

FREE TAKE ONE
2nd PLACE
OHIO EXCELLENCE
IN JOURNALISM AWARDS
2021
THE PRESS CLUB
of Cleveland
BEST IN OHIO

Volume 14

Number 12

December 1, 2021

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

READ LOCAL. SHOP LOCAL.

Published by **FutureHeights**

Written by volunteers for Cleveland Heights and University Heights • Read more at www.heightsobserver.org



Free parking at all Cleveland Heights meters

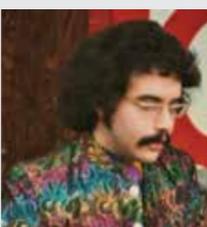
INSIDE



2 Mayor-elect Seren and Mayor Brennan set forth plans



11 Nela Park light show runs through the holidays



17 David Budin's column moves to an inside page

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

Coventry PEACE Lantern Festival is Dec. 11

Krista Hawthorne

The public is invited to attend the Coventry PEACE Campus Lantern Festival, a celebration of light, on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The festival will begin with a lantern-making workshop, 2:30–4:30 p.m., at Coventry PEACE Campus, 2843 Washington Blvd.

Artful artist Jacqui Brown (Studio Cat) and Art Acts artist Tanya Gonzalez will guide participants of all ages in the creation of their own lanterns.

In addition, Lake Erie Ink will host a workshop for writing solstice-themed stories and winter-themed haiku.

At 5 p.m., workshop participants can share their creations with the community during a Lantern Procession that will step off from the building's front entrance and wind its way through Coventry PEACE Park and the Coventry



COURTESY COVENTRY PEACE CAMPUS

Village Business District.

Illuminated musicians, dancers, and larger-than-life puppets, created and orchestrated by Coventry PEACE Campus artist Robin VanLear, founder of Parade the Circle, will lead the way through a pathway of luminaria.

Community members can bring their own handmade lanterns and join in the fun.

The procession will terminate back at Coventry PEACE Campus, where participants and the community can partake of cocoa and cookies, courtesy of FutureHeights and Reaching Heights, and sing carols with the Singers Club of Cleveland.

Everyone is invited to join the organizations of Coventry PEACE Campus for this community cel-

continued on page 12

FutureHeights hosts Dec. 8 virtual celebration of mini-grant awards



COURTESY BUILDING HEIGHTS

Heights Middle School Shorts, a summer program of Building Heights, was among 14 projects funded in 2021.

Sarah Wolf

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., FutureHeights will turn on the applause sign for all of the recipients of its 2021 neighborhood mini-grants. All are welcome to attend this virtual gathering that will offer an overview of the program, explain how to partici-

pate, and spotlight the innovative and outstanding projects created and led by Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents over this past year.

Projects supported by the FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grants program include neighborhood gardening and beautification efforts, youth en-

continued on page 7

Heights voters elect Seren as CH mayor; re-elect Brennan in UH

Kim Sergio Inglis

In Cleveland Heights and University Heights, packed local election ballots—in which voters in each city elected a mayor, a number of city council representatives, and three school board members—failed to bring to the polls even half of eligible Heights voters.

According to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (BOE), the official election results, as of Nov. 16, are as follows:

In Cleveland Heights' two-candidate mayoral contest, voters elected Kahlil Seren with 6,899 votes (60.51%); Barbara Danforth received 4,502 votes (39.49%). A BOE report shows that there were 33,906 registered voters in Cleveland Heights, as of Nov. 1.

In University Heights, a city with 8,865 registered voters as of Nov. 1, incumbent Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan won re-election with 1,584 votes (48.26%). Candidate Barbara Blankfeld was a close second, with 1,337 votes (40.74%), followed by Philip M. Atkin with 259 votes (7.89%), and Ken Simmons with 102 votes (3.11%).

In the CH-UH City School District Board of Education race, in which Heights voters elected three school board members from a field of seven candidates, the three incumbent candidates, Malia Lewis (7,131 votes/19.14%), Jodi Sourini (7,046 votes/18.91%), and Dan Heintz (6,804 votes/18.26%), retained their seats on the school board.

There were two separate contests and slates of candidates for Cleveland Heights City Council. In the full, four-

continued on page 9

Heights alumnae bring health screenings to families

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

When we think of blood pressure and burgers together, it's usually not for a good reason. Two Heights High graduates put a positive spin on the combo, however, at an October health-screening event held at Monticello Middle School.

Twin sisters Jen and Jessica Macklin both had participated in the Career Technical Education program in pharmacology when they were students at Heights High. They graduated in 2003, and



MEGHAN MCMANON

Drs. Jen and Jessica Macklin with Nurse Monique Carter (center).

went on to earn doctorate degrees in pharmacy.

Partnering with the CH-UH City School District, the two women launched Hands-On-Health to provide information and health screenings to families enrolled in the district's "21st Century" grant-funded, after-school programs.

At the "Wealthy Heart" mobile event on Saturday, Oct. 9, several dozen families from Boulevard, Noble, and Oxford el-

continued on page 9

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

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life. 2843 Washington Blvd. #105, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216-320-1423 Copyright 2021 FutureHeights, All rights reserved. Reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

PUBLISHER

Deanna Bremer Fisher
dbfisher@futureheights.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kim Sergio Inglis
city.editor@heightsobserver.org

E-NEWS EDITOR

Jessica Schantz
jschantz@futureheights.org

ADVERTISING

Bob Rosenbaum
216-401-9342
broosenbaum@heightsobserver.org

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Greg Donley, Judith Eugene, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Jessica Schantz, Kim Sergio Inglis

EDITORS

Jamison Babb, Maryann Barnes, Deanna Bremer Fisher, David Budin, Greg Donley, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy, Bob Rosenbaum, Jessica Schantz, Kim Sergio Inglis.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Temma Collins, Diane Roberto

DISTRIBUTION

Sally Kramer

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the *Heights Observer*, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of directors.

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

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 *Heights 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 January 2022 issue must be submitted by Dec. 6. We publish some articles online only. We also publish an e-newsletter each Tuesday.

CH Mayor-elect Seren on election and government transition

Kahlil Seren

Thank you, Cleveland Heights.

I am immensely grateful for the faith that you have placed in me, and acutely aware of the responsibility I've been given as the first mayor elected in Cleveland Heights.

It's been about one month since one of the most consequential elections in our city's history. Our community answered this historic question of leadership with resounding support for my candidacy. This support provided a clear mandate to govern and to lead our city through the necessary changes that make progress possible.

Our first mayoral election is over; now the work of creating an administration begins.

As mayor-elect, I have been working with our city manager and city council to lay the foundation for our new executive branch of municipal government. In consultation with the current administration and several trusted advisors, I have been developing improvements in the structure of the executive branch that will help us better address the challenges, and take advantage of the opportunities, that lie ahead.



Cleveland Heights Mayor-elect Kahlil Seren.

COURTESY: KAHLIL SEREN

I have introduced to council a proposed salary range for the Charter-created City Administrator position, and the city will be releasing a newly developed job posting this year, so that my administration and the new council can hit the ground running next year to confirm and onboard my second-in-command with no delay.

It will be necessary to round out the team with some new Directors—job postings are forthcoming. Of note, following the election, our current chief of police has decided to stay on initially, as

part of my administration.

I ran on a platform of government efficiency because I know our performance must improve, even as we contend with scarce public resources. Those improvements mean making changes that advance our goals of consistently high-quality service to our residents, inclusive and transparent decision-making that reflects common values, and earning back our reputation as a forward-thinking, interconnected, and invigorating place to live and work.

I want all of you to know that I am here for YOU. To represent you, I must know what matters to you. I expect to hear from you often; the new administration is already working to strengthen multiple avenues for timely, unfiltered communication. I will be resuming online Sunday office hours, effective Dec. 5, so that residents can interface with me directly now and into the new year.

We've waited long enough, so let's get started—I'm looking forward to the new Cleveland Heights we create together.

Kahlil Seren is the current vice president of CH City Council, and mayor-elect of Cleveland Heights.

UH Mayor Brennan outlines his second-term agenda

Michael Dylan Brennan

In the November election, the voters of University Heights sent a message. They elected new and energetic council representation with diverse skills. And they gave me a decisive win, with more votes than I received four years ago.

The residents of University Heights were given a clear choice. They chose for me to continue with my agenda of progress, sustainability, and redevelopment. They elected to city council people who support that agenda. With the new council, I look forward to resuming the people's business and implementing our agenda.

Residents would seem to prefer that the mayor and council get along. But what they really care about is meaningful progress and action. Moving forward. Making University Heights an even greater place to live, work, and raise a family.

The voters gave me a mandate for my agenda. I intend to use it. I have extended my hand to our city council—join me. Work with me to implement what the residents of University Heights want.

Together, let's fix our streets. We have the money, let's stop hoarding it. Not only should we fix our streets, we should fix the curbs while we're at it. And let's use our funds from the federal government to chip away at upgrading our sewers. My administration will continue to support strategic investment in our infrastructure while continuing to live within our



University Heights Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan.

COURTESY: MICHAEL DYLAN BRENNAN

means.

Together, let's finish University Square redevelopment. We have a developer with a record of success. We've worked with the county, the school district, the bondholders, and all stakeholders to make this redevelopment happen. New apartments, stores, restaurants, and more are coming to University Heights. In 2022, we will get this done. And we will start building.

Together, let's update our zoning. With a comprehensive zoning update, we can promote redevelopment and new uses, while preserving the residential character of our neighborhoods.

Together, let's go green. We will continue to promote bicycling and multimodal transportation,

and welcome EV charging stations, and scooters. We will make it easier for homeowners to install solar panels. We will improve (instead of eliminate) recycling pickup. New construction by the city will be green. We have proposed dedicating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to sewer upgrades. We will reduce the city's carbon emissions by 30% by 2030. Let's build the sustainable city for decades to come.

Together, let's build new municipal facilities. Residents need and deserve year-round senior and community programming. Our new City Hall will be environmentally efficient and fully accessible, complete with community spaces. We will replace our obsolete and decrepit firehouse and police station. Our municipal facilities study is nearly complete, and we plan to design and begin building in the new term. Our 2022 budget will reflect the necessary investment to get started.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished together in my first term. Folks all around have seen the improvements we've made in University Heights these last four years, in service, in economic development, in building community. We've only just begun. There's so much more that we can and will do together in the next four years. Let's get to work.

Michael Dylan Brennan is the mayor of University Heights. He was re-elected to a second four-year term in November.

City urges public involvement in Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook process

Eric Zamft

The redevelopment of Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook has been a long time coming. In the past 15 years Cleveland Heights has adopted new zoning, included the redevelopment in the city's Master Plan, and sought development partners more than once.

Earlier this year, CH City Council selected and engaged with Flaherty & Collins (the "Applicant") to redevelop the site with a four-story, mixed-use development containing a mix of residential units, commercial, and green and gathering spaces (the "Project").

Since that time, there has been



significant engagement with the community, including many community

meetings and the creation of a dedicated project Web page, www.clevelandheights.com/clm.

In my discussions with various individuals over the past few months, there was uncertainty about the review and approval process, including the roles of various city boards. What follows is a summary of that process:

- The Planning Commission will be the main body to review the overall plan for the Project. It is anticipated that the Applicant will present a preliminary site plan at the Dec. 8 Planning Commission meeting.
- The Architectural Board of Review (ABR) will review the architecture, materials, and overall "look" of proposed buildings and structures. It is anticipated that the Applicant will present preliminarily on the architecture at the Dec. 21 ABR meeting.
- The project site is currently zoned C-2X Multi-Use District, which was specifically created by CH City Council

in 2004 to encourage denser, mixed-use development near public parking. The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will review and consider any variances from the current C-2X District zoning regulations requested by the Applicant. It is anticipated that the Applicant will appear before the BZA in January.

City council does not have a role in the design review of the Project; rather, it is responsible for review of the Development Agreement. The Planning Department does not have an approval role; rather it works with the Applicant to guide the application to the various boards, and provide recommendations to those boards.

Every Cleveland Heights resident, property owner, and merchant has a role in the review of the Project through public comment. It is incumbent upon all to:

- Do your own homework in order to form your own opinions on the Project and its elements.
- Show up at the right times, since each board has a very specific role. The above meetings are public meetings and the city encourages interested parties to attend.
- Comment early and often to make sure there is ample opportunity for your comments to be reviewed and considered for integration into the Project.

I encourage everyone to check the project's Web page for information and updates.

Eric Zamft is the planning director for Cleveland Heights. He moved to the Millikin neighborhood with his wife, Elysha, and children in January 2021.

Seeing the forest for the trees

Alan Rapoport

Cleveland Heights has so many empty places where there ought to be large shade trees—as in our parks. Ever try sitting on a bench in the summer sun watching your child on playground equipment while baking uncomfortably because of a lack of shade? Not fun. This especially is strange in a city that has a tree in its logo.

Many large, old trees were lost in recent storms. Others, suffering from disease or pest infestation, have been taken down. New, large old trees do not just magically appear overnight. In olden days, our city cared about that. It planted trees that eventually would become big. Not dinky flowering trees, as on Fairmount Boulevard. And not sickly small trees, as on many of our tree lawns. Results often were quite visually striking. For instance, the view of large-growth trees as one drives down the Cedar Road hill toward University Circle is wonderful, especially as leaves turn color.

That view was no accident. It was created by A.D. Taylor, a famous landscape architect who had a national reputation during the 1920s. He also worked on Cumberland Park. He developed a wonderful plan for Forest Hill Park that later generations ignored and then forgot. He landscaped Father Flanagan's Boys Town! Many large, old trees we still enjoy today were planted under his guidance.

I mean no disrespect to our city foresters, past and present. The city can do better if it provides proper resources and direction.

That soon may become apparent. Start Right Development Corporation recently contracted with the city to build new infill housing. That contract requires the city to implement an intensive tree-planting program in the Caledonia area. It requires not only new trees in front of new housing—per the contract, enough trees are required, on entire streets where new housing will be built, to create a "wow" effect. And not just little trees that will never grow large in our lifetimes are required, but fast-growing shade trees.

Such shade trees do exist. The city forester planted two disease-resistant elms in front of my own house to replace sick old trees. They became big in only two years.

A tree-planting model developed in Caledonia may prove worth repeating, and not only in residential areas. Tree planting to create a "wow" effect in commercial districts would be good, too. Cuyahoga County has a major tree-planting program. There are other similar programs. Our city can participate in them. But such participation could require civic support and the political will to create a proper budget. It would require executive leadership at City Hall.

Hopefully, the city will be faithful to its contract with Start Right, and show how seriously it takes restoration of a forest in Cleveland Heights.

Alan Rapoport, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, served on city council 1980-1987, and was council president/mayor 1982-1987.

kellernational

Auto • Home • Life • Commercial Insurance

For all your personal and business insurance needs

An independent agent
Dedicated to your unique needs

3109 Mayfield Road, Suite 203
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
216-965-0646



Call Jared Lavender

www.KellerNational.com

Welcome Home, Come Celebrate Christmas With FBC!

- **Dec. 19th, 4:00 PM - Jazz Christmas**
A celebration featuring classic Christmas songs and carols by the Demetrius Steinmetz Trio and special guests.
- **Dec. 24th, 7:00 PM - The Story of Christmas**
Join us in person or on our Livestream to be part of the story of all who came to visit the newborn savior! Let this message of hope fill your heart just as candlelight and song will fill our Sanctuary as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.
- **December 24th, 11:00 PM - Christmas Eve**
Our traditional Candlelight Service is now presented entirely online. Familiar tunes are featured, along with cozy, fireside readings of the story of Christmas.

firstbaptistcleveland.org/christmas



First Baptist Church
OF GREATER CLEVELAND
3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights
firstbaptistcleveland.org

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD



CLASS Pavers & Remodelers
Honest & Fair

**ROOFS: House & Garage
 Flats, Repairs
 Kitchens & Baths**

Free estimates **216.397.6349**
class1pavers.com



Build the complex at Cedar Lee Meadowbrook

Ken Goldberg

About the most ridiculous proposal during all my years of living in Cleveland Heights is for the building of yet another park on Lee Road, smack in the middle of what should be a vibrant district of shopping, restaurants, theater, and a public library! What a waste of prime property in a commercial zone!

This has been my neighborhood for 36 years, and many pushing for the park don't even live or work in the district. Besides the development complex's long-term, great benefit for so many (prospective business owners, shoppers, residents), this is a personal issue for me, as I have grown extremely enthusiastic in the past 20 years about three mixed-use developments planned for the triangle, only to be devastated each time a plan dwindled down, then fizzled out altogether. How many times I've walked by that triangular wasteland and been disgusted—even uneasy when it's dark. The flow of the entire district is spoiled.

Still another park? Who will maintain it, and at what cost? Let's see: we

have within two miles two mini-parks within a block; our Cain Park treasure, just a stretch to the north and available for any sort of activity; all the Shaker Heights parkland just about a mile to the south; and a University Heights mini-park and city park not far to the east.

What we really could use is an exciting new complex on Lee Road, where no commercial or residential buildings have been constructed in close to 50 years. I believe the development would even raise housing values on the neighboring streets. Bring it on!

Obviously, planning major projects in Cleveland Heights has long been a delicate issue, though I see development booming in Little Italy, University Circle, Tremont and Ohio City.

The idea that, were a one-acre park to be built, the developer could go ahead with the remaining site, between Tullamore and Cedar roads, is ludicrous. If the developer cannot proceed with what has been discussed for countless hours, it will surely kill the project. The developer, Flaherty & Collins, has considered each alteration—often in response to public input—in terms of what it can accomplish for financial success, and is unlikely to be interested in any major reduction in scale. The developer has even been willing to compromise by providing a small park on the Silsby Road end, but that doesn't satisfy the “Lee Road Park” crowd. If somehow a larger park were to go ahead, and the developer was still [able] to keep the project alive, surely it would want a much taller building on the remaining parcel, which the same pro-park crowd would protest again.

This should not involve a “vote of the people”—typically undertaken when zoning changes are required. Did the people vote on such projects as construction of the Heights Center Building, or the Heights Rockefeller Building? Flaherty & Collins has every right to build this project, with all the usual public meetings and opportunities for public participation. It's called “free enterprise.” Consider the big picture, please: Let's promote this mixed-use development to enhance the Heights, rather than such far off places as Solon or Strongsville. It looks like this project will finally make it. Let's aim to keep this one!

Ken Goldberg is a semi-retired librarian, local historian, and preservation consultant.



Kathy Carvin
 Licensed Insurance Agent

This is an advertisement. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state.
 46275-HM-0920

Need affordable Medicare that's in step with your life?

Choosing the right Medicare coverage can be confusing.

I can help you find a plan that's right for YOU and YOUR BUDGET.




**Call today for personalized service!
 (216) 375-5902**

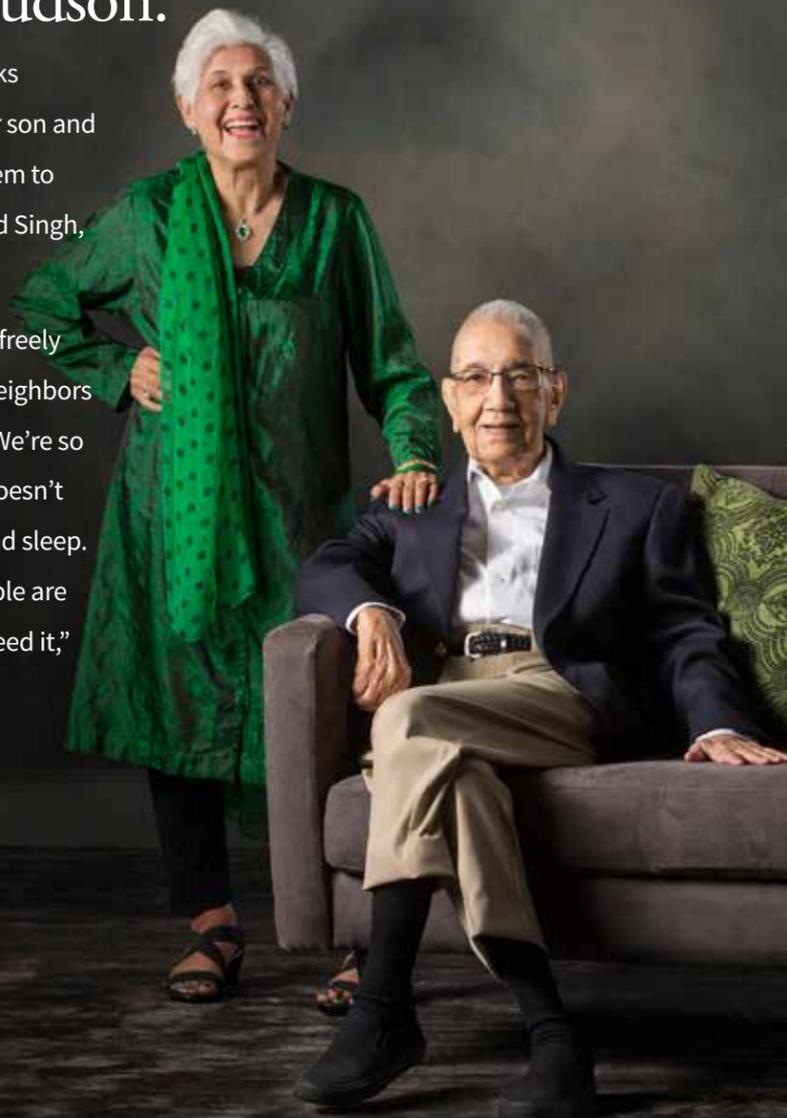
Bustling with activity. That's how Pat Mallik and her husband Singh describe the newest

“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**

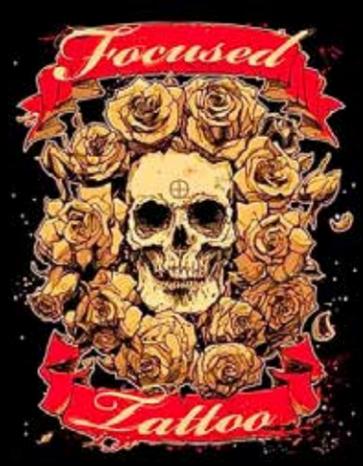


Pat and Singh Mallik



Judson Park Cleveland Heights | Judson Manor University Circle | South Franklin Circle Chagrin Falls

judsonsmartliving.org | 216.350.0326



Focused Tattoo welcomes all

1846 Coventry Road, #400
Upstairs from Guys Pizza

Wrapping up a challenging year



HEIGHTS OF DEMOCRACY

Deborah Van Kleef and Carla Rautenberg

Weather predictions to the contrary, Cleveland Heights enjoyed a sunny, if brisk, Election Day on Nov. 2, with rain holding off until shortly before the polls closed.

We are grateful to the candidates who ran in this historic municipal election. Democracy is not a spectator sport, and without viable candidates and dedicated elected officials, it cannot exist. The 13 candidates who competed for five city council seats, the seven who ran for three school board positions, and the two mayoral finalists made these campaigns highly competitive.

Congratulations to Cleveland Heights' first-ever mayor-elect Kahlil Seren, new council members-elect Tony Cuda, Anthony Mattox and Josie Moore, returning council members Craig Cobb and Davida Russell, and returning school board members Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis and Jodi Sourini.

Looking back over 2021, we admit we've been a little cranky. On top of the pandemic and a seemingly interminable election season, life in a city suspended between past and future makes for anxiety and impatience.

Unfortunately, Cleveland Heights has been in something of a holding pattern since November 2019, when we voted to change our form of government, beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

To be fair, the city has not been at a complete standstill. Several development initiatives have seen forward motion, pleasing some residents and dismaying others. As Top of the Hill rises, planning is underway for a residential and retail complex in Cedar Lee. A contract has been signed for infill housing on 23 city-owned lots in Caledonia.

Meanwhile, the planning department spearheaded a revision of zoning codes for residential parking and garages. This flexible policy accommodates the great variation in lot sizes throughout the city, and eliminates the imperative to expand paved surfaces, allowing for continued absorption of stormwater.

As we pointed out in May,

June and July, inequity persists among our neighborhoods, with amenities particularly lacking in the Noble and Severance areas. Severance Center remains a particularly thorny problem, so we are glad to see MetroHealth Medical Center's new behavioral health unit under construction, and a Netflix film in production in the former WalMart.

Of course, city staff and Planning Commission members should have sought to preserve all of Millikin Woods early in the approval process for MetroHealth's expansion, when there was time to negotiate a better solution. But we are gratified that, at long last, our council members followed the example of their Shaker Heights peers, and voted to support the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's plan for the Shaker parklands.

We hope that in the future all proposed city policies and initiatives will undergo scrutiny through the lenses of racial and economic justice and environmental sustainability.

Last month, we wrote of waiting nearly a year for council and staff to make essential preparations for the approaching governmental change. Finally, the long-promised "transition book" has been delivered to the mayor-elect, and to the current and incoming council members. In November, the law department finally produced draft legislation updating our codified ordinances in accordance with the amended charter.

Getting back to our crankiness, we recognize the need for patience in the months ahead. Mayor-elect Seren will be building an administration virtually from scratch. Council, with three new members out of six, must reconstitute itself as a legislative and representative body, and choose a seventh member to fill Seren's seat. Due to now-ubiquitous supply-chain issues, delivery of new garbage trucks and carts is delayed at least until spring. Years' worth of pent-up frustration will not disappear overnight.

A grace period for our new government seems only fair. With great hope for the future of Cleveland Heights, we commit to it and invite you to do so as well. Happy holidays!

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

215+ GOOGLE REVIEWS ★★★★★ 5 STARS!

DOGGOY DAYCARE

DOG TROPOLIS DOGGY DAYCARE

100% SUPERVISED PLAY 7 DAYS A WEEK

216.291.0605 WWW.DOGTROPOLIS.NET

CELEBRATING 18 YEARS

Forest Hill Church

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS AT 5 PM
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!
3031 MONTICELLO BLVD. CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44118

LOCAL QUALITY GOODS
MADE CLEVELAND
EST. 2020
COMMUNITY MARKET

LARCHMERE FIREWORKS
Cleveland, OH

WE'RE OPEN!
11/24-12/23

PRESENT A HOLIDAY POP UP

LIVE GLASS BLOWING!

ART PROVISIONS
APPAREL
MUSIC
SELF-CARE
JEWELRY
HOME GOODS
PAPER & BOOKS
ACCESSORIES

VISIT THE **MADE CLEVELAND CALENDAR FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**

SHOP OVER 50 CREATORS FROM NEO

FIND US!
SUN-SAT
12 PM - 7 PM
1807 COVENTRY RD

MADECLEVELAND.COM
LARCHMEREFIREWORKS.COM
@MADE.CLEVELAND
@LARCHMEREFIREWORKS



All handmade and local

SHOP OUR 2021 HOLIDAY STORE!

Over 100 participating artists

HEIGHTS ARTS

2175 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

OPEN EVERY DAY THROUGH DECEMBER 31

2021 Student Holiday Sale

Shop for creative, hand-made gifts in glass, metal, ceramics, photography and other media—all of which have been made by CIA's talented students.

100 Show + Sale

Works of art by faculty, students and friends of CIA will be sold for \$100 each in this student-organized event. Select a work and take it home.

Two great sales, one weekend

Fri, Dec 3, 5–9pm
Sat, Dec 4, 10am–6pm

cia.edu/holidaysale
cia.edu/100show

Cleveland Institute of Art
11610 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106



Ohio's state education leaders reject equity; we must not



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Meryl Johnson represents District 11 on Ohio's State Board of Education. Her district covers 24 school districts, including ours, in Cuyahoga and Lake counties. Johnson, a retired 40-year public school teacher, is a visible and determined advocate for children, equity, public education and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District (CH-UH).

"I ran for the state board to make a difference. I wanted to make it more possible for children of color to have the same opportunities as white children," said Johnson. She is in the first year of her second term on the board, which has 11 elected and eight appointed members.

The state board oversees the implementation of education policy in Ohio. During Johnson's tenure, members adopted a five-year strategic plan to lift aspirations and to promote high-quality education practices throughout the state. The plan made equity a core principle and presented educating the whole child as a central measure of quality. It provides a clear roadmap for making our schools work for more of our students.

Equity goes beyond saying everyone is equal. It pushes against barriers outside an individual's control that privilege some people and discriminate against others, leading to unequal opportunities.

Last year, George Floyd's death triggered a reawakening about the powerful cost of racism paid by African Americans. Under the Black Lives Matter banner, individuals, organizations, businesses and policymakers launched

efforts to examine their own participation in racism, and to unlock the doors that would fully value Black people.

This awakening reached the state board. Then-president Laura Kohler worked with Johnson and two other board members to craft a statement joining the board with other efforts to rein in hatred and promote the equal value of every student.

On July 15, 2020, the board approved Resolution 20, titled "Resolution to Condemn Racism and to Advance Equity and Opportunity for Black Students, Indigenous Students and Students of Color." The resolution acknowledged that public education "has not been immune to racism and inequality," and that "we have a great deal of work left to do." It condemned, "in the strongest possible terms, white supremacy culture, hate speech, hate crimes and violence in the service of hatred."

"The resolution was a way for us to exercise some leadership and to remind local districts what they should be doing," said Johnson, who sent the statement to all the school districts she represents.

CH-UH Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby welcomed the resolution. It inspired our district to issue a similar resolution, and it re-energized the district's longstanding work to root out racism and remove barriers that prevent students from fully benefiting from the education we offer. Equity is the centerpiece of CH-UH district improvement initiatives.

The resolution condemned behavior that is inconsistent with a civil society and our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Sadly, racial division and hostility have been mobilized by some to gain and hold power, making it a courageous move to reject these otherwise odious behaviors.

On Oct. 13, in a politicized move, the state board's new majority overruled leaders for social justice. With a 10-7 vote, the board repealed Resolution 20, rejecting equity as a goal of education in our state. It's hard not to interpret this step backwards as an endorsement of, or at least indifference to, racism, white supremacy and hate.

Kirby is determined to pursue what is good for students even if state leaders have lost their nerve, and we can count on Johnson to stay in the fight. She is not deterred by the reality that racism has a way of interfering with progress toward anti-racism.

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.

Your plumber, your neighbor Herb's Plumbing & Heating

Serving the Heights since 1989



- Experts in old homes
- Water tanks & heating systems
- Eco-friendly updates
- Fully trained, licensed, bonded & insured
- Residential & commercial



216-691-2300

herbsplumbingandheating.com

URM

USTON ROOF & MASONRY
Installations • Maintenance • Repairs

216-371-5944

- Slate and tile repairs & replacement
- Tear-offs & Shingles
- Gutters and downspouts installed
- Chimney and step tuck-pointing
- Flat roof specialists

MASTERCARD/VISA



WWW.USTONROOF.COM

MINI-GRANTS continued from page 1



Millikin Playground, a project of Millikin Neighbors, was awarded a 2021 mini-grant.

agement programs, creative placemaking endeavors, and community outreach work. In 2021, it awarded grants to its first University Heights recipients, as the program became available to residents of that city this past year.

Since FutureHeights awarded its first mini-grant in 2015, it has provided funding to 61 projects, investing almost \$41,000 in Heights resident-led projects. In 2021, 14 projects received mini-grants, for a combined total of \$10,452, making this the program's biggest year yet.

FutureHeights has invited representatives from this year's mini-grant recipients to give overviews of their projects at this year's celebration. Representatives from the following projects will be present: Building Heights, Cleveland Heights Green Team (CHGT), EYEJ: Empowering Youth Exploring Justice, Fairfax Community Garden, Friends of the Walt, Millikin Neighbors, Noble Neighbors, University Heights Symphonic Band, and Wizbang Theatre.

To register for the Dec. 8 virtual celebration, visit www.futureheights.org.



UH Symphonic Band was also a 2021 recipient.

www.futureheights.org/2021-mini-grant-celebration, or send an e-mail to swolf@futureheights.org.

The FutureHeights Neighborhood Mini-Grant program offers funding of up to \$1,000 per project, and accepts applications in the spring and fall. Annual application deadlines are March 15 and Sept. 15, respectively.

The program is made possible thanks to the generous support of Cedars Legacy Fund, the McGinty Foundation 1989, and members of FutureHeights.

For more information, visit www.futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs.

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

Gift creatively.



Bolt & Spool

2026 Murray Hill Road, No. 104, Cleveland
boltandspool.com Follow @boltandspool

ARE YOUR OLDER WINDOWS DRAFTY, PAINTED SHUT, OR OTHERWISE INOPERABLE?
DON'T REPLACE THEM - RESTORE THEM!

RESTORING WOOD OR STEEL WINDOWS IS THE SUSTAINABLE CHOICE TO ACHIEVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WHILE MAINTAINING ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER.

- WEATHERSTRIPPING
- REPAIRS & RE-ROPING
- FULL RESTORATION
- CUSTOM REPLACEMENT OF SASHES & STORMS



(440) 444-3434 • INFO@CLEVELANDWR.COM

Winter is Pruning Season

For healthy, beautiful trees next spring, the time to care for them is now. Let our Certified Arborists assess your valuable canopy. Call today.

Pruning
Fertilization
Cable Support Systems
Disease Identification

Immunization
Stump Grinding
Tree Removal
Yard Expansion & more ...

RIPLEY TREE SERVICE
COMPREHENSIVE TREE CARE

SINCE 2001

24/7 Emergency Services | Free Estimates | Full Residential Services

440-463-7379
RipleyTreeService.com





3451 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216-303-9862
 www.eastwoodfurniture.com facebook.com/EastwoodFurniture

Made in Ohio. *Gifts for the Holidays.*



**Solid Hardwood
 Locally Handcrafted
 Custom Built**

We also build kitchen and bath cabinets and wall units.

In our Loft . . .

Jubilee!
 Gifts in the Heights

Communion of Saints Parish

We invite you to join us in celebration of the birth of Christ!

Friday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:00pm St. Ann Church

4:00pm St. Philomena Church

Saturday, December 25th – Christmas Day

12:00 Midnight St. Ann Church

10:00am St. Philomena Church

11:00am St. Ann Church

Sunday, December 26th – Feast of the Holy Family

No Vigil Mass on December 25th

9:00am St. Ann Church

10:00am St. Philomena Church

11:00am St. Ann Church

Saturday, January 1st – The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

10:00am St. Ann Church

St. Ann (Office) 2175 Coventry Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH

St. Philomena 13824 Euclid Ave, East Cleveland, OH

Cleveland Heights City Council

Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 18, 2021

Council members present were Council President Jason Stein, Council Vice President Kahlil Seren, Craig Cobb, Melody Joy Hart, and Davida Russell. Michael N. Ungar 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

Diane Hallum, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee that makes recommendations for distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, claimed that a \$356,286 CDBG grant requested for a project on Mayfield Road is fraudulent because the area is not in an improvement target area (i.e., not low- and middle-income, and not blighted). Council president asked the city manager to provide information about the other side of this question in next week's council packet.

John Fleshin, a Cedarbrook Road resident, noted that the green space at Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook has many mature trees, and cited the importance of the trees as a green barrier between the neighborhood and commercial construction.

City manager's report

After printing Focus magazine, it became apparent that the information about the new, automated refuse-collection implementation had become inaccurate. Truck equipment will not be available due to supply chain delays, so the program will not begin until spring 2022.

The city has a contract with Gannett Fleming Engineers and Architects, of Fairlawn, (www.gannettfleming.com/) for consultation on Horseshoe Lake.

Council actions

Two items were passed on emergency, on first reading:

- Council accepted a grant of \$39,480.50 from the Gametime Company to purchase and install new playground equipment in Denison Park. The city will match this grant with \$74,996.34.
- Council amended the 2021 budget to increase city debt for the Severance Ring road. Revenue will offset the debt.

Council member comments

Melody Joy Hart announced that the design for the Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook project is not final, and will be discussed at a Planning Commission meeting, which will be held either Nov. 10 or Dec. 8, on WebEx.

LWV Observer: Blanche Valancy.

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Michael N. Ungar was absent. All other council members were present, as were the city manager, clerk of council, and law director.

Public comments

Six members of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID) stepped up to the microphone. Council president Stein addressed them directly, telling them council had discussed their request for \$25,000 in assistance at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Stein told the group that council has advised city staff to see if American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could legally be used to meet the SID's needs. The group advised council and the city manager that, due to COVID business losses, it is short funds needed to hire plows for the winter. If their request is not valid for ARPA funding, the city will consider offering a loan to the organization. The group expressed its gratitude.

Three residents expressed support for a park at Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook. One advised council that not all business owners in the area want the development project. The city manager noted that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the developer needed to be extended because it was expiring. The resident closed by asking for more transparency regarding this project.

City manager's report

Susanna Niermann O'Neil announced that campaign signs can be recycled at the public works garage on Superior Road, by the gas pumps.

Council actions

Council amended sections of the Zoning Code, part 11, that would allow more flexibility pertaining to garages [in the city]. This was passed on emergency because the zoning board has several applications for garages that are on hold, waiting for this amendment.

Council amended the current budget for appropriations and expenditures. A \$1 million expenditure for a fire truck will be reimbursed by a grant the city has obtained.

A resolution that would extend the MOU with F&C Development Inc. for the Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook development was withdrawn because Davida Russell wanted more time to get her questions answered. According to Niermann O'Neil, this MOU expires Nov. 9. A special meeting may be called to vote on this resolution.

Council authorized the allocation, appropriation, and expenditure of ARPA funds for sewer infrastructure improvement projects. Melody Joy Hart commented that by allocating \$18 million of ARPA funds now, the city could apply for matching funds from other agencies.

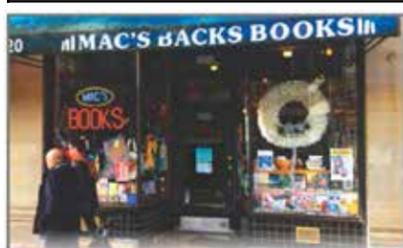
LWV Observer: Gail Larson.

NOVEMBER 8, 2021 – special meeting
 Michael N. Ungar was absent. All other council members were present, as were the city manager and the law director.

Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook MOU

Council approved a 30-day extension of the MOU with F&C Development Inc. for the Cedar-Lee-Meadowbrook development. This was passed as an emergency because the MOU expires Nov. 9, 2021.

LWV Observer: Gail Larson.



Ways to Shop at
MAC'S BACKS
Books on Coventry
During the Holidays!

- In-store browsing
- Online orders www.macsbaks.com
- Call us! 216.321.2665

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.

Advertise in the Observer

CH-UH Board of Education

Meeting highlights



OCTOBER 28, 2021 - work session
Board members present were President James Posch, Dan Heintz, Malia Lewis, and Jodi Sourini. Beverly Wright was absent. Also present was Superintendent Elizabeth Kirby. Treasurer Scott Gainer was absent. The meeting was held in a conference room at Wiley. Board members and the superintendent were physically present, and distanced and separated from one another by plastic barriers. All wore face masks, even when speaking, which resulted in poor audio quality.

Recognitions and awards

For their leadership during the past year, all school principals were recognized with a video presentation of commendations from staff, parents and students.

Family engagement program

Family Engagement Specialist Lisa Hunt and other district staff presented the district's overall family-engagement strategy. This presentation was virtual, and the audio was good. The [program's goal is to make] families and community partners feel welcome and fully engaged in supporting and enhancing student learning. This engagement is expected to result in reduced absenteeism, improved behavior, and increased academic achievement. The plan is based on National Network of Partnership Schools' (NNPS) principles. NNPS focuses on six types of improvement: parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community.

As part of family engagement, Nancy Peppler, supervisor of Community and School Partnerships, outlined the community learning-center strategy and provided an update on implementation of the Noble School Community Learning Center and the partnerships in practice at Monticello Middle School. Existing partnerships include a mentorship program, Lake Erie Ink, and Open Doors Academy. Additional partnerships are being sought, particularly with landlord/tenant organizations.

Board members expressed appreciation for the district's adoption of the NNPS principles. They also encouraged partnering with a landlord/tenant organization to support family stability and consistent school enrollment, which are major factors in student achievement.

Annual quality profile

The superintendent reported that the district has published its fifth annual quality profile. The publication, which includes information on district programs and initiatives, as well as highlights from the school year, can be found and downloaded through BoardDocs under Superintendent's Update for this meeting.

Treasurer's report

In Scott Gainer's absence, the treasurer's

monthly report was not presented, but is available online.

LWV Observer: Kathy Petrey.

NOVEMBER 3, 2021 - regular meeting
All board members were present, as were the superintendent and treasurer.

Superintendent and treasurer contracts

The board approved new five-year contracts for Superintendent Kirby and Treasurer Gainer. Jim Posch said that these contracts offered Kirby and Gainer the same benefits as the bargaining units. Board members were pleased that the district will have continuity within the administration.

New positions

The board approved two new positions. The director of social, emotional learning is a two-year position funded with government COVID funds. The family-engagement specialist will coordinate outreach to families; the position is expected to be permanent.

Equity, OSBA withdrawal from NSBA

Dan Heintz presented a resolution condemning the Ohio State Board of Education's reversal of its equity policy. The Ohio board's Resolution 13 repeals all portions of the policy, which the state board had adopted in 2020. The equity policy (passed as Resolution 20) includes statements such as "the path to equity begins with a deep understanding of the history of inequalities and inhumanity and how they have come to impact current society."

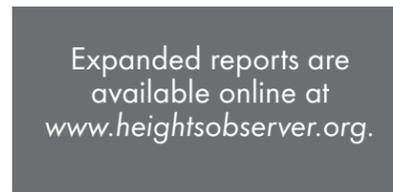
Posch presented a resolution imploring the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the National School Boards Association (NSBA). He delineated how the national association helps local school boards do their jobs. He expressed concern that the withdrawal was a reaction to disinformation and misinformation by groups with political agendas contrary to the interests of public education.

Both resolutions passed with unanimous support.

LWV Observer: Robin Koslen.

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.



HEALTH SCREENINGS continued from page 1

elementary schools passed through stations where they had their blood pressure and glucose checked, received information about hypertension and diabetes, and partook of a healthy lunch of their choice of burger—chicken, turkey or veggie—as well as fruit and baked chips. They also received gift bags containing sanitation packs and T-shirts. A COVID information station provided answers to questions about the vaccines.

Anyone who had high blood pressure or high blood-sugar readings received follow-up calls from Drs. Macklin, providing additional resources and next steps. The two sisters were aided by another 2003

Heights graduate, Monique Carter, a nurse.

Meghan McMahon, coordinator for the district's 21st Century program, described the two doctors as "dynamic," and noted, "their energy level is just awesome."

Next, they've been contracted to run a six-week program, Healthy Science Lab, at Noble Elementary School, in which they will teach students the science behind cooking, and how to incorporate healthy foods into their diets.

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

VOTERS continued from page 1

year-term contest, in which four candidates were selected from a field of six, Davida Russell retained her council seat with 8,094 votes (23.83%). Craig Cobb, twice appointed to city council, was elected with 7,130 votes (20.99%). Tony Cuda (7,723 votes/22.74%) and Anthony Mattox Jr. (5,046 votes/14.86%) also were elected to serve on council.

In the race for an unexpired, two-year term on Cleveland Heights City Council, ending Dec. 31, 2023, voters elected Josie Moore (4,472 votes/43.58%) from a field of seven candidates. On Nov. 15, Moore was appointed to begin serving her term, filling the council vacancy that arose when

Mary Dunbar resigned from council.

In the University Heights City Council race, voters elected three candidates from a field of seven. The new UH council members are: Brian J. King (1,413 votes/18.19%), Christopher Cooney (1,214 votes/15.63%), and Sheri R. Sax (1,209 votes/15.57%).

Cleveland Heights voters passed Issue 31, an amendment to the city charter which stipulated a 45-day deadline by which city council members must fill a council vacancy. Votes were 8,865 (82.30%) in favor, 1,907 (17.70%) opposed.

Kim Sergio Inglis is editor-in-chief of the Heights Observer, and is a Cuyahoga County master gardener volunteer.

Filling CH's next council vacancy

With Kahlil Seren, a current Cleveland Heights City Council member, set to become the city's mayor, his council seat will become vacant in January.

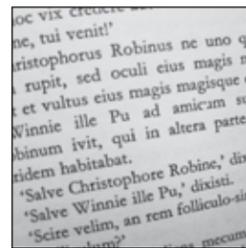
According to Tony Cuda, newly elected to CH City Council, "The council vacancy and other issues will be discussed in a special Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Nov. 29. The meeting will be attended by the six council members who will be serving as of Jan. 1, 2022. In this meeting, we will be discussing the process by which we will move forward to fill the vacancy. So far nothing has been decided." [The December issue of the *Heights Observer* went to press before news of any plans discussed at the Nov. 29 meeting could be added to this article.]

According to the new city charter amendment (Issue 31), which voters approved in the November election, city council members will have 45 days in which to fill a council vacancy, from the date the vacancy occurs. If council fails to fill the vacancy within 45 days, by a majority vote, the mayor will then have 10 days in which to fill the vacancy.

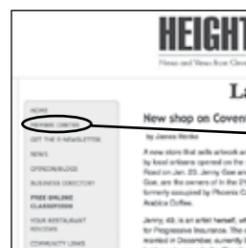
The unexpired term, to which a new council member will be appointed, ends on Dec. 31, 2023. The seat will be on the ballot in the 2022 general election; whomever wins the seat in that election, whether it is the appointee or someone else, will then serve out the remainder of the unexpired term. The seat will be on the ballot again in 2023.

Observe!

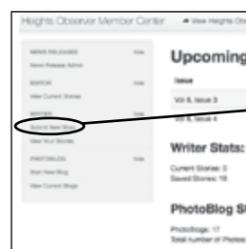
Submitting an article to the *Heights Observer* is a piece of cake!



1. The *Heights Observer* is written by people like you. So **write something**. Use a computer.



2. **Register/log in** at the Member Center (www.heightsobserver.org).



3. After logging in, click the **Submit New Story** button in the left-hand column (Don't see it? It's nested under "Writer"). Then follow the prompts. Hint: keep your original file open so you can easily copy and paste into the text box.



4. **Reward yourself**; you're about to be published. We'll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.

Mitchell'sTM
FINE CHOCOLATES
since 1939

ORDER EARLY!

ONLINE ORDERING FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP,
LOCAL DELIVERY & SHIPPING AVAILABLE

CLOSED 12.24-12.27



WWW.MITCHELLSCHOCOLATES.COM

2285 Lee Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH
216.932.3200

Heights scouts look back on an unforgettable adventure



Troop 22 scouts and leaders at Philmont. Front row: Bear Janssen, Michael Price, Eamon Fischer, Philip Triolo, Rob Lupetini (Philmont guide and CWRU student), Mitchell Reinhardt, Mark Heltzel, Ben Thiltgen, Ryan Johnson. Back row: Chris Jacobs, Rob Fischer, Steve Reinhardt, and John Janssen.

Christopher Jacobs

This past summer, eight boys and four adults from Boy Scout Troop 22, based at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights, finally had the adventure of a lifetime, backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, N.M. "Finally" because previous attempts had been canceled—by a massive fire in 2018, and by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. These were the only two canceled seasons in Philmont's long history of hosting scouts.

Philmont Scout Ranch (www.philmontscoutranch.org/) is the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) largest National High Adventure Base, covering 140,177 acres of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains, in northeastern New Mexico. The scout ranch operates 35 staffed camps and 55 trail camps across rugged terrain that ranges in elevation from 6,500 to 12,441 feet. More than one million scouts, venturers, and adult advisors have experienced the adventure of Philmont since its first camping season in 1939.

Hiking more than 65 miles over 11 days, the Heights scouts carried on their backs everything they needed to survive in the mountains, including up to four days-worth of food. They participated in backcountry programs along the way, including rock climbing, fly-fishing, black powder rifle range, archery, sweat lodge, search-and-rescue

training, tomahawk throwing, and blacksmithing, as well as a conservation project in which they cleared brush in an effort to reduce the impact of future fires on Philmont's ecosystem.

The scouts had another unique experience—traveling by train. Amtrak comes through Cleveland in the middle of the night, but the scouts were game, if a little sleepy. Amtrak took the group all the way from Cleveland to New Mexico, via Chicago. For most, it was their first experience of seeing the Chicago skyline, as well as the midwestern and southwestern American landscape they traveled through along the way.

The Troop 22 scouts, ranging in age from 14 to 18, come from many different schools and neighborhoods, and had no backpacking experience prior to joining BSA. The adult advisors were along for safety reasons, and were trained in wilderness first aid for emergencies, but the scouts were led by the boys themselves. One scout was the crew leader, and it was the scouts who made the decisions and kept the group organized and working together.

Troop 22 welcomes new scouts. Boys who are at least 11 years old, have completed fifth grade, and are not yet 18 years old are eligible to join at any time. Troop 22 meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and typically has one weekend outing every month.

Christopher Jacobs is assistant scoutmaster for BSA Troop 22 in Cleveland Heights.



Join us for Christmas!

Advent Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 11, 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 12, 5 p.m.^

Christmas Eve Pageant with Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 24, 2 p.m., & 4 p.m.*^

Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 24, 7 p.m.^, 9 p.m., & 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

Registration and masks are required.
Call or visit our website to register.

*ASL Interpreted
^Livestreamed



2747 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106
(216) 932-5815 • www.stpauls-church.org

SELLS ALL THE HEIGHTS LIVES IN THE HEIGHTS

BORN IN THE HEIGHTS KNOWS ALL THE HEIGHTS

For the 24th year **HOWARD HANNA** is participating in **COATS FOR KIDS**. Please drop off lightly used or new coats for toddlers to teens at my office, 20710 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights, by December 9th... or I'll pick up! Help make a child's holiday happier and warmer! Thank you.

THE SUSAN DELANEY GROUP

SUSAN DELANEY, ABR®, RRS, CNE®
216-577-8700
President's Circle ~ "The Best of the Best"
Email: susandelaney@howardhanna.com
Web: susandelaney.howardhanna.com

Howard Hanna
HOWARD HANNA HOMES OF DISTINCTION

GE holiday display to light up Noble beginning Dec. 3



GE Lighting's holiday display at its Nela Park headquarters is a 97-year tradition.

Ben Sabol

Continuing a long-held holiday tradition, GE Lighting, a Savant company, will illuminate its Nela Park headquarters, at 1975 Noble Road, with a festive display beginning Friday, Dec. 3. This is the 97th year the company will have created its light show. This year's theme, Holiday Season is in the Air, will feature nearly one million LED lights, and stretch along Noble Road for several blocks. The display will stay illuminated 24/7, through Jan. 3.

Earlier this year, the opportunity to turn on the Nela Holiday Lights was auctioned off to the highest bidder, to benefit the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Harvest for Hunger. For the first time ever, a special guest will step up to the podium, alongside GE Lighting President and CEO Bill Lacey, to flip the switch at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 3.

This year's display includes nine colorfully lit vignettes that include hot air balloons and baskets filled with gifts and cards; Santa's reindeers ready to take flight; festive snowmen and snowflakes galore; a giant iPad that controls the rotating colors of the holiday pole trees; colorful Christmas bulbs and other holiday décor that adorn the buildings; a hot air balloon selfie station where visitors can capture a festive, personalized picture to share

with loved ones; and a replica of the National Christmas Tree.

For 59 years, GE Lighting, now owned by Savant Systems Inc., has provided the design and lights for the

National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C.

The lights will all be LEDs, which last 10 times longer than traditional holiday lights and save up to 80% in

energy costs. The entire light display will be visible from the street.

Learn more by following the company on Facebook and Twitter @GELighting.

Ben Sabol is the director of communications for GE Lighting, a Savant company.

Free books mailed to your young child!



If your child is **4 years old or younger** and lives in **Cuyahoga County** Please register online at:

ImaginationLibrary.com

Our digital collection is here for you, wherever you are, 24/7.

Heights Libraries offers a large collection of digital media, including books, magazines, comics, music, movies, and television shows.

Visit heightslibraries.org/digital-collection and start exploring!



The Heights' #1 choice for interior and exterior painting

Neubert PAINTING

Serving Northeast Ohio Homeowners since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at 216-529-0360 for a Free Consultation!
neubertpainting.com

Home For You Wherever You Are

Heights Libraries
Opening Doors. Opening Minds



Mikaela Brown (at left), Story Rhinehart Cadiz (at center, in the Wizard puppet) and Kenya Woods. Costumes and puppets by Robin VanLear (Art Acts Studios).

LANTERN FESTIVAL cont. from page 1

-e-bration of light and hope during the darkness of winter. There is no cost to participate, but donations are welcome.

Learn more at www.coventrypeace-campus.org or on Facebook at <https://fb.me/e/2LbtjAoSK>.

Krista Hawthorne is the executive director of Reaching Heights and board president of Coventry PEACE Campus.



Lanterns from Studio Cat, illuminated by battery-powered tea lights.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Branch

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
Dec. 1 through Dec. 15
Take and Make Chili in a Jar. Stop by the Coventry Village branch for a take-and-make soup kit containing the dry ingredients for a tasty chili. Just add water and tomatoes. Available until Dec. 15. Kids can make chili at home with adult supervision. Registration is required at www.heightslibrary.org. For ages 6 through 18.

Lee Road Branch

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Thursday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
Pioneers of Sci-Fi Book Club. This program explores the works of authors who pushed the genre forward. December's title is *Foundation*, by Isaac Asimov.

Noble Neighborhood Branch

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m.
Adopt a Reading Buddy. Beginning readers are invited to adopt a reading buddy! These plushies need forever homes where they will be loved and read to every day. Adoptions start Dec. 7 at 4 p.m., and will continue until all the stuffed animals have been claimed. Each

buddy comes with a list of favorite books and a reading log. Return a completed reading log to the Noble Children's Desk by Jan. 7, to be entered into a raffle to win a prize book. The plushie is yours to keep!

University Heights Branch

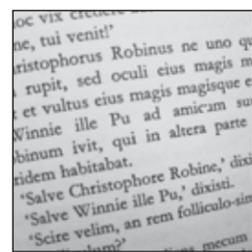
13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Monday, Dec. 13, all day
Gingerbread House Challenge. Attention all builders and architects! Do you have what it takes to create a sturdy, edible house out of frosting and graham crackers? Let's find out! Stop by the University Heights Branch to pick up your Gingerbread House Kit. Registration begins Dec. 6 at www.heightslibrary.org. For ages 7 and older.

Online

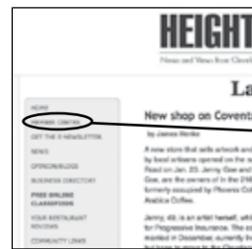
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Online Graphic Design Alternatives. For those interested in graphic design, free online programs might be a great place to start! Join us for a virtual class, to learn the basics of websites like Canva, Pixlr, and Vectr, and start designing! A valid e-mail address, and registration (at www.heightslibrary.org) is required. Information about accessing the class will be sent prior to class.

Observe!

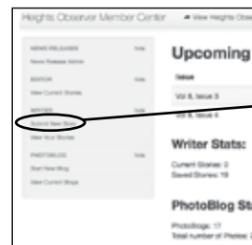
Submitting an article to the *Heights Observer* is a piece of cake!



1. The *Heights Observer* is written by people like you. So **write something**. Use a computer.



2. **Register/log in** at the Member Center (www.heightsobserver.org).



3. After logging in, click the **Submit New Story** button in the left-hand column (Don't see it? It's nested under "Writer"). Then follow the prompts. Hint: keep your original file open so you can easily copy and paste into the text box.



4. **Reward yourself;** you're about to be published. We'll review and edit your article, and let you know if we have any questions.

Cleveland Heights – University Heights Public Library Board

Meeting highlights LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND

OCTOBER 18, 2021

Board members present were President Dana Fluellen, Vice President Gabe Crenshaw, Patti Carlyle, Tyler McTeague and Vikas Turakhia. Max Gerboc and Annette Iwamoto were absent.

Family Connections presentation

Joanne Federman and Charniece Holmes gave a presentation to the board about Family Connections, a program [that works] to ensure kindergarten students are on track for reading at the end of the school year. During the 2019-20 school year, Family Connections served 77 families, conducted 377 virtual home visits, and gave families 500 books. For 65 percent of families served, the kindergarten child finished the school year reading on track.

Financial and investment report

Total cash balance across the operating accounts, Bauer Fund accounts, and investment accounts was \$22,835,808.99.

Board resolutions

The board approved the 2022 salary table, implementing salary increases and base wage adjustments for employees, effective Nov. 14, 2021. These are substantial changes to pay ranges, and the biggest change in salaries in the past 30 years.

The board funded the Family School Connection program, allocating \$40,000 annually for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

A diversity, equity, and inclusion plan was appended to the Heights Libraries Strategic Plan.

The board approved advertising for bids for demolition of a building at 2780 Kirkwood Road, to enable further expansion of the Noble Neighborhood branch addition, parking lot, and green space.

Public service hours were changed for Election Day (Nov. 2, 2021). The University

Heights branch, and public services offered at the Lee Road branch, will be closed. The Coventry Village and Noble Neighborhood branches, as well as HKIC, will remain open to the public.

[At the Sept. 20 meeting, the board changed meeting room fees, charging for one room when two rooms are booked to maintain social distancing; approved revised eviction timelines for adults and youths in the services and administration policy; and approved a materials evaluation and selection policy, which is posted on the library's website.]

Director's report

The local history room at the Lee Road branch will open by the end of October.

The library seeks nominations for trustees for seven-year terms.

Staff awards included five who received gold stars for exemplary contributions in the past year: Tim Pasbrig, Keven Echols, Steve Eigsti, Leory Hamby and Leslie Mallon. John Piche was the Pat Carterette Award winner; Catherine Bransky, the Detlef Fabian Award winner; and Isabelle Rev, the Gertrude Kleiner Award winner. The Rising Star award winner was Kate Atherton.

Public service report

Heights Libraries is now the library host for The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's Facebook live series, which features legal and "know your rights" information. New library card signups remain strong, with 2,015 new cards issued across the four branches. Circulation and visitor numbers are slowly moving back up.

LWV Observer: Elizabeth M. Tracy.

Information about the board, board meeting minutes and audio recordings of board meetings can be found at <https://heightslibrary.org/locations/heights-libraries-board/>.

Heights Libraries opens local history room at Lee



The new Local History Room at the Lee Road branch includes a Microfilm reader ScanPro 2200 and a Book scanner KIC Bookeye 4v2.

Sheryl Banks

Heights Libraries is pleased to announce the opening of its new Local History Room at the Lee Road branch.

Located on the building's second floor, the room is the culmination of years of planning that began in 2016 with the library's centennial celebration. That year, staff began pulling together photos and documents to create an online historical timeline for the Heights Libraries system.

"Once we had the library's history documented, we decided to start looking at ways we could help community members learn more about the history of the area, and do their own research," said Jessica Robinson, local history librarian. "First, we added local history resources to our website. Then we began figuring out where we could put a local history room."

The Local History Room occupies the former Quiet Study Room, a large, glassed-in area that once provided a silent atmosphere for customers. After the small study rooms on the second floor became reservable a few years ago, use of the Quiet Study Room decreased, and the space was deemed the perfect size and location for the library's local history collection. The space is large enough to accommodate a flatbed scanner, microfilm readers, a desk for the library's local history librarian, and a work space for customers.

"This work is very meaningful for me, because building a local history collection is truly sacred and serious work," Robinson said. "Archival repositories and the archivists who maintain them play a large role in determining cultural memory, because they choose whose histories are preserved through digitization and other methods. And in doing so, they also wind up determining who will have access to those stories in the future. In essence, those of us who work with historical material are

writing tomorrow's history today."

The room's materials include:

- City directories for Cleveland and its eastern suburbs
- Heights High *Caldron* yearbooks and alumni directories
- Local history reference books
- *Sun Press* and *Cleveland Press* microfilm
- Local history lectures and Cleveland Heights city council meetings on DVD
- Archival photographs, blueprints, and other documents chronicling the history of Heights Libraries
- Microfilm reader ScanPro 2200
- Book scanner KIC Bookeye 4v2

Library visitors can access the room most weekday afternoons, from 2 to 4 p.m., or can make a special appointment by e-mailing localhistory@heightslibrary.org.

Those who would like to borrow local history reference books, including city directories or yearbooks, can do so when the room is closed by requesting them from staff at the second-floor reference desk.

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

dining room now open

MOJO
world eats & drink

yummy
fun

voted safest joint in town
"inda heights"

2196 lee road
cleveland heights
216.932.9000 mojocle.com

ARDMORE TREE SERVICE
Serving Tree Care Needs in the Heights
for over 40 years

ARDMORE TREE SERVICE

Tree Service Year Round
Pruning • Removals • Cabling & Bracing
• Fertilization & Spraying • Air Spading

Proper Pruning of Fruit and Ornamental Trees

We sell and properly plant trees and shrubs

Fully Insured • Certified Arborist on staff
ISA TCIA NAA • ISA Certified #OH-6736

Free Estimates & Consultations
ardmoretreeservice@gmail.com • 216-486-5551

Leaf Clean-Up
Gutter Cleaning
Interior Painting
All Handyman Repairs
Power Washing
Snow Plowing & Throwing
Driveway Sealing
Masonry Work

M^cALLISTER
216-533-2936

2022 Summer Pre-College Program

cia.edu/precollege
Session 1: June 19–July 1
Session 2: July 10–22

Spend two or four weeks using the tools and processes only available to our students while experiencing what it's like to attend a college of art and design. Earn college credits while building your portfolio. View course listings and apply at cia.edu/precollege.

Cleveland Institute of Art
Creativity Matters

CIA

Fairmount Circle Dentistry

Robert E. Schneider, DDS



General, Restorative & Aesthetic

- Clear Correct Braces
- Digital Dental Technologies
- Tailored to Busy Families
- Pandemic-safe Practices

Snoring & Sleep Apnea Solutions

- In-Office Airway Evaluation
- Easy Home Sleep Testing
- Oral Sleep Appliance Therapy



40+ ★★★★★ Google reviews

Located near John Carroll
Easy free parking

216.321.2545

20620 John Carroll Blvd., Suite 220
info@fairmountcircledentistry.com
www.fairmountcircledentistry.com

CHEERS to 10 years...



...and to you!

Thank you for being here for us.

the wine spot

thewinespotonline.com • 2271 Lee Rd • Cleveland Heights

follow us @thewinespotCLE



S'Wonderful Gifts is closing



COURTESY FUTUREHEIGHTS

Bill Wort in front of his shop, S'Wonderful Gifts.

In early November, a business liquidator announced the news that, after six years, owner Bill Wort had decided to close his Cleveland Heights gift shop. Wort opened S'Wonderful Gifts at 2254 Lee Road on Nov. 17, 2015. For 32 years prior to that, he had been a buyer for various museum shops. In deciding to retire, Wort cited competition from online retailers as the main reason, COVID the second. "What I will miss the most is my customers," Wort said. "They've always been so supportive, and made the extra effort to support my shop and other local businesses. What I'm most proud of is when my customers voted the store "The Best Place For Unique Gifts In Cleveland Heights" [in the FutureHeights Best of the heights Awards]. For information about the closing sale, and to register for sale alerts, visit www.swonderfulgifts.com.

Leggings boutique opens on South Taylor



SALY KRAMER

Charlie Brown, co-owner of Ella Tiene Piernas (She Got Legs).

On Oct. 15, Charlie Brown, a former barber, and his brothers opened a leggings boutique at 2174 S. Taylor Road. Called Ella Tiene Piernas (She Got Legs), the shop offers a variety of legging styles, sizes and materials, for women and girls, with prices starting at \$9.99. The store is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The phone number is 216-331-2736.



Heating Tune-Up Safety Inspection \$104

Allows for 45 minutes of labor per system, parts additional. One discount per visit. Exp. 12/31/21



VEHbrothers.com
216 | 932-9755

Bonded • Insured
OH LIC #24462

WHATEVER IT TAKES!

Heating | Cooling | Plumbing | Specializing in Steam & Hot Water Boiler Systems

Sharing our good fortune with those in need...

6th Annual FREE Furnace Giveaway!



Obtain a nomination form by calling, or visiting VEHbrothers.com/helping-hann/.
Entries accepted from Dec 20th — Feb 28, 2022.

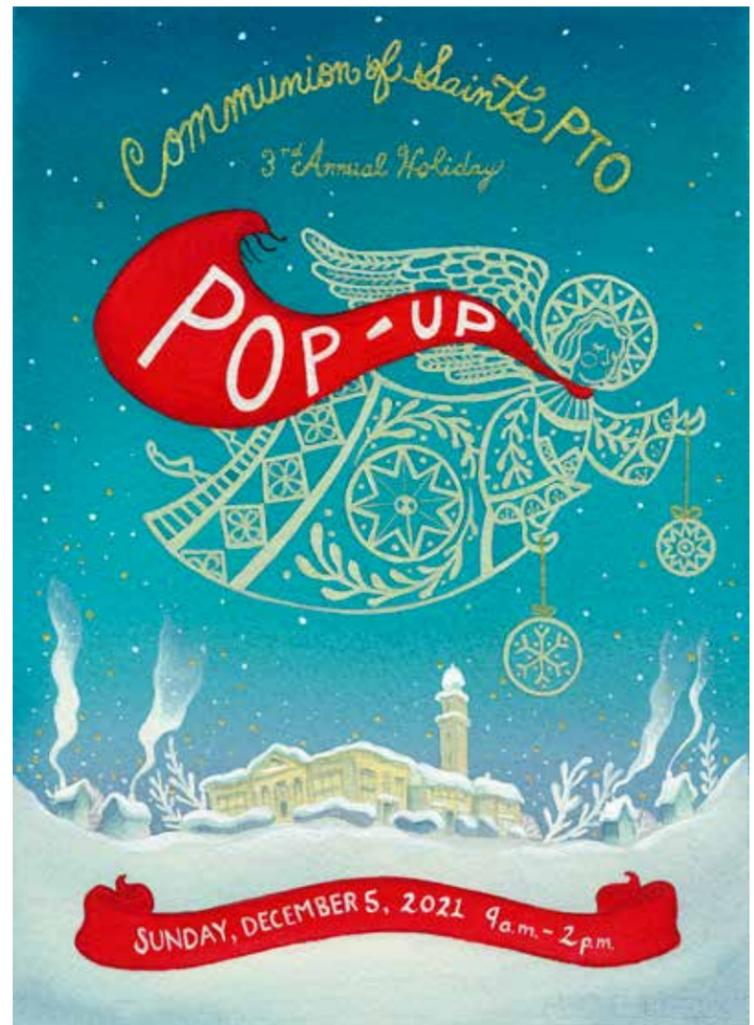
Pop-up holiday market comes to Coventry Village



Larchmere Fire Works

COURTESY MADE CLEVELAND

Made Cleveland will open its Holiday Pop Up market on Friday Nov. 26, in the former City Buddha space, at 1807 Coventry Road. The market will be open until Dec. 23, and will feature the work of more than 50 local creators, including home goods, greeting cards, jewelry, accessories, apparel, self-care products, and provisions. The large space enables Larchmere Fire Works, a partner with Made Cleveland, to offer live glass-blowing demonstrations, as in the photo above. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. For more information, visit madecleveland.com, or call 216-800-8420.



Shop Local, Shop Small!
Over 25 Local Artists and Small Businesses
 Light Breakfast and Lunch purchases available, provided by
 New Heights Grill and other local establishments.
 Kid Entrepreneurial Fair
 St. Ann's Church
 2175 Coventry Rd., Cleveland Heights 44118

Church of the Saviour
 United Methodist
 Christmas Eve Worship

Join Us!

2537 Lee Rd.
 Cleveland Heights 44118
cotsumc.org/christmas

#1 Roofing
Residential Commercial

Tear-offs • Re-roofs • All repairs
 Shingles • Slate • Tile • Gutters • Siding • Chimney Work
 Metal Roofs Installed
 Insured • All work guaranteed • Free estimates
 Ice & Snow Removal
 Gutter De-icing Cables Installed
Nobody Under Bids Us

216-319-0430

TeaSpot Tutoring offers STEM-themed workshops



SENECA BANKSTON

"Adventures in Weird Science," at TeaSpot Tutoring.

Decorate for the holidays!

Decorate your very own gingerbread house for the holidays! We'll provide a link to a pre-recorded zoom class, a "how to" guide, as well as all the fixings to create your masterpiece.
\$50/pre-recorded Zoom class, house & decorations

KIT PICKUP: Friday, December 6th-19th

Think Luna for your holiday shopping - scratch made pies, hand decorated sugar cookies, French macaron gift boxes, coffee mugs, gift cards & more!

216.231.8585 • lunabakerycafe.com
 2482 Fairmount • Cleve Hts, OH 44106

Luna BAKERY CAFE

No problem! I will take care of it...

SCOTT HAIGH
 Website: ScottHaigh.Howardhanna.com
 Email: ScottHaigh@howardhanna.com
 Direct: 216-272-6889

Under contract! Nice multi-family double
 18502 Winslow Rd, Shaker Heights

Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

Sarah Wolf

Iteisha Bankston always loved science. Stereotypically, more boys than girls gravitate toward science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects, but Bankston remained engaged and curious about them.

As an undergraduate, she majored in biology, then became a high school science teacher who made her classes hands-on and interactive in order to make the subject matter accessible, rather than intimidating.

"Some kids just like science but don't want to become scientists,"

Bankston said. "I wanted to show them that was OK—science was for everyone."

Now Bankston is the co-owner of TeaSpot Tutoring (2065 Lee Road), a business she opened with her husband, Seneca Bankston, in November 2020. TeaSpot Tutoring provides academic and social-emotional learning support for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. It also hosts a young men's mentoring workshop and other programming, such as a series of STEM-focused workshops that aim to bring science to life. TeaSpot also offers hands-on STEM-themed

Cont. on page 19

CREATIVE MARKETPLACE
 ARTISANAL GIFTS AND PRODUCTS STRAIGHT FROM THE MAKERS

presented by: HEIGHTS OBSERVER

NEW ad space just for Makers! Reach 10,000 for \$25 or less*

Heights Clothing Company
 CLOTHING N°3 COMPANY
 SUPERIOR QUALITY PRODUCTS
 T-SHIRTS - HATS - & MORE!
www.HeightsClothingCompany.com

DUDE ABOUT TOWN
 ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHY
WWW.DUDEABOUTTOWN.COM

UPCYCLE DESIGN
 Revived, second-hand furniture & decor
 Custom designs for home and office
upcycledesigncle.com

Sled Painting Event
 at CLE Urban Winery
Paint a Wood Sled Door Hanger!
 No experience needed. Class limited to 25 painters.
 December 16, 2021 — 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm
 Cost is \$55 per person and includes step-by-step instruction, supplies and refreshments.
 To register and for event details, go to:
<https://conta.cc/3HvgVUV>
 or contact djinthepaint@gmail.com

Larchmere Fire Works
 Blacksmithing & Glassblowing Private Classes

 216.246.4716
 12406 Larchmere Blvd
 Cassidy Anderson/Blacksmith
 Tina Haldiman-Brock/Glassblower
 *we don't sell fireworks

Hey, Makers & Creators
 Reach 10,000 people for \$25 or less
 This space is reserved for creative businesses like yours to help you sell your stuff
 Details at:
heightsobserver.org>Advertising>Display

Read Saul Isler's mystery **Babe Ruth is Missing** set in Cleveland Heights.
 \$19 incl. shipping for signed copy.
saulisler@gmail.com

Fatima is a Kuwaiti artist who came to the US after facing persecution in her homeland for social activism
 View and purchase her paintings at www.fatimaalmatar.com
 Original commissions welcomed: Pets, family portraits and more
 email: fatimaalmatar@yahoo.com
 cell: 216 376 5883

*Makers & Creators: This space is reserved for creative businesses like yours! Details at: heightsobserver.org>advertising>display

Born in the '50s, we went to school in the '30s



SONGS AND STORIES

David Budin

Heights High was overcrowded when I attended classes there—3,000 kids in just three grades cramming into the hallways and everywhere. That was one problem. Another was that in the mid-to-late '60s the administrators were still clinging desperately to the institutions of the 1940's and '50s. It was an era of great change in terms of such things as the concept of free speech. And in free expression, which included clothing and hair styles, music and other arts. The school's administration was pretty repressive to begin with, but that magnified mightily with its reaction to the new thinking that swept into society in the mid-'60s.

The school still employed a ridiculously strict, detailed and long-winded dress code. No pants for girls, skirts and dresses had to come to a girl's knees or lower (often demonstrated by a girl having to kneel on the floor to prove that the hem of her skirt went all the way down), no shorts for anyone, no T-shirts for anyone, no jeans, boys' shirts had to have a collar, leather shoes only (no "gym" shoes, except in gym class, where they

were the only shoes permitted).

The list went on and on. As for boys' hair—even in that era of the Beatles' massive popularity, and the resultant look of all their contemporary copycat pop and rock artists, and that of much of the population of the free world—it was not allowed to touch your collar in the back, or your ears on the sides, among other rules (like no Mohawk cuts). And no facial hair.

One day I was walking in the jammed main corridor when my unit principal called my name. "What now?" I muttered. He yelled, "What's the matter, can't you afford a haircut?" My hair was not long, by the way. I said, "No." He said, "Here," pulling \$2 out of his pocket. "Don't come back till you get your hair cut."

I took the money and went across the street to Wally's Pool Hall, beneath the Cedar Lee Theatre, and played pool till the \$2 ran out. I brushed my hair back on the sides and up in the back and returned just before the end of the last period. The principal never said anything about it.

But he said a lot of other things. Enough to push me over the line about quitting school, which I did, as soon as I turned 18. I always wanted to quit school, long before I ever met that principal, but he made me count the days until I could. He certainly wasn't the only one there who was stuck in an earlier time period, though he seemed crueler than most of the others. (I had an English teacher, who had also been my mother's teacher there, and before I even said anything to her

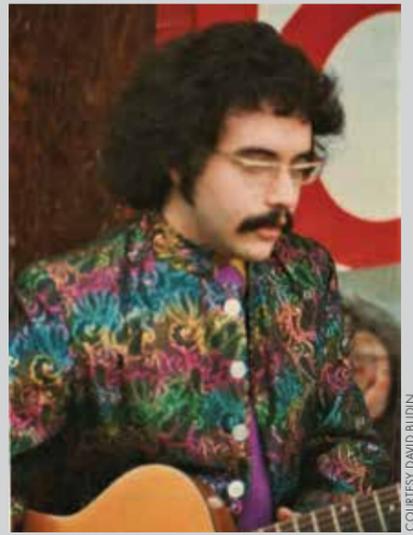
about him, other than his name, she remembered him as "sadistic." And he was.)

Early in high school, I and three other guys from my class made plans to run away. One of our parents discovered our plan, so we abandoned that idea. Two of the guys took off later and made it to Hawaii, where they got jobs and an apartment. They were found and dragged back here. One of them quit school and the other's family moved away and enrolled him in a different school.

Another friend, after getting yelled at a million times by our mutual unit principal, got called in to the office for having hair that was too long. As usual, the guy told my friend not to come back till he got his hair cut. That was in 1966. He hasn't been back since.

Yet another friend grew weary of that whole experience and did get his hair cut—super short—after quitting school and joining the Army.

I turned 18 in late May of my class's senior year. I didn't have enough credits to graduate, and there was no way I was coming back to school—not that school, anyway—so, shortly after my birthday, and after all Heights Choir activities were finished, I quit school, too. And I grew my hair as long as I wanted, wore what I wanted and did what I wanted, which was, mainly, playing and writing music. A few months later I was living in New York City and working in the music



COURTESY DAVID BUDIN

This was one year after leaving Heights High. This guy would not have been allowed to go to that school (which would have been fine).

business.

They got rid of all of us, and a lot of other scalawags. And, I guess ironically, out of school, we wound up reading more books than we would have in.

The school dropped that dress code a year or two later. And by the time my kids went to Heights High, in the '90s, the administrators and counselors there were much more interested in actually helping kids than just acting like their prison guards and wardens. Somebody learned something.

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.

CARTOON BY DAVE COVERLY | REPRINTED FROM FUNNY TIMES | P.O. BOX 18530 | CLEVELAND HTS OH 44118 | FUNNYTIMES.COM



NO ASSEMBLY REQUIRED.

Funny Times is the perfect holiday gift.

Call **216.371.8600** to give a year of laughter to all those you love to laugh with.





FINO YOUR NEW SPIRITUAL HOME

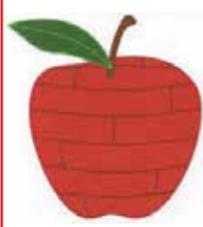
THIS ADVENT SEASON AT
FAIRMOUNT
 PRESBYTERIAN Church

A PIANO & CELLO RECITAL
 Friday, December 3rd at 7:00pm

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE WITH MUSIC
 Sunday, December 12th at 5:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE
 December 24th
 5:00pm | 7:30pm | 10:00pm
 (live-streamed at 10:00pm)

LEARN MORE WWW.FPCCLE.ORG/ADVENT
 2757 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights, 44118



Apple Construction
Residential Contractor
Serving Greater Cleveland since 1980
Kitchens, bathrooms, additions and more
216-321-6639

www.apple-construction.com • email: appleconstructioncle@gmail.com



Your Neighborhood Realtor

As the fourth generation in my family to buy in Cleveland Heights, I know this area and would love to help you buy or sell your home!

Emily Vaiza
Cell: 440.829.9612
Email: emilyovaiza@gmail.com
Website: www.emilyovaiza.com



Since 1982

Honesty, Value and Communication

Visit our website to schedule your service online

VOLVO • SUBARU • VW • AUDI • BMW • SAAB • PORSCHE

1815 S. Taylor Road, Cleveland Hts. • 216-371-5100 • swedishsolutions.com



WOOD TRADER FRAMING

Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
By appointment only

13429 Cedar Road
Cleveland Hts.

216-397-7671

Helping display and preserve your art and memories since 1973

MOLA!
MOLA!
MOLA!



Stop in and learn about these fabulous works of art! Many to choose from, or bring yours to frame.

Get \$25 off on framing over \$100

woodtraderframing.com

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

QUINTANA'S
barber & dream spa

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season from our family to yours

216.421.8380

barbershop (south bldg)
2200 south taylor rd

spa (north bldg)
2190 south taylor rd
cleveland heights

stop by for a little holiday cheer...
SPEAKEASY
open to all

LEI creates communities

Eli Millette

Lake Erie Ink (LEI) believes it takes a community to foster a lifelong love of creative expression. This fall, as LEI cautiously restarted its programming for youth, the Cleveland Heights-based organization took extra steps to increase its community presence. LEI currently is partnering with more than 29 different community organizations, and is becoming involved with a total of 36 outreach and community programs, including local schools and libraries, and larger programs, such as the Maltz Museum's "Stop the Hate" competition.

LEI hopes to continue this partnership trend by expanding relationships with other organizations to provide opportunities for creative expression and academic support for young people who may not otherwise have those opportunities.

One of the most important communities LEI has created is its Teen Editorial Board, which meets weekly through the fall and winter. This group of teens works year-round to publish an anthology of writing and artwork collected from youths across Northeast Ohio.

Currently, the board is accepting submissions for its sixth anthology, which will center on the theme Blur. Teens interested in submitting their work for publication can submit writing or artwork to <https://lakeerieink.org/teen-book-project>.

This community of teens, and the work they produce, has proved especially important to them in recent years. As the editorial board noted in the introduction to *On the Other Side*, its most recent anthology, "New circumstances bring great uncertainty, but they also bring room to learn to grow and to change . . . words are the most important tools for growth and change and healing; never stop sharing yours because there is always something that hasn't been said yet."

The teen anthology makes a great gift for a young person. Copies of *On the Other Side*, are available for a donation of \$12. Anthologies can also be found in several local independent bookstores. Learn more at <https://lakeerieink.org/teen-book-project>.

Eli Millette works as the communications and outreach director at Lake Erie Ink. He currently lives in Cleveland Heights.

Elégie presents free holiday concert Dec. 18



Elégie will present a live holiday concert at the Wiley building (2155 Miramar Blvd., University Heights) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Founded in 2014, the male vocal quartet comprises four classically trained soloists and professional musicians who are Heights High alumni. Michael Hives (second from left in the photo) and Caleb Wright (at far right in the photo) graduated in 2009; Brian Barron (third from left in the photo) and Mist'a Craig (at far left in the photo) graduated in 2011. All were members of the Heights A Capella Choir, Heights Singers, Heights High Barbershoppers, Heights Gospel Choir, and Heights Honors Ensemble. They have performed at some of Cleveland's most notable venues, including Karamu House, Cain Park, Nighttown, and Jacob's Pavilion. For this special concert, the group will perform a holiday repertoire, celebrating the spirit of the season with original music, as well as pieces from composers ranging from Bach to Boyz II Men. Local jazz musician and Heights alumnus Phillip K. Jones II, who has accompanied the group since 2015, will perform with Elégie on Dec. 18. The concert will be free, with the audience invited to make a free-will donation to help raise funds for the group's spring 2022 New York City tour. For more information on Elégie or the upcoming performance follow the group on Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube (@elegievoices). The group can be contacted by e-mail at elegievoices@gmail.com, or by phone at 216-609-5448.

www.heightsobserver.org Call 216-320-1423 to find out how you can advertise your business for \$29/month



Green Tara
YOGA & HEALING ARTS

Iyengar Yoga
Transforming Body, Breath and Mind
Online and In-Studio Classes

2450 Fairmount, Cleveland Heights
(216) 382-0592 www.greentarayoga.com

Shop Local

www.heightsobserver.org

Call 216.320.1423
to find out how you can
advertise your business for
\$29/month

Always Buying Paying Cash

MICHAEL'S ANTIQUES

- Gold / Sterling Silver
- Jewelry
- Glassware
- Paintings
- Pottery
- Military Items
- Bronze Figures
- Men's Wristwatches
- Clocks
- Swords
- Lamps
- Violins
- Porcelain
- Ivory Carvings
- Oriental Rugs
- Marble Figures

7 Days 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
440-461-4611
FREE House Calls for SENIORS
Buying anything unusual

www.heightsobserver.org

Call 216.320.1423
to find out how you can
advertise your business for
\$29/month



SKETTLE ELECTRIC INC
Ohio Licenses 12820 & 30281

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
LIGHT • SAFETY • COMFORT • EFFICIENCY
Family Owned Since 1985
(216) 932-2598
www.skettleelectric.com

2012 BEST OF THE HEIGHTS WINNER "Best Contractor"

Heights Hardware SINCE 1911



Monday-Saturday 9-6 - Sunday 11-4
1792 Coventry Road
216-321-4701
www.heightshardware.com



RIPLEY ENTERPRISES TREE SERVICE
COMPREHENSIVE TREE MANAGEMENT

Tree Removal • Yard Expansion
Fertilization • Cable Support
Pruning • Stump Grinding
(440) 463-7379 for free estimate

Certified Arborist Fully Insured

Shop Local

MJM Window Restoration

Keep your historic windows and save thousands!

Sticky windows Broken ropes Weather Stripping Cracked Glass

We'll make them work like new!

(216) 321-7729
mjmwindowrestoration.com
* 30 years in the Heights *



Ardmore Tree Service

Complete Tree Service
Year-round

Pruning • Tree and Stump Removal
Feeding • Oak Wilt Treatment

(216) 486-5551

We Sell and Plant
Trees & Shrubs

Member:
National Arborist Assn. • TCIA • ISA
Free Estimates Fully Insured



Frankie's Furniture & Home Decor

2250 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights

Unique Items for your home
Come check us out!
Open Tuesday thru Saturday
10:00 am to 7:00 pm



Eve's Painting & Home Repair

- Interior and exterior painting
- Wallpaper removal
- Plaster repairs
- Housing code violations

*** 10% off interior projects
December through March!
We are bonded, insured, and maintain an "A" rating on Angie's List.

216-387-0525
lbleb1@hotmail.com

www.heightsobserver.org

Call 216.320.1423
to find out how you can
advertise your business for
\$29/month

Shop Local

TEACHER/TUTOR

Vivian Yail
Certified, with Reading Endorsement

Build Confidence - Enjoy Learning
Pre-K - 5th Grade
Your home or library

vivianvail001@gmail.com
216.224.8789

TEASPOOT TUTORING cont. from page 16

kits for students to work on at home.

In October, TeaSpot hosted an "Adventures in Weird Science" lab, in which participants made models of the human brain out of gelatin. "Don't use flavored gelatin, or your brain will fall apart," Bankston advised with a laugh. She added, "I did put some green dye into our molds for a little color, though." Students had the chance to hold these gelatin brains in their hands and talk about them from a three-dimensional perspective. They even had the opportunity to pretend they were doctors doing surgery before taking the brains into a room with a blacklight, to see how that changed how they looked.

"So often kids are looking at things on screens, or in books, and don't have the chance to get hands-



Iteisha and Seneca Bankston

on. I want to provide approachable opportunities to be engaged with science," Bankston said.

In December, TeaSpot Tutoring will be offering two STEM-themed workshops, primarily geared for third- through eighth-graders, though younger students are also welcome.

The first, on Tuesday, Dec. 21,

is "You Are What You Eat: Food Science." The second, on Tuesday, Dec. 28, will cover "How Stuff Works: Circuits, Gears, & Energy." Both three-hour workshops run 1-4 p.m., at TeaSpot Tutoring. The cost of each workshop is \$35 per child, with a 15% discount for families with multiple children participating. In addition to the hands-on learning activities, participants also get other goodies, such as T-shirts, and lunch is provided.

"The idea is for students to get comfortable with the practice of exploring. It helps them become better critical thinkers," Bankston said.

For more information, visit teaspotkids.com, or e-mail admin@teaspotkids.com.

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



HARVEY & FRIENDS Bookshop
2nd Floor of the Lee Road Branch

Great Selection of Used Books, DVDs, & CDs For Sale Every Day!
www.friendsheightslibraries.org

CITY LITE ELECTRIC, INC.

For all your electrical needs

RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL

(440) 840-8941
Ask for Steve License #48370

"Reliable electrical service and repair"



**NOW
OPEN
CLEVELAND
HEIGHTS**



**CENTRAL OUTREACH
WELLNESS CENTER**

ALIQUIPPA | **CLEVELAND** | ERIE | PITTSBURGH | WASHINGTON

NOW SERVING

**CENTRAL OUTREACH CLEVELAND
2323 LEE RD, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44118
(216) 350-1000 | CENTRALOUTREACH.COM**

**FREE STD TESTING • HEP C CURE • FREE HIV TESTING
PrEP FOR ALL • HIV (+) TREATMENT
TRANSGENDER HEALTH CARE • PRIMARY CARE**