



Free parking at all Cleveland Heights meters

INSIDE



7 Meals on Wheels seeks volunteers



13 Heights High recognizes its AP scholars



17 Vote for Noble Road in national contest

FutureHeights
 2843 Washington Blvd. #105
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2021 Heights Observer Holiday Gift Guide

Jessica Schantz

The *Heights Observer* publishes its annual Holiday Gift Guide each November to encourage residents to shop locally for the holidays.

Cleveland Heights and University Heights abound with independent businesses—boutiques, salons, restaurants and artist collaboratives—which enhance our local character and anchor our business districts.

COVID took its toll on many of these businesses, shuttering some and forcing others to augment online sales. Purchasing directly from brick-and-mortar stores bolsters the local economy and supports our identity, which is locally minded, and artisan supporting.



A cheese board from Marchant Manor Cheese Shop, and Martha Cliffl's teapot assemblage with succulents, at Heights Arts, are among the unique, local items featured in this year's gift guide.



COURTESY HEIGHTS ARTS

A few new businesses have opened in the Heights, despite the uncertain economy of 2020-21. Remember to check out these new spaces; with community patronage, they could become the new local staples.

The gift guide begins on page 14 of this issue, and is also available online, at www.heightsobserver.org.

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

HRRC has served homeowners for 50 years



HRRC members, with a young helper, at work on a home rehab on Woodview Road, in the 1990s.

David Brock

This autumn, the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) will mark its 50th anniversary.

Formed by a group of socially conscious parishioners at Forest Hill Church, the agency was known as the Forest Hill Church Housing Corporation at its outset. In those early years, the organization's mem-

bers sought to address deteriorating housing stock, income inequalities, and racial inequities by taking on projects such as the original conversion of a double- into a single-family dwelling, and the creation of the still-active Challenge Fund, to provide low-interest loans to Heights residents who typically can't obtain conventional home repair loans.

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FutureHeights awards four fall mini-grants

Sarah Wolf



In October, the FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants

Committee awarded a total of \$4,000—\$1,000 each—to four community projects.

Cleveland Heights Green Team received funding for its Green Space Beautification and Sustainability Education project, which includes programming and the distribution of educational materials. The group plans to host a series of community events, and FutureHeights' \$1,000 mini-grant will help cover the cost of materials, including art supplies, printing, and community clean-up items.

Fairfax Community Garden received funding to replace deteriorating border boards along the pathway of the garden, which comprises nine individual plots on the grounds of Fairfax Elementary School. Untreated planks mark the borders of these plots, and at least 30 of them must be replaced in order for the garden to remain usable. This \$1,000 mini-grant will support the continuation of the community garden, which has been in existence since the 1950s.

Noble Neighbors received funding for the next phase of its Noble-ity Bench Project, which will create artwork on five benches that were recently installed along Noble Road. These benches not only make walking the corridor more convenient and comfortable, but will also help boost neighborhood pride, as the artwork will reflect the unique history and culture of the Noble neighborhood.

Empowering Youth Exploring Justice (EYEJ) received funding for a meet-and-greet event to recruit adult volunteers to work with, and mentor, the youths the organization serves. This

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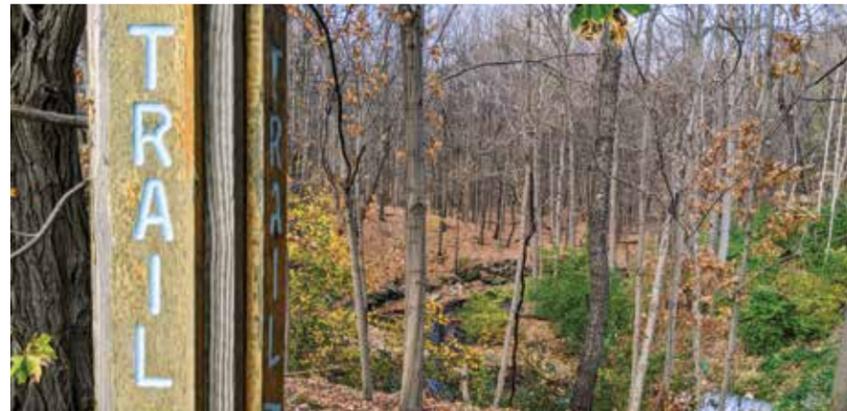
Join Friends of Heights Parks for a Nov. 13 walk

Lisa Manzari

If the pandemic has taught us one thing, it's to embrace the outdoors.

Here in the Heights, we're surrounded by more than 135 acres of parks, but many don't take advantage of them. Some community members want to help change that. They believe Heights parks are unique and valuable assets, and they are planting the proverbial seeds.

Still in its infancy, Friends of Heights Parks (FHP) has many ideas, but first on its agenda is opening up



One of the walking trails at Forest Hill Park. the conversation. (Or as they say these days, "expanding your friend group.")

FHP comprises volunteers from

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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 December issue must be submitted by Nov. 8. 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.

Mopping up after a tough campaign season



OPENING
THE OBSERVER

Bob Rosenbaum

Note: This column was written a week before election day.

I had assumed the Cleveland Heights mayoral campaign would be the exciting race in this election season. Then the school board election took over. I think it's a sign of civic health that people are so engaged and passionate about local elections; it hasn't always been that way. But it's not pleasant.

As always, the goal for the *Heights Observer* was to serve as a venue for discussion about election issues without taking sides in the debate.

We didn't make any endorsements (we never do), and we strived to publish the full range of viewpoints we received. That didn't stop people from complaining we were biased—particularly those whose viewpoints we chose not to print.

Making such decisions is anguishing; it's a judging process and contributors are certain to take it personally. And we have to do it more than we used to, because we receive more submissions than ever before—especially around election time.

This year, after the October issue was printed, we weren't even able to keep up with posting the continuing rush of letters and opinions online. (The November issue is a post-election edition, given that voting ends on the second day of its 30-day shelf life.)

If someone you know submitted a letter or opinion that didn't get published, here are the most likely reasons why:

It arrived after Oct. 11: This was the deadline for the November print issue. After that date, staff needed to move on to produce that issue.

Length: We enforced the 400-word limit on submissions. People who sent in longer pieces were given the opportunity to shorten and resubmit them.

Authorship: We prefer to publish letters from a variety of authors. Most non-candidates who

made multiple submissions over the last few months saw only one or two of them published.

Originality: Often, we'll get letters from different people that make essentially the same point. We'll print a few of them, but we favor fresh points of view.

Focus: A letter about a candidate is highly relevant. A letter about someone else's opinion about a candidate is sideshow. We tried to keep the discussion focused on the center ring.

Tone: I could write an entire column on civility. For now, though, as a rule, we don't publish letters that make personal attacks on other people. But just as a referee might be slow with the whistle during a big game, we allowed some leeway in the way people expressed themselves as tensions rose during the campaign season.

Also, there's a different standard for candidates. When you step into the public arena to run for office, you open yourself to a level of scrutiny and criticism that doesn't apply to private citizens.

Factuality: When something is stated as a fact that we don't know to be true, we'll ask the author to substantiate it or we'll do our best to fact-check it ourselves. But we also know our limitations—both in terms of staff resources and topical expertise. An example: school finance. It's complicated, and objective expertise is hard to find. If we aren't able to verify factual statements and the author doesn't provide requested documentation, we'll err on the side of editing out the material in question or not publishing it at all.

Nothing we do draws faster accusations of bias than the effort we make to avoid publishing erroneous information about complicated subjects.

The simple truth is that we aren't an investigative body, but we are responsible for what we publish. We take that responsibility seriously.

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

HRRC continued from page 1

Through their work, a diverse mix of thousands of homeowners have utilized HRRC programs over the past half-century.

Today, HRRC continues its commitment to preserving its community's housing stock, increasing the number of people able to purchase their first homes, providing financial assistance to homeowners needing important repairs, and working to reduce the number of unnecessary foreclosures. Thanks to its well-stocked tool library and hands-on repair workshops, the agency gives

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Dew failed to disclose his school-district connections in his October opinion

Ramón Epstein

The *Heights Observer's* October issue featured an opinion by Adam Dew ("A MAGA school board coup is afoot in the Heights"), disclosing [that he is a promotional] partner of the publication, but without the complete picture.

In that fevered nightmare vision, Dew made deeply personal attacks on each candidate of the Lynn-Drake-Rennert school board slate. What wasn't disclosed was that, since 2018, he sits on the school district's Lay Finance Committee (LFC), with school board president James Posch and district CFO Scott Gainer. This means he is no mere citizen, since the LFC does not publish its meeting minutes and has not issued a report since 2019. This creates a conflict of interest, since Dew has been a commercial vendor for the district, making over \$13,000 in 2019-20 alone from business between it and his video company.

With all the insights that he has from sitting on a district body, Dew's opinion instead focused on smearing the challenger slate, including alleging that the district's state report card is "racist." Less "diverse" districts, such as Sandusky and Fairport Harbor, received D grades just like the CH-UH school district. Is the system racist against everyone?

Dew's piece in the *Heights Observer* showed only his political bias, rooted in political division between left and right. Reading his comments on NextDoor reveals crude religious bigotry.

[Dew's comments on NextDoor suggest] there's a Jewish-Catholic plot to get minorities. The CH-UH school district is meant to provide a structured environment for all students, regardless of background. Why does it have someone on its LFC with such biased views, who thinks we are greedy and conniving for opposing tax levies and demanding transparency?

He uses a smokescreen of accusations against [school board candidate] Maureen Lynn and others in order to deflect from the district's failure and his self-dealing arrangements. I am moved to ask whether his fevered rhetoric and campaigning for the incumbents are in order to preserve that revenue stream by keeping the status quo.

[Editor's note: The *Heights Observer* asks all contributors to disclose any personal or professional relationship they may have with the subject they are writing about, including any candidate. The *Heights Observer* was unaware of Adam Dew's service on the CH-UH City School District's Lay Finance Committee, and his professional work for the district. We have added this information to Dew's author bio. for the online version of his October opinion, and are publishing this addendum in the November print issue.]

Ramón Epstein is a Heights native who moved back during college. A Cleveland Heights resident, he is hoping to bridge barriers between community groups divided by identities and fearmongering.

Reaching Heights director declares anti-racism is the nonprofit's top priority

Krista Hawthorne

I run Reaching Heights, a small nonprofit that connects the community to the public schools in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, through information, programs and events. Ideally, all that we do also enriches students, supports school staff, and encourages people to value the students in our schools, and appreciate public education.

Like many organizations, Reaching Heights responded with an anti-racism statement to the horror of George Floyd's murder by police. We knew that a statement was not enough, and chose to spend much of 2020 and 2021 working internally on anti-racism within our organization.

We added anti-racism training to each of our monthly board meetings, and offered the Racial Equity Institute's Groundwater training to our staff and board. We collaborated with five other local nonprofits to hold the anti-racism event "Heights Conversations: Let's Talk About Race." We conducted a detailed review of Reaching Heights' bylaws and policies, and had deep discussions about how Reaching Heights can make positive changes as an organization that actively works against racism.

We began our new year in August 2021 with the realization that being anti-racist has to be our top priority. Racism interferes with learning, which prevents students from reaching their full potential. It also creates a negative work environment for the schools' staff, which then interferes with the staff's ability to create a safe and productive learning environment for their students. Racism also prevents some community members from valuing the students of color in our schools. We asked, how can we fulfill our mission to support the students and staff in the CH-UH schools if we contribute, even

unintentionally, to a racist environment that interferes with teaching and learning?

Reaching Heights has decided to evaluate our actions to ensure, first and foremost, that they are not racist, but also that they are intentionally anti-racist. This commitment requires an awareness of the structural racism that exists, in order to avoid contributing to it. It also means coordinating programs and planning events that bring together people who are different from one another, to encourage cross-cultural understanding.

It is not enough to add language to our mission statement, or a policy to our bylaws. We cannot host another forum or panel discussion and expect them to have substantial impact against racism. We need to continue to learn about structural racism, seek to value and respect people who are different from us, pay close attention to our actions, and be prepared to make changes when needed. When we recruit new board members, consider new ways to connect the community to our schools, or plan programs to enrich students and support school staff, we will make sure they include these two practices: being intentionally anti-racist, and offering opportunities to build diverse relationships. Reaching Heights' actions that do not meet these criteria will be changed or replaced by ones that do.

This is not a goal to be achieved, but a commitment to a new operating system for Reaching Heights. We recognize that anti-racism must be an ongoing and active process because racism interferes with our mission, and it will not end without continuous vigilance from all of us.

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

There's trouble at Top of the Hill

Lee Batdorff

In late 2019 and early 2020 I wrote several opinions, published in the *Heights Observer*, [in which I] promoted the Top of Hill (TOH) project, and debunked [objections to it]. In February 2020, I attended a meeting at CH City Hall and watched as many people spoke out against the project, and a few spoke for it.

Now, Cleveland Heights citizens are treated to a YouTube video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF4gueOlnAA&feature=share) showing a waterfall within the TOH parking garage, and poor drainage, after a recent heavy rain.

After I saw this on Facebook, I visited the TOH parking garage and asked a construction worker about what was shown [in the video]. "It wasn't a leak," he said. "It was a waterfall." Asked if this was normal, he said, "This is not normal."

Indeed. If this happened during below-freezing temperatures, ice would coat the parking decks where cars and people need to move about.

At the pleasure of Cleveland Heights City Council, the TOH project is happening. Council is in bed with the developer, and now council must take action with the developer.

Now, I regret supporting the TOH project. I supported it because it would bring tax dollars to the city, and provide over 200 residents a "quality" place to live

in Cleveland Heights.

That "quality" has been severely discredited by the waterfall and lousy drainage in the brand-new parking garage.

I question the Cleveland Heights council members' judgement in selecting this developer, Flaherty & Collins Properties.

Back when this proposal was before council, Stephen Rajki, an architect and Cleveland Heights resident, tried to point out that the proposed TOH building and parking garage were of minimum standards, and council members ignored him.

Is the future of this Flaherty & Collins project to be compared with San Francisco's leaning residential Millennium Tower and Manhattan's troubled, "supertall" residential building 432 Park Avenue?

Is this waterfall and drainage problem just the first of a litany of structural problems to come with TOH?

Quality problems that Mr. Rajki fretted about have appeared—before the project is even near completion. As partners in this apparent debacle, Cleveland Heights City Council members must force the developer to fix the problems now.

Lee Batdorff has been a Cleveland Heights resident since 1966.



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Reshaping Horseshoe Lake into a meadow is fantasy

Richard Brenner

A June 15 presentation by Frank Greenland of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), “Shaker Lakes: Review and recommendations” (available online at <https://bit.ly/3FYmaMb>), contains a proposal for re-shaping the bed of Horseshoe Lake (slide 27). The slide suggests replacing the lakebed with two streams meandering between tree-lined banks in a meadow. It’s a very appealing picture. I’ve heard others describe this scene as, “the natural beauty that was here before the Shakers arrived.”

Doubtless, engineers and landscape architects can design such a place, and bulldozers can construct it. But physics will not abide it for long.

I’m no geologist. What I’m saying here isn’t authoritative. But if the questions I raise have any validity, they could remove from the debate the idea that Horseshoe Lake’s bed could ever be a park-like sanctuary.

Problem 1 - Meander Geometry: Meanders are a work of physics. They’re the result of erosion and deposition. The wavelength of a meander ranges between 10 times and 14 times

the channel width. A meander’s radius of curvature is approximately 20% of its wavelength, or 2-3 times the channel width. These are universal parameters, applying to all meanders in all streams—even the Gulf Stream.

I’m unaware of any attempt by NEORS to justify its meander designs as complying with these laws of physics. I don’t know whether the size of the lakebed would permit meanders of the two branches of Doan Brook that meet there. And I’m unaware of any material produced by NEORS that addresses these issues. An open question is whether the lakebed is large enough for these two streams to meander at all.

Problem 2 - Terrain Morphology: Meanders are inherently unstable. They change continuously, including episodes of dramatic change. Although meanders evolve, they remain meanders. To maintain themselves as meanders, terrain morphology must meet two requirements. First, the flood plain must possess a small elevation gradient. Second, the stream must flow slowly enough that it cannot generate turbulence. The usual geometry that limits stream flow is a barrier to exit from the flood plain. Both of these factors create problems for

NEORS’s proposal.

The lakebed’s elevation gradient is significant, if we measure the elevation change from the points at which the streams enter the lake to the point where Doan Brook exits the bottom of the dam.

But, if we limit the joined branches of Doan Brook by imposing a barrier as they exit the “meadow,” we’re essentially creating a dam, which NEORS opposes. If we don’t limit the flow, the streams, powered by and swollen in severe storm incidents, will eventually cut through the meanders and the meadow and return to the two-ravine geometry that likely underlies the 25 feet of sediment that now forms the lakebed.

What the future holds for the lakebed when the dam is removed: Although engineers and landscape architects are free to sculpt the lakebed as they like, physics will eventually prevail. During large flood events, the two branches of Doan Brook that now converge at the lakebed will first choose their own meanders, and then eventually chew down through the “meadow” to restore the two ravines. A single Hurricane Ida-scale event could be sufficient to erase the engineered

meanders and replace them with a pre-Columbian morphology: two deep ravines joining to form one ravine near what is now the site of the dam—not anyone’s idea of a pleasant setting for a park.

We as humans aren’t free to choose whether we want (a) a scenic lake, or (b) two streams meandering through a park. The real choice is between a scenic lake and two deep ravines.

Rick Brenner is a management consultant who works with people in problem-solving organizations who make complex products or services that need state-of-the-art teamwork. He lives in University Heights and is a proud Heights Tiger.

One road, three cities

Larry DeAngelis

A few years ago, my commute from the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood did a “180,” from downtown to Mayfield Heights—a straight shot up Cedar Road.

I soon noticed a stark difference in conditions once you cross Green Road and enter Beachwood. I realize that Beachwood enjoys newer infrastructure and a tax base boosted by a robust business community; that said, much of the difference in conditions can be attributed to the example the city sets maintaining its own properties, and the standard it holds its residents to.

I realize that not every [Heights] property owner has the means to keep their property in tip-top shape, but I’m talking about the basics here. Uncut lawns; weeds (often several feet tall) along the curbs and sidewalk; bulk trash, including large pieces of furniture sitting out for weeks; cars parked on front lawns, etc.

Commercial areas are also poorly maintained, with weeds in front of the cellular phone store at Cedar and Lee roads; weeds visible from Cedar, behind the theater; weeds in front of the westernmost strip on the south side of Cedar Center; and weeds in front of the Speedway on Cedar and Green roads. [These] are just a few examples.

Response to complaints [made] via the city app are OK—but why do residents have to alert the city to overt abuses? And why do e-mails to city council members and other city officials go unanswered? I even sent notes to all three of the Cleveland

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Some unfinished business



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

Almost exactly two years ago, Cleveland Heights voters ratified a new form of government. Citizens for an Elected Mayor (CEM) committee members, who authored the mayor/council charter amendment, deliberately chose to make the change effective two years after its acceptance. They believed this much time was required to (1) allow city council and the administration to prepare for an orderly transition, and (2) allow aspiring mayors to decide to run, and then plan and conduct their campaigns.

To say it has been a challenging two years for people and governments around the world is certainly an understatement. Little did anyone realize in November 2019 that a global pandemic would, in just four short months, overtake every aspect of our lives. Yet, even when the lockdown seemed interminable, the weeks and months flew by.

To the best of our knowledge, Cleveland Heights' city manager and staff have met the same challenges faced by their global counterparts: they have kept municipal operations, if not humming, at least functioning reasonably well. And of course, like city officials everywhere, they have had to do so with staff levels reduced due to illness. For this they deserve everyone's gratitude, and they have ours.

Yet, as we approach the swearing in of our first elected mayor and five council members, at least at the time of this writing, our municipal government has unfinished business. Three major items:

1. Immediately following the November 2019 election, council directed former city manager Tanisha Briley to prepare a report identifying "the steps necessary for the transition to our new form of government in 2022." This project, if ever completed, never saw the light of day. When Briley departed in mid-2020, the report somehow had morphed into a "transition book" outlining departmental operations. Despite repeated promises by Briley's

successor, Susanna Niermann O'Neil, as of this writing, the "book" has yet to appear.

2. A comprehensive review of our codified ordinances is necessary, to make them consistent with the elected mayor charter amendment. As we reported in our February 2021 column, Law Director William Hanna, whose department has a staff of seven, chose to outsource this work. Despite repeated requests from CEM members, Hanna has not, to date, produced that review.

3. Council members dilly-dallied for months before legislating the mayor's salary. On Oct. 5, 2020, they finally succumbed to the pleading of CEM members and others, who had maintained, logically, that no prospective candidate could decide to run for mayor without knowing what the job would pay. (Per Ordinance 101-2020, council's decision: \$115,000 plus standard city benefits.) Since then, however, council has ignored its responsibility to establish a salary range for the charter-mandated city administrator. Time is running out. Mayoral candidates should already have been vetting qualified professionals for that position, which they could not possibly do without salary information.

Clearly, council has not prioritized these issues. Council Member Melody Hart did ask about the "transition book" and the ordinance review during the Oct. 11 committee of the whole meeting. Niermann O'Neil replied that council would have the book that week, and Hanna promised a memo about the ordinance review would be in the Oct. 20 council packet. As this column goes to print, neither of those commitments has been kept.

For the past several years, council has taken a month-long recess in December. Is it possible that they, the city manager and the law department can accomplish these essential transition tasks prior to that hiatus? Possibly, but their track record does not inspire optimism. Perhaps council might consider shortening its holiday break to make sure the work gets done.

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg are writers, editors and longtime residents of Cleveland Heights. Contact them at heightsdemocracy@gmail.com.

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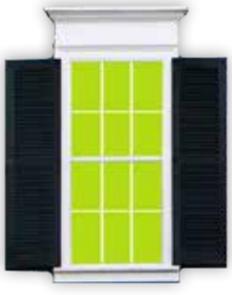
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Mapmakers fail to share power



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Road maps guide our travel. Legislative-district maps allocate political power.

In September, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and the ACLU of Ohio filed suit against the Ohio Redistricting Commission (ORC) for failure to draw legislative maps that will provide the level of shared power required by the Ohio Constitution. The Ohio Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Dec. 8.

In 2015, more than 70 percent of Ohio voters approved changes to the state constitution intended to make state government more representative of voters. One provision requires that "no general assembly district plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party." Mapmakers are compelled to set boundaries for Ohio senate and house districts that are compact and competitive, not "cracked" or "packed."

The goal was to create legislative districts that are not designed to determine, by way of favoring one political party, who will win an election. The ORC is required to assure that representation in the general assembly is proportional to voter preferences statewide. If, for example, 60 percent of votes went to Republicans in recent statewide races, approximately 60 percent of the districts could be predominantly Republican.

The lawsuit charges that proportionality has not been achieved and that the maps should be redrawn.

If the maps are not corrected, it will mean more business as usual: Republican super-majorities ruling from the extreme, rather than negotiating from the middle.

It will mean more elected officials who are not responsive to their constituents. It will depress voter participation.

What does the plan mean for our community?

Cleveland Heights and University Heights have been in Ohio House District 9 and, for the last seven years, have been represented by Rep. Janine Boyd, a friend of public education.

I was disturbed to see that under the new plan for House districts, the school district will be split. The new District 21 will combine Cleveland Heights and Shakers Heights, both communities from the old District 9, with seven new communities: East Cleveland, Warrensville Heights, Highland Hills, Beachwood, Woodmere, North Randall and one Cleveland precinct. University Heights is assigned to District 19, along with Euclid, South Euclid, Lyndhurst and other eastern suburbs, including Gates Mills.

While these are significant changes, will they change anything?

All the communities in the new District 21 are overwhelmingly Democratic and have substantial Black populations. According to 2020 U.S. Census data, 15 percent of the Black population and 10 percent of the total population of Cuyahoga County lives in the new district. It is a safe Democratic seat for a Black candidate. But, like most districts in the new plan, it is a packed district, meaning it is intentionally designed to favor one party. Putting so many Democrats in one district makes other districts less competitive.

In 2022, all seats in the Ohio House and the odd-numbered seats in the Ohio Senate will be on the ballot. Boyd cannot run again because of term limits. A new set of voters will select new representatives in both districts. It will be a new beginning, but it will hardly be a chance to reclaim representative democracy and responsive policymaking.

More years of super-majority

continued on page 12

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Meals on Wheels delivers more than food

Joy Henderson

Volunteers with the Cleveland Heights Meals on Wheels program deliver a hot and a cold meal four days a week to 18-22 homebound senior clients.

The program began in Cleveland Heights in 1978 with the goal of providing nutritious food, a friendly visit, and a quick safety check.

The food is prepared by the kitchen staff at McGregor Retirement Community, and volunteers pack the meals into individual portions at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church kitchen.

Additional volunteers are needed. Volunteer opportunities include using a vehicle to pick up the containers of hot and cold food at McGregor and transporting it to the church, packing the food in individual portions in the Fairmount Presbyterian kitchen, and using a vehicle to deliver the meals to seniors.

There are 20 current volunteers, most of whom dedicate about two hours (usually 10 a.m. to noon), one or two days a week, to the program.

Some volunteers perform several roles; others volunteer for just one. Since COVID began, the volunteers have worn masks and limited indoor contact.

“Although the food delivery is a really important aspect of Meals on Wheels,” said Greta De Meyer, treasurer of the group, “another valuable part of this program is that a friendly



Volunteer Coordinator Marlene Perez delivers meals to Curtis Ross.

person is there to say ‘hi’ and check in with the senior.”

The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging refers senior citizens to the program, which is part of the national Meals on Wheels network of community-based programs. The organization has a board of directors that administers the program and works with Office on Aging staff, including Supervisor Dynesha Stover-McDonald.

If interested in receiving meals, senior citizens or a family member can contact the Office on Aging at 216-691-7377. The cost of the program is \$6.25 per day for two meals: a hot meal and a cold, bagged meal. The service is available to long-term homebound persons and to those

experiencing shorter-term limitations, after surgery or serious injury, for example. Some meals may qualify to be subsidized.

To volunteer for the program, contact the Office on Aging at the number above.

To donate to the program, send funds to Meals on Wheels of Cleveland Heights Inc., P.O. Box 18499, Cleveland Heights, 44118-0499.

Meals on Wheels America is a national membership organization with 5,000 community-based programs dedicated to improving the lives of senior neighbors. Most communities have a Meals on Wheels program.

Joy Henderson is a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

United Way appoints CH's Surratt community investment chief



Ken Surratt

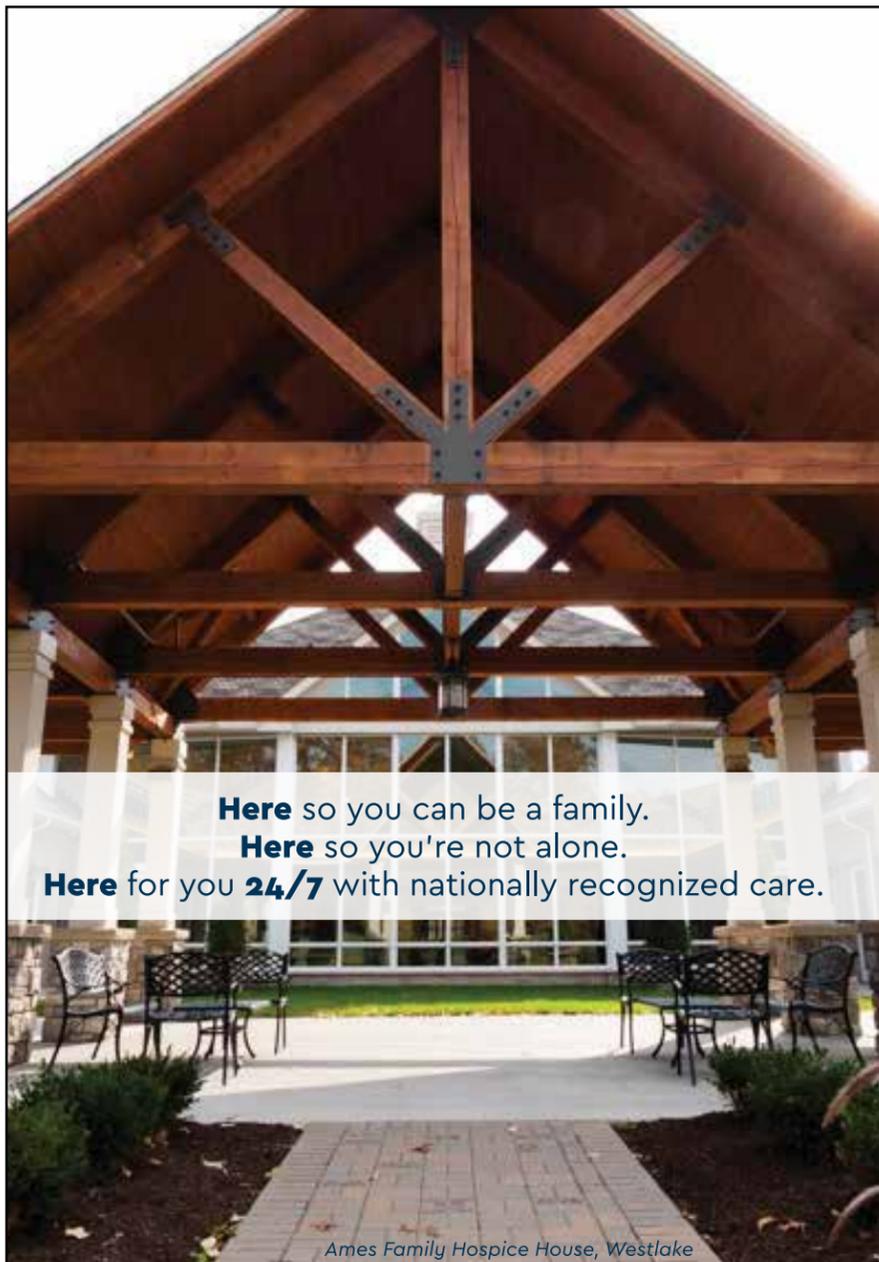
Katie Connell

August Napoli, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Cleveland, announced the appointment of Cleveland Heights resident Kenneth Surratt as vice president of community investment and chief investment officer, effective Oct. 18.

“Ken is an accomplished, forward-thinking and highly respected strategist, and the right leader at the right time to carry forward United Way of Greater Cleveland’s important community investment vision,” Napoli said. “Ken’s more than 25 years of experience working across government, nonprofit and for-profit organizations to create and execute strategies, programs, and partnerships has proven invaluable in driving meaningful, lasting results across the organizations and communities he has served.”

In his new role, Surratt will oversee many of United Way’s programs, including the organization’s Economic Mobility, Housing Stability

continued on page 12



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Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Council members present were President Jason Stein, Vice President Kahlil Seren, Craig Cobb, Melody Joy Hart, and Michael N. Ungar. Davida Russell was absent. Also present were Susanna Niermann O'Neil, city manager; Amy Himmelein, clerk of council and finance director; and William Hanna, law director.

Public comments

A speaker suggested [there is] systemic racism in the allocation of city resources, specifically citing the lack of mulch at a playground on the city's north side, and less road repair.

A Noble neighborhood resident requested the creation of a community liaison, to listen and respond to complaints and service requests, as suggested in the Novak Report regarding the housing department.

Council actions

There was a first reading of an ordinance authorizing virtual meetings and full participation by members of certain public bodies of the city. Council discussed the need to have this available for safety in the case of pandemic disease. In response to concerns raised, council added a sunset provision; the legislation would expire April 1, 2022.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

All council members, except Davida Russell, were present, as were the city manager and clerk of council.

Public comments

A resident of Cedarbrook Road asked council to slow down the approval process for the Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook development, claiming the project would eat up green space and require taking down trees.

Budget legislation postponed

Lack of quorum necessitated the removal of one piece of legislation dealing with appropriations and expenditures.

Council member comments

Melody Hart reported that the Diversion Program in Housing Court recently enrolled its first resident. The resident will work with the Home Repair Resource Center to locate appropriate resources to repair the home, to bring it up to code and avoid further court appearances.

The Start Right memorandum of understanding will be presented to council on Oct. 4; staff will try to schedule a meeting next week with the Jewish Orthodox community regarding the Desota infill project.

Kahlil Seren requested an update on hiring the Horseshoe Lake consultant. Michael Ungar said staff is close to hiring an expert to conduct a study, and will provide the expert with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's report.

Seren reported that Cleveland Heights police are using the new Cuyahoga County Diversion Center (a treatment alternative to jail for low-level offenses committed by the mentally ill and addicted).

LWV Observer: Gail Larson.

OCTOBER 4, 2021

All council members were present, as were the city manager, clerk of council, and law director.

Public comments

A resident complained that, for years, the city has ignored concerns expressed by her and her neighbors in the Noble area.

A resident of Buckingham Condominiums asked council to negotiate with the Top of the Hill developer, Flaherty & Collins, to relocate the dog park to a location more accessible to area residents.

A resident expressed concern for the trees that are growing at the Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook Project location. Another resident encouraged the city to develop a park on the site.

Council actions

Council authorized an agreement with Start Right Community Development Corporation (CDC) for an infill project in the Caledonia area.

Council discussion of Start Right

During the Committee of the Whole meeting, Kahlil Seren had questioned the planning and development director and Pastor Jimmie Hicks about the Start Right CDC memorandum of understanding (MOU). Davida Russell reminded council that the MOU had been a work in progress for many months, and that the Start Right contract deserved a vote tonight.

She also reminded council that two items of concern had been removed from the contract: Start Right will no longer need \$250,000 to begin construction, and the CDC has obtained a \$1 million line of credit. The developer is assuming all the financial risk, aside from paying \$100 for each vacant lot.

Seren wanted this legislation to go through the regular order of two readings. Michael Ungar felt prepared to approve the MOU tonight. Staff had vetted the MOU, and the issues council wanted removed had been removed.

Seren commented that issues expressed 20 years ago by Hicks, concerning the LGBTQ community, had not been addressed. Russell gave an impassioned speech asking that no community in Cleveland Heights be discriminated against, including Black and LGBTQ residents. She noted that this contract was not about an individual opinion expressed 20 years ago, but about developing an area—Caledonia—that has been neglected for years.

LWV Observer: Gail Larson.

Meeting packets, legislation, and other information can be found at www.clevelandheights.com/1142/2021-Agendas-and-Minutes.

Videos of council meetings can be viewed on the "City of Cleveland Heights, OH" YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandHeightsOH.

Expanded reports are available online at www.heightsobserver.org.



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Horseshoe Lake saved my soul

Julia Shefcheck

We in the Heights are grieving the possible loss of Horseshoe Lake. What can be measured, folded, and placed neatly in a box are environmental, stormwater management, and financial concerns. Quantifying what has served for years as a pillar of human spiritual sustenance is not so easy.

Since moving back to Shaker Heights, from Pittsburgh, 20-some years ago, Horseshoe Lake has served as my spiritual source—a place of indescribable respite, tranquility, and beauty. When I decided to address my alcoholism, Horseshoe Lake saved me. Teetering on the edge of spiritual death, I returned to Horseshoe Lake daily, filling up my cup—figuratively speaking—each visit, so that I could face one more day. Later, sober and with young daughters, I would walk to Horseshoe Lake, finding peace as a confused and harried working mom. Courage to go another day. This place helped me do that. Over and over, for two decades.

In my younger days, my deepest homesickness stemmed from missing Horseshoe Lake. When I returned to Shaker Heights to attend graduate school, Horseshoe Lake fed peace into my idealistic, yet still lost, searching soul.

The lake is gone—almost. Drained. Horseshoe Lake. I live less than two miles away, and I no longer go there. I can't. I stopped taking my children and family to the lake. I avoid driving and biking past it. It saved me, but it's gone. Almost. The loss assaults me every day, repeatedly, as happens in grief.

Perhaps that which sustains the human soul cannot be measured. Perhaps, though, this points to its enormity and far-reaching impact. Perhaps it's the most important thing of all. Perhaps the city council members in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, and the people at the sewer district, have similar feelings, deep down, and will see the pressing need to keep Horseshoe Lake.

Married for 17 years, with two daughters, Julia Shefcheck works full time as a technical writer. She is a proud alumna of John Carroll University, for both undergraduate and graduate school.

MINI-GRANTS continued from page 1

community-engagement event will take place Nov. 20, 2–4 p.m. at Coventry PEACE Park. It will provide Heights residents an opportunity to learn about EYEJ programming, participate in a mock Youth Discussing Justice session, partake of food and other local goods, and more.

FutureHeights accepts applications for its Neighborhood Mini-Grants program twice annually—once in the fall and once in the spring. The next application deadline is March 15, 2022.

Neighborhood-specific projects that serve the community of Cleveland Heights or University Heights qualify for funding of up to \$1,000. For more information, send an e-mail to swolf@futureheights.org, or visit www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs.

Sarah Wolf is the community-building programs manager at FutureHeights.

Meadowbrook-Lee should be reassessed

Fran Mentch

When People for the Park asks Cleveland Heights voters to sign our petition—to put on the ballot in May that the city build a park on the 1.07 acres of city-owned property on Lee Road between Tullamore Road and Meadowbrook Boulevard—we hear lots of reasons why people support it.

After hearing Don King speak at the Cleveland Heights City Council meeting on Monday, Oct. 4, we all have another reason to support the park. King lives at Buckingham Condominiums, right next to the Top of the Hill (TOH) project. At the meeting, he talked about two problems with the developer and the TOH buildings. One was the developer's unwillingness to move the private dog park [away] from the entrance of the Buckingham. The other was the water leaking in the new TOH garage, and the lack of response to the leaking. (You can view his comments in the video of the council meeting, at https://youtu.be/U2_Jkasv8N2?t=9264. He speaks at the 2:34:23 time mark.)

You can watch the video online, at <https://youtu.be/MF4gueOlnAA>, and see the leaking in the

center of the garage. Although inconvenient and annoying now, when the weather gets cold, the water will turn into ice and become a slipping hazard for people and cars.

Flaherty & Collins is the developer for both TOH and the proposed new development at Meadowbrook-Lee. People we have approached to sign the petition are not happy about the leaking in the TOH garage, and are concerned that the leaking may indicate poor workmanship or poor oversight that could carry over to the Meadowbrook-Lee project.

An additional concern is the 2012 Geotechnical Subsurface Exploration Report from PSI that the city purchased. (You can read the report online, at www.clevelandheights.com/DocumentCenter/View/2784/Meadowbrook-and-Lee-Geotechnical-Report?bidId=.) PSI recommended that the soil at the Meadowbrook-Lee site be remediated, to be sure it would hold a multi-story building. Based on reported issues with the parking garage, it seems reasonable to ask: Will Flaherty & Collins manage this problem with the soil sufficiently?

When citizens trying to save

[Horseshoe Lake] spoke at the Aug. 30 city council meeting, council responded that night by deciding to hire a consulting firm to give a second opinion on the plan [proposed by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District].

Council should use the same good judgment, and safeguard the success of Meadowbrook-Lee, by not moving forward until the issues with the TOH garage, and the problematic soil conditions at Meadowbrook-Lee, are resolved.

Since council is using our tax dollars to highly incentivize the TOH and Meadowbrook-Lee projects, aren't they responsible to negotiate with the developer, and to minimize the risk on our "investment"?

If you would like to be able to vote on whether the city should build a park at Meadowbrook-Lee, please add your name to the petition by contacting People for the Park on Facebook at [cedarleepark](https://www.facebook.com/cedarleepark), e-mailing cedarleepark@yahoo.com, or calling 216-381-5356.

Fran Mentch is chair of the executive committee of the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club group, and a community activist who worked to turn the former Oakwood Country Club into a Metropark, not a Walmart.

Sometimes a park isn't just a park

Gavin Andersen

On Nov. 2, Cleveland Heights voters will elect a mayor for the first time in a century. Issue 26, which gave residents the ability to decide whether they wanted to elect a mayor, was the first step in replacing an appointed city manager, accountable only to seven city council members, with a leader who is directly accountable to voters.

An elected-mayor form of government, on its own, will not guarantee the outcomes we desire. We must continue to erode the power that small networks of privileged stakeholders wield over the rest of us, which they use to impose narrow visions of growth and well-being onto the physical landscape that we inhabit.

A growing association of residents is circulating a petition calling for the creation of a park at the corner of Lee and Meadowbrook, instead of new commercial space and apartments for "professionals . . . looking for a luxury living experience" (as described in the city's RFQ/RFP for the site). If we gather enough signatures [to put the park on a ballot], voters will decide for themselves whether they want a park.

The park itself is secondary. Above all, we want the same thing that we wanted when we chose an elected mayor: to strengthen our democracy and take more-direct control over our socioeconomic lives.

The entire community—not just a power elite consisting of CH City Council, a developer, a community development corporation, and a handful of business owners accountable only to each other—should determine what kind of development is in its best interest.

City council and its self-selected partners have chosen trickle-down gentrification, hoping to attract residents who could afford to live in Tremont, but might choose to live in Cleveland Heights instead. They have repeatedly made clear that they intend to move forward with or without the blessing of residents.

To be sure, the city has established channels for community input. There have been at least three public meetings on parking, connectivity, and urban design. However, as public policy analyst Sherry Arnstein famously argued in her article, "A Ladder of Citizen Participation" (1969), the "real objective [of this form of community engagement] is not to enable people to participate in planning . . . but to enable powerholders to 'educate' or 'cure' the participants. . . . [Citizens] may indeed . . . be heard . . . [but] they lack the power to ensure that their views will be heeded by the powerful."

[Some of us] are not against development. We are against myopic development models that prioritize the privileged at everyone else's expense. Our community is more than just taxable tenants

and properties with variable dollar values: we are students, teachers, and "essential workers;" we are aging out of our homes; we are living precariously; and we are all important. Neither urban density nor new wealth alone can solve our problems, yet the city made little effort to offer other solutions.

In Minneapolis-Saint Paul, where I spent many of my formative years, municipal governments are accountable to neighborhood councils—groups of residents whose goal is to empower themselves through community awareness and civic engagement, and who do not outsource their visions of growth and well-being to profit-driven developers. Instead, they direct developers as partners whose role is to help build the community. The closest analogue in Cleveland Heights, to my knowledge, are the Special Improvement Districts (SIDs), which the Cedar Lee SID describes as "an alliance between the business community and the [c]ity."

The call for a park is hardly about a park. It is about flipping the script on development by making our city accountable to residents, making all residents equal stakeholders, and making profits subordinate to community interests.

Gavin Andersen, a Cleveland Heights resident, has a background in international trade and development policy, and a job in regulatory compliance.

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Heights Libraries seeks new board member

Sheryl Banks

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is accepting applications for an open board position, with applications due Friday, Nov. 19, by 5 p.m. The new board member will replace Dana Fluellen, who is rolling off the board after serving her term.

“Our library is such an integral part of our community,” said Heights Libraries Director Nancy Levin. “Serving on the library board is one of the best ways a citizen can serve the Heights community, by helping guide the vision of the public library.”

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an in-person informational meeting about library board service on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. To RSVP, send an e-mail to nlevin@heightslibrary.org.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education will interview candidates on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. Each interview lasts roughly 15 minutes.

The following criteria are used in making an appointment to the library’s board of trustees:

- Consideration will be given to a diversity of interests, a balance of age, sex, ethnic background and socioeconomic levels, geographic distribution, and experience and/or knowledge in a variety of fields.
- The board should strive to include members with: professional experience in law, education, marketing, finance/

accounting and personnel; practical business experience, executive ability, management skills, and plain common sense; and political know-how.

- Because of the requirements of funding and support, consideration will be given to people who are active in community affairs and have access to resources and/or affiliations with other organizations of importance to the library.
- Nominees should have an interest in the work of the public library; a commitment to its goals; a recognition of its importance as a center of information for community culture, recreation and continuing education; and the ability to work as a member of a team. They should be willing to ask questions, offer criticism and make suggestions. They should have the courage to plan creatively.
- A commitment to the concepts of intellectual freedom is essential.

Interested applicants should e-mail switchboard@heightslibrary.org to request an application.

Completed applications can be returned by e-mail to switchboard@heightslibrary.org, or dropped in the designated box outside the administration office at the Lee Road branch, at 2345 Lee Road.

For additional information, contact the library by phone, at 216-932-3600 ext. 1200.

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

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What’s going on at your library?

Coventry Village Branch

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
Friday, Nov. 5, 2 p.m.

Kids Craft Day. Feeling cooped up because of COVID? Meet us outside of the Coventry Village Library, at the tent and table where we will have an array of children’s craft supplies, including beads, friendship bracelet string, pipe cleaners, and more. For kids ages 5 to 18.

Lee Road Branch

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Sunday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m.

Tech for Kids: 3-D Printing Technology Workshop. This hands-on workshop will teach kids the basics of 3-D printing and the engineering process, and enable them to complete challenges using 3-D printer pens! For kids ages 8 to 13; registration required.

Noble Neighborhood Branch

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

Tech Talk: Before You Buy a Computer or Phone. Buying a new device is a big decision, and can be confusing. This Tech Talk will provide information on what to consider when making a smart-tech buying decision. Registration required.

University Heights Branch

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Back to the Movies! Movies were meant for the big screen, and we have some catching up to do. In this month’s film, “Soul” (2020, PG, 90 minutes), Joe Gardner is an average guy teaching middle-school music, whose dream is to be a jazz musician. When he finally earns the chance to perform onstage, he has an accident that leaves him in a near-death state. As his soul is scheduled to proceed to the afterlife, he discovers that his body is not dead. He escapes to a before-life place, where he tries to negotiate a deal that will enable him to return to Earth—before it’s too late.

Online - via Zoom

Thursday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

The Last of His Mind: A Year in the Shadow of Alzheimer’s. Join Heights Libraries in somber recognition of National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month. In this Zoom program, author John Thorndike will discuss his memoir about his father, *The Last of His Mind: A Year in the Shadow of Alzheimer’s*. This program is presented in partnership with Mac’s Backs-Books on Coventry. Registration required.

Library's 1619 Project continues to explore issues of race

Sheryl Banks

When COVID-19 hit Ohio in March 2020, Heights Libraries shut down and canceled most of its programs. With the help of the now ubiquitous video platform Zoom, the library was able to hold some programs online: storytimes, book discussions, and knitting groups all made the switch. None were more successful than the 1619 Project discussion series.

Over the course of 2020, a total of 337 people attended ten 1619 Project-inspired discussions via Zoom, and so far in 2021, 155 have attended eight online programs.

"The 1619 Project" itself, the original *New York Times* publication, is almost two years old. Librarian John Piche, who runs the Heights Libraries' 1619 Project discussion series, has used it as a foundation to continue holding popular programs that address the issue of racial equity. Piche and other staff now do their own research and create reading packets that serve as discussion starters and reference texts for the ongoing program series.

"I started putting together 'topic' packets that draw upon the themes and issues addressed in the original 1619 Project," said Piche. "For instance, when we discussed Black culture, the reading packet featured Wesley Morris' original 1619 Project article, and I added three articles about TikTok, the 1970s' music in-

dustry, and the history of blackface minstrelsy."

Other topics have explored the impact of race on elections, how the topic of slavery is taught, slavery and the Constitution, slavery and the Founders, redlining's impact on housing, and race and health care.

Piche has also created original 1619-related content for the library's YouTube channel, in the form of original interviews with historians, lawyers, scholars, and activists.

There are currently 22 interviews on the channel, including talks with Cullen Sweeney, Cuyahoga County's chief public defender; Eric Herschthal, University of Utah assistant professor of history; Sherri Burr, Dickason Chair and Regents Professor Emerita at the University of New Mexico; Atiba Ellis, Marquette University Law School professor; and Manisha Sinha, the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American history at the University of Connecticut.

The series has not been without controversy. Heights Libraries has received formal complaints from community members that the program is biased, and that "The 1619 Project" itself is a flawed piece of research.

Piche has addressed the controversy in several ways, including devoting a session to the topic "The 1619 Project vs. the 1776 Project," and by providing online resources

about it, including an extensive list of articles and an interview with Reginald L. Bell, Ph.D., a scholar who is skeptical of the project, and opposed to reparations.

"John Piche, who interviewed me for the 1619 Project, surprised me when he e-mailed me, given my argument is against the proposition of reparations," said Bell, professor of management at the College of Business at Prairie View A&M University. "He assured me that he would be balanced in his solicitation of various worldviews, and he did not let me down. The whole series of John's video-recorded interviews include[s] professors from a broad range of top-tier academic institutions."

Todd M. Michney, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of History and Sociology at Georgia Tech University, and author of *Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900-1980*, is another scholar whose interview appears on the project's library Web page.

"It was my great pleasure as a professional historian to record an interview with Mr. Piche about redlining, in which I tried to relate the topic to Cleveland's experience specifically," said Michney, who grew up in Cleveland. "I hope that the interviews like this, which Mr. Piche has facilitated, have helped to drive the discussion in produc-



COURTESY HEIGHTS LIBRARIES

Librarian John Piche researches race-related issues that serve as discussion starters and reference texts for the ongoing 1619 Project program series.

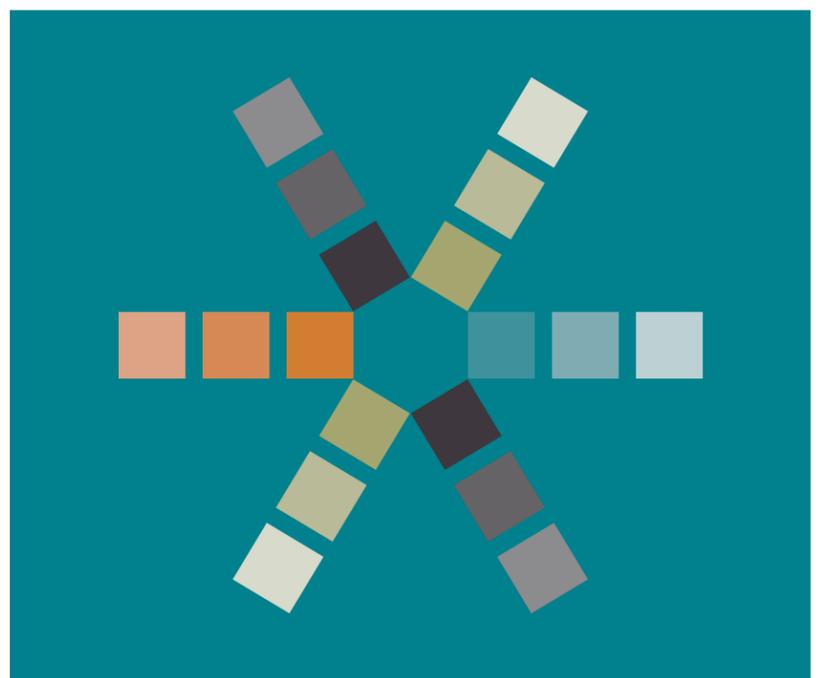
tive directions, and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to contribute."

In November, the 1619 Project discussion series will turn its focus to *400 Souls: A Community History of African Americans 1619-2019*, an anthology edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha Bain, and featuring the work of poets, historians, novelists, and activists.

For more information about the project, and to see the related interviews, visit <https://heightslibrary.org/services/1619-project>.

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

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JOIN FRIENDS cont. from page 1

Forest Hill Park, Friends of Cain Park, and Friends of Lower Lake, and is in the early stages of bringing community together to make every park a destination for residents, and a true reflection of our community.

At the forefront is the question: How can we help preserve our parks and natural environment while fostering the values of caring about the earth and each other.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m., FHP is hosting a “Walk in Forest Hill Park” with local landscape designer and activist Elsa Johnson.

The purpose of the event is to listen to what people want and need from the local Heights parks. Is it more nature camps for kids? Events with food trucks, local makers and artists? Farmers markets? Consistent signage and maps marking the history and the natural world of pathways and green spaces? Some, or all, of the above? Those interested in participating in the walk should meet at Forest Hill Pavillion, by the 11 a.m. start time.

“The Cleveland Heights community has always had a wonderful

network of residents that support the parks and recreation department,” said Joe McRae, director of parks and recreation in Cleveland Heights. “Creating a parks-focused nonprofit to leverage the energy and expertise of our dedicated park-loving citizenry will only enhance recreation park amenities and programs going forward, and help the city to continue to improve the quality of life for Cleveland Heights residents.”

The Nov. 13 event in Forest Hill Park is the first of several, all intended to get more people talking and walking in Heights-area parks, including Barbara Boyd Park, Cain Park, Caledonia Park, Cumberland Park, Denison Park, Forest Hill Park, East Cleveland parks, and the Shaker Lakes Parklands. FHP wants to make each park a destination for residents, and a true reflection of Heights neighborhoods and community.

For more information about the Nov. 13 walk, or FHP, send an e-mail to friendsofheightsparks@gmail.com.

Lisa Manzari is a 15-year resident of Cleveland Heights.

UNITED WAY cont. from page 7

and Health Pathways programs, as well as special projects, allocations, and grants management.

In response to his appointment, Surratt said, “This is an incredible opportunity, and I’m deeply honored to accept this important role and work with such an accomplished and devoted team during one of the most challenging and exciting times United Way and our city have faced. My team and I look forward to advancing the critical work United Way began more than a century ago to provide aid to those living in the deepest poverty across Greater Cleveland, and help relieve the stranglehold poverty places on their lives and livelihoods.”

Before joining United Way, Surratt was outreach manager in the community-development department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, where he managed the development and execution of the department’s regional outreach

and engagement strategy across the bank’s four-state district. He also held a leadership role in a systemwide Federal Reserve effort to include racial equity in community-development work and support economic-inclusion efforts.

Surratt was named a 2021 class fellow for Leadership Ohio, one of the state’s most prestigious and longest running statewide leadership programs.

He received a bachelor’s degree in commerce from The University of Virginia’s McIntire School of Commerce, and an M.B.A. from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Surratt lives in Cleveland Heights with his wife and three children.

Cleveland native Katie Connell is corporate communications director for United Way of Greater Cleveland.

COMMON GOOD cont. from page 6

lawmaking mean more extremist policies. The existing supermajority has ignored the needs of 90 percent of students to focus on privatizing education for 10 percent. Unless the dominant party has a change of heart, or the Supreme Court orders new maps, it will be hard to defend the interests of our public-school students and our

communities.

Fair Districts Ohio (www.fairdistrictsobio.org) offers an accessible version of the new legislative maps.

Susie Kaeser has been a proud Cleveland Heights resident since 1979. She is the former director of Reaching Heights, and is active with the Heights Coalition for Public Education and the League of Women Voters.

ONE ROAD cont. from page 4

Heights mayoral campaigns, and none responded.

This may seem to be a minor issue to many readers—and compared to other challenges the community faces, it probably is. That said, these shabby conditions are easily addressed, and [doing so] would convey that Cleveland Heights and University Heights are communities that residents take

pride in, vs. what [the conditions] say today: We are cities without the means or the will to make our cities look their best.

Larry DeAngelis has lived in Cleveland Heights for 30 years. He and his wife, Christina, recently renewed their commitment to the city by building a new home in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood, on a lot that was formerly the site of a tennis court.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education

Meeting highlights

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 - work session

Board members present were President James Posch, Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis, Jodi Sourini, and Beverly Wright. Also present were Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby and Treasurer Scott Gainer.

Millikin property

Several board members discussed the importance of the Millikin property as an asset. The building is used as home for the skilled trades and building maintenance department. With the building’s storage capacity, the district is able to purchase school supplies in bulk, saving the district much money. One board member referenced the beautiful playground that community members have created there.

Equity team

The remainder of the meeting was a presentation of the work done by the district’s equity team. A highlight of the presentation was the fact that all district employees have been trained in implicit bias. The full report of the equity task force can be found online.

LWV Observer: Robin Koslen.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 - work session

Two board members, James Posch and Beverly Wright, were absent. The other board members were present, as were the superintendent and the treasurer.

Third reading of policies group A

Upon a third reading, the board approved group A policies, which cover attendance, eligibility of resident and nonresident students, educational opportunity for military children, student hazing, and disposition of real/personal property. One change for the policy concerning disposition of real/personal property (item D.1.) clarifies the meaning of “unused school facilities.” The full text of the group A policies is available online.

LWV Observer: Rosemarie Fairman.

OCTOBER 5, 2021 - regular meeting

All board members were present, as were the superintendent and treasurer.

Public comments and responses

Eleventh-grader Kenji Sakaie said he testified before the Ohio legislature on HB 322 and HB 327, which call for amending the Ohio Revised Code regarding the teaching of certain current events and concepts regarding race and sex in public schools, and to prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts. He said that public schools were created for the purpose of promoting free thinking and public citizenship, and advocated that they continue to do so.

Cleveland Heights Teachers Union President Karen Rego addressed difficulties due to

the lack of substitute teachers. The union has sent a letter with suggestions to the board. Tiffany Underhille, a union vice president, noted the lost time for planning and collaborative team meetings, as regular teachers are called to substitute. Tamar Gray, a union vice president, said that use of regular teachers as substitutes has also compromised “specials classes.” Superintendent Kirby agreed that the substitute crisis is acute. Six substitutes have been hired, and the goal is to hire 13. One substitute will be assigned to each elementary and middle school, and two to the high school.

Betsy Race, a school counselor at Boulevard Elementary School, said the loss of parents to COVID, and the social and emotional impact on students, is having a huge effect. She asked the board to consider allocating ESSER funds to hire extra staff to assist with social and emotional learning for the students. Board President Posch said that ESSER funds are anticipated to fund additional tutors and social workers, but not substitutes. He suggested a quick financial analysis if more teacher and staff absenteeism is expected.

Charles Drake [a candidate for the CH-UH Board of Education] claimed that the board was not transparent regarding an incident in which police were called to remove a trespasser and disperse students involved in a fight. He also demanded answers regarding an incident in which a student brought a gun to school. The board and superintendent met with parents to address these incidents. Kirby stated that the meeting allowed parents to learn the details, and explained how police quickly removed offenders from the building. She has met with Cleveland Heights leadership to partner with the school and parents.

Shared facilities update

University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan was present to discuss with the board the feasibility of placing a service garage and a bus depot for cooperative use on the Wiley property. The University Heights Planning Commission is considering options; Brennan said it is looking specifically at the site for service department use. On Oct. 7, the board will submit drawings for the bus depot to the UH Planning Commission. The district’s facilities committee will also review this plan.

Joint boards and councils meeting

Plans are being made for a joint meeting in November with the school board, the city councils of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, and the Heights Libraries board to discuss regionalism, because all have agreed to work together.

LWV Observer: Rosemarie Fairman.

Documents for all board meetings can be accessed at www.chuh.org/BoardofEducation.aspx. Board meetings are livestreamed on the district’s YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/CHUHSchools) and recorded for later viewing.

HRRC cont. from page 2

homeowners the tools—literally and figuratively—to maintain their homes themselves.

HRRC recognizes that, while a home may indeed be a castle, maintaining the integrity of one’s home—the average American’s greatest investment—is not an easy task. HRRC operates under the belief that homeowners needn’t go it alone; a strong housing stock begets a strong community, and vice versa.

In the future, HRRC plans to continue its outreach to the community while expanding its financial repair programs in Cleveland Heights and Cuyahoga County.

None of the agency’s accomplishments over the past 50 years could have been possible without the support of the residents of Cleveland Heights, and the many forward-thinking members of the city’s government, all of whom HRRC thanks.

For more information, or to find out if any of the agency’s many resources can assist you, contact HRRC at 216-381-6100, or visit HRRC’s website, www.hrcc-ch.org.

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

Heights High takes golden racquet in win over Beaumont



UH Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan presents the golden racquet to the winning Heights High team.

Nicole Levine

Each year, the Beaumont School and Cleveland Heights High School varsity girls' tennis teams face off to bring home the "golden racquet."

This year's matchup took place at Purvis Park, on Sept. 27, with the Heights High Tigers beating the Beaumont Blue Streaks, 3-2.

The trophy, a tennis racquet painted gold, went home with the Tigers and will stay with them until the teams meet again next year.

Beaumont's head coach Mike Pellechia was feeling pretty confident when his team took an early two-court advantage, with Maggie Brady taking second singles, and the second doubles team of Sarah Wolf and Brooklyn Roulette winning in straight sets.

Heights High senior Xoe Bly came from behind and won first singles, after three sets, and third singles player Libby Warren won a tight match in straight sets.

The team victory came down to the first doubles match that, after two solid hours of play, had entered its third set. With darkness becoming a factor, the Heights High team of Josie Naypanner and Leslie Villeda pulled out a thrilling third-set victory (7-5), giving Heights High the win for only the third time in the 10-year existence of the golden racquet.

University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan was in attendance, and awarded the golden racquet to the Tigers and the team's head coach, John Laskarides.

"Having the mayor here made the golden racquet match extra special," said Pellechia. "The Blue Streaks will be back and ready to bring back the golden racquet next year."

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

48 Heights High students and graduates named AP scholars

Cathan Cavanaugh

The College Board has recognized 48 members of Cleveland Heights High School's classes of 2021 and 2022 for their outstanding performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The College Board, which administers the AP tests, honors students across the country who score at a consistently high level on its annual exams.

The board named 28 Heights High students as AP Scholars for earning scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams. Those students are: Vincent Bellini, Vanner Bochik, Isabella Bradley, Patricia Chen, Adele Dooner, Patrick Dooner, Maria Fehn, Zak Ferguson, Emmet Fluharty, Braedan Gallagher, Grant Gober, Claire Hall, Andrew Heintz, Ella Herr, Nathan Keller, Leo Kenealy, Derek Korane, Eryn Lawson, Leela Manne, Nathalie Nicol, Elly Obondo, Wolfe Pehowic, Julian Postak, Gabrielle Price, Joseph Russo, Michaela Schomisch, Rowan Trammell, and Meredith Vandall.

The College Board recognized 12 additional students as AP Scholars with Honor for earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams. Those students are: Marin Alcorn, Jerry Cisse, Theodore Evans, Lillian Fawcett-Dubow, Rose Goodluck, James Huff III, Jonah Kerr-Jung, Mills May, Madalen Norton, Margaret Thompson, Nathaniel Tyler, and Marissa Veccia.

The College Board also named eight Heights High students AP Scholars with Distinction for achieving an average score of 3.5 or higher on all exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams. Those students are: Cecilia Adams, Katerina Alden, Maple Buescher, Estelle Covault, Thalia Lisowski, Xavier Routh, Cassandra Sisson, and Zelda Thayer-Hansen.

Cathan Cavanaugh is the supervisor of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.



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2021 Holiday Gift Guide



1



2



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8



THE NON-TRADITIONAL GIFT

Mid-century modern locking chrome tantalus with glass decanters. (\$175.00, Artisan Antiques & Jewelry) **1**

Lampwork bead-making class, for those 16 years of age or older. (\$35.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads) **2**

Cheese board. Serves 6-8 people. Includes cheese, charcuterie, dried and fresh fruit, nuts, jam, mustard, and crackers. (\$164.00, Marchant Manor Cheese Shop) **3**

French macaron. (\$2.00 each, Luna Bakery & Cafe) **4**

STOCKING STUFFERS (\$10.00 or less)

Acupressure rings. These rings are rolled up and down fingers to hit the pressure points and release tension. (\$1.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads)

Heart rocks. (\$9.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads) **5**



6



7

Lee and Silsby Joy Mural greeting card. (\$5.00, Heights Arts) **6**



9

Slate coaster etched with Guardians logo by David Shafron. (\$7.00, Heights Arts) **7**

Cheese-making supplies. (Approximately \$10.00 per item, Marchant Manor Cheese Shop)

GIFTS LESS THAN \$50.00

Throw pillows. (\$15.00 each, Lavish Decors) **8**

Beadables. Children as young as 4 years old can make beautiful gifts in a few minutes with these easy-to-bead components. (\$12.00 to \$35.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads)

Knotted mala class. (\$35.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads) **9**

"Tea Time with Aveda." Tea box with Aveda logo etched glass mug. (\$44.00, Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa)

Designer decor storage books. (\$20.00 each, Lavish Decors)

Wood bowl. (\$49.00, Eastwood Furniture)

Cutting board. (\$41.00, Eastwood Furniture) **10**

Teak bud vase from spun wood by Tom Ream. (\$35.00, Heights Arts) **11**

Boiled wool chartreuse bag by Leslie Greenghal. (\$40.00, Heights Arts) **12**

Take and decorate sugar cookie kit. (\$25.00, Luna Bakery & Cafe)

Bustling with activity. That's how Pat Mallik and her husband Singh describe the newest

"There are so, so many reasons we're happy at Judson."

chapter in their lives. After the Malliks relocated from Seattle in 2018, their son and daughter-in-law quickly pointed them to nearby Judson Park. And for Pat and Singh, there's been no looking back.

Gardening, reading, staying fit, and freely sharing her beauty expertise with neighbors are everyday occurrences for Pat. "We're so busy! Just because we are retired doesn't mean we're going to sit in a chair and sleep. The exercise options are great, people are so friendly, and help is here if you need it," says Pat.

Read the full story at judsonsmartliving.org/blog

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10



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Travel and ceramic coffee mugs. (\$10.00 and \$25.00, Luna Bakery & Cafe)

Cheese gift box. Three of your favorite Marchant Manor Cheeses, together with a cheese spreader in a presentation gift box. (\$38.50, Marchant Manor Cheese Shop) **13**

GIFTS FROM \$50.00 TO \$150.00

Silver earrings with semiprecious stones. (\$68.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads)

Bonnie glass heels, sizes 7-10. (\$120.00, Kandydollkloset Boutique) **14**

Designer shower sets. (\$50.00/set, Lavish Decors) **15**

Tea Time, teapot with succulents by Martha Cliffl. (\$120.00, Heights Arts) **16**

Doll bunkbed. (\$87.00, Eastwood Furniture) **17**

Bull canvas. (\$50.00, Lavish Decors) **18**

Fabric wall art by Benita Cullinan. (\$120.00, Heights Arts) **19**

Take and decorate gingerbread kit. (\$50.00, Luna Bakery & Cafe)

Sweet and savory gift crate. Includes three Marchant Manor cheeses, local Cleveland Chocolate Company chocolate, roasted nuts, and Ohio-made jar of jam. (\$64.50, Marchant Manor Cheese Shop)

Faux fur scarf and microsuede gloves. (\$68.00, Kandydollkloset Boutique) **20**

cont. on page 16

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GIFT GUIDE cont. from page 15

GIFTS MORE THAN \$150.00

Sterling chain by Pam Pastoric. (\$210.00 Heights Arts) **21**

Agate slice lamp. Soothe any room with the warm organic glow of this natural sliced agate lamp. (\$998.00, Cleveland Rocks and Beads) **22**

Vernon accent chair. (\$160.00, Lavish Decors) **23**

Barnwood console. (\$825.00, Eastwood Furniture) **24**

"Drive By," painting by Leslye Arian. (\$400.00, Heights Arts) **25**

Barnwood leaner mirror, 33.5" x 67.5". Rustic reclaimed wood. (\$160.00, Lavish Decors) **26**

Hickory rocker. (\$196.00, Eastwood Furniture) **27**

Mariposa Serving Tray. (\$150.00, Jubilee Gifts in the Heights) **28**

Fused glass wall art by Marjorie Faulk. (\$175.00, Heights Arts) **29**

"Easter Parade," drawing by Maureen Sylak. (\$775.00, Heights Arts) **30**



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27

Vote for Noble in America's Main Streets Contest



COURTESY FUTUREHEIGHTS

The Noble Gardners' Market takes place August through September at Noble and Roanoke roads.

the running.

To vote, go to <https://mainstreet-contest.com/profile/129>.

"FutureHeights has nominated both Cedar Lee and Coventry Village for this award in the past, and, in 2016, Cedar Lee advanced all the way to the semi-finals," said Deanna Bremer Fisher, FutureHeights executive director. "This year, we decided to nominate Noble Road because of the incredible momentum this neighborhood is experiencing with the creation of the Noble-Roanoke Garden at the former site of a gas station, the installation of benches as part of a longer term local-history and public-art initiative, as well as plans to implement a banner program to give Noble Road a unique identity and build neighborhood pride."

Winning the \$25,000 prize is a longshot—it would take dedication from the entire community, voting regularly, to ensure Noble Road continues to advance. Should this nominee be awarded top honors in the 2021 America's Main Streets Contest, FutureHeights would consult with the

members of the Noble Road Corridor Steering Committee, comprising residents, business owners and other stakeholders from Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, to determine the most appropriate use for the funds.

Sarah Wolf is the community-building programs manager at FutureHeights.



28

Sarah Wolf

FutureHeights has nominated Noble Road in the America's Main Streets Contest. More than 100 places across the country have been nominated this year, all vying for the chance to win \$25,000 in cash and prizes. This "popularity contest" is won by the nominee who gets the most votes. Anyone who wants to participate can vote as often as once per hour every day until Nov. 7, at which time Noble Road will either advance to the quarter-finals or be eliminated from

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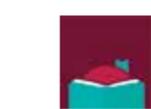
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Holiday shop at Heights Arts opens Nov. 5



Hometown (print), by Maggie Denk-Leigh.



Flower skulls (sculptures), by Mark Yasenchack.



Untitled cyanotype print, by Paula Zinsmeister.

Tom Masaveg

Each year, as the holiday season nears, Heights Arts expands its Lee Road shop to fill its entire gallery space. Giving a gift from Heights Arts also gives back: Every gift purchased at the local arts' hub helps support both the artist who created it, and the nonprofit Heights Arts.

Among the artists and items featured this holiday season are lithographic prints by Maggie Denk-Leigh, fine jewelry by Emily Joyce, prints on metal by Abby Star, hand-blown glass by Mark Sudduth, creative cards by Katie Ford, cyanotype prints by Paula Zinsmeister, wheel-thrown bowls by Marty Resnick, oil paintings by J. Allon Hall, and unique ceramic sculptures by Mark Yasenchack.

The 2021 Holiday Store runs through Dec 31. It will be open seven days a week for extended shopping hours, starting Dec. 1.

Purchases made at Heights Arts, in the organization's 21st year of connecting artists and the commu-

nity, will add to the more than \$1.3 million in commissions and music performance fees Heights Arts has provided to artists, musicians and poets in Greater Cleveland, since 2000.

For additional information, visit www.heightsarts.org.

Tom Masaveg is a public artist specializing in augmented-reality installation and graphite works on paper. He's also the programs manager at Heights Arts. Feel free to reach out via programs@heightsarts.org.

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Wait. THAT Janice?



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

This girl, Janice, and I watched the Beatles' American debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show," on Feb. 9, 1964. We were on Belmar Road in Cleveland Heights. I mean, we weren't together in the same place—we were watching the show in our own houses, both on Belmar.

I didn't really know Janice. She was a year older than me, and she hadn't been living on Belmar very long. But my friend Phil down the street talked about Janice all the time. He had a big crush on her. I'd met her and, through hearing about her from Phil, I was beginning to feel a little like I knew her.

She seemed quiet, unassuming, maybe kind of shy, not very outgoing, kind of reserved. She didn't seem to leave her house much, except to go to school. One day, Phil mentioned that she had tickets for the Beatles' first Cleveland concert, coming up in September 1964 at Public Hall. I was surprised and impressed.

I didn't attend that Beatles concert, but a couple of days after that event, I read in one of the Cleveland

newspapers that two American girls had run away, probably to England, supposedly to meet the Beatles. Then I read that the girls were both Heights High students. And then I read that one of them lived on my street, Belmar, and that her name was Janice Hawkins.

Wait. THAT Janice? "Phil—what's Janice's last name?"

"Yeah," Phil said, "that's the one. The one who went to England. That's what you're asking, right?"

I was shocked. How did she accomplish that? How can I accomplish that? Will they find her and make her come back?

Her story became international news. A few weeks later, I heard that they did find her. And they did make her come back. I really wanted to talk to her. I had a lot of questions. I also wanted to tell her I admired her for doing that. And then I got that chance—57 years later.

A few weeks ago, in September, I read that Janice Mitchell was going to be speaking at the Music Box in Cleveland. I looked her up. She moved back to Cleveland a few years ago, and she wrote a book about her experience that was recently published by Cleveland's Gray & Company, Publishers. Mitchell hasn't really talked about that England thing since it happened, until relatively recently.

I contacted her and told her that I had lived on her street at the time of her big adventure, and that I had always

admired her for that, and we started an online conversation—about Belmar, Phil (who died long ago), shopping on Coventry Road, and other things, including her new book.

In Mitchell's book, *My Ticket to Ride: How I Ran Away to England to Meet the Beatles and Got Rock and Roll Banned in Cleveland (A True Story from 1964)*, she provides her account of that England trip and more—all that had led up to it, and what happened to her in its aftermath. I'm not going to tell that story here, because she tells it there, and if you're interested in it, you can read it. And I recommend it, whether you were around at that time or not. It's not only her personal story, it paints a picture of that era, with a lot about Cleveland Heights at the time.

She did return to Cleveland Heights, and Heights High, after her adventure, but she left the next year to finish high school in Columbus. Then she stayed in Columbus, worked as a reporter for *The Columbus Dispatch*, got married, and moved to New York City, where she worked, first, as a magazine writer, and then, through a series of related moves, as a private investigator for clients, including several well-known international corporations.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, as she headed to work in the Financial District, getting off the ferry from her home on Staten Island, she saw the first plane hit the World Trade Center. Not knowing what had really happened, she continued, she told me, until "the second plane flew low, loud and wobbly



Janice Mitchell in recent times, at the Rock Hall, far from Liverpool.

over my head and went right into the second tower. Had I taken an earlier ferry—10 minutes earlier—I would have been coming up the subway stop into the WTC."

Like many New Yorkers in the months after 9/11, she developed PTSD, and, after a visit with her brother in Shaker Heights, she decided to move back here. She first bought a house in University Heights, but has since settled into a condo in Bratenahl, where, she said, she has "an unobstructed view of the lake and the downtown skyline."

Her story—the one from 1964—is a part of Cleveland Heights history. An odd one, maybe, but a cool one.

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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