

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

News and Views from Cleveland Heights and University Heights

Written by the community.
For the community.

January Goes Green

The Jan. 6 issue of the Heights Observer is all about sustainability. [Email us](#) one example of how you live green by Dec. 19. We will print the best responses.

We can't do it without you.

Make a year-end gift to FutureHeights, publisher of the *Heights Observer*, and receive an [I Buy NEO](#) Community Shopping Card.

[Secure online donation through Network For Good](#)

On The Radio

Steve Presser of Coventry's Big Fun and Deanna Bremer Fisher of FutureHeights were recent guests on [90.3 FM WCPN's "Sound of Ideas."](#) Hear what they had to say about how local retailers are weathering the economic storm and why we should support them.

Our thanks to

The Cyrus Eaton Foundation

The Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation

The Dominion Foundation

Thanks for your generous support!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Shop Local When You Can This Holiday Season

This season everyone is spending less. So make your dollars work harder for you. Support the folks who support you - your local independent businesses.

Why should you shop local? Consider this: If the big box sees hard times, it will abandon our neighborhood in a corporate heartbeat. Our local business owners make a commitment when they open their shops. They live in this community, they work here, and invest their time, money and energy here. When we lose one of them, we have lost a valuable part of our community. Holiday sales represent 25% of a local merchant's annual sales, and we have heard that sales are down as much as 40% at some shops. Read more on our [community forum](#).

Every year, FutureHeights recognizes our local businesses at the Best of the Heights Awards Ceremony and many residents tell us why they value the businesses they vote for. To quote one: "...the shop is a Cleveland Heights treasure...I can walk to it, and they are always helpful... It is unique and brings a lot of people outside of the area to Cleveland Heights...The staff is friendly, accommodating and are invested in supporting the Cleveland Heights community... It's nice to go where they know your face and name...the atmosphere is so friendly when you walk in."

As you think about what you value this year, consider making a conscious effort to direct your shopping dollars to our local merchants. Make sure they are here to serve you in the future.

Need more reasons to shop local? Check out why [HeightsShops](#) local.

Need suggestions for those on your list? See our [Holiday Gift Guide](#) in the [Heights Observer](#).

FutureHeights Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts

Need a gift in a hurry? This gift comes wrapped and ready to hand to teachers, neighbors, sitters, and friends. Let them choose where to spend it! Give the gift that gives back to the [community](#).

Available in \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$50 denominations and accepted at nearly 100 merchants in the Heights, [FutureHeights gift certificates](#) make great gifts for everyone on your list.

Pick them up at [Zagara's](#), [Mac's Backs](#), the [Heights Arts Holiday Store](#), or call us at 320.1423 and we'll have the certificates ready for you!

Add an [I Buy Northeast Ohio Community Card](#), for an additional \$10 and keep them supporting local businesses throughout the year!

Help Those in Need in Our Own Community

Make the season brighter for local families. Every [local nonprofit](#) would love your donation, but the [Heights Emergency Food Center](#) and the [Center for Families and Children](#), located on S Taylor Road at [Taylor Commons](#), will provide direct assistance to those in immediate need this holiday season.

A not-for-profit, participatory media project, the Heights Observer supports an involved, informed citizenry by cultivating citizen journalists and neighborhood news. It is a sister publication of the [Lakewood Observer](#), Lakewood, Ohio and a program of [FutureHeights](#).