellaneous/Other. City Manager Tanisha Briley highlighted areas where changes have been made since the 2018 year-end report was presented in January 2019. The report can be found on the city council page of the city’s website.

Ohio Senate Bill 23

Council Member Seren [raised the issue of Senate Bill 23,] the state government’s recent “assault on the rights to bodily autonomy of Ohioans who are able to be pregnant,” and stated his belief that council should stand up for the rights of the citizens of Cleveland Heights and throughout the state. He is drafting a resolution supporting the right to bodily autonomy and abortion care, and joining Cincinnati in helping to fight Senate Bill 23 through the courts. He welcomes input and feedback.

Mayor’s report

Mayor Roe stated that council would be considering the recommendations of the Charter Review Commission at the council committee of the whole meeting on April 29. She also noted that, because of the state’s recently approved transportation budget and gasoline tax increase, the city will receive \$719,000 annually. The gasoline tax is a major revenue source for the city’s street maintenance fund. The state budget also increases public transit funding to \$70 million (from \$33 million) over the next two years.

LWV Observer: Katherine Solender.

MAY 6, 2019

Council members present were Mayor Carol Roe, Vice Mayor Melissa Yasinow, Craig Cobb, Mary Dunbar, Kahlil Seren, and Jason Stein. Michael N. Ungar participated by telephone, but did not vote. The meeting lasted from 7:38 to 9:21 p.m.

Public comments

Abortion law: Several residents spoke about the resolution, authored by Council Member Seren, responding to the new Ohio abortion law. Most speakers favored the resolution; one asserted that, while sympathetic to the spirit of the resolution, it was not an appro-

prate action for council; and two pro-life residents spoke against the content.

Abortion law resolution

A resolution supporting the rights to bodily autonomy and abortion, and instructing the law department to act in support of those rights with an amicus brief, was presented on first reading by Seren. After some discussion by other council members, Seren said he may amend the resolution to allow joining with another city in a brief. He concluded by saying that he had signed an April 24 letter to the state, along with four other council members, but feels an amicus brief would be a stronger statement.

Council Member Dunbar said she did not feel it was appropriate for council to take a stand or speak for the community on this issue. She said that her opinion on the resolution has nothing to do with what she believes in.

Vice Mayor Yasinow thanked the speakers on both sides of the discussion, referring to the comment period as an example of democracy. She hopes the courts will overturn the measure, but has concerns that an amicus brief may not be the best strategy and beyond the capacity of the city’s law department, requiring money to hire outside counsel.

Mayor Roe also thanked the citizens for their opinions. She read an e-mail from a citizen who expressed disappointment with the April letter signed by five council members because it did not represent a diverse and nonpartisan perspective. She supports the resolution under consideration but also has concerns about an amicus brief.

City manager’s report

City Manager Briley referred to the master plan update that can be accessed on the city website under Government/Departments/Planning and Development. Refuse and Recycling Task Force progress may be followed on the city’s website under Government/Boards and Commissions.

CAC appointment

Council unanimously appointed Barbara Danforth to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), amid much praise from members.

Mayor’s report

The mayor reported that council is closely monitoring the state operating budget bill, and that she went to the statehouse with the mayors’ association.

A joint meeting of CH City Council, the school board, and the University Heights mayor and city council will be June 24.

Council continues to work on the recommendations issued by the Charter Review Commission.

LWV Observers: Jeannine Gury and Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.

HRRC offers hands-on ceiling class

David Brock

Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will offer its first-ever ceiling installation class on Tuesday, June 11, 7-9 p.m., at its 2520 Noble Road teaching center.

The class will give participants the opportunity to learn about the different ceiling styles available, their advantages and disadvantages, and the supplies needed to do the job. Most importantly, students will get hands-on experience with hanging a ceiling.



The cost of the class is \$25, with resident discounts available for Cleveland Heights residents, and income discounts also available for those who qualify. To register, visit HRRC’s website, www.hrcc-ch.org, or call 216-381-6100, ext. 16.

David Brock is HRRC’s education and outreach coordinator.

Dewey Decimators are three-peat spelling bee champions

Krista Hawthorne

Congratulations to the Dewey Decimators, representing and sponsored by Friends of the Heights Libraries, for winning the Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee for the third year in a row. This year Chris Mentrek and Victor Rosenberg, missing their teammate Susan Marshall, battled through five rounds to win on the word “mnemonically,” the adverbial form of mnemonic, which means assisting or intended to assist memory.

More than a spelling competition or fundraiser, the Reaching Heights Spelling Bee is a community-building event in support of high-quality public education.

Unlike traditional spelling bees, this is a team competition of at least two, and at most three, adults who put their heads together to determine their best guess of a word’s spelling. They write it on a piece of paper, and then send one teammate to the microphone to read the spelling to the judges.

Round 3 is the Musical Round, in which teams can sing the spelling of

their word to be forgiven one spelling error.

The 22 teams that competed represented local governments, community groups, businesses, schools, churches, libraries, scouts, and the teachers union.

Many dressed up in colorful and interesting costumes, and were encouraged to bring their fans—spelling bee groupies! The Minority Student Achievement Network team had the largest number of groupies, who each won a gift certificate to Tommy’s restaurant in Coventry Village.

Once again, Upper Case, representing Case Western Reserve University raised more funds than any other team, collecting more than \$1,300 so far.

Sponsors cover the participation fees of many teams; for others, the spellers themselves donate the fee. All funds raised at this event go to support Reaching Heights’ in-school programs, including Many Villages Tutoring, Reaching Heights Role Models, and Community Care Teams.

Midway through the competition,



Victor Rosenberg and Chris Mentrek of the Dewey Decimators team accepted the coveted plastic bee trophy from Krista Hawthorne, executive director of Reaching Heights.

all in attendance were wowed by a performance from the award-winning Heights Lady Barbershoppers. Many enjoyed goodies from the bake sale—especially bee-themed treats from For Goodness Cakes—and took their chances on 10 amazing raffle baskets, containing gift certificates from Melt Bar & Grilled, Cleveland Cinemas, The Fairmount, Aladdin’s Eatery, Nighttown, BW3’s, Appletree Books, Blossom Music Festival, Ensemble

Theatre, and more.

Steve Presser, co-owner of Sweeties Big Fun in Orange Village, returned for his 24th year as Master of Ceremonies. Sally Wile, spiritual care coordinator at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center, was the pronouncer, and the Bee judges were Alicia Zeigler-Costello, social media director and buyer for a local boutique; J.J. Costello, municipal judge of Cleveland Heights; and Danielle Foran, early childhood specialist for the CH-UH City School District.

To see additional photos of the spelling bee and learn more about Reaching Heights, visit www.reaching-heights.org, or call 216-932-5110.

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

June 25 talk focuses on neighborhood revitalization

Sruti Basu

Can planting flowers lead to neighborhood revitalization? A FutureHeights-sponsored panel will discuss how on June 25 at a public forum at the BottleHouse Brewing Company.

Speakers, including Tom Gibson and Jan Kiouss, will discuss the macro-level social implications that gardening, planting flowers, and beautification can have on a neighborhood, or, in some cases, an entire community.

They will consider: What positive impacts have other communities seen as a result of thoughtful and deliberate beautification? Can gardening help alleviate safety concerns? What message does beautification send to people outside of a neighborhood or community? What are exciting local examples of gardening for neighborhood revitalization in the community?

FutureHeights invites all members of the community to attend this free event at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, June 25, at The BottleHouse Brewing Company, 2050 Lee Road.

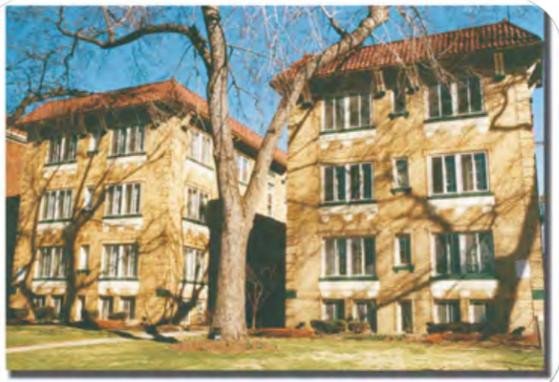
Learn more and RSVP at <https://plantingflowersforrevitalization.eventbrite.com>.

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

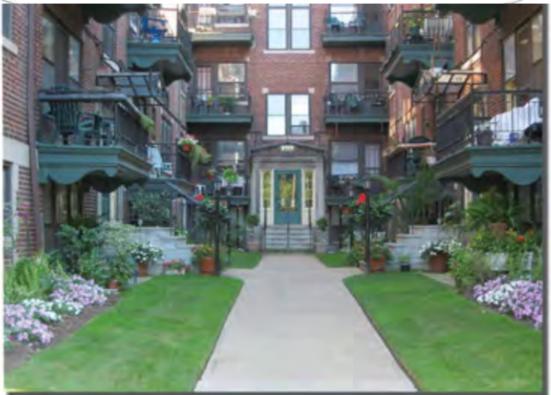
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Happy 5K/10K gears up for October race

Shari Nacson

The fifth Happy 5K/10K race is planned for Sunday, Oct. 6. In the spirit of the race's motto—"Come for the run, stay for the fun!"—race coordinators are enthusiastically working to increase participation, expand sponsorship and scholarship donations, and make the after-party even bigger.

The first Happy race, in 2015, comprised 400 runners. Each year since, the number of registrants has grown, with 600 participants in 2018. In a region that has ample 5K opportunities, that is "unusual growth," according to coordinator Adam Fleischer, owner of The Wine Spot. "Each year we have more runners, more merchants, and more running teams," Fleischer said.

Runners give the event high praise. Kevin Sovacool of Lyndhurst said, "It's such a fun race in a really great community. Everybody comes together." Nick Becker of Cleveland Heights said he especially likes the community vibe. "Everyone on the block gets involved and cheers the racers on," Becker said.

Members of North Coast Beer Runners—inspired by the legacy of Brennan's Colony owner Jim Brennan, who was an ardent supporter of Cleveland Heights' recreation leagues—proposed the race in 2014. They brought the idea to Fleischer during one of their after-run drinking-establishment sessions. Fleischer worked with city officials to think it through together. Thus was born a business-municipal collaboration in the form of a signature event that highlights what the runners, merchants and city officials all love about Cleveland Heights—great merchant districts, welcoming pubs and eateries, tree-lined streets, and diverse and friendly people.

It all benefits the very program that Jim Brennan cherished and supported for decades—youth opportunities within the city's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sponsorship is key to the race, as all sponsorship dollars go directly to the city's Youth Recreation Fund. "The fund helps offset the costs of recreational programming for families in need," said Joe McRae, director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Cleveland Heights. To date, the Happy 5K/10K has raised more than \$22,000 for the fund, ensuring

sustainable access for years to come. The fund awards approximately 200 scholarships per year.

MotorCars Honda was the first official sponsor, with other merchants stepping up to participate as sponsors and in the creation of CLE Heights Cash, a coupon booklet valued at more than \$300 that is given to every registered runner.

Ronald LaRue, owner of Heights Uptown Barbershop, has sponsored teams the past three years. "Our team is growing each year," said LaRue, who said he likes hosting a team because it gives family and friends a chance to bond while doing something healthy. "I encourage everybody to walk and enjoy the weather."

Since its beginning, the Happy 5K/10K has worked with Western Reserve Race Management, "a known entity for quality run experiences" according to Kelley Robinson, executive director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District. "They do a great job helping us to promote the run and making sure everything runs smoothly on race day," she said.

A well-run race enables the coordinators to focus on the fun aspects—from the costume contest to the after-party.

Fleischer said he would love to see teams from all segments of the community—PTAs, street associations, student groups, businesses and more. "To form a team, just e-mail us and we will add the team name as an option when people register," Fleischer explained.

In addition to this year's anticipated growth in participation, teams and sponsorships, Fleischer said he is excited to expand the after-party. For 2019, the plan is to take the post-race fun to a new level, with a block party that will last into the afternoon.

For more information about the race, visit www.westernreserveracing.com/events/cleveland-heights-happy-5k-and-10k. To learn more about the city's Youth Recreation Fund, visit www.cbpc.org/154/Youth-Recreation-Fund. To start a Happy 5K/10K team, e-mail info@westernreserveracing.com.

Mostly a mom, Shari Nacson is a freelance editor, social worker, 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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First Baptist summer services will feature multiple themes

G. Michael Skerritt

The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., is expanding on its successful summer worship format. Beginning with the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, June 9, services will be preceded by fellowship time at 9:30 a.m., where coffee, tea, juice and food will be provided. Late arrivers will be invited to bring their refreshments into church.

Each service will include a mix of traditional and contemporary music typical of the church's separate traditional and contemporary services held during other seasons. For example, on one Sunday a powerful organ prelude will start things off; on another, the church's talented praise team and band will assume the opening role.

Anyone interested in giving singing in a church choir a try is welcome to join the church's Sometime Sunday Singers, a group of regular choir members and congregation volunteers who meet at 9:15 a.m. to learn a simple song that is then sung during that day's service. No audition is required.



Hat Day at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland.

To introduce a more relaxed and engaging atmosphere, themes will be assigned to most summer Sundays. June 9 will be Hat Day, when attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite hats—the more elaborate, the better. Food-themed Sundays will include a Dollar Dog Sunday on June 16, where Cleveland Indians attire will be encouraged, and hot dogs will be available in the courtyard after the service. Ice cream and root beer floats will follow the two Ice Cream Sunday services on July 14 and Aug. 11. T-shirt and Hawaiian-shirt themes will occur on June 25 and July 21,

respectively.

Participants are invited to bring lawn chairs and enjoy the company

of neighbors and friends on the front lawn on June 30's community service day. Red, white and blue clothing is suggested for the Fourth of July Sunday, which will take place on July 7. The summer series will be rounded out with Christmas in July on July 28, a back-to-school service on Aug. 18, and a food drive as a part of Homecoming Sunday on Aug. 25. The regular church schedule will resume on Sept. 8.

For more information, visit www.firstbaptistcleveland.org.

G. Michael Skerritt is a retired engineer and a member of First Baptist Church. Music and theater are his avocations.

CH Senior Center News

Amy Jenkins

Innovative programming, in cooperation with University Circle's Distance Learning Department, continues at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center (SAC) on Tuesday, June 11, 11 a.m., with a videoconference lecture, "Japanese Art: Humble and Bold."

In this program, viewers are introduced to Japanese art in a variety of media, including ceramics used in the tea ceremony, enamelware, and folding screens made from paper and wood. The aesthetics range from earthy and subtle to colorful and luxurious. The discussion will focus on the formal qualities of these works, as well as their practical uses. Participants are encouraged to look at the works of art as indicators of Japanese social values and tastes.

Then, on the morning of June 18, the group will travel to the Cleveland Museum of Art to tour the special exhibit, *Shinto: Discovery of the Divine in Japanese Art*. This exhibition features art from collections in the U.S and Japan, and introduces works exemplifying Kami worship from the Heian period (794-1185) through the Edo period (1615-1868). From costumes worn in dances and theatrical performances at shrines, to paintings of medieval pilgrimage routes and

images of Kami and Buddhist deities, the exhibition reveals the everyday engagement of people with the divinities in their midst.

The fee for the lecture and excursion (including transportation) is \$30, and must be paid in advance. Seating is limited, so early registration is advised.

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, available online at 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. Membership is \$10 for University Heights seniors.

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

Register now for Peace Lutheran's free day camp

Jessica Shields

Peace Lutheran Church, carrying on the tradition of Hope Lutheran, one of its predecessor congregations, will offer its 19th annual Christian Day Camp June 10-14. The camp is free of charge and runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily at the church, located at 3740 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights.

The camp is open to all children who will have completed any grade from kindergarten through grade five as of the end of this current school year.

Registration is open now, with a June 3 deadline, and is limited to 30 campers.

As part of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, the camp's main staff will be three professionally trained counselors, organized under the guidelines of the American Camping Association.

Activities include daily Bible

study discussions around this year's theme, Transformed Community. Children will also participate in sports and games, arts and crafts, singing, storytelling, and nature education. Visits from the Cleveland Heights Police and Fire departments are also anticipated as part of the activities.

As part of registration, each child's medical history and drop-off and pick-up information must be included. While afternoon snacks are provided, the congregation asks that families supply each camper with lunch.

For more information, or for registration materials, call the church office at 216-382-4545, or visit www.peacelutheran-clehts.org.

Jessica Shields is a pastor at Peace Lutheran Church. She has lived in Cleveland Heights since moving to this region in 2007.

LIBRARY continued from page 1

summer lunches at the Lee Road and Noble Neighborhood branches.

The pantry also reflects the library's recent focus on culinary literacy for kids and teens. "Our culinary literacy programs are designed to teach kids basic cooking skills and the importance of healthy eating," said Kinney. "Now we're providing access to the healthy produce that we feature in those classes."

The Coventry Village branch will get enough food for roughly 80 to 100 families.

They do not need to be Heights residents to take advantage of the Mobile Pantry. The only requirement is that recipients be 18 years of age or older, have a photo ID, and meet a designated financial threshold, which they self-report. In other words, no proof of income or residency is required.

"The pantry operates on the honor system," said Kinney. "No one will be turned away, but we do ask that only those with a genuine need take advantage of the program."

The Greater Cleveland Food

Bank works with more than 140 partner programs to distribute millions of pounds of produce through the Mobile Pantry program. The Food Bank partners with nonprofit organizations in a six-county service territory to provide fresh, healthy food to food deserts and underserved areas in Northeast Ohio.

The Mobile Pantry will be at the branch the fourth Monday of each month, and will be run mostly by volunteers who will sort and distribute the food, with a few staff members providing management and oversight.

Questions about Mobile Pantry eligibility can be directed to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank by calling 216-738-2265, or by visiting the Food Bank's website, www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org.

Community members interested in volunteering for the Mobile Pantry program should contact Maggie Kinney at 216-932-3600, ext. 1290, or mkinney@heightslibrary.org.

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

Roxboro Elementary installs unique vending machine



Roxboro Elementary students make their book selections from the new vending machine.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

Many schools across the country have been phasing out vending

machines in the interest of student health. But Roxboro Elementary School has just installed one.

This is no ordinary vending machine, however. Instead of soft drinks and chips, it is stocked with books.

D&S Vending, located in downtown Cleveland, refurbishes old vending machines for unique purposes. The Roxboro PTA paid for the custom machine and an initial set of books to fill it, taking advantage of the discount earned as a result of using Mac's Backs-Books on Coventry for the school's book fair. The PTA also received a grant of \$600 from Reading Is Fundamental, a nonprofit organization that promotes children's literacy, to

purchase additional books.

"We'll eventually accept used and donated books," said Mary Pat Jolivett, a PTA member "But we wanted to start with nice spanking-new books."

The school is distributing "book bucks" that can be used only in the vending machine, which sits in the first floor hallway. Book bucks are intended simply as an incentive to read, not as a reward for good grades, attendance, or behavior.

"The idea is that 'you are a reader and you deserve a book' for your home library," said Jolivette. Every student has had the opportunity to select one book this spring to read over summer vacation. Purchases will continue on a monthly basis

starting next year.

Books were purchased in groups of five so that students can read the same titles as their friends. "Maybe that will facilitate an organic book club," said Jolivette.

Right now, most of the books are popular fiction at various reading levels, but changes based on the season, month, or theme are planned for the future.

"We might have all poetry books in April, or books about the African-American experience in February," said Jolivette.

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and a freelance journalist under contract with the CH-UH City School District.

Cleveland Heights - University Heights Board of Education Meeting highlights

APRIL 16, 2019

Board President Jodi Sourini, and board members Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis and Beverly Wright were present. Vice President James Posch was absent. Interim Superintendent Brian A. Williams and Director of Data and Assessment Allison Byrd were also present. The meeting began at 6 p.m. and adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Recognition of Academic Challenge teams and teachers

Williams recognized the high school and middle school Academic Challenge teams. Seven teachers were recognized for receiving tenure.

Introduction of NWEA MAP program

As the third installment of the data series discussions, Allison Byrd gave a presentation on NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association, Measures of Academic Progress). This program, used for grades 3-12, provides measures of academic progress for students. It is computer adapted, and questions vary based on student responses. Byrd showed sample questions.

MAP testing is administered three times per year: fall, winter and spring. It is untimed, but generally a student takes about 45 minutes to answer the multiple-choice questions using a technology-enhanced drag-and-drop technique. The spring test is not always given; that decision varies from school to school. The test is given online and the score is available immediately.

The program has many uses. For example, results can be used to set goals for students, personalize learning, select materials, assign students to small groups, and communicate to parents about their child's progress. It also is an alternative test that students can take for the third-grade guarantee [the state test required for a student to advance to fourth grade].

LWV Observer: Carol Spackey.

MAY 7, 2019

Board President Jodi Sourini, Vice President James Posch, and board members Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis and Beverly Wright were present, as were Acting Superintendent Brian Williams and Treasurer Scott Gainer. The meeting began at 7:10 p.m., after an executive session and reception for tenured teachers, and adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Superintendent's Student Cadre update

Members of the superintendent's 2018-19 Student Cadre reported on their activities with a video presentation. The Student Cadre provides insights into what it is like to be a student at Heights High, and [suggests on] how to implement positive change and improvements in the district.

Rejoining the Ohio Athletic Association

Williams reported that the district has rejoined the Ohio Athletic Association.

Board approvals

The board unanimously approved donations exceeding \$10,000 in total, and unanimously voted to adopt policy group B after the third reading.

Building repairs and facilities renovation

Roof repairs: The board approved bids to repair the Noble and Fairfax elementary school roofs; the cost will be paid from the permanent improvement fund.

Middle school facilities renovations: The discussion focused on the science rooms. There will be two science rooms for each grade at both buildings. At this time, the change orders are within budget.

Reinstitution of local school board presidents' meetings

Board President Sourini attended a meeting for local school board presidents. This group is working to establish regular meetings after a hiatus of some years.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.



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KNOWS ALL THE HEIGHTS

Heights Libraries goes green with yellow receipts

Sheyrl Banks

Customers at Heights Libraries may notice that the check-out receipts, computer passes, and hold-item covers look a little sunnier lately.

“It’s the vitamin C,” said Circulation Manager Ty Emerson, pointing out the lemon-yellow tone of the paper.

Vitamin C is a key component of the new BPA- and BPS-free thermal paper that the library started using in March as part of its ongoing efforts to make healthier and more environmentally-friendly decisions part of its every-day operations. Receipts and other paper items created with thermal printers don’t require ink or toner and instead rely on heat

and chemicals on the paper to create an image. The new paper at Heights Libraries uses vitamin C as a developer to create the letters on the paper instead of phenol-based chemicals like BPA and BPS that have been linked to health problems, including cancer.

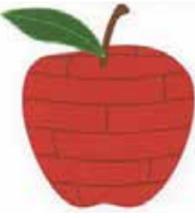
“The old product we used was labeled BPA-free, so we assumed it was safe, but after a customer wrote to us with her concerns, we did some research and learned that many companies replaced BPA with another phenol-based chemical called BPS, which is very similar to BPA and should also be avoided,” said Emerson.

Additionally, the old paper caused other problems. “We learned through one of our own public programs on

recycling that flimsy paper like receipt paper cannot be recycled,” said Emerson. “It actually gums up the works! But this new paper is thicker, and more substantial, so it can be recycled.”

“Cleveland Heights residents have always been progressive when it comes to things like the environment,” said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. “This new paper may seem like a small change, but we know it means a lot to our community that we take every opportunity to have a positive impact on the health of our customers, staff and planet.”

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



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Cleveland Heights - University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights



APRIL 15, 2019

Present were Board President Chris Mentrek, Vice President James Roosa, Secretary Dana Fluellen, and board members Suzanne Moskowitz, Vikas Turakhia and Max Gerboc. Annette Iwamoto was absent.

SPARK program

The library will partner with Family Connections to provide the SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids®) program, proven to narrow the kindergarten-readiness gap. SPARK currently works with 11,000 children in 11 counties across Ohio, targeting high-poverty and rural districts. Libraries are proven SPARK partners. Families are visited in the home and trained to become their child’s first teacher using an Ohio preschool curriculum with rigorous evaluation for tracking results. SPARK’s responsive services component identifies children who may need additional services, such as speech,

physical or occupational therapy, etc., prior to entering kindergarten. Family Connections is the sole provider of SPARK services in Cuyahoga County. The library’s board of trustees approved a resolution for the director to enter into the memorandum of understanding with Family Connections and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District for SPARK services. The board also allocated \$40,000 from the general fund to Family Connections for providing SPARK services for five years, beginning in 2019.

Financial report

Heights Libraries’ fiscal officer reviewed the financial statement. At the end of March, the total cash balance across the operating, Bauer Fund, and investment accounts was \$15,559,124.13. The board accepted the financial report.

Summer lunch program 2019

Heights Libraries will be hosting the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Summer Lunch Program again this year. The program will run June 3 through Aug. 9. Youth services department staff will offer literacy programming and projects twice a week. HKIC (Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center) staff will teach coding and technology-related programming once a week.

Summer VISTA Program

Recruitment for the summer Ohio Association of Food Banks VISTA (AmeriCorps) member has begun. This person will work with the library full time to assist with the 2019 summer lunch program, including its promotion, outreach, and mobile food pantry.

LWV Observer: Khaliah Fisher-Grace.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 7.



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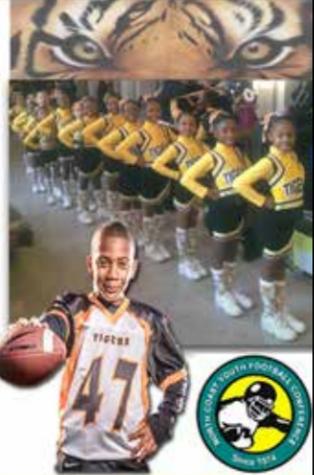
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Coventry launches Final Fridays

Shari Nacson

Coventry Village kicked off its inaugural monthly Final Fridays event on April 26. Merchants offered discounts, and artists and nonprofits hosted events. Coventry Village Final Fridays are slated to take place year round, on the last Friday of each month. The next will take place on June 28. For information on upcoming Final Friday programs, visit www.coventryvillage.org.

Mallory Phillips, Coventry Village Special Improvement District's executive director, said the concept was inspired by her experiences living in Los Angeles. "The downtown art walks would bring the small business districts alive with local artists, musicians, great food, and all sorts of shopping specials." Phillips wanted to bring this lively community-centric vibe to Coventry. "It's a great way to highlight all of the amazing dining, shopping and nightlife that is already



there, while bringing in local artists to showcase their work and bring inspiration to the neighborhood in a new way," said Phillips.

She hopes Final Fridays will become a lasting Coventry tradition. "We will be including more discounts, more music, more improv, more special offers, and more artists," said Phillips. "The whole neighborhood is primed to be a vibrant and bustling creative community. Final Fridays is just one night a month to celebrate what happens here every single day."

The kickoff event attracted plenty of foot traffic, and praise from merchants. Stephen Celeste, assistant manager at City Buddha, said, "People

[were] excited when we [told] them about [the evening's] sale, because some of our merchandise never goes on sale." Sarah Nemecek, owner of Studio-How-To, said there were first-time visitors wandering into her shop all evening. Carolyn Mraz, assistant manager at Cleveland Candle Company said, "An event like this brings people to the area. It gives people more of a reason to stop by—because everyone loves a sale." Sheena Zilla of Record Revolution noted, "There were definitely more people on the street tonight, asking about Final Fridays—interested in the discounts."

Visitors ventured in from other parts of Cleveland because of the event. Courtney McCrone of Ohio City came with her sister, who hails from Euclid. "I loved it," McCrone said. "My favorite part might've been the improv group outside. It was such a fun, new and different experience. I felt like I was part of the neighborhood—something personal and authentically friendly."

At Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus, ARTFUL and Ensemble Theatre hosted an art exhibit and opening night performance, respectively. The building was abuzz throughout the evening.

Mostly a mom, Shari Nacson is a freelance editor, social worker, 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.

Former pop-up Foodhisattva brings vegan-Asian to S. Taylor

Jason Novak

Six years ago, Joshua Sias and Frances Cheng began offering pop-up vegan fare—first, from a chocolate shop in Lyndhurst, then at various other locations in Greater Cleveland, including The Bottlehouse in Cleveland Heights. These themed dining experiences were a way to bring new cuisine to the area and show that great food can be made without harming animals—something important to Sias and Cheng. What started as little more than a hobby has led the couple to establish their own Asian-themed restaurant in Cleveland Heights.

The two, partners and spouses, are looking to a June opening for Foodhisattva, their vegan Asian restaurant, at 2158 South Taylor Road.

"We were the first in the area to have a vegan pop-up," Sias said. "And after a while, people started asking us to do it again." When their semi-regular pop-up nights at The Bottlehouse on Lee Road became increasingly popular, the couple realized there was a demand for vegan food on the East Side. "It was a long time coming," Sias said. "And the natural evolution of a pop-up is a restaurant."

Sias, who has a master's in philosophy, said it was his studies, specifically Eastern philosophy, that led him to veganism. After becom-

ing vegan, "I had no other options," said Sias, "so I had to learn to cook for myself."

Sias impressed Cheng, a physiologist with a focus on nutrition, by preparing a traditional Asian meal during one of their first dates. "It was just like the food back home," she said. "I had to ask him, 'How did you learn to cook like that?'"

Sias' skill in preparing dishes from various countries and making them vegan, along with the couple's frustration with a lack of vegetarian and vegan restaurants on the East Side, led to their vegan pop-up, Foodhisattva.

While Foodhisattva on South Taylor will offer a full vegan menu, it will be an Asian-fusion restaurant first, according to Sias. However, the partners say they will still offer some of the hottest sellers from their themed pop-up nights. "We plan to have our Bulgogi Cheesesteak, made with a cashew 'cheese', and our Wasabi Potato Pierogis," Sias said. They also plan special themed nights, similar to the pop-up nights they used to host.

Jason Novak is a freelance writer in Cleveland. He has written for the SHAD Connection and Larchmere Life, as well as various other projects. He lives in the Shaker Square area with his wife, Emily.

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BBB A+ Angi's List

Cain Park ticket office residents day is June 1

Ksenia Roshchakovsky

The Cain Park ticket office opens to Cleveland Heights residents on Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the sale of tickets to the 2019 season from a specially held block of seats. The ticket office will open to the general public on Tuesday, June 4, noon to 9 p.m.

Residents need to bring a photo ID and two proofs of current residency (e.g., mail, utility bill, current CH Rec ID) to register with staff outside the main ticket office. After registering, each resident will get a number that represents his or her place in the ticket-buying queue. Or, residents can fill out a ticket-order form and leave it with staff to be filled at the end of the day, if seats are still available.

The Tony Award-winning "Ragtime" kicks off Cain Park's 81st season, on June 14.

Appearing for the first time at Cain Park are Grammy-winning musical artists Ani DiFranco (June 13), Air Supply (July 28), and India Arie (Aug. 15). The Robert Cray Band, Marc Cohn, Blind Boys of Alabama, and Shemekia Copeland take the stage on June 18. Grammy-winning legends Dionne Warwick (June 22), Lyle Lovett and His Large Band (July 24), Judy Collins (Aug. 10), and Chris Botti (Aug. 16) return by popular demand. The Musical Theater Project will explore a new



Residents waiting for their number to be called in the ticket buying line at the 2018 Residents Day at the Cain Park Ticket Office.

generation of musicals on July 17, and those that are "Just for Laughs" on Aug. 7.

The Cain Park Arts Festival, rated among the top 200 festivals in the country, takes over the park July 12-14. Five Dollar Movies begin with "Singin' in the Rain" on June 26, and end with "A Star is Born" (2018) on Aug. 17. Alma Theater will host its first Heights Arts Haiku Death Match on Aug. 3. For a complete schedule, go to www.cainpark.com.

Cain Park is partnering again with The Wine Spot for this season's Wine Tastings, starting with "American Blends" on the opening night of "Ragtime," June 14, and running through August. Call the

ticket office (216-371-3000) to buy tasting tickets (\$10 per person), or go online to Ticketmaster. Last year's wine tastings sold out, so purchasing tickets in advance is strongly suggested.

This year, the free parking shuttle will run for all evening ticketed events. Ticket holders can park at Cleveland Heights City Hall (40 Severance Circle), and take the shuttle to the park. The shuttle will operate beginning one hour before, and up until, a performance begins, and up to one hour after the performance ends.

Ksenia Roshchakovsky is the public relations/marketing manager for Cain Park.



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One-woman play will benefit memory-care programs

Brian McFadden



Molly McFadden

Net proceeds of the June 14-16 performances of "Living on the Moon," a one-woman play written and performed by

Molly McFadden, will benefit memory care programs managed by Benjamin Rose Institute and its affiliates. The performances take place at Ensemble Theatre, 2843 Washington Blvd., in Cleveland Heights.

The one-act play explores the bittersweet journey McFadden shared with her mother, after her mother's diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in the 1980s. Drawing on a lifetime of producing, acting and singing professionally, McFadden's play brings meaning and light to her late mother's story.

Locally renowned pianist Vince Robinson will accompany McFadden during performances of the show, directed by Christina Courtenay.

Village in the Heights, a sponsor of the performances, supports active older adults of retirement age who wish to live at home as long as possible.

"Alzheimer's and dementia-related illness affects all Americans directly or indirectly," said Paul Sobel, executive director of Village in the Heights. "Everyone who reads this has known or will know someone suffering from dementia."

Ensemble Theatre's Celeste Cosentino commented, "We want to spread the message of Molly McFadden's heartfelt story—that caring for your loved one as their illness progresses is very hard, but you can still have cherished memories from the experience, as well."

Performance times are 7 p.m. on Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 16. Tickets cost \$20, and can be purchased online at www.ensembletheatrecl.org, or by calling 216-202-0938.

Playwright Brian McFadden and his wife, Molly McFadden, are three-year residents of Cleveland Heights.

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Bands take the summer stage in UH starting in June

Mike Cook

Surf Rock, Bruce Springsteen songs, and traditional patriotic anthems will be featured in June as part of the University Heights Summer Concert Series.

The series kicks off on June 13 at Walter Stinson Community Park (2313 Fenwick Road, University Heights) with a surf rock show by the Kahuna Kings and the Lava Ladies. “The Kahuna Kings are a fun throwback,” said University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan. “They’re a retro party dance band. They’re the perfect lead-off band for our summer concerts.”

The band’s album, *Who Wants to Party with The Kahuna Kings*, is available at www.thekahunakings.bandcamp.com.



The Kahuna Kings

[com/releases](http://www.thekahunakings.bandcamp.com/releases).

The first 100 kids in attendance at the concert will receive a free University Heights beach ball.

In 1975, Tim Russert and the University Club brought Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band to John Carroll University (JCU).

On June 20, Springsteen tribute band Jersey will perform a set with songs from that famous show, including “Tenth Avenue Freeze Out,” “Backstreets,” “She’s the One” and “Born to Run.” They will also perform newer selections. “This show will be a rock-and-roll history lesson,” Brennan said. “Jersey is going to put on a great show for everyone who was at the ’75 show, and those of us who wish we were.”

On June 27, the University Heights Symphonic Band (UHSB) will perform its annual Patriotic Show at JCU. “This is always a highlight of

our summer,” Brennan said, “and this year will be no exception.”

UHSB performs several times a year at JCU and other venues throughout Northeast Ohio—at concert halls, amphitheaters, music festivals, senior citizen homes, churches and synagogues. Band members come from Greater Cleveland, including Cuyahoga, Medina, Lake and Geauga counties. In addition to professional musicians, performers are also students and people in other professions, such as doctors, nurses, professors, music educators, teachers, engineers and accountants.

All UH summer concerts are free. For more information, visit University Heights City Hall on Facebook.

Brennan encourages attendees to arrive at shows early, as food trucks will start serving at 5:30 p.m. The concerts will start at 7 p.m. and run until 8:30 p.m.

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

Heights Music Hop returns September 2019

Ann Koslow



The seventh annual Heights Music Hop festival will take place Sept. 12-14, in three Cleveland Heights districts: Sept. 12 in Coventry Village, Sept. 13 in Cedar Fairmount, and Sept. 14 in Cedar Lee.

Heights Music Hop showcases local live musical talent, performing in local businesses and unique locations to promote the Heights as home to the arts, while also helping to support the local economy and celebrate the community’s diversity, walkability and great quality of life.

The 2019 festival will showcase new musical talent from all genres, including jazz, rock, R&B, classical, rap, indie, Americana and folk.

“We sent out a ‘Call for Musicians’ and received more than 100 applications from area musicians,” said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. “More than 50 percent of the bands that applied have not performed at the Hop before. We are very excited to bring new music to the festival this year.”

FutureHeights, a nonprofit community development corporation,

presents the event to inspire community collaboration and promote a vibrant and sustainable future for the Heights.

Each unique district features a variety of businesses, restaurants, bars and open spaces that will participate. Participating locations in Coventry Village include Mac’s Backs, Panini’s Bar and Grill, Grog Shop, Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus, and the Coventry Village Branch of Heights Libraries. In Cedar Fairmount, Luna Bakery & Café, Pavilion Home and Floral, Parnell’s Pub, Green Tara Yoga and The Fairmount will participate. In Cedar Lee, locations include Boss Dog Brewing Company, The Tavern Company, Stone Oven, Rudy’s Pub, New Heights Grill, Best Gyro, Rib Cage, Dewey’s Pizza, CLE Urban Winery, Heights Arts, Blank Canvas CLE, Mitchell’s Fine Chocolates, and The Social Room. Look for a complete festival guide later this summer.

Heights Music Hop 2019 sponsors and partners include Cuyahoga Arts & Culture; Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry Village special improvement districts; the city of Cleveland Heights; *Heights Observer*; Keller National; Small Organizational Solutions; and Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus.

Ann Koslow is the Heights Music Hop coordinator for FutureHeights.

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heightsfamily.org for registration information

WRC concert will be Poderis' last

David Gilson



Joanne Poderis

Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) will present the final concert of its season at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, June 2, at Church of the Gesu (2470 Miramar Blvd, University Heights).

The concert, "Sonic Sunrise," will be the final one with accompanist Joanne Poderis at the keyboard. Poderis, a founding member and longtime executive director

of WRC, is stepping down from her roles with the Chorale. WRC invites all to celebrate Poderis' artistry and the conclusion of its 27th season.

The concert will feature Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass as well as a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the birth of E.E. Cummings. Gjeilo utilizes the text from the Ordinary of the Mass: Kyrie: *The Spheres*, Gloria: *Sunrise*, Credo: *The City*, and Sanctus and Agnus Dei: *Identity & The Ground*. While Gjeilo set the meaning of the Latin text respectfully and observes the traditions that masses are expected to exhibit, his overall vision for the piece lies within the titles of the work, only loosely related to the meaning of the Latin. In so doing, he reveals a structure outside of the text; a metaphysical journey from

the heavens to earth. The intent and the story in his Mass are expressed through the way in which the music comes across sonically.

Similarly, the choral settings of E.E. Cummings feature various means to create an aural impression and interpretation of the language used by Cummings. The poet's lyric inventiveness and use of metaphor, as well as his misuse or strained use of words and phrases, allow for broad interpretation and atypical tonality to be explored.

The concert is free and open to the public, though there will be free-will donations collected.

David Gilson is the artistic director of the western reserve chorale, director of music at Church of the Saviour, and associate dean for student affairs at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

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Dobama presents world premiere musical

Casey Venema

June 27 through July 14, Dobama Theatre presents the world premiere of "33 1/3," a new musical about coming of age and coming out.

Matthew Wright is the director of Dobama's production, which will feature choreography by Holly Handman-Lopez and music direction by Matthew Dolan.

The book, music and lyrics are by Jay Turvey and Paul Sportelli, co-writers of eight musicals.

In the musical, set in 1974, Jules finds small-town existence stifling. He lives for listening to the latest records with his best friend, Jill, and dreams of an exciting life in New York City. His father is trying his best with his only son. Jules encounters Francis, an openly gay David Bowie-loving young man, and Victor, an angry teen who seeks relief by pounding on the drums in his basement. All four experience a tumultuous New Year's Eve that will change their lives forever.

"33 1/3" was conceived and workshopped at the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, and won the 2015 Playwrights Guild of Canada Stage West Pechet Family Best New Musical Award at the



Hendry Awards in Toronto.

It will be workshopped once again during the rehearsal process, and receive its first full production at Dobama.

Dobama's production of "33 1/3" will feature Jim Bray, Jay Lee, Ben Richardson-Piché, Hanna Shykind and Tyler Tanner, and is made possible with support from show sponsor James F. Brown.

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

Regular performance tickets are \$33 to \$39; preview tickets are \$17; member, senior, student and military discounts are available.

For tickets, call the box office at 216-932-3396, or visit www.dobama.org to purchase tickets online and view box office hours.

Sunday, June 30, 7:30 p.m. is a pay-what-you-can performance.

Casey Venema is a directing intern at Dobama Theatre.



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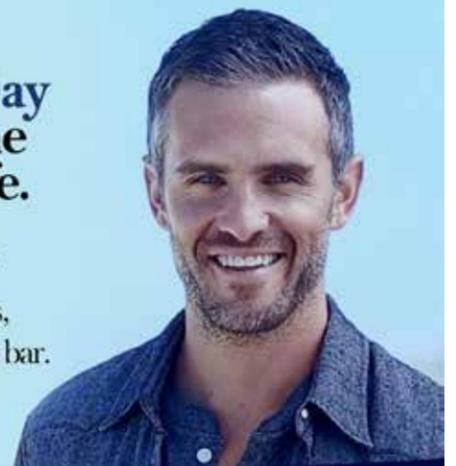
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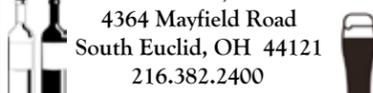
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SONGS AND STORIES

I once opened a Long Road show at Nighttown by saying, "Thank you. It's great to be back in Cleveland Heights. Well . . . I was in South Euclid this afternoon . . ."

I have lived in 30 places in Cleveland Heights. I have also lived outside of Cleveland Heights, of course—in the Cleveland area, I've lived in a total of 31 places. For about a year, mostly in 1972, I lived in a house on Magnolia Drive, in University Circle. But while I lived there, I spent almost all of my time in Cleveland Heights, mainly on Coventry, eating at Tommy's every day.

When I was born, my family lived on Belmar, two streets east of Coventry, in the first house after the apartment building on the corner of Mayfield. When I was 15, we moved to the house next door. When people asked my father why, he said, "It's just the gypsy in us."

When I moved out, at 18, after spending my life hanging out on Coventry, I moved to an apartment on Coventry, right above Heights Hardware. Tommy's hadn't opened yet, so I had to eat at Irv's. I learned a lot sitting in Irv's for hours every day. I'm not going to tell you the kinds of things I learned there, because I love the *Heights Observer* and I don't want to see it get shut down.

I was a young folksinger and songwriter then, and I played at Farragher's, a folk club on Taylor Road, near Cain Park, and at La Cave in University Circle. I became friendly with the other local folkies, and a bunch of us moved into a house on Kenilworth, where a young, rich guy had built a nice recording studio in the basement and let us live in the house for free.

From that ideal situation I moved to New York City for a few years. I did play with a lot of illustrious rock legends, and I was in a band that later became world-famous, and I did get signed by a national record label, but in a pretty short time I became what might be described as an overnight failure. So I moved back to Cleveland. Heights.

I lived in a house on upper Hampshire, a nice place—except for the mushrooms growing out of the shag rug that surrounded the toilet. I didn't mind that as much as I did the (former) friends of mine who had become junkies and stole some valuable stuff from me.

That was when I began my year in the old University Circle mansion. But shortly after a drunk housemate decided to get rid of our Christmas tree by sticking it into the burning fireplace—on Valentine's Day—I moved out, rather than help repaint the entire, very large living room.

I lived in a series of houses and

apartments, almost all in the Coventry area, including five places on Euclid Heights Boulevard alone. My favorite was in The Manor, the Tudor building with the gargoyles over the entrance. I had the efficiency—which the custodian, when he was showing it to me, kept calling the "deficiency," but he wasn't joking. He really thought that was the correct word.

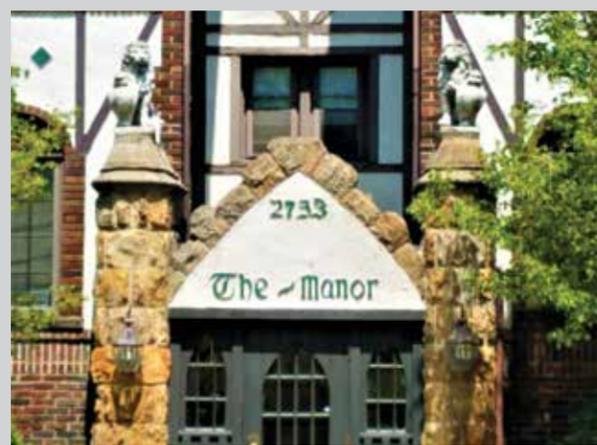
I loved that place. It was one room, plus a tiny kitchen and a bathroom. But it was all I needed. After playing or practicing with my band, or on nights when I didn't do either, I would hang out at Chester's on Coventry. Sometimes I would spend time there during the day, too. That continued when I moved to a third-floor apartment in a house I hated, at Cedar and Coventry. I was sitting in Chester's one afternoon with a few other musicians when one woman expressed her wish that we could have a clubhouse, rather than having to meet in a bar, drinking.

That's when I got the idea to rent a place that cost \$160 a month (pretty cheap, even for 1975) and pay half of it

myself, and have eight other people pay \$10 each, per month, to use it as a hangout. We did that for a few years, first in a basement apartment on Euclid Heights Boulevard, and then in a house on Derbyshire, near Lee. We called it Chez Beaux Eau, which is grammatically incorrect French, but it is pronounced "Bozo."

And then I got married and we bought a house on Berkshire, near Cottage Grove, followed by our current house on Delaware Drive, only 600 steps from the front door of Nighttown. When Long Road plays at Nighttown, my house sometimes functions as the "green room."

I can't name all of my dwelling places here, but there have been 30.



The Manor, the Tudor building with gargoyles guarding the entrance, where I lived in the unit the custodian believed was called the "deficiency."

COURTESY DAVID BUDIN

Enough that my kids finally begged me to stop pointing at places, every time we drove anywhere, and saying, "I lived there."

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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