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for the  
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Seitz-Agin  
Hardware  
to close

## CH declares four properties nuisances, prepares for demolition

Dana Finley

Council Member Kenneth Montlack introduced three resolutions at the May 16 city council meeting that declared properties on Coventry Road to be public nuisances. A fourth resolution declared a Northcliffe Road property to be a nuisance. All four resolutions, which passed unanimously, authorized abatement of the nuisance—likely to lead to demolition of the houses.

Photos of each property were displayed at the meeting to illustrate the severe structural issues. While three of the properties are located in close proximity on the same street, Rick Wagner, manager of housing programs for Cleveland Heights, declined to frame it as a neighborhood issue.

“It’s not so much a north Coventry issue as it is a local and even national issue,” he said, noting that the foreclosure crisis has played an integral role in the demise of these properties.

Montlack agreed, saying that the issue isn’t specific to the north Coventry neighborhood but rather to any neighborhood with a lot of two-family and rental properties.



1724 Coventry Road deemed a public nuisance.

DANA FINLEY

“Most of the problem properties are on submarket streets or neighborhoods,” Montlack said in a later interview. “North Coventry has had up-and-down two-family houses. In general, streets and parts of streets with up-and-down two-family houses have weaker housing markets and are less desirable for people with choices.”

All four of the “nuisance” homes are unoccupied. While Cleveland Heights has rehabilitated some such homes for resale, both Wagner and Montlack believe these four are past the point of no return.

The two-family home at 1633 Coventry Road, owned by Caden Development LLC of South Bend, Indiana, has numerous broken windows and the plumbing

has been removed. A memorandum from Wagner to Robert Downey, city manager, regarding the property stated: “The exterior is rapidly deteriorating due to needed roof repair/replacement. The property has been broken into and suffers from serious neglect. The cost of rehabilitation would far exceed the property value.” Foreclosure for the residence was filed in March 2009.

The three-family dwelling at 1655 Coventry Road is owned by Yolanda Collier, of Shaker Heights, but is currently unoccupied. The property has been previously posted by Cuyahoga County. It needs lead abatement, major foundation work and a new roof. In a

*continued on page 8*

## Few residents attend school facilities listening session

Dana Finley

The school facilities committee for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District held a “public listening session” on May 12 to get public feedback on its assessment process of the district’s buildings. About 16 community members attended.

During the first hour of the session, each of four subcommittees briefly presented their findings, and James Seaman of Fielding Nair International, a school architectural firm that has worked closely with the district, presented his opinions via video chat on the district and its potential to be restructured for 21st-century learning.

The building assessment subcommittee concluded that the district’s buildings have significant issues that require constant maintenance. Its summary also stated that the basic systems in the CH-UH schools are “typically inadequate” and in need of replacement. An assessment of the school district by the State of Ohio concluded that the district’s facilities were in need of significant repair and replacement.

The committee compared the district’s facility situation with that of Lakewood, a school district comparable in size and composition. Lakewood is reportedly spending \$205 million on a districtwide program to construct both new and renovated buildings.

The education subcommittee focused its brief presentation around the issue of what drives 21st-century learning. According to the committee, 21st-century learning is an approach that is highly customizable and adaptable. Ideally, this concept includes creating smaller schools within a larger school.

The subcommittee implied that by the 2014-15 school year, all state-mandated testing would be based on 21st-century learning skills.

The facilities options subcommittee estimated that the minimally-required repairs and replacements will total more than \$40 million, while the cost of renovating the entire district’s infrastructure, with no change in size or configuration, would total

*continued on page 7*

## FutureHeights to screen ‘The New Metropolis’

Richard Stewart

“The New Metropolis,” a two-part documentary film and community engagement project, will highlight FutureHeights’s annual meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m., at the Cedar Lee Theatre. The screening is free and open to the public.

The film documents the implications of America’s suburban migration and challenges older suburbs face—shrinking populations, property abandonment, a dwindling tax base and limited resources to maintain a good quality of life—both for the people who currently live there and for attracting new residents. An opportunity to discuss the issues raised in the film will follow the screening.

“Many of the topics raised in the film will be familiar and particularly salient to Heights residents,” said Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. “The film highlights many of the challenges we, and communities like us, currently face.”

The annual meeting is one of FutureHeights’s signature programs, each of which is designed to revitalize the community through education and engagement. According to Bremer Fisher, the FutureHeights programs give Cleveland Heights and University Heights citizens the opportunity to directly participate in making their neighborhoods better places to live, work and play.

“FutureHeights is dedicated to building the future of the Heights,” said

*continued on page 5*

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## City of Cleveland Heights receives a high volume of applications for vacant council seat

Dana Finley

The City of Cleveland Heights has received applications from 18 people seeking appointment to fill the seat vacated by former Council Member Mark Tumeo.

Tumeo’s last council meeting was May 16. He left the area to serve as dean of engineering at the University of North Florida.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley said that he and the council are narrowing down the list of applicants to interview based on their written ap-

plications. He explained that because of the large number of applicants, it would be impossible to interview each one.

The application asks potential council members to discuss special skills they have that would be valuable in serving on city council, along with their educational and employment backgrounds; recent community, professional, and charitable involvements; and their goals for the community.

The applicants are: Robert L. Brooks, Jr., Jill R. Cohn, Jeff Coryell, Christopher Cummings, Shaylawnda

*continued on page 7*



**Letters Policy**

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The *Heights Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to:  
[www.heightsobserver.org/members](http://www.heightsobserver.org/members) or e-mail: [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org)

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**Best of the Heights: Nominate your favorite businesses**



**OPENING THE OBSERVER**

Bob Rosenbaum

One reason FutureHeights began publishing the *Heights Observer* was to provide an easy and affordable way for local businesses to reach potential customers.

Why? Local merchants are a big part of what gives the Heights its unique atmosphere. By helping those businesses to thrive, the thinking goes, FutureHeights serves the community.

Also, according to a series of well-known studies ([www.civiceconomics.com](http://www.civiceconomics.com)), money spent with local independent businesses does more good for the area's economy than money spent with national chains.

Their overhead expenses are located here, and earnings are more likely to be reinvested here, too, instead of,

say, in the opening of a new outlet 1,500 miles away. Local merchants also tend to contribute a larger percentage of their revenue to local causes.

That's why it's so hard when a store like Seitz-Agin Hardware closes. Yes, the store stocked products that 100-year-old homes need and that Home Depot can't be bothered to stock. But just as important, I'm not sure Seitz-Agin's owner, Joel Borwick, ever said no to anyone who asked for financial support for some local cause.

When you spend money with a local merchant, it's like having a rebate direct-deposited into your neighborhood.

FutureHeights believes so strongly in this simple dynamic that we put the message on the front page of every edition—right below the name of the paper: READ LOCAL, SHOP LOCAL. All this is a long introduction to this year's Best of the Heights awards, a program that recognizes our local merchants for the way they serve us.

This year, based on suggestions

from residents and previous nominees, the business categories have been revised and the nomination form streamlined to make the process easier and more interesting.

Please take time to fill out the form on page 28. If you prefer, you can find it online at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org).

By participating in this celebration of local business, you help to honor the merchants who serve you best, and remind them why they chose the Heights as the place to do business.

To express your opinion privately, e-mail Bob Rosenbaum at [bob@tberosenbaums.net](mailto:bob@tberosenbaums.net). To express your opinion as a letter to the editor, register at the Observer Member Center (<http://heightsobserver.org/members>) and click on "Submit New Story" to contribute your letter.

Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the Observer's editorial advisory committee and FutureHeights board member, writes this column to provide transparency and understanding about the newspaper.

**Have you read our blog?**

Excerpts from recent posts at [blogs.heightsobserver.org](http://blogs.heightsobserver.org)

**The Real Meaning of the Closing of Seitz-Agin Hardware**

The last time I talked to Joel about the store's health was shortly after I learned that the weekly deliveries had been curtailed. He told me that he felt he had survived the impact of Home Depot. But what he wasn't sure he could survive is a change he observed in his customers. They just weren't making repairs anymore the way my father did and the way I do. They had stopped calling for referrals to plumbers and plasterers and furnace guys—old-home experts who bought their supplies from Seitz-Agin.

Maybe Joel has misread it. Perhaps people are finding their experts through Angie's List on the internet. Or using Home Depot's growing installation and repair business. Maybe the big box really has done in Seitz-Agin.

Or maybe people really have changed.  
—Bob Rosenbaum

**Books: An Excerpt from Les Roberts' The Cleveland Creep**

"It's kind of you to see me on such short notice, Mr. Jacovich," she said. She'd phoned me the day before and had mispronounced my last name. If it gives you trouble, just sound it out properly with the J sounding like a Y—Yock-o-ritch. It's hard to say, I think, which

is why I christened my private investigation business Milan Securities after my first name. Put the American slant on it—My-lan—and don't say it the way you'd pronounce the name of an Eastern European, or the Italian city noted for its fashion shows and its opera house. I'd gently corrected her on the phone, and now Savannah said my name carefully, as if she'd been practicing.

Her son, twenty-eight-year-old Earl Dacey, was missing. He had left the house six days earlier and hadn't been heard from since. Now his mother wanted to know what had become of him. "He never stayed out all night in his life," she moaned. "If he's ever half an hour late getting home, he always calls me. Always. He's a good boy."  
—Frank Lewis

**Random Access Oakwood Questions**

Here's a weird below-the-radar fact: The tax revenue going to the schools from this project goes not to the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District, as many South Euclid residents would believe, but to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District, even though two-thirds of the development's footprint is in South Euclid. The developer's own marketing materials, a brochure sent to South Euclid residents, says "\$1.1 million to the local schools," but they don't say whose

local schools. Are South Euclid residents aware of this?  
—Sarah Wean

**FirstEnergy: Not as Smart as They Want You to Think**

So it seems that FirstEnergy's business philosophy (in my neighborhood anyway) can be summarized like this: Charge people as much as possible to consume as much electricity as they possibly can while providing the most inefficient and unsatisfactory service imaginable.

Clowns? Or an example of brilliant management? Let's just agree that they have some really big shoes to fill.  
—Bob Rosenbaum

**School Days**

The boy who shoved her was still giggling and headed back for a second go-round. The young lady didn't look so happy. I pulled my vehicle to the far side of the street and headed over to the group. They were just playing around but I would've hated to see someone hurt as a result of silly kid stuff. So I asked the group to control their behavior and tone down the play. Several of the young men apologized and said they understood. They returned to their walk but not before someone in the crowd yelled, "Get your fat behind in your truck and go home."  
—Andrea Davis

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## Farewell to Seitz-Agin

*This letter to Joel Borwick, longtime owner of Seitz-Agin Hardware, was also provided to the Observer for publication.*

Dear Joel:

Just a brief note to express thanks and admiration for all you have done for us in Cleveland Heights these many years. The guys you put together were a unique group, wise in the difficulties of wonderful old houses, always responsive, forthright, and well, just plain trustworthy! It was a marvelous combination that you put together with such wonderful men. You all will be greatly missed—there is going to be an absence of a “sense of security” for us who have used your services these many years. If you did not have what we needed, you could get it for us, tell us alternatives, or tell us where we could get what we needed.

We just wanted you to know—and we believe we are speaking for many—that your operation of Seitz-Agin Hardware was a true blessing. We wish you well and all your workers well and all good things forever!

Sam and Sue Nigro  
Cleveland Heights

## What will University Heights look like in 50 years?

For me the issues of McDonalds on Warrensville and Temple B'nai Torah on South Green are about three things: Just what is

University Heights going to look like in 50 years? What do the residents affected by these projects think, and why can't the city make the developer address their concerns as individuals?

No one can answer the first question because no one has thought about it in a meaningful way. The answer to the second question is all too apparent.

I really wonder how allowing a McDonalds on Warrensville will improve University Heights property values. Other than a shallow gain to our tax base, I can't really see this as a good decision. Apparently neither does city council. And yet they approved the project anyway given the “narrowness” of the action they were requested to take. The explanations of city council are neither satisfying nor defensible. If the vice mayor thinks it is a poor use of the property, then vote no. The justification need go no further than the 10 neighbors who object to the project. What is their remediation? What is their recourse? Changing the traffic patterns does not address the smell, noise and commotion of a restaurant open 18 hours a day.

If University Heights council thinks it needs a McDonald's, put it somewhere in the University Square Complex. If they are restricted by the actions of the owner of the property, buy it from him and land bank it. It would be worth the debt incurred. Then build an office building or something else.

I had the chance to address a group of University Heights seniors a week or two ago about regional sustainability and collaboration. One of the participants mentioned that University Heights is too

small to have a economic development staff person and had to take the opportunities with which it is presented. If this is the dynamic driving our decisions, then just what is University Heights going to look like in 50 years? I will tell you this: My house will be 125 years old, and I won't be upgrading it, because I won't be able to get my money back out of it. Thank you very much city council and Temple B'nai Torah.

There has to be a formal plan for the city. There is not. There has to be an attitude by city council to respect the wishes of existing residents and to protect the value of individual property. If these projects are going to continue because “that is what comes down the pike,” then residents must be offered remuneration by the developers as part of the cost of doing their projects.

Stuart Mendel  
University Heights

## Clean-up volunteers find unusual items, and have fun

A good, mud-splattered time was had by the 50 volunteers who turned out for the Cuyahoga County Board of Health-backed Forest Hill Park-Dugway Brook Clean-Up Day on May 14, coordinated by the cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights.

Much of the focus of the cleanup was in the valley where the two branches of Dugway Brook join together and the park borders of Cleveland Heights and

East Cleveland abut.

A Toro minitractor and two ATVs helped haul out about 50 bags of trash. Participants also collected an oxygen canister, a plastic chair, several plastic storage cubes, plastic tubing, a camp stove, about 20 tires and a transmission.

Volunteers also discovered a structure resembling a rounded teepee. It was intricately built of tree branches, covered with a layer of leaves and plastic. The structure was well hidden behind a hillock a few hundred feet from the Dugway culvert, and did not appear to have been lived in recently. After the cleanup, only a pile of sticks remained.

In the lower valley, parking lot volunteers clambered up and down the surrounding slopes and collected 20 bags of trash, including a vehicle bumper and a plastic cooler.

In the parking lot off Forest Hills Boulevard, volunteers found hundreds of beer bottles behind the mound of leaf humus. One volunteer reported that in years past she has seen after-the-game baseball players with their car trunks open having social hour.

While working on a clean-up event, one wonders about the human propensity to trash our environment.

The park is always in need of volunteer labor, and there will be other clean-up opportunities. If you have a group interested in doing community service work in the park, contact Dick Secor at 216-407-1887 or e-mail Elsa Johnson at vicnela@earthlink.net.

Elsa Johnson  
Cleveland Heights

## Build the Future of the Heights

How do you build the future of a community? It can be as simple as turning off the TV, leaving the house and getting to know your neighbors.

It can also mean volunteering at your local neighborhood school or library, attending a community forum or writing a letter to the editor of the local newspaper.

Help us Build the Future of the Heights. FutureHeights is an organization made up of people like you, Heights residents, who want to promote civic engagement through education, advocacy and information on issues that concern them.

Now is the best time to become a member of FutureHeights. Won't you join us?

FutureHeights is committed to engaging citizens to build a healthy and

sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights neighborhoods. How do we do this?

- **Promoting Civic Engagement**  
We hold public forums and host speakers.
- **Publishing the Heights Observer**  
The *Heights Observer* enables the community to tell its own story. Each month, volunteers help write and edit stories, and anyone can participate.
- **Supporting our Local Economy**  
FutureHeights brought American Independent Business Alliance co-founder, Jeff Milchen, to the Heights in 2010 to discuss the importance of independent businesses to the local economy, and we have helped form a Heights Independent Business Alliance.
- **Creating a Vibrant and Sustainable Future for the Heights**

FutureHeights is leading the Sustainable Heights Network initiative, which will catapult the Heights to become a local leader in sustainability.

- **Building Community Partnerships**  
FutureHeights partners with many community organizations on projects that build upon the assets of our community.

Learn more about how FutureHeights Builds the Future of the Heights at our annual meeting, Tuesday, June 21 at 7 p.m., at the Cedar Lee Theatre. We will host a screening of “The New Metropolis,” by Andrea Torrice, a two-part documentary about the challenges facing America's First Suburbs, and a community discussion. RSVP at <http://futureheightsannualmeeting.eventbrite.com>. Learn more at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org) or by calling 216-320-1423.


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Heights engages citizens. Engaged citizens build strong communities. Help us build the future of the Heights!

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You can also donate online at [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org) or [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). Or call 216 320-1423.

Thank you for your support!

  
Deanna Bremer Fisher  
Executive Director

  
Lloyd Bell  
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# University Heights City Council

## Meeting highlights



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

APRIL 18, 2011

Councilman Phillip Ertel was excused.

### Piggyback tax

The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) informed the city that a suggestion was made during discussion of the state biennial budget that the state should collect municipal income tax through a piggyback tax on the State of Ohio tax return.

### McDonald's traffic study

URS engineers have completed the McDonald's traffic study. Copies will be delivered to council and will also be available for public viewing. A work session to be held on April 26 will involve council, department directors, URS, city engineers and others.

### Vital statistics for the city

Previously, the finance department provided the vital statistics function for the city. In the interest of regionalism, this function has been transferred to the City of Cleveland, which will lessen the burden on the finance department. Councilman Bullock asked if there were any fees attached to providing this function, and the finance director stated that there were none. Funeral directors need to be notified of this change since they often stop at the finance department for certification on their way to a funeral.

### Business revolving loan program

Joe Jenkins of State Treasurer Mandel's office indicated that the state is offering a revolving loan program for businesses called Grow Ohio that is similar to the home repair loan program. It can be found on the treasurer's website.

### Rain garden

The rain garden at 2603 Ashurst Road is functioning. Plants sowed last fall have survived and the spice ash is starting to bloom. The garden has mitigated the flooding problem caused by the Doan and Dugway brooks. More plants will be sown this spring.

### "Make a Difference Day"

Governmental Affairs Chairman Sue Pardee reported that Oct. 22 will be "Make a Difference Day" when residents will have the opportunity to do service learning projects. The first meeting to discuss the project will be in late May.

LWV Observer: Lana Cowell.

MAY 2, 2011

Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg and council members Susan Pardee and Steven Sims were excused.

### Pool passes

Mayor Infeld reminded residents that they can now purchase pool passes online or buy them at city hall beginning one week before the pool opens.

### Cedar/Taylor merchants

Cedar/Taylor merchants are meeting with the goal of devising ways to distinctively brand the shopping district.

### Police retirees honored

Police Chief Gary Stehlik was honored on his retirement after 37 years of service to the city, the last 14 years of which were as police chief. Deputy Police Chief James Rohal was also honored for his 41 years of service to the city. Both were made honorary citizens of the city and each received personalized plaques.

### McDonald's development plans

The planning commission recommended that council approve the final proposed develop-

ment plans from McDonald's Corporation for 2216-2234 Warrensville Center Road. A special meeting was held on May 9 in council chambers. The proposal is on the city's website.

### Votes delayed due to lack of quorum

Several ordinances were either tabled or switched from "emergency" to "first reading" status due to the lack of a quorum. These include an amendment agreement with the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District relating to a cooperative agreement, a tax increment financing (TIF) agreement, and a memorandum of understanding related to the University Square parking garage; two changes in the city code dealing with fireworks; and a bid award (jointly with the cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights) to Karvo Paving Company for the 2011 street resurfacing program.

### Resurfacing program

The first reading of an ordinance to award the 2011 street resurfacing program to Karvo Paving Company jointly with Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights was presented. City Engineer Joseph Ciuni said four bids were received and Karvo came in under budget at \$97,600. Theirs was the lowest and best bid, and Karvo had previously successfully completed projects for the city.

### Emergency operations plan

The first reading of the Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Plan was presented.

### Yard waste

Rob Jamieson, public service director, informed city residents that all yard waste must now be bagged or tied into manageable bundles for pickup.

### Pool and slide

Mayor Infeld stated that due to all the wet weather, the pool would not be painted until fall, but she hopes to have the water slide painted before summer.

### Intersections narrowed

Councilman Steven Bullock reported that the intersection of Belvoir and Washington boulevards would be narrowed to enhance pedestrian safety and that the intersections at Miramar and Washington are in the funding queue for the same treatment, but would not take place this year.

LWV Observers: Carol Gibson and Pat Solomon.

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

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to [mbarnes9515@gmail.com](mailto:mbarnes9515@gmail.com) or join through Google groups using "lww-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

## Inches, pounds and comfort food



POINT OF VIEW

Anita Kazarian

It's June, early in the month. Snow jackets and flannel bed sheets are put away. Summer clothes take their happy posts at the front of the closet. It is time to face the music—bathing suits come out of hiding.

There's no denying it. Also coming out of hiding from beneath winter sweaters and sweatpants, is winter's comfort food, inexplicably transformed into inches and pounds.

You know what I'm talking about. Shop for a new bathing suit or start that diet, tomorrow? That dreaded experience, bathing suit shopping—at its best, humbling.

First, you must come to terms with the fact that bathing suit designers, unlike industrial designers, never heard of form serving function. Second, do you go for comfort or a bathing suit straight out of the Victorian era, promising to make you look 10 pounds thinner? Finally, you have to look at yourself trying them on.

My friend Joan plans bathing suit shopping trips better than generals plan their military campaigns. If you have to ask "why," you are either a man or swim textile free. The reality of bathing suit shopping means steeling yourself. You get to see, in the mirror, what time and comfort food accomplished over the last six months.

Unless you spend in the three-figure range, you shop in stores with dressing rooms that generally don't help your self-image. I'm talking about the industrial florescent lights—the same ones you find in car repair shops.

The cubicle is cramped, not always carpeted, and comes with a mirror inches from your nose. Some

are single-mirror cubicles, the kindest. Some have two, "the better to see you, my dear." Then there is the terrible three-way mirror cubicle that won't allow you to keep a single delusion.

Take in the cutest suits to try on. Then start squirming. Did they change how they size bathing suits over the winter? Sometimes the top is too small, or the bottom is, or there just isn't enough "suit." We repeat this, usually in more than one more shop, until one finally fits. Now you tell me, who wouldn't dread this?

Maybe another option—diet—makes better sense. How hard can it be to get rid of winter's inches and pounds? I buy *Mindless Eating* by Brian Wansink. The teaser on the cover says "Why we eat more than we think." Yup, that's me, eating more. The book is just over 200 pages. Wansink backs up studies with pages of reference notes, documenting why we mindlessly eat.

For me, the grapefruit diet, protein diet, cabbage soup diet, 3-day, 10-day or any-day diet don't work. Maybe five or ten pounds go away for a while, but return they with interest. So why not change the way I eat?

Studies say we make about 200 food-related decisions a day, 90 percent of which we aren't even aware of. And yes, my metabolism slows down when I cut back on food, to help me "survive famines and barren winters" in Cleveland.

The final straw comes with studies showing it isn't the fast-food syndrome that is the culprit. Our eating behavior may actually be formed in the first several years of our lives, before we even meet a happy meal. What to do? Hmmm.

*Anita Kazarian, a marketing professional, and founder of Noah's Landing, LLC, is a longtime resident of University Heights. Contact her at [anitakazarian@gmail.com](mailto:anitakazarian@gmail.com).*

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## Planting seeds to grow new uses for old Coventry School

Sarah Wean

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District hosted a meeting on May 5 to update the Coventry Village neighborhood about current leasing activity in the former Coventry School building, which has seen little use since the school's closing in 2007. Steve Shergalis, business manager for the school district, announced that 40,000 of the 60,000 square feet of available space will be occupied for at least the next 12 months by three well-established community service organizations.

The 105-year-old Cleveland Sight Center is renovating its Cleveland facility and, while located at the Coventry School, will open its preschool classroom to both blind and sighted children, and an adult employment phone training center. The center is also moving 109 employees and a retail store to the Rockefeller Pointe building on Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. The center has a few openings in the preschool for sighted children, and is seeking volunteers from the community. For information, call 216-791-8118.

The award-winning Ensemble Theatre, established in Cleveland Heights in 1979, has had its base of operations at the Coventry School since early this year, and expects to extend its lease for another year this August. Its programming includes producing plays, theater education in the schools, and a series of theatrical workshops beginning this spring. Volunteer opportunities are available. For information, call 216-321-2930.

The district is in discussions with Andrew Auten, owner of The Open Office, a shared collaborative workspace for small and home-based businesses. Auten is looking to set up shop in Coventry Village. Because it is not an education-based organization, it will need a variance from the City of Cleveland Heights to operate on the premises.

Sarah Wean is a Coventry Village resident.

## Cleveland Heights homeowners receive historic preservation award

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) and the American Institute of Architects-Cleveland honored Salim and Addie Hayek, the owners of 2900 Fairmount Boulevard, for the restoration of their Tudor Revival home at the annual Celebration of Preservation awards ceremony on May 10.

The Hayeks were recognized for their attention to detail and renovations that reflect the home's history and architecture. They are the third owners of the house. The mansion, designed by Phillip Lindsley Small and built in

1923 for William Stouder Thompson, was owned by the John Kennedy Lynch family from 1963 until 2009.

Addie Hayek owns Creative Innovations, a design firm, and managed the entire renovation, which included the remodeling of eight bathrooms and a large kitchen. CRS staff provided technical assistance.

Energy-efficient improvements include a geothermal heating and cooling system, new plumbing and electrical systems, and interior storm windows that preserve the architectural integrity of the facade.

The Hayeks renovated the home's

massive slate roof, replacing missing tiles and copper flashing and repairing copper downspouts, and restored the stucco exterior walls. The couple also restored the landscaping to the original 1930s plan, which was designed by landscape architect A. D. Taylor.

The home was featured in last year's Heritage Home Tour and will be the site of a CRS benefit this summer. For more information, visit [www.clevelandrestoration.org](http://www.clevelandrestoration.org).

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

FUTUREHEIGHTS continued from page 1

Bremer Fisher. "We believe all citizens can contribute energy, ideas and action to building a better community, and we work to provide the tools to make this a reality."

FutureHeights will also induct new members into the Innovator's Circle. "The circle honors the vision and efforts of people—active and dedicated citizens—who give their vision and energy to making our communities the best they can be," said Bremer Fisher.

Although the event is free, capacity is limited and FutureHeights requests that participants RSVP at <http://futureheightsannualmeeting.eventbrite.com>. To learn more visit [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org) or call 216-320-1423.

Richard Stewart is a member of the FutureHeights board of directors and owner of Digizoom Media, a video production company based in Cleveland Heights.

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Heights High sophomore Janine Walker will spend her junior year in Thailand as an AFS exchange student.

## Sending my daughter to study abroad

Carla Bailey

While most Heights High Students are anxiously awaiting the last day of school, my daughter Janine Walker will be packing her bags to begin 11th grade in Thailand. Three years ago, her older brother went to Japan for a summer exchange. She remembers how much he enjoyed it and how it broadened his view of the world.

Since then, she has had a goal of going abroad—and not just for a summer, but for the school year. As I contemplated the duration and cost of the program, I spoke with other Heights parents who had sent their kids abroad in high school. They all said it was a wonderful experience for their kids.

As we filled out forms and discussed the details, I was even more convinced that living and studying abroad will prepare Janine for life in many unique and educational ways. This isn't just a vacation to a foreign country, but a life-enriching experience that will help Janine learn about herself and the world.

Our exposure to exchange students began when our family started volunteering with American Field Service (AFS). We have hosted or been a liaison family for students from Saudi Arabia, Kenya, the Philippines, Malaysia, Germany and Mozambique. These young people have surrounded us with new cultures, religions, and foods from around the world, and they will be a part of our

family forever.

AFS is one of the largest and most reputable student exchange organizations in the world. For more than 60 years, AFS has provided safe and secure experiences abroad for thousands of students, so I am not worried about her safety—but I will miss Janine dearly.

Supporting my daughter in her goal of exploring the wonders of the world through intercultural exchange might be the greatest gift that I can give her.

*Carla Bailey is a parent volunteer at Heights High and with AFS, and Janine's mom.*

The cost of an AFS one-year study abroad program is about \$12,000. Janine has raised nearly \$8,000 and is working to raise the remaining \$4,000. A Family & Friends Benefit Fundraiser for Janine's Thailand Education will be held Saturday, June 18, 4:30-8:30 p.m., at the home of Vanessa Whiting, 2489 Coventry Road. For information, call 323-215-8774. Donations can also be made directly to Janine's AFS account through her blog at [Janine-in-Thailand.blogspot.com](http://Janine-in-Thailand.blogspot.com).

AFS is currently in its 2011-12 hosting season. For families interested in hosting a student, or sending a child abroad for a summer, semester, or year, contact Krista Hawthorne at 216-554-0520.

## CureSearch for Children's Cancer Walk is June 4

Stephen Crowley

My wife, Cynthia Van Lenten, and I are walking in memory of our daughter, Olivia, who lost her struggle with cancer when she was ten years old. Krissy and Mark Gallagher are walking with their four-year-old son, Austin, who is a cancer survivor. Stacey Brown-Walker and Chris Walker are walking with Caleb, age six, who is also a survivor.

These and other Cleveland Heights residents will be walking on June 4 because they have learned that, while cancer is a horrible disease at any age, childhood cancer is particularly underfunded. Consider the following:

- Besides accidents, cancer is the leading cause of death in children, more than all other childhood diseases combined. Yet drug companies invest next to nothing on research into children's cancer; they simply see no profit in it. As an article in the *Plain Dealer* recently reported, certain drugs needed to treat childhood leukemia are in short supply because drug companies don't find them profitable.
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) spends less than four percent of its budget on children's cancer, and its budget is being cut by ten percent.
- Half of all chemotherapies for children are more than 25 years old.
- The incidence of pediatric cancer has increased by about 30 percent over the last several years, and no one knows why.
- The good news is that cure rates have



Olivia Crowley, daughter of Steve Crowley and Cynthia Van Lenten.

increased dramatically, rising from 30 percent to 78 percent in the last three decades. Yet 74 percent of childhood cancer survivors suffer from chronic illnesses, and 40 percent from life-threatening illnesses.

The CureSearch Walk funds the research of the Children's Oncology Group (COG), which is the world's largest childhood cancer research collaborative, treating more than 90 percent of children with cancer at over 200 hospitals in the United States, including Rainbow Babies, the Cleveland Clinic, and Akron Children's Hospital. Instead of focusing on one hospital, COG sets up the clinical trials and the standards of care used throughout the country. This collaborative work is the main reason that cure rates have increased so significantly. Yet, COG continues to struggle for funding.

The CureSearch Walk will take place on Saturday June 4, from 9-11 a.m., at Wade Oval in University Circle. To register or contribute, go to [www.curesearchwalk.org/neobio](http://www.curesearchwalk.org/neobio). Contributions are welcome even after June 4.

*Stephen Crowley is a longtime Heights resident. He and his wife, are the cochairs of Cleveland's CureSearch for Children's Cancer Walk.*

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## Volunteer opportunities at the Heights Libraries

Sheryl Banks

Summer is a great time to get involved in your community, and Heights Libraries offer a variety of fun volunteer opportunities all summer long. "Volunteering is an incredibly rewarding experience," said Heather Howler, Heights Libraries volunteer coordinator. "It's also a good way to build your resume if you are unemployed, or to fulfill high school volunteer work hours."

### Noble's early literacy playroom

The Noble Neighborhood Library is looking for volunteers experienced in preschool development/literacy to interact with caregivers in carrying out literacy-based activities in the newly created literacy playroom.

### Lee Road summer lunch program

The Lee Road Library seeks volunteers to help serve free cold lunches from the Cleveland Foodbank to anyone under the age of 18. The summer lunch program starts on June 13, and runs Mondays through Fridays, from noon-1 p.m.

### Gardening volunteers

The library needs volunteers to help weed, plant and maintain the flower beds at each building this spring and summer.

If you are interested in volunteering at the library, contact Heather Howler at 216-932-3600, ext. 287, or e-mail [hhowler@heightslibrary.org](mailto:hhowler@heightslibrary.org).

*Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.*

FACILITIES continued from page 1

more than \$226 million.

According to the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission (OSFC), which examined the CU-UH district's facilities, it is feasible to reduce the 1,300,000 square feet of facilities the district has to about 800,000 square feet. The OSFC has suggested that the district implement structural changes gradually, over the next five to seven years, to minimize learning disruptions.

The subcommittee emphasized that its findings and those of the OSFC were recommendations only, and that it would take significantly more input from teachers, students, professionals and residents to reach a final conclusion on a future course of action for the district.

"We received a lot of great feedback that evening," said committee member Jim Posch. "I think this is more of a learning experience, we've learned a lot in these committees."

Dave Tabor of the finance subcommittee reported that little risk was found in the prospect of participating in the OSFC's Expedited Local Partnership Program. With this initiative, the state could fund up to 14 percent of renovations undertaken by the district. Unfortunately, CH-UH is currently number 524 out of 612 districts on the priority list to receive funding from the program.

James Seaman presented his opinions regarding the district's potential to be restructured as a 21st-Century Learning School. Citing a long list of 21st-century learning principles, Seaman drew parallels between CH-UH and other 21st-Century Learning Schools throughout the world, by using side-by-side examples that included images from schools in Florida, Australia and Japan.

The final 45 minutes of the meeting were devoted to questions and comments by the parents, residents and faculty. Committee leaders tried to gauge the attitudes on the issues of the 16 people who attended the meeting by using remote-controlled survey-takers. As one resident later pointed out, in a comment directed toward the committee, 16 people was hardly a legitimate sample population of the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Posch wasn't fazed by the low turnout Thursday night. "I think we, as a committee, did a good job of reporting," he said. "Unfortunately, what we found out isn't enough to satisfy the community at this point."

"There were a lot of people at the prior meeting at Monticello," he said. "I didn't really expect a lot of people [at the May 12 meeting]. Before we have definitive options, there's not a lot for the community to comment on."

Tabor was similarly optimistic about future community participation in the project. "While there weren't

great numbers at the meeting, the quality of questions was exceptional. I fully expect larger numbers at community meetings, if and when the school board moves to do something officially," Tabor stated in an e-mail.

"Cleveland Heights is a very smart and engaged community, particularly around issues related to schools."

Posch emphasized that it was important to the school district to hold the forum, regardless of the number of aspects of the project that were still unresolved. "Early on, the district made a commitment that they were going to open this to the public," Posch said.

Angee Shaker, director of communications and community engagement, is confident that the public will become increasingly involved in the project as time progresses. "The committee is in the middle of a long process, and we've publicized that process extensively. We have approximately 50 school facility committee members, who have rolled up their sleeves and given countless hours to studying, touring, discussing and brainstorming about our current and future facility needs," she stated in an e-mail. "This is hard and sometimes very tedious work that not everyone is willing, or has the time, to participate in. Regardless, we had a number of passionate residents attend, and we have documented their questions and concerns, which will help us as we move forward."

One person inquired about the fate of existing buildings, if the district were to move toward renovating or building new structures. "We are committed to preserving the original cores of buildings," said Stephen Shergalis, director of business services for the district. He explained that the committee wanted to recognize the architectural integrity that many of CH-UH's school buildings have, and said that they have also explored the possibility of repurposing sites for future use.

Posch recognizes the sensitivity surrounding the school issues the community is facing. "I think there was a lot of anxiety when the school district closed an elementary school," he said. "I'm really hopeful that the district is being extra cautious and the committee is, too."

"The next important step will be for the committee to reconvene on June 2, and digest the feedback. We have to develop our set of recommendations for a presentation to the school board. I'm sure the community input will play a role in our recommendations," Tabor stated.

The school facilities committee will present its findings to the CH-UH Board of Education on June 5. For more information, visit [www.chub.org](http://www.chub.org).

*Observer intern Dana Finley, editor-in-chief of Shaker Heights High School's newspaper, The Shakerite, will attend Boston University in the fall to study journalism.*

## Cleveland Heights resident attempts to shatter Guinness world record™ on June 17

Dana Finley

Cleveland Heights resident Keith Curry is attempting to set a Guinness World Record™ for the most people dressed up like video game characters in one place.

"The idea came up when my friend, Chris Myrick, and I were watching the MTV reality show Rob Dyrdek's "Fantasy Factory" and it was the episode where he broke like 20 world records. It sparked my curiosity, so I went to the Guinness World Records™ website and tried to find an easy record to beat," Curry said. "I found this one and I filled out the required form. After about six weeks, I had completely forgotten that I had even done it when I got an e-mail from Guinness with a record breakers pack."

The previous Guinness World Record™ for the most people dressed up like video game characters in one place is 376 people.

Curry quickly enlisted local businesses to help him in his quest to break the record. "The first thing I did was contact Steve Presser from Big Fun to see if he'd be interested in assisting us in

the endeavor," he said. "Presser agreed to help us out with promotions and marketing. I also contacted Robert Kopsis of PizzaBogo and he agreed to provide discount food to all who attend."

Participants should note that there are some regulations as to which video game characters can be impersonated. For example, Sonic the Hedgehog first appeared in a video game in 1991, before its television and comic book appearances. Therefore, Sonic qualifies for the attempt. Batman was first featured as a comic book character in 1939, prior to appearances as a video game character in 1986, so Batman does not qualify as a character that can be portrayed as part of the record.

Those interested in helping Curry's attempt to break the record should plan to attend the gathering scheduled for June 17 at the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park from 2 to 5 p.m.

*Observer intern Dana Finley, editor-in-chief of Shaker Heights High School's newspaper, The Shakerite, will attend Boston University in the fall to study journalism.*

COUNCIL continued from page 1

Davis, Mary A. Dunbar, Rob Fischer, Michael Gaynier, Robert Gross, Ceric D. T. Jackson, Sr., Edgar A. Mitchell, Ellen M. Roth, Jason Stein, Anthony M. Stevenson, Keba Sylla, Benny Tal, Darlene B. White, and Kevin A. Ziegler. Many of these individuals are already involved in community programs.

Kelley said that he and the coun-

cil hope to discuss the finalists in an upcoming work session and make an appointment in time for the June 6 or June 20 council meeting.

*Observer intern Dana Finley, editor-in-chief of Shaker Heights High School's newspaper, The Shakerite, will attend Boston University in the fall to study journalism.*

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## Fun times at Noble Road Presbyterian Church

Marcelo Atanasio

Noble Road Presbyterian Church continues its annual Strawberry Festival tradition on June 10, from 6-8 p.m.

The Rummage Extravaganza will be back July 9. The church is seeking craft vendors to enhance this event. A \$20 fee is requested.

After Labor Day, the church will restart its pancake breakfasts and Satur-

day night dances. In addition, there is a monthly community meal every fourth Sunday.

Mi casa es su casa! Come on down to NRPC, 2780 Noble Road, for fun times. Call 216-382-0660 or e-mail [nrpc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nrpc@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

*Marcelo Atanasio is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and an active member of Noble Road Presbyterian Church.*



## Bicycle parking in Cleveland Heights

Nick Matthew

Take out that bicycle, fill up the tires, and save money this summer by using one of Cleveland Heights's many bicycle parking racks. Bicycle parking is free, easy to use and located throughout Cleveland Heights. With the average American spending more than \$8,000 a year on gasoline, insurance, and other costs related to automobile use, bicycle parking is a great way to save money, and improve your fitness at the same time.

The Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition (CHBC) surveyed the community's bicycle parking racks, and here's what it found:

- Cleveland Heights has more than 50 bicycle parking racks.
- Lee Road was the most bicycle-friendly road, with 25 parking racks in just 1.4 miles of roadway. That's an average of a parking rack every 300 feet!
- Severance Shopping Center has a total of eight bike racks.
- Coventry Village has three bike racks: outside Coventry Village Library, outside Chipotle Mexican Grill, and between the parking garage and Panini's

- Bar and Grill.
- Cedar Fairmount shopping district also has three bike racks: in front of Dave's Market, outside Aladdin's Eatery, and behind Starbucks.
- Some bike racks are better than others. The best are those that allow users to secure both the frame and wheel of their bikes. The worst are "grill" racks, which can damage bicycle wheels and provide the least amount of security.

CHBC has volunteers working to improve Cleveland Heights's bicycle parking. Laura Marks, an advocate who successfully encouraged Cleveland State University to install the yellow racks on Euclid Avenue, is now collaborating with John Foreman, building manager for the CH-UH elementary schools. Ian Hoffman, CHBC treasurer, is working with Coventry Village to find ways to improve the shopping area's bicycle parking.

To see maps of available bicycle parking in Cleveland Heights, or to volunteer to make the city more bicycle friendly, visit [www.bikesintheheights.org](http://www.bikesintheheights.org).

*Nicholas Matthew is an officer and cofounder of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.*

DEMOLITION continued from page 1

memo to Downey, Wagner wrote: "The owner has allowed a supposed workman to stay in the house even though the water has been turned off. The repair of the property, combined with the back taxes that have accumulated, make the financial feasibility of the rehabilitation prohibitive."

The two-family house at 1724 Coventry is currently owned by XBY LLC of Austin, Texas. It requires major

engineering work and a new garage, with needed repairs estimated at more than \$100,000.

The single-family home at 3563 Northcliffe Road is owned by William Holmes, who is currently incarcerated, according to the city. Wagner's memo stated: "The house continues to deteriorate, and poses a blighting influence on the neighborhood. Repairs to the property far exceed the value."

As a result of the council's action, the city was to issue an order of nuisance abatement to each property owner on May 23, giving the owner 30 days to make itemized repairs. If the owners fail to comply, the city will begin the process to demolish the structures.

"The city pays for the demolition and then we file a tax lien on the property to recoup the funds," Wagner said. He added that Cleveland Heights was one of the first cities in the country to practice this kind of cost recovery.

Observer intern *Dana Finley, editor-in-chief of Shaker Heights High School's newspaper, The Shakerite, will attend Boston University in the fall to study journalism.*



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# Cleveland Heights City Council



## Meeting highlights

APRIL 20, 2011  
Vice Mayor Phyllis L. Evans was excused.

**Bluestone Mayfield development changes**  
Council authorized modifications to the agreement with GFO LLC for redevelopment of the property at 3505 Mayfield Road (the former Jewish Community Center property). One change would enable the city to elect the "recapture option" for reimbursement of home loan funds for some of the units. The other change allows the replacement of a 23-unit loft building with 16 three-story townhouses, as approved by the city's planning commission and architectural board of review.

**HUD homeless prevention program**  
Council amended a previous resolution that authorized an agreement with Cuyahoga County for the expenditure of funds received by the city from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. That agreement provided \$699,894 for homeless prevention services to qualified Cleveland Heights residents. Due to less-than-expected demand, the city has spent only \$136,000, benefiting 67 households, or about 200 persons. The amended agreement ensures that in administering the remaining program funds, the county will give priority to Cleveland Heights residents, but may also provide homeless prevention services to residents in other area communities. A minimum of 20 percent of the remaining funds must be used for Cleveland Heights residents.

**Cleveland Sight Center at Coventry School**  
Under the city's Revolving Loan Fund program, council authorized a loan agreement with the Cleveland Sight Center to help establish an education and training center at the former Coventry Elementary School site. The \$15,000 loan, with zero percent interest, will come from block grant funds, not the city's general fund.

**Duplex zoning**  
Council amended an ordinance to allow the issuance of building permits for the reconstruction/repair of some of the city's two-family homes if they are destroyed or damaged in excess of 60 percent of their market value. The measure applies to a small number of two-family homes that, early in the zoning of the city, were allowed to be constructed in single-family zones. Potential purchasers of these properties have difficulty obtaining financing because lenders see too much risk. Council Member Mark Tumeo, who voted no, objected to overriding the building code so that banks can be assured that double-family homes can be rebuilt in areas not zoned for that purpose.

LWV observers: *Katherine Solender and Patricia Solomon.*

MAY 2, 2011  
All council members were present.

**New signatories for specific accounts**  
As needed by the recent hiring of Tom Raguz as assistant finance director, council authorized designated city employees to be signatories on specified city accounts at various financial institutions.

**Pedestrian signal improvements**  
Council authorized a contract with CT Consultants Inc. for professional services for the Mayfield/Lee Pedestrian Signalization Improvement Project. Necessitated by the temporary move of the Cleveland Sight Center's offices to the Rockefeller Pointe Building (while its East 101 Street facility is undergoing renovation), the improvements will include an audible pedestrian accessible signal and curb ramp upgrades. The fees for these services are not to exceed \$8,500.

**City commended for lawn chemicals restrictions on municipal properties**  
At the Cleveland Botanical Garden on April 29, Cleveland Heights received a commendation for being the first city in the United States to ban the use of pesticides and herbicides on municipal properties as well as around libraries, public schools, and day care centers. Cleveland Heights resident Laurel Hopwood played a catalytic role in this ban, which passed in 1995. Cleveland Heights is still the only city in Cuyahoga County that has such restrictions.

**Sale of city-owned properties**  
Council approved the sale of three rehabbed properties owned by the city. The first two were rehabilitated with funds from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The approval also includes down-payment assistance funding for the purchasers of the properties. The properties and sale prices are:

- 1062 Allston Road, \$130,000, with down-payment assistance of \$11,500.
- 3994 Delmore Road, sale price \$84,900, with down-payment assistance of \$5,000.

The NSP helps cities address the rehabilitation of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties. These two sales bring the Cleveland Heights total of properties sold under this program to five. The money received goes back into the NSP to address other problem properties in the community.

The third property, 3132-3134 East Derbyshire Road, \$129,900, was rehabbed under a similar program, the East Derbyshire Neighborhood Improvement Program, which is funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

**County emergency operations plan**  
Council adopted the amended Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which establishes official policies, strategies, and planning assumptions for disaster preparedness, response, recover, and mitigation. This plan replaces the Cuyahoga Emergency Incident Management System that was adopted by Cleveland Heights in 1988. The new plan is countywide in scope and includes coordination with all 59 municipalities. Highlights of the plan will be published in the June issue of Focus.

LWV observers: *Katherine Solender and Kirsten Karakul.*

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).  
See disclaimer on page 4.

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## Family Connections announces the 2011 Carolyn Grossman Award winner

Ellen Barrett

Annie Lopez, executive director of the Redstone Schoolhouse, was presented with the 2011 Carolyn Grossman Award by Family Connections of Northeast Ohio (formerly Heights Parent Center) at the organization's Fiesta benefit on May 7 at Hiram House Camp.

Lopez holds a doctorate in developmental and educational psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University. Lopez has been actively involved in both research and applied settings, and her work has focused on breaking the cycle of poverty through education. She ties this focus in part to her personal experiences growing up in the South Bronx neighborhood of New York City, after emigrating from Cuba as a child. When she received the Carolyn Grossman Award, Lopez acknowledged that her strong family and their focus on education were the foundations on which she has built her career and life's work.

"My family spoke only Spanish when we arrived from Cuba," she said. "Isolated and alone, my parents relied on the resources around them to make sure we were able to access a good education. All families deserve this access."

Lopez developed and operated several successful family literacy programs, including the Waltersville Family Resource Center in Bridgeport, Conn. and Even Start Family Literacy program in Cleveland Heights.

She delivers parenting and teacher training sessions, and has provided training to more than 300 early childhood teachers through the Greater Cleveland Literacy Cooperative. She also provides program development consultation to early childhood and family literacy providers throughout Northeast Ohio.

Lopez founded, and continues to supervise, the Redstone Schoolhouse in Ashtabula County. This child development center provides needed services in a low-income rural area, including specialized autism services. In addition to offering high-quality educational services to children up to 12 years of age, Lopez provides a parenting lending library and monthly family literacy events.

The Carolyn Grossman Award honors individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to strengthening families and preparing young children for success in school and in life. Recognizing that parents often need support in making the most of their children's critical early years, Carolyn Grossman cofounded Heights Parent Center in 1982. Now known as Family Connections, the organization provides education, resources and support for families with children, from birth through elementary school. Grossman's children established this award in her honor in April 2003.

*Ellen Barrett is a family support specialist and parent educator at Family Connections and a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights.*

## Fieldman leads MedWish International's fundraising efforts, Band-Aid Bash

Mary Patton

Orlando native Matthew Fieldman is planting roots in Northeast Ohio—specifically in University Heights. With an undergraduate degree from University of Florida and an MBA from George Washington University, Fieldman began his fundraising career with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. While looking to expand his work, a mentor suggested that he pursue an opportunity with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. He fell in love with the city.

Following several years at the Federation and various consulting projects, Fieldman discovered MedWish International and landed a position as director of development for the Cleveland-based nonprofit organization.

MedWish recovers surplus medical supplies designated for disposal by 38 hospitals throughout Northeast Ohio and redistributes them to developing nations where they can save lives and promote better health.

"In 2010, MedWish grew 47 percent and served 54 countries around the world," Fieldman said. "With ten years experience in fundraising, I've been lucky to find a growing organization that offers an international flavor and has so much potential. With a sustainability-focused mission, we're ready to take MedWish to the next level."

One of Fieldman's main responsibilities is to oversee Band-Aid Bash, the organization's annual fundraising

event, which was held on Saturday, May 21. MedWish transformed its industrial warehouse at 17325 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland into a trendy, New York City-style nightclub. Guests were surrounded by 40,000 square feet of medical surplus waiting to be shipped overseas. Expected to raise more than \$200,000 to support its mission of "saving lives and saving the environment," the event featured a live video conference with an international hospital. Spice of Life, a catering company dedicated to using only local, sustainable foods, provided international foods. WKYC's Mark Nolan served as the guest emcee.

Fieldman and his wife Alyson, have settled in University Heights. They have two daughters—Eliana, a toddler, and Liona, an infant. "When we were looking to buy a home, we wanted a place where we could walk to restaurants and coffee shops, and we ended up at Fairmount Circle," said Fieldman. "We enjoy taking our daughters for walks around JCU, eating dinner at Pizzazz, and playing at the local parks. University Heights offers a great quality of life."

Fieldman welcomes financial support for MedWish, and also seeks individuals and groups to help sort medical supplies at the MedWish warehouse during the week and on most Saturdays. For more information on MedWish, visit [www.medwish.org](http://www.medwish.org).

*Mary Patton is a University Heights resident and public relations consultant. MedWish is a client.*



Home Repair Resource Center is a nonprofit organization located at 2520 Noble Road.

## After 40 years, HRRC planning for sustainability

Kathryn Lad

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Home Repair Resource Center. From its inception, its mission has been to maintain and strengthen the houses of Cleveland Heights, to support the community's rich diversity.

HRRC began when concerned members of Forest Hill Church gathered to assess the fair housing needs of Cleveland Heights, and discuss whether a church committed to open housing and racial harmony could do anything to meet those needs. In a time of anger and fright—especially fear of deteriorating neighborhoods and declining housing values—the group wondered, whether, if the issue were defined as maintaining quality housing, and not racial integration, people of all persuasions and attitudes might become involved. These efforts led to the birth of HRRC (originally FHC Housing Corporation) in September 1971.

Over the years, HRRC expanded its programs, moved several times and changed its name to more accurately reflect its mission. The organization built a broad base of support and became the primary advocate for housing in Cleveland Heights. Many financial institutions, businesses and organizations, as well as hundreds of individuals partnered with HRRC to meet shared goals.

Grants from the Cleveland Foundation helped establish the Challenge Fund, and the George Gund Foundation provided funding for the Project Repair program and its tool loan. Community Development Block Grant funding through the City of Cleveland Heights enabled HRRC to offer financial assistance to help homeowners repair their homes. Through these programs, more than \$14 million has been invested in Cleveland Heights houses.

HRRC has seen the difference

its assistance has made. Its financial programs, counseling, and educational opportunities emphasize self-help and enable families to maintain not only the physical structure of their homes, but also a positive living environment. Clients grow in self-esteem as they learn to manage the process of contracting for home repairs, as they pay back their loans, and as they gain experience working with tools and repair techniques. In the larger community, HRRC's efforts have instilled pride in neighborhoods and afforded volunteers and donors an opportunity to make a difference at the local level.

In recent months, HRRC's board and staff have been planning the organization's course for the future. With a strategic planning grant from the Cleveland Foundation, HRRC analyzed its services and the resources it takes to provide them. With fewer public funds available to support programs in the future, HRRC has developed a comprehensive fund development strategy to ensure the future of the organization. The organization has also begun to envision new ways of carrying out its mission, and is exploring partnerships with other organizations that could expand its impact on the community.

Everyone at HRRC is excited about these possibilities. HRRC invites community residents to mark its 40th anniversary at the annual meeting on Wednesday, June 8, at 7 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. The keynote speaker will be Chuck Miller of Doty & Miller Architects, who will address "Housing Issues for the 21st Century: Looking Forward." Celebrate HRRC's role in "keeping Cleveland Heights in good repair."

*Kathryn Lad is the executive director of Home Repair Resource Center.*

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## Spring into action with home repairs

Allison Urbaneck

Spring is my favorite time of year. The grass is green, flowers and trees are blooming, and Mother Nature is coming out of hibernation. It is fantastic—until you do that first real walk around the house. Those rose-colored glasses quickly get put back into their case, and reality sets in. You begin to notice the wear and tear the harsh winter weather has had on your home.

This is when the pen and paper come out, and I begin to prepare my to-do lists. It is very easy to become overwhelmed, but there is help out there for you.

Here are some important tips:

- Analyze your repair needs and make a list focusing on the most important repairs first.
- Research your repairs. Find out what needs to be done, how it should be done, and what can go wrong.
- Get several bids. Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) recommends two to three bids per repair. If the prices are comparable, you are in the

right ballpark.

- For major repairs, check out financing options through local banks and agencies, such as HRRC and Cleveland Restoration Society, to help make the repair more affordable.
- For do-it-yourself jobs that require tools that you may not own, consider renting instead of buying. There are a few places that rent tools. See if you qualify for HRRC's tool loan program.

HRRC offers a resource library with contractor evaluations and handouts that will help make contracting for a repair easier. Instructional DVDs, videos and workshops are available for DIYers who want a refresher on specific repairs.

Stop by HRRC to help take some of the stress off of your "honey-do" list. Then get ready to put your rose-colored glasses back on, grab a glass of lemonade and enjoy the summer.

*Allison Urbaneck is the financial programs coordinator at Home Repair Resource Center and enjoys working one-on-one with residents to solve their home repair problems.*



Last year's manager, Tracie Zamiska, and her mother, Karen, tending tables in September 2010.

## Cleveland Heights City Fresh harvests local fruits, veggies, and community

Toni Thayer

The all-volunteer crew of the Coventry Fresh Stop is gearing up to begin distributing farm fresh fruits and vegetables on the lawn next to the Coventry Village Library on June 14. Part of the City Fresh Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network that delivers food from local farms to sites across Cuyahoga, Lorain and Summit counties, the Coventry Fresh Stop will operate on Tuesday evenings from June 14 until Oct. 25, with food demonstrations on the third Tuesday of the month. City Fresh is a project of the nonprofit New Agrarian Center, based in Oberlin, Ohio.

This will be Fresh Stop's fourth year at the Coventry library location. In past summers, the pop-up market set up tables near the large mulberry tree each week and piled them high with fruits and vegetables less than 24 hours out of the ground. A little before 5 p.m., a line would start to form—college students and retirees from nearby apartments, joggers with dogs, families with kids—and soon customers would move along the tables collecting lettuce, squash, onions, peaches, herbs, and more, chatting about recipes with volunteers.

It is a summertime ritual for many. "I really got drawn into it because of my kids," said Anna Kiss Mauser-Martinez, manager of this year's Coventry Fresh Stop. "We would come to pick up our share and my kids would play with other kids, climb the tree, while I talked to people about bok choy. Pretty soon I started volunteering, and after a year or two, I became the assistant manager. I look forward to it when the snow's on the ground."

Volunteer Bethany Dare was also a customer before becoming involved with the Fresh Stop. "We'd been getting our vegetables almost exclusively at the farmers' market or directly from some Amish near Middlefield for at least a solid year when we started actively looking into CSAs with a pick-up near Cleveland Heights," she said. "We got a sign-up sheet from a coworker at the beginning of last summer and sent in our check within a couple days, without a second thought, because we could try a week at a time and could still purchase shares after the start of the season. Within a week or two I was helping with distribution. We were hooked."

Unlike other CSAs, City Fresh sells shares week by week. Members can buy only for the weeks they need produce. Shares must be ordered and paid for at least one week in advance, but they can be stopped and started, or even doubled for company, at any point in the 20-week growing season. They are available in both family (three or four people) and single (one or two people) sizes.

City Fresh is also unique in its commitment to providing affordable fresh food to low-income members. Those who qualify can purchase shares at a reduced price. City Fresh accepts cash, checks and Ohio Directions cards.

The produce is grown on 30 small family farms—including four urban farms—within 70 miles of Cleveland. Unfortunately, the 2011 season is starting slowly because of unusually high rainfall this spring. Originally slated to begin June 7, the first distribution day had to be pushed back because farmers knew they wouldn't have enough produce ready to pick.

Over the course of the summer, shares get gradually bigger with the harvest. The produce contains familiar favorites, but farmers also include some exotic vegetables. Learning how to prepare Japanese eggplant and kohlrabi is part of what customers enjoy.

"It makes dinner planning so much easier," said volunteer Yevgenia Probst. "Whatever we get is what we eat."

For order forms and more information on the Coventry Fresh Stop, visit its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/City-Fresh-Cleveland-Heights/100406746378](http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-Fresh-Cleveland-Heights/100406746378) or visit [www.cityfresh.org](http://www.cityfresh.org).

*Toni Thayer is a 16-year Cleveland Heights resident, City Fresh volunteer and avid veggie adventurer.*

## Local autism agency plans joint conference with OAR

Deena Nyer Mendlowitz

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR), a highly respected national agency focused on applied research, will hold its annual conference on June 21 in partnership with Cleveland's Milestones Annual Autism/Asperger's Conference: "Life-Long Strategies for Success."

Through this new partnership, OAR will provide a special conference track to focus on cutting-edge research and to implement these research findings into daily life. These tracks will feature speakers from OAR's Scientific Council and its growing list of funded researchers. The conference will offer 30 workshops and 13 different tailored tracks, from new diagnosis to the transition to adulthood.

The conference is an opportunity for parents, professionals and adults with autism to learn about local resources and the best practices for school, home, community and work.

For more information about OAR, visit [www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org). For more information on Milestones and its annual



Cofounders of Milestones Ilana Hoffer Skoff and Mia Buchwald Gelles.

conference, visit [www.milestones.org](http://www.milestones.org).

*This story was excerpted from its online version because of space constraint. To view the full story, visit [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).*

*Deena Mendlowitz is the communications associate at Milestones Autism Organization.*

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## Grants boost small businesses

Kelli Fontenot

Small business owners who are interested in saving money, improving conditions for their clients, and reducing environmental impact can apply to receive one of 85 grants for energy assessments as part of the Ohio Small Business and Energy Efficiency Grant program from Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE). The deadline for applications is June 15.

According to Tim Kovach, COSE's energy product coordinator, the \$500 grants will be given to 85 businesses in Ohio, primarily in Cuyahoga and Lake counties; the Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo metro areas; and counties in Southeast Ohio.

The program, which was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development, aims to educate businesses with fewer than 100 employees about energy efficiency, Kovach said.

Through the program, business owners complete assessments that reveal how energy costs add up, what upgrades are possible, how much they cost, and what the long-term benefits are. Thirty-five businesses that qualify for the first grant can get an additional \$350 scholarship for certification through the Green Plus program from the Institute for Sustainable Development.

"Green Plus helps businesses to review their operations to determine how they can become more effective and efficient, and how sustainability can be incorporated into that plan," Kovach explained. "I like to view it as a comprehensive business improvement program. It is more than just an effort to green one's business; it looks at the business's performance, how it relates to its employees and the community, and what impact it leaves on the environment."

Big Fun Toy Store in Coventry Village is among the businesses that are participating in the program. Energy efficiency might not be one of the first things to spring to shoppers' minds amid the extraordinary array of memorabilia, hard-to-find candy, retro magnets and quirky gifts sold in the city's iconic toy store. But establishing a positive atmosphere for customers and reducing environmental impact are top priorities for Steve Presser, the store's owner.

Presser submitted detailed monthly statements about the store's energy usage to receive a customized energy audit provided through the COSE grant. Green Street Solutions came to the store to check pipes and potential leaks in the building, and identify other common building issues that might affect his costs.

"I'm frugal and I don't want to spend a ton of money, but I want to find out what I can do to help the environment," he said.

In Presser's case, some of the needed changes were obvious, such as upgrading from incandescent lighting, but others were less evident. "I don't have the ability to take an infrared camera and walk around and find out where I have leakage," he said, explaining that the auditors did just that, and found a place in the building where air was leaking out and significantly increasing his monthly costs.

Energy efficiency is becoming increasingly important for small companies, Kovach said, noting that not only are energy prices increasing, but research has shown that energy-efficient companies outperform their competitors by 10 to 15 percent. In addition, energy-efficient lighting can make employees more productive and engaged, according to recent data Kovach cited. Furthermore, businesses with fewer than 50 employees pay 35 percent more than those with 100 or more employees, according to the Small Business Administration.

"Investing in energy efficiency is a great way to reduce costs, as well as free up dollars to spend on other areas that will help a business grow and increase the bottom line," Kovach said, adding that \$3,000 grants will go to 25 companies to help them carry out recommendations from the initial assessment, he said.

Presser qualifies for the \$3,000 grant through the Department of Development and said he plans to use it to pay for a more efficient air conditioning system, replacing the current unit at the Coventry Road location.

"It's such a great opportunity," he said. "You could be losing \$100 a month in energy costs, and for a small business owner, those dollars add up. With this grant, I can create a better environment for my customers, I'm saving money and I'm energy efficient."

As president of Coventry Village Merchants, Presser's goals go beyond bringing his own store's utilities up to date. Businesses in the area are working together to turn Coventry Village into a green neighborhood, he said.

Through a partnership with the Sustainability Plan Clinic at Baldwin-Wallace College, the Coventry Special Improvement District is promoting a neighborhood approach to sustainability, considering adding recycling in the restaurants and other initiatives to help Coventry become one of the leading districts in the city.

The City of Cleveland Heights offers corrugated cardboard and paper product recycling bins. In addition, Presser's business uses spring water and recycles regularly. In fact, his wife, Debbie Apple Presser, is an artist who creates sculptures using recycled materials. Some of these are displayed in the store's front window.

At another Coventry fixture, Tommy's restaurant, cars can pull up behind the restaurant to fill their tanks with biodiesel, demonstrating one of the many steps the city has taken to become greener.

"We want to create a model that can be used in other neighborhoods—an example of several businesses implementing [green practices] in a way that's economic and efficient," Presser said, adding that this makes the area attractive both to shoppers and to potential residents, increasing the neighborhood's value.

Kovach agrees that Cleveland Heights is already a leader in this area. By mid-May, four businesses had signed up to receive a grant, and several more expressed interest. As part of the effort to concentrate on specific neighborhoods and encourage businesses to

*continued on page 12*

## Sustainable Heights Network hosts 'Public Leadership in Sustainability' forum

Dana Finley

At the May 10 networking forum held by Sustainable Heights Network at Rockefeller's restaurant on Mayfield Road, the focus was on government. A group of public officials indicated that sustainability practices exist where you may not expect them.

"We believe that the greenest buildings are existing buildings," said Nancy Levin, director of the CH-UH Public Library. By "recycling" the former YMCA building into a library branch, the library has provided space for additional activities and outside organizations—including Playworks and the Dobama Theater.

Levin pointed out that the concept of a public library is itself an example of environmentally-friendly sustainability: Through the sharing of media items and continuous recycling, it reduces the discarding of books, magazines and DVDs.

Levin said administrators are exploring alternative energy sources to power the library, including solar, wind, and geothermal power, but emphasized that the CU-UH library needs continued citizen support to make these changes.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward Kelley highlighted the city's continued recycling efforts to reduce use of landfills. "Over 50 percent of the trash that would be headed to a landfill otherwise is recycled," Kelley said. He also mentioned planned construction of a pair of solar-powered bus stations to be built on Mayfield and Coventry roads. According to Susanna Niermann O'Neil, CH's director of community services, projects like these are vital to the future of city neighborhoods. "We're very progressive," she explained. "Sustainability projects are absolutely what we're about."

For example, the city has proactively sought out grants to undertake sustainability projects. These include \$200,000 from the Department of Energy to retrofit lighting at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, and \$238,000 from the Ohio EPA to improve the quality of rainwater runoff at the newly redesigned Cumberland Pool parking lot.

O'Neil said the city is reexamining zoning codes to add eco-friendly elements, such as allowing for solar panels, rain barrels and rain gardens.

University Heights Mayor Susan Infeld also spoke at the forum. She said that University Heights has once again been awarded the Tree City USA award for the 33rd straight year. The award recognizes the comprehen-

sive tree program that the city has.

Even the CH-UH school district is getting in on the movement. Douglas Heuer, district superintendent, told the forum that all buildings in the district recycle, though environmental regulations prohibit onsite composting.

As middle and high school students cleaned out their lockers at the end of the school year, sustainability practices reached them, too, with a specific program to encourage recycling of otherwise discarded items. Other notable practices include the use of local and organic foods in school lunches and the introduction of clean-burning low-sulfur buses, which Heuer acknowledged are 50 percent more expensive to operate.

Robert Brown, from the City of Cleveland Planning Commission, also provided insights at the forum. One of Cleveland's biggest problems, he said, is the vast amount of land that has been abandoned by residents in recent years. Cleveland is putting some of this land to use by encouraging urban agriculture in the city. The commission has revised zoning codes to permit urban agriculture, particularly chicken farming and beekeeping. The city has partnered with Gardening for Greenbacks, an organization that distributes grants of up to \$3,000 to buy agricultural equipment. Currently, there are 230 community gardens and farms in Cleveland.

See the complete video of the event at <http://vimeo.com/23958951>.

Observer intern Dana Finley, editor-in-chief of Shaker Heights High School's newspaper, The Shakerite, will attend Boston University in the fall to study journalism.

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# Families return to Coventry School

Krissy Dietrich Gallagher

After quietly sitting empty since 2007, the Coventry School building will once again be filled with children's voices. On June 21, Family Connections, the family support organization formed from the merger of Heights Parent Center and Shaker Family Center, will move its Cleveland Heights office and core programming from Taylor School to Coventry. The move has been greeted with enthusiasm by staff, participants and area residents alike.

According to Ellen Barrett, long-time playroom coordinator and family support specialist at Family Connections, "We've been fortunate over the past 15 years to be housed by the CH-UH City School District in both Millikin and Taylor schools, but we've never had the chance to be part of a wider community. Being at Coventry will give us an opportunity to work side by side with the P. E.A.C.E. Park and playground groups, Coventry merchants and Coventry Village Library, as well as the great group of folks moving into the building with us."

"We were thrilled to learn that Coventry School is going to be used in ways that enhance our neighborhood," said Mark Chupp, a 15-year resident of the Coventry area, "The two organizations [Family Connections and the Cleveland Sight Center] bring programs that can serve young families that have recently moved to this area. We commend the school board and the city for working together to make this possible."



Learning through play at Family Connections.

Barrett believes that Family Connections will add to the sense of community that already exists in the Coventry neighborhood. "Family Connections is deeply committed to supporting parents as they make the often difficult journey through the early years of parenthood," she said.

Because of the move, the Family Connections drop-in programs at Taylor will be closed from June 13 through July 5. The Little Heights literacy programs at the Lee Road Library will remain open, as will the drop-in programs at the Shaker Family Center (located in the former Sussex School). Family Connections will honor Cleveland Heights passes at the Shaker location during the three-week move. Learn more at [www.familyconnections1.org](http://www.familyconnections1.org).

*Krissy Dietrich Gallagher is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, a graduate of the Heights schools and a former Coventry School teacher. She currently sits on the board of directors of Family Connections. She blogs at <http://krissygallagher.wordpress.com>.*



## Fairmount Church Co-op Preschool

The Young 3s preschool class at Fairmount Church Co-op Preschool enjoys the playhouse on the school's playground. For information about the school call 216-321-5800 or visit [www.fairmountcoop.org](http://www.fairmountcoop.org).

SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS continued from page 11

collaborate, Kovach and Nicole Stika, director of energy programs for COSE, met with business owners across Ohio to share details about the program.

Whether businesses are interested in attracting environmentally-conscious customers, capitalizing on the potential to reduce expenses, being green, or saving the world, an energy assessment can help, Kovach said. "It's up to the business owner to decide what's most

compelling for them."

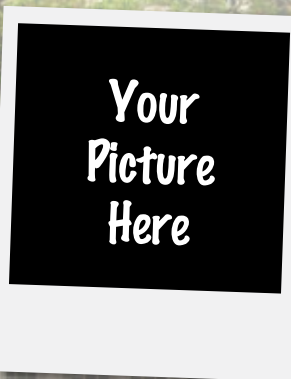
Businesses can apply for a COSE grant at [www.smallbizenergysaver.org](http://www.smallbizenergysaver.org), or by contacting Kovach at [tkovach@cose.org](mailto:tkovach@cose.org). Businesses that are religiously affiliated or home-based are ineligible. The \$3,000 grants are awarded on a first come-first served basis.

*Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.*

## SUMMER CAMPS AT THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT...



Music Builders



Piano Camp

Mom & Dad,

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Jazz Camp	6/20 - 7/1
Piano Camp I	6/20 - 7/1
Music Builders	6/20 - 7/15
Rainbow Camp	6/27 - 8/4
Chamber Music Camp I	7/5 - 7/9
Chamber Music Camp II	7/11 - 7/15
Brass & Wind Camp	7/18 - 7/22
Musical Theatre Camp	7/18 - 7/29
Piano Camp II	7/18 - 7/29
Suzuki Camp	7/31 - 8/6

Can we check out their website to learn more? [www.TheMusicSettlement.org](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org)

FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

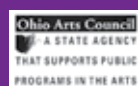
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2010 Music Builders Camper

### JUNE FREE EVENTS AT THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT

- 6/2, Theresa Leung Piano Studio Recital, 6:00 p.m.
- 6/5, Chamber Music Workshop, 1:00 p.m.
- 6/5, Almeda Trio Concert, 3:00 p.m.
- 6/5, Voice Performance Class, 2:00 p.m.
- 6/9, Student Recital, 6:00 p.m.
- 6/10, Tolmacheva Piano Studio Recital, 6:30 p.m.
- 6/12, Suzuki Recital, 2:00 p.m.
- 6/12, Cara Tweed String Studio Recital, 3:00 p.m.
- 6/15, Flute Choir Recital, 7:30 p.m.

Programs are generously funded by:



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community supported funding  
the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture



For more information, call 216-421-5806, ext. 100 or visit [www.TheMusicSettlement.org](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org)  
11125 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland, OH 44106





## Girls lacrosse team #1 in state

### Team overcomes obstacles and comes out on top

By Colin Higgs

Early this year, while the ground was still covered with a thin blanket of snow, and most people were huddled away indoors avoiding the still lingering winter's cold, one group of girls remained unaffected by the bitter climate and focused firmly on the coming spring.

Starting at the end of February, the Cleveland Heights High Girls Lacrosse Team began meeting in the gym every day after school for practices. Inside, the team used the time to work on game mechanics, and to get into shape.

In addition to these school practices, though, the team has gone above and beyond this year, says Coach Maura Neumeister. A number of girls have been organizing their own indoor practices since November. "They really hold each other to very high standards," says Neumeister. "The team is very motivated, very supportive of each other, and very determined."

But despite the girls' rigorous practice schedule, the team members could not help but be nervous when leaving for their annual spring trip in March. Not only was the team traveling across the country to Palo Alto, California, but part of the trip also involved the team's first outdoor play of the season.



Pictured above: Senior Olivia Lash (right), Senior Kelly Jones (left)

Photo by Maura Neumeister

With the odds against them, the girls waded into their first game and, much to their own surprise, won handily. "There were a lot of moments where I thought to myself 'How do they do that?'" says Neumeister. "After the game, all I thought was, 'Wow. The girls have really stepped it up this year.'"

After their first two wins in Califor-

nia, the girls went on to win 10 more games, losing only three over the course of the season. But because of a new league rule that restricts the use of a player who has been given two yellow cards in a previous game, the team was forced to forfeit three of their victories where they were in violation of this rule. "Basically, it was a lot of confusion, from a new rule" says Neumeister.

The forfeited games have not been the only hardships that the team has endured. The girls also had to cope with the poor weather that kept them from practicing outside, and the absence of one of their key starters, Kelly Jones, for a large part of the season, who was out because of a head injury.

"We have been through a rough season with all of the complications of new rules, but we have overcome them and are hoping to go far," says 10th-grader Mackenzie Lash.

And despite the obstacles, the team has gone far. The girls now are ranked number one in the state, and number three in the entire Midwest. "As the season went on, the girls just kept winning, and they kept having fun with it," says Neumeister. "They've really made themselves the team to beat this year in Ohio."

According to Neumeister, the team is a really close-knit group. Aside from their trip to California, the girls also have regular pasta dinners, and always get along very well with each other.

"The hardest thing is everyone keeps asking, 'Who's really good,' but it's all of them. They work really well together as a team. It's been a lot of fun coaching them."

The team will play in the District finals on Tuesday, May 31, hoping to beat Medina and reach the state finals.



Senior Kelly Rosenbaum makes a save in game.

Photo by Maura Neumeister



# New policies, technology does not work

By Kelsey Ferguson

The newly enforced EOS period that was implemented at the beginning of this school year is not only a waste of time for students, but creates problems when help is needed in the class. This extra period, added to the day, disregards students' needs for individual help. The Heights High School website states, "The Educational Options for Success (EOS) periods are intended to offer in-school academic support for students. There is also after school support offered." (www.chuh.org)

The EOS period was created for students who are struggling in their studies and for those who could use the extra period to obtain help from their teachers. Too often, though, students' EOS periods do not align with their teachers, thus experienc-

ing difficulty in mastering certain concepts. The EOS's purpose is for students to receive help from their teachers, strengthening their grasp on the information: this cannot happen when students are forced to stay in their EOS with other students when they should be receiving help on information they don't understand. The special help time after school was cut this year, because with the EOS addition to the schedule, students would be provided "in-school academic support for students." (CHUH) With few aligning periods, how are students expected to get the help they need?

Though many believe that the new laptop initiative, that placed a laptop in every student's possession, provided attractive tools that helped students prepare

themselves for a technologically based economy, the laptops did not enhance academic growth. They were frivolous, expensive and added nothing to our academic achievement. They were helpful in writing papers or surfing the web for some academic purposes, but how are these expensive gadgets really furthering the knowledge of our schools students? Though social network sites were blocked, the majority of students found ways of breaking the code to these locks, using these sites more often than those relevant to their schoolwork. For example, out of my five core classes, I used my laptop on only one occasion. I feel that instead of issuing laptops to every student, a better use of the money could have gone towards professional

SAT or ACT tutors, increasing standardized test scores that could potentially increase the schools rating, the students' academic future, and knowledge students will need to take college entrance exams. Laptops are not going to do any of these things. Technology is becoming a large part of mainstream society, but it is not essential for every school student when computer labs and libraries are readily available.

If our school wants to project a bounty of successful students into college, the workforce, or any other occupation, changes will need to be made in order for these goals to be met. The EOS period is a waste of time, the laptops are a waste of money, and better options must be available.

## Teacher feature: Julie Raffay

By Brandon Fernando

Currently in her 7th year of teaching at Cleveland Heights High School, biology teacher Julie Raffay is a Cleveland native with a passion for understanding how living things work. This interest has translated into an enthusiastic approach to teaching that includes experiments such as dissections, brewing root beer, and inserting DNA into bacteria.

Ms. Raffay grew up on the West Side of Cleveland, and in the past year she has moved to Lakewood from Cleveland Heights. Partial to her place of origin, Ms. Raffay confesses that she is "still a West Side girl. I love being able to walk wherever I want to go," says Raffay, speaking of Lakewood. According to Ms. Raffay, biology appealed to her at a young age, partially due to her very "outdoorsy" parents. Although committed to a biology major even before college, Ms. Raffay decided to focus on teaching only in her senior year. "If I really like this, I should get other people to like it too," says Ms. Raffay, explaining her thought process.

Still looking to encourage interest amongst her students, Ms. Raffay includes numerous hands-on experiments in her lesson plans with varying subject matter. Both this year and last year, her AP Biology classes made root beer while studying fermentation. Ms. Raffay's Nature Studies class has taken nature walks to Cain Park, where they have searched for salamanders. For the second year in a row, her AP Biology classes will also dissect



Photo by Margaret Hull

both frogs and sharks after taking the AP Biology test. In between all of the experimentation, her classes do cover plenty of material. In fact, AP Biology, arguably her most intensive class, covers 52 chapters before taking the AP exam.

New to her teaching experience this year was the introduction of student laptops. Although the long awaited arrival of the student laptops received somewhat of a bittersweet reception from students and teachers alike,

Ms. Raffay has found some methods of utilizing the new technology. In her Bio 1 class, Ms. Raffay has conducted virtual labs while in her AP Biology classes she uploaded her daily powerpoint notes to the web for student access. There has been some turbulence in her attempted implementation of student laptops, however, "The science wing doesn't have great internet access, so we had to have backup plans just in case," admits Raffay. The website for the AP Biology textbook was also blocked by the school web filter, for some reason.

Outside of teaching, Ms. Raffay enjoys traveling. Some of her most recent trips include excursions to London and Italy, and her summer plans include trips to Las Vegas and Florida. In addition to traveling, Ms. Raffay has also recently taken up running as a healthy way to express her competitive side, while staying in shape.

Over the summer, Ms. Raffay will be taking an AP preparation course so that she will be able to teach AP Environmental Science next year. In between the traveling and the preparation course, Ms. Raffay plans to read books by the pool and generally "soak up free time" before returning not only to teach in the fall, but to grad school in pursuit of her second masters degree. Ms. Raffay currently has a masters degree in Educational Administration and will be working towards a masters degree in Public Health starting this coming school year.

The Black & Gold is a student publication of Cleveland Heights High School, 13263 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. Our World Wide Web site is located at go.chhs.chuh.org

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advisor, Margaret Hull, at m\_hull@chuh.org, or reach her by phone at (216) 320-4999 ext. 81321

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Opinions expressed are the consensus of The Black & Gold editorial board and do not represent the views of Cleveland Heights or the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District.

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Reporters: Brandon Fernando, Sofija Conic, Monica Chan, Lily Gould, Mikale Thomas, Ilona Eke, and Kelsey Ferguson.

Advisor.....Margaret Hull  
Photography.....Jake Stern





# Homecoming

## Heights grad, playwright, returns for visit

By Lily Gould

On May 20, Rajiv Joseph, a 1992 Cleveland Heights High School Alumnus, returned to his alma mater to talk to students about his journey to the big time as a nationally recognized playwright who was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist. On returning to Heights High, he talked to several English classes and visited his roots by watching the Vocal Music Department's Singers during their eighth period class.

After receiving his degree in Creative Writing from Miami University in Ohio, Joseph joined the Peace Corps and was sent to the West African Republic of Senegal. There he kept journals and was quite fond of writing. "When I was young I always wanted to write novels. My heart was set on it but I was never

able to. Later, I found out I was truly good at playwriting," Joseph told the class.

After returning to the States, he wrote a number of plays, including his most recent, and Tony nominated, work *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. A Broadway producer who saw the play in California was very impressed. Producers recruited Robin Williams to play the lead role of the Tiger, in hopes of making it on Broadway. The play opened in March at the Richard Rodgers Theatre, with a limited run until early July. Closer to home, Joseph wrote *Huck and Holden*, currently playing at the Cleveland Play House.

While visiting the show choir, Jo-



Rajiv Joseph

Photo Courtesy of [chuh.org](http://chuh.org)

seph talked a little bit about his plays and his theater career, though he was more interested in seeing the students perform. After watching practiced pieces, Joseph joined in the singing of the choir's signature song, "Let It Be

Me," a tradition started by Bill Thomas, founder of Singers and his choir director. In parting, Joseph advised the students that, although they may not be perfect at what they love, they should always follow their dreams.

# Environmental Club is growing

## Poetry Spotlight

By Ilona Eke

Last December, Mr. Steven Warner and Ms. Jannet Korb, science teachers at Cleveland Heights High School, talked to their classes about water quality. Ms. Korb and Mr. Warner worked in collaboration to help the city of Cleveland Heights and the Cuyahoga Board of Health obtain a grant for a green parking lot at Cumberland Pool.

This past fall, Mr. Warner and his students presented their ideas and their hope for an environmental club at the high school to bioneers at Cuyahoga Community College. In the months following, the Environmental Club was born.

The main focus of the club is to preserve the environment. The ideas presented in the club are included in the English and Science curriculum.

Mr. Warner took students from the club and his science class on a field trip to a number of local gardens. They traveled to Fairfax Elementary, Canterbury Elementary, Montessori School in Little Italy, the Coventry area, and The Deborah S. Delisle Education Center, formerly called Taylor Academy, to learn about about various community gardens.

The club is collaborating with the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, and the public schools to help create more environmentally friendly actions. The club is assisting Future Heights, a community based nonprofit organization, with green mapping the city for sustainable assets. The map is located at <http://www.opengreenmap.org/greenmap/sustainable-heights-green-map>. Students at the high school will map Taylor and Lee Roads in the future. In addition, the high school hopes for future collaboration with Fairfax and other elementary schools.

Graduate students and staff at Case Western Reserve University are also involved with plans to install some rain gardens at The Deborah S. Delisle Education Center and CHHS. The students and faculty made three designs for rain gardens to be proposed for these areas. Students of CHHS will present the information to the CHUH Board of

Education and, after approval, they will get started immediately.

The club's main project is the Learning Garden at The Deborah S. Delisle Education Center with the collaboration of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Currently, there are 40 plots (8 ft. x 10 ft.). The high school will use five of the plots, the rest are open to residents and businesses for sale at \$20.00 each. If you would like to buy one or more, please call University Heights City Hall at (216) 932-7800.

Students from Mr. Warner's science classes have taken soil samples to help plan how to amend the soil for planting. By summer 2011, the club hopes to have plots at The Deborah S. Delisle Education Center full of plants.

Another Environmental Club project, scheduled during finals week, is helping the custodians clean out lockers at the high school. Students leave large quantities of belongings in their lockers, so the club is encouraging

students to take them home. During the first week after school ends, club members will help sort out all the belongings left behind.

Students at CHHS also built bird boxes that have been erected at the Education Center. The bird boxes attract bluebirds which are becoming endangered.

At the start of the 2011-2012 school year, there will be a Service Learning Class offered at the high school. The class's goal is to teach students through service in the community. The class is open to a cross-section of 9-12th grade students in all small schools. The class is worth one credit, with only 25 slots available. Interested students should contact their guidance counselor. "This class is very important so please join as soon as possible," advised Mr. Warner.

For more information, contact Mr. Warner at: [steven\\_warner@chuh.org](mailto:steven_warner@chuh.org).

## Poetry Spotlight

### Aerial Swift

By Corliss Amerson

My mind trapped behind the fence,  
Trying to realize there are ways to  
Climb to a better you.

No car I drive can drive out of this  
State of mind  
Though only they can free them-

Selves.  
In their diary, no limits are bound to  
The mind

Where emotions are put into play.

Free minded people can overcome

Any wall of judgement

But all cold hearted people will never

Understand true love of the arts,

Only trapped in the negative degrees  
Causing them to freeze in ice.

My only advice is that you must find

An outlet for yourself -

And mine is poetry.

My words breeze the emotions of

Others and my intentions

Build up until they are as powerful as

A hurricane.



Mr. Warner's first period class at Taylor Academy collecting dirt samples for testing.

Photo Courtesy of Environmental Club



# Senior Destinations 2011

**Baldwin-Wallace University**  
Collin Simpson

**Belmont University**  
Sheri Chambers

**Bowling Green State University**

Tamar Atwell  
Brian Barron  
Shawn Fields  
Christopher Lanton  
Ajia Mason  
Ashley Pope  
Jordan Raines  
Joshua Toombs

**Canisius College**  
Jordan Oates

**Case Western Reserve University**  
Chandrima Bhadra  
Carlin Jackson

**Cincinnati State Technical & Community College**  
Cody Martin

**Cleveland State University**  
Devon Crenshaw  
Samantha Hackman  
Charles McCoy  
Brianna Monroe  
Mairi Mull  
Ezra Rabinsky  
Andrew Royal  
Tyree Shaw  
Jonathan Tarnay  
Allison Walker  
Timmerly Wimbley

**College of Wooster**  
Diana Drushel

**Cuyahoga Community College**  
Breana Laster

**Cuyahoga County Airport Flight Academy**  
Parish Roston

**Denison University**  
Ariana Gray Be'

**DePaul University**  
Saralila Kalafat  
Emma Lissemore

**Eastern Michigan University**  
Deltreasa Lee

**Elmhurst College**  
Imani Banks

**Gannon University**  
Niobi Dunn

**George Mason University**  
Ashley Aniton

**Hiram College**  
Anna Borkan  
Katherine Starr

**Johnson and Wales University**  
Gina Evangelista

**Kent State University**  
Karolina Kucerova  
Alexandra Pattillo  
Serrena Prezioso

**Maryland Institute College of Art**  
Lucia Maher-Tatar

**Meredith College**  
Adajah Morgan-Bennett

**Miami University**  
Brandon Gordon

**Muskingum University**  
Larissa Davis  
Cory Dodson

**North Central College**  
Niyah Banks

**Oakland University**  
Kayla Kelly

**Ohio Northern University**  
Jared Birks

**Ohio State University**  
Haingo Andriamasilalao  
Jasmine Berry  
Elana Berusch  
Andrea Chan  
Rachael Collyer  
Gwendolyn Donley  
Jesse Hammond  
Nadiyah Harper  
Shannon Jeffries  
Christopher Jordan  
Avital Lugasy  
Daniel Pease-Kerr  
David Schellenberg  
Natalie Sperl  
Bennett Wildey  
Taylor Wong

**Ohio University**  
Richard Moses

**Oral Roberts University**  
Eric Gray, Jr

**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
Alexander Ritchey

**Savannah College of Art & Design**  
Morgan Clement

**Shawnee State University**  
Ashley Bryant

**The New School of Jazz and Contemporary Music**  
Jonathan Thomas

**Thiel College**  
Michael Bryant  
Sharrell Pointer

**United States Air Force**  
DeMarcus Patrick

**University of Akron**  
Cierra Avery-Starks  
Marcel Dear  
DaVonna Jackson  
Cheray Lillard  
Daelantae Marshall

**University of Cincinnati**  
Lydia Resnik

**University of Dayton**  
Christopher Patton

**University of Michigan**  
Kelly Rosenbaum

**University of Mt Union**  
Adam Ceasor

**University of Pittsburgh**  
Nicole Rosenbaum

**University of Rochester**  
Zena Levan

**University of Toledo**  
LaTonya Bouldin  
Mario Braxton  
Sierra Huffman  
Blanchard Jones  
Rosalind Leonard  
Demetria McIntyre  
Ariana Saleem  
Ryan Simpson  
Sylvia Taylor  
Destinee Wagner

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
Ryan Perlic

**Ursuline College**  
Ayla Harris

**Virginia Marti College of Art & Design**  
Candice Avery

**Wittenberg University**  
Samuel Collins

**Wright State University**  
Kamille Harris

**Xavier University of Louisiana**  
Taylor Lowry

*This is a partial listing of schools as of May 24, 2011.*

*A complete list will be available online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)  
[www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)*



# Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board

## Meeting highlights



April 19, 2011

Board Member Kal Zucker was excused.

### Contract agreements

The board approved two-year extensions of current contracts for Cleveland Heights Teachers and Monitors Union Local 795, Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE) Local 617, OAPSE Local 102, OAPSE Local 100, Educational Administrative and Professional Staff Council. President Coble thanked the bargaining units for agreeing to the two-year pay freezes.

### Lease/purchase of office equipment

The board approved a resolution for the lease/purchase of office equipment along with a service agreement at a cost of \$140,103.

### Gearity roof

The board approved a March 31, 2011 bid for roofing at Gearity Professional Development School.

### Race to the Top

The board accepted the Race to the Top grant for \$195,231.

### Personnel policies and legal changes

Nylajeon McDaniel, director of human resources, and Joseph Micheller, director of special programs and compliance, reported on changes in federal and state laws and legal precedents, which CH-UH policies must reflect.

### Supplemental contracts

In the administrative union, while some members are to be called administrators, others, such as information technology staff, are to be called professional staff. Because of the change, hourly staff will no longer be able to take supplemental contracts for extracurricular work because of legal complications with the way their pay, including weighted overtime, would be calculated. This

means that people will have to be brought in from outside the district to coach and advise extracurricular activities

### Employment medical exam

Board Member Nancy Peppler questioned the district's decision to receive a comprehensive report of an employee's initial employment medical exam instead of receiving just a statement of the person's ability to perform the job. McDaniel explained that the more complete information could be helpful to personnel staff in some instances.

### Staff/student communication

Board Member Karen Jones questioned whether it was realistic for the district to prohibit staff/student communication via e-mail or text. Micheller explained that the prohibited communication is via social media like Facebook and that the distinction needs to be made clearer.

### Gifts

Regarding disallowing individual gifts from staff to students, Jones asked about small incentives given in the classroom. Micheller explained that these are not considered gifts.

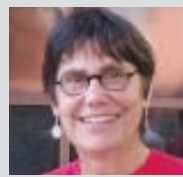
### Tutoring for credit

Jones also asked whether a teacher tutoring a student for credit in conjunction with the new flex credit violates the policy against teachers tutoring students outside of school for pay. Micheller said he would check the ethics code to see if there are specific circumstances that might allow such tutoring.

LWV Observer: Nancy Dietrich.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). See disclaimer on page 4.

## Thank a teacher, support excellence



THE COMMON GOOD

Susie Kaeser

Individuals can have a powerful effect on the quality of teaching in our public schools.

We can't give educators the skills they need to be effective, but we can help motivate them to be their best. When we pay attention to their work, and let them know how valuable they are, it makes a difference. When they do well, tell them! It's as easy as that.

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District has an array of strategies to develop its teachers. But according to educational psychologist Christine Emmons, from the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Student Center, they need us, too.

In the April 6 edition of *Education Week*, Emmons explains that teachers do not leave college knowing how to be great teachers. "Skill and competence are built through experience, effective mentoring and relevant professional development." Clear and consistent goals, adequate resources and tools to achieve those goals matter, as does, "the respect of colleagues, policymakers, and the general public."

Good teachers do a lot more than show up. This demanding profession cannot be done by rote or formula. Teachers must plan, create engaging lessons, listen effectively, think on their feet, connect, be organized, smile, use assessments to redirect their teaching,

reflect, redesign and improve. Create all over again.

If we want good teachers, we can help create what Emmons calls the "psychosocial environment" that makes them want to pour their hearts and minds into their work on a daily basis. If teachers were made of steel, they could better withstand the ever-changing public policies, administrators, students and families, educational fads and expectations that affect their daily lives. Not to mention the attacks by people with their own agendas. Despite these pressures, teachers have to stay the course.

Don't underestimate the harm inflicted on quality education by the teacher bashing that is part of a long-term effort to discredit public education. Little by little, it is eroding the confidence and will of the people who do this important human development work.

We must give educators the support that helps them rise to the level we want. Acknowledgment is powerful. Use it. Write a note, visit a school and observe, express your gratitude in person. Send a letter to the editor, or invite your elected representative to see the great work that teachers do. Let people know you are proud of our children and their teachers. Challenge the naysayers who make sweeping generalizations about educators and schools.

Start by visiting [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org) and click "Thank A Teacher."

Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She is the former director of *Reaching Heights* and current board member of the Home Repair Resource Center.

## Boulevard Science Club wins first-place



The Science Club at Boulevard Elementary School took home two first-place medals at the Engineers and Technicians of the Future robotics competition. The students won for best presentation and best-looking robot. K-5 science specialist Jackie Taylor (right) and 4th-grade teacher Sandy Axner (left) lead the club.

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# Roxboro kindergarteners visit Coventry

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Roxboro kindergarten classes paid a special visit to Coventry Village on May 6 to learn about how small businesses work and how they contribute to the local economy.

Tom Fello, owner of Tommy's restaurant, welcomed the students with a snack of Muenster cheese, French fries and vanilla and chocolate milk shakes. While the children devoured the treats, their teachers, Jennifer Polanco, Lynne Maragliano and Amy Miracle, presented Fello with a Roxboro Elementary T-shirt.

Fello took the students on a tour of the restaurant's back-of-the-house operations, including the French fry preparation area and walk-in freezers. He explained that he wanted to show them how a mom-and-pop business runs and emphasize the values of supporting local businesses, recycling and healthy eating.

He described to the kids how Tommy's recycles to support other local efforts. "We take all of the oil from our French fry machine and mix it with a little diesel fuel to power diesel-powered trucks," Fello explained. "And we save



Suzanne DeGaetano, owner of Mac's Backs, shows Roxboro Kindergarteners one of her favorite books from her childhood. Pictured are Roxboro mom Amanda Plavan, and Roxboro student Rachel O'Keefe.

all of the plastic containers from our strawberries and other items and give it to a local artist so that she can use it to decorate a fence that surrounds a construction project on Cedar Road."

Fello took the kids to the restaurant's basement where supplies are received, stored and prepped. He also demonstrated how to take the core out of a head of lettuce with just one hand, a skill he told them he had learned when

he was 14. "Now you can show your parents what you learned," he joked. "And they can be impressed—or not."

The students also visited Mac's Backs, Big Fun, Hunan Coventry and City Buddha.

"The trip fits into our social studies curriculum," said Polanco, who organized the outing. "We are studying communities, and we live in a great one. I wanted the kids to get to know the community and the function that it serves. Many of them have probably been to Coventry before, but now the kids have a chance to go behind the scenes, meet the shop owners, and learn how a community functions."

The class plans a return trip to Coventry Village in June. They will visit the Coventry Village Library to get library cards and sign up for the summer reading program. They also plan to visit several more local businesses. "You're never too young to learn about supporting local businesses," noted Polanco.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.

# New principal to lead Canterbury Elementary



Stacy Stuhldreher

Kevin Harrell

Angee Shaker

Douglas Heuer, superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, announced two changes in his leadership team for the 2011-12 school year.

Stacy Stuhldreher will become principal of Canterbury Elementary School. An educator for more than 20 years, Stuhldreher is widely recognized as an innovative and effective school leader. She joined the CH-UH district in 2005 and is currently coordinator of elementary curriculum, a post to which she was named after serving as principal at Oxford Elementary School for four years.

Kevin J. Harrell, the current Canterbury principal, will become coordinator of elementary curriculum on July 1, replacing Stuhldreher. Harrell began his teaching career in the East Cleveland City School District and was both an assistant principal and principal in the Cleveland Municipal School District before joining CH-UH as principal of Canterbury Elementary School in 2006.

In a letter to parents and guardians of Canterbury students about the changes, Heuer expressed his gratitude to both Stuhldreher and Harrell for their "flexibility and enthusiasm," and his belief in the potential of these changes to benefit the entire community.

"I have tremendous confidence in Ms. Stuhldreher's ability to transition into her new role quickly, completely, and with great success," Heuer said.

The superintendent also expressed his confidence that Harrell's transition will likewise be marked by smoothness and efficiency, and that these latest changes within his leadership team will "allow two incredibly dedicated and accomplished instructional leaders to maintain their high level of effectiveness while taking on challenging new assignments."

"Ms. Stuhldreher and Mr. Harrell, along with our teachers and our entire professional staff, are at the center of our vision of Preparing All Students for Success in A Global Economy (P.A.S.S.A.G.E.)," Heuer said. "In the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools, our human resources are indeed an extraordinary asset."

Angee Shaker is director of communications for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

# Bellefaire students nurture quails

Joy Henderson

Tucked away in a corner of Bellefaire School is a bobwhite quail hatchery that was designed and decorated by art students to make the young quails feel safe and happy. The chicks hatched in late March and are part of a project involving 25 students in math, science and art classes.

The process of hatching and caring for quails has been exciting for the students. Monitoring the egg health, preparing the hatchery, recording chick development, and researching the best location for the release in May has been a full educational experience.

"This project made us want to learn," sophomore Jenna S. said. "Watching a new life come into the world was great." She was part of the team that created graphs and charts tracking egg and chick growth.

Junior Taylor W. and her team were responsible for setting up a webcam. Once in place, the students could watch the birds and make sure their environment and development was good, without handling them. "I really got hooked



Shawn tends quails in the hatchery designed by students at Bellefaire School.

on watching the birds, seeing if they were okay."

Senior Aaron A. is part of the team researching quail habitat. The students will release the birds in late May at a farm in Southington, Ohio. "We will look for an area on the farm that has the best food, water, and shelter for the quails," Aaron said.

"I am happy that we can release them to their natural habit," Taylor said. "But we will all miss seeing them grow up."

The teachers leading the Bellefaire

quail project are Marc Baker (art), Diane Munro (math), and Judy Spainhoward (science). The project was funded with a service learning grant.

Bellefaire School serves CH-UH students in grades 6-12 who are placed in an alternative environment. The structure, curriculum and small class size enables teachers to offer individual attention and emotional support.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.



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# Heights Hall of Fame inducts ten distinguished alumni

Angee Shaker

The Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation inducted ten distinguished alumni to its Hall of Fame on May 5, at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights.

The Hall of Fame was created as a way for Heights High to honor the accomplishments of its alumni. It also gives current students solid examples of what they can accomplish in life, as they listen to adults who sat in the same seats and walked the same halls they do.

With more than 50,000 graduates to date, students have an impressive and diverse list of alumni from which to select potential inductees.

A student committee, known as the Imagemakers, selects from nominations made by the general public. Imagemakers do not know the names of the nominees, only their accomplishments.

This year's inductees are:

Mark Blumenthal, '81; editor and political consultant.

Thomas D. Burton, '83; educator and administrator.

Michael Deet, '88; music producer and manager.

Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein, '61; activist and religious leader.

Dr. Gary Glazer, '68; physician and educator.

Richard S. Gray, '49; entrepreneur and business advisor.

Dr. Gladys Haddad, '48; educator and author.

Jerome E. Jennings, '99; musician and teacher.

Dr. Rebecca Spyke Keiser, '87; researcher and administrator.



Front row: Richard Gray, A. David Rossin, Rebecca Spyke Keiser, Jerome Jennings; Back row: Rabbi Jerome Epstein, Mark Blumenthal, Michael Deet, Thomas Burton, Gladys Haddad. Not pictured: Gary Glazer.

Dr. A. David Rossin, '49; nuclear engineer and scientist.

"It's not until you hear the inductees speak and listen to their stories that you understand just why the students selected them for the Hall of Fame," said Eric Silverman, president of the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation and a 1987 graduate of Heights High.

"What is great about this year's inductees is not only their varied careers and lives, but also the uniqueness of their experiences at Heights High. Once again, the Imagemakers have done an excellent job identifying for us ten Heights High alumni of exceptional character and stellar credentials who make perfect additions to a phenomenal Hall of Fame."

The evening's program began with performances by the Heights Singers, followed by remarks from the inductees. The next morning, the new Hall of Famers visited Heights High, touring the building and speaking to classes.

The alumni foundation accepts nominations for the Hall of Fame throughout the year and application

forms can be found at [www.heightsalumni.org](http://www.heightsalumni.org). Also posted on the foundation's website is a complete listing of Hall of Fame inductees, as well as biographies of inductees from the past 17 years.

Angee Shaker is director of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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# Night School increases Class of 2011

Susie Kaeser

Every time a student graduates from high school there is reason to celebrate. He or she has taken the critical first step toward successful adulthood. Without a diploma, life's options are immediately narrowed.

Thanks to Night School, 45 Heights High seniors who would not have graduated this year will be receiving their diplomas. That's almost 10 percent of the 461-member senior class.

Night School is not a completely descriptive title for this program that gives students the chance to close a credit gap. It is held after school, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and only during the second

semester of the school year. Students take a full course load during the day at Heights High, then go to the media center after school to make up their missing credits using APEX, a Web-based curriculum. They get back on track for graduation, saving themselves—and taxpayers—the cost of another semester of high school.

To graduate, students need 20 credits, earned in a mix of required and elective courses. Night School targets seniors who need one or two required courses to graduate. A few participants are athletes who want to improve their GPAs in the hope of landing a college scholarship. The five-year-old program also accommodates a few juniors who are

starting early to try to close any credit gaps and stay on track to graduate.

Nick Petty, principal of the Mosaic School, oversees the program. The guidance staff, in collaboration with the education services team, handles placement in the program.

Mary Anderson is an English teacher assigned to Night School on Mondays and Tuesdays, when students can take any of the eight English courses required for graduation. She, like the other subject-area specialists who take turns staffing the labs, is there to grade essays, help students understand the online materials, and proctor tests as students complete the course. She is impressed that Heights teachers have aligned the

content of the online curriculum with their courses. According to Anderson, "The materials are wonderful. This is a well thought out program."

APEX is used in all three of the high school's alternative programs, which give students options for keeping up when they fall behind, or accelerating their learning to shorten their time in high school. About 60 students from 9th to 12th grades, who have fallen far behind in the regular class environment, are assigned full-time to Success Connections, where they benefit from the self-directed and paced online setting. Ten of these students will also graduate in June.

Heights students can mix regular, teacher-led courses and online courses by choosing Opportunity Lab for one or two periods a day. They can work on several courses at once. For some, it is the way to catch up; and for others, it is a way to complete high school in less than four years.

The standard high school format does not fit every student. Heights is promoting greater student success by valuing and accommodating the diversity of learners in its classrooms. These options are keeping kids in school who might otherwise give up, helping more to finish on time, and ensuring that more students get off to a strong start by earning their high school diplomas.

*Susie Kaeser, a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights and former director of Reaching Heights, recently joined the board of trustees of the Home Repair Resource Center.*

## Comments of gratitude

Joy Henderson

More than 100 Heights High students submitted Comments of Gratitude for faculty and staff members. The thank you notes tell a story about how adults inside the school make a big difference in the lives and learning experiences of students.

Here is a sample of the comments. Thank you for:

- Believing in me.
- Challenging me. You taught me how to bring ideas together and pick apart history to get a better understanding. I learned to open up and consider other points of view.

- Not giving up on me when I gave up on myself.
- Inspiring me to share my poetry without fear. You've helped me understand myself, and to be more confident.
- Being an understanding principal who gave me good advice. You keep it real and tell it how it is.
- Helping me get ready for college, even though I'm only a sophomore.
- Showing me how to be dedicated. I hope I can be as dedicated to my career as you are to yours.
- Listening to me and helping me find my voice!
- Teaching me about history. It makes me think before I act.

- Teaching me geometry and for being patient when I'm foolish.
- Opening my mind to thinking in a whole new way. Your class changed my outlook on life.
- Putting up with me when I am difficult and listening to me when I am in shambles. Thank you for letting me cry and for telling me the things I need to hear.
- Thinking so highly of me when no one else would.

*Comments of Gratitude is a project of The Heights High Parent Connection Council. The PCC also provided a May 6 Staff Appreciation Luncheon for staff.*

*Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.*

# DREAMGIRLS

Directed by **VICTORIA BUSSERT<sup>^</sup>**

**ADRIANNA M. CLEVELAND** as Effie White  
**CIARA RENÉE\*** as Deena Jones  
**COLLEEN LONGSHAW\*** as Lorrell Robinson  
**ROD LAWRENCE\*** as Curtis Taylor, Jr.  
**KYLE PRIMOUS\*** as James "Thunder" Early  
**ANTWAUN HOLLEY•** as C. C. White  
**ALICIA REECE•** as Michelle Morris  
**DARRYL LEWIS\*** as Marty Madison

**Jay Ellis• Deja M. Foster• Joel Furr**  
**Shawn Herb• Anna Martine•**  
**Lynford Martin Parries• David Robbins•**  
**Mack Shirilla• Taresa Willingham•**

\*Member, Actors Equity Association  
<sup>^</sup>Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society  
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# Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Board

## Meeting highlights



APRIL 25, 2011

Board Member Jason Stein was absent.

### Gifts and grants

The board accepted \$550 in donations in memory of Everett L. Dodrill, Jr., a supporter of Obama and a library user known for biking to the library.

The board also accepted a grant awarded to Children's Associate Shamekia Chandler for a program called "Cinderella Around the Globe." In Chandler's words, "Cinderella is one of the oldest and most beloved folktales in the world." Her program will allow local children to celebrate this fairy tale in a multicultural context.

### Noble Neighborhood Library reopening

Architect James Duber was present to answer questions about the Noble Library renovations. Board Member Jim Posch expressed concern about letting the community know that the interior renovation is only Phase 1. Phase 2 will be exterior repair that is obviously needed. It was agreed to have signage at the Noble Library reopening to indicate that.

### Resignations and appointments

There have been four resignations this month. Deputy Director Catherine Hakala-Ausperk will become executive director of Northeast Ohio Regional Library System. Adult Services Coordinator Alice Iden will become project manager for two merged nonprofit agencies. Serena Olson, children's services librarian, will work for the Tacoma (Washington) Public Library. Jeremiah Bryant, part-time adult services associate, has accepted a full-time position at Hyland Software. The board approved three appointments: Andrew Bray, circulation assistant; Peg Zitzner, technology trainer; and Anna Register, administrative assistant.

Chuck Collins was named interim adult services coordinator.

### Crosswalk safety concerns

Concern continues about the safety of the Lee Road crosswalk between the buildings. It is poorly marked and often ignored by motorists. This is being discussed with Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley and the city's public works director.

### Library patrons cautioned

In the past six months a number of laptop thefts have occurred despite posted warnings regarding unattended possessions on tables and in meeting rooms.

### March public service report highlights:

- Wii Wednesdays gave kids the opportunity to burn off energy in bad weather.
- Moving the large print material to the first floor area formerly occupied by the ongoing book sale has increased first-quarter circulation by 20 percent.
- The Photoshop Elements class was well received, and a second part will be added.
- Local author Paul Gaus, who writes the Amish mystery series, talked at the Coventry Village Library. Jo Ann Vicarel introduced the author.
- Maggie Lindsey has tripled teen participation at the Coventry Spot with more variety in daily programs.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

## Summer reading programs help prevent 'summer learning loss'

Sheryl Banks

With one of the worst winters and wettest springs on record finally behind us, we're all ready for the joys of summer. Swimming pools, parks, day camps, playgrounds, amusement parks, and even just the backyard are some of the favorite summer destinations for kids in our community who are ready to relax and have fun after the school year.

All that summer fun, however, can lead to "summer learning loss," a phenomenon where kids sometimes lose the academic skills they gained during the school year.

"Kids who read or engage in other literacy-based activities over the summer will retain more of their skills than kids who don't," said Susan Black, children's services librarian.

That's why Heights Libraries are ready to combat that potential learning loss with fun-filled summer reading activities for children and teens that will make the library a summer destination, too.

Children who sign up for this year's summer reading program, which has

the theme, "One World, Many Stories," will be encouraged to read in a variety of ways. They will be able to track their reading over the summer months with a colorful mural in the children's area, and participate in special events, such as a puppet workshop, a magic show, multicultural crafts, and a raffle with prizes.

"It's not like doing a book report," said Black. "We make reading fun for the kids, and tie it in to all kinds of activities that will spark young imaginations."

Teens will have their own summer reading program, "You Are Here," which will also encourage summer reading with related activities. There will be a teen film festival to encourage them to explore the connection between literature and film.

Children and teens can sign up for summer reading programs at all four locations—Lee Road, University Heights, Coventry Village, and Noble Neighborhood. For more information, ask a children's or teen librarian.

*Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.*

## Free lunch program is back this summer at the Lee Road Library

Sheryl Banks

With school out for the summer, children and teens in the Heights who rely on free school lunches face a potentially hungry summer. Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is ready to help again this year, by hosting the free summer lunch program sponsored by the Cleveland Foodbank.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, hunger is one of the greatest barriers to learning, and lack of nutrition over the summer can lead to poor school performance once school starts again in the fall.

In addition to lunch, the library will be serving up reading-related activities and opportunities—kids can read books, play games, color, and sign up for the summer reading program while enjoying a healthy meal.

"This program enables us to fill the crucial nutritional needs of local children, while also offering opportunities for early

literacy programming and services," noted Sam Lapidés, the library's interim young adult services coordinator and coordinator of the summer lunch program.

The library has the capacity to serve as many as 250 lunches, and invites all community children and youths up to age 18 to attend. Free lunch will be served between 12 and 1 p.m. each weekday, June 13 through Aug. 20. No registration is required.

"We are so excited about offering this program again this summer," said Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries director. "We met many new families last summer, including a large group of new immigrants. It is a perfect partnership for our library."

For more information about the program, contact Sam Lapidés at 216-932-3600, ext. 290.

*Sheryl Banks is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.*

## What's going on at your library?

### All Branches

Summer Reading is here. Ask a librarian about signing up for summer reading programs for children, teens and adults.

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400  
Monday, June 2, 7 p.m.  
*Reading Comics*  
Wednesdays, June 8-29, 4 p.m.  
*Possibilitarian Puppet Workshop*

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600  
Friday, June 7, 3 p.m.  
*Teen Summer Cooking Competition Kick Off*  
Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
*Pet Show*  
Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m.  
*Third Tuesday Book Club: Await Your Reply*  
by Dan Chaon

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665  
Monday, June 13, 7 p.m.  
*Moving and Music the Preschool Way*  
Fridays in June, 10:30 a.m.  
*Reading Rumpus*

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, University Hts.,  
216-321-4700  
Monday, June 20-Wednesday, June 22,  
4 p.m.  
*Babysitting Clinic*  
Tuesday, June 14, 6 p.m.  
*Film series: The Drummer (Hong Kong / Taiwan/Germany, 2008)*  
Tuesday, June 21, 6 p.m.  
*Film series: Troubled Water (Norway, 2008)*

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# Seitz-Agin Hardware to close this month

Frank Tascone

Seitz-Agin Hardware, a mainstay in Cleveland Heights for 66 years, will close this month. Owner Joel Borwick cited the economic climate as the reason for closing.

“When the recession hit it just seemed to change everything,” Borwick explained. “Business really went down and the bottom line is we lost money for the last year or two. I can’t do that forever, and I don’t see how it’s going to come back.”

Borwick bought the store 38 years ago when he was looking to get into the retail business. “Somebody knew somebody who knew the people who owned this place, and they got us together, and lo and behold, I owned a hardware store.” The store, which is named after the previous owners, has enjoyed a zealous patronage in Cleveland Heights.

“The community is very loyal to those who are loyal to them and those who give back to the community,” Borwick said.

He also credits his employees and their ability to deliver good service. “Other places give you help and hand you something,” Borwick explained, “but I can’t think of too many where you come in with, let’s say a faucet stem, and they’ll walk in the back room, clean it out, put the washer on for you and come back and ask for fifty cents.”

Borwick is concerned about his employees. “The truth of the matter is, they’re not really employees—they’re friends. They’re the reason I probably stayed as long as I have. But every one of them is bright and I’m sure every one of them will land on their feet. They all understand what’s going on.” All but one employee has been at Seitz-Agin for at least 30 years.

Borwick does not believe the big box stores are to blame for loss of business. “I’ve worked with them for 15 years almost, and to be frank they have not really been an issue. Maybe they kept me from growing, but we managed very well.” He holds that the economy hurt contractors, which in turn hurt store sales. He noted that some contractors are starting to find more work, but added that much of it seems to be on a smaller scale: “Instead of repairing a bathroom or a kitchen, they’re repairing a gutter outside.”

The main issue, according to Borwick, is that customer needs have changed. In the past, customers “just knew or for some reason were raised knowing how to fix things. Customers basically knew what they wanted. They still needed help, but they would do it themselves.” He’s observed a change among younger customers. “They’re so busy working to make a living—I’ve got a Sunday and that’s about all I have, and I want to spend it with my children.”

When asked about customer reaction, Seitz-Agin employee Ramone



Joel Borwick, owner of Seitz-Agin Hardware, advises a customer.

Smith said people have been shocked to see the inventory down. “I sent a couple ladies out a couple weeks ago in tears. It’s like you told them one of their loved

ones just passed.”

Children may inquire what is to become of Rocky, “the hardware dude.” Borwick said the big teddy bear, who greets customers near the entrance, “may be headed to my granddaughter or he may be headed to the highest bidder.”

Borwick said he has no plans to leave the area. He will continue as president of the Heights Youth Club. “I’ve always believed in giving back to the community, and I think I’ve done that over the years. I love the community, really, and that’s what it’s all about. So right now I have no plans to move.”

*Frank Tascone teaches writing and literature at the University of Mount Union and is a Cleveland Heights resident.*

## Ten Thousand Villages opens at Cedar Fairmount

Kaye Lowe

Ten Thousand Villages of Cleveland (TTVC) has relocated from downtown Cleveland to the former Grapevine location in the Cedar Fairmount Business District. The relocation marks seven years in the Cleveland area.

The new store, which opened in May, is slightly larger and will offer the same one-of-a-kind, handcrafted products as the former downtown store.

Ten Thousand Villages is a local, national, and international business leader with a commitment to social and environmental responsibilities. This fair-trade retailer of artisan-crafted home décor, personal accessories and gift items from across the globe features products from more than 130 artisan groups in some 38 countries.

The large selection of items includes hand-woven scarves from India, colorful earrings from Peru, hand carved statues and baskets from Africa, pottery from Mexico, and much more.

As one of the world’s oldest and largest fair-trade organizations, Ten Thousand Villages has spent more than 60 years cultivating trading relationships in which artisans receive a fair price for their work, while providing consumers access to distinctive handcrafted items. It is a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization, a global network of more than 350 fair-trade organizations in 70 countries.

Corrinne Wallner, chair of TTVC’s board of directors, has been involved with the group for the past seven years. She said, “Ten Thousand Villages creates fair trade and a fair wage for artisans to help them improve their quality of life.” She spoke of a woman who was able to send her son and daughter to college with the income provided from TTVC.

“Artisans are paid half the cost, when the order is placed,” said Wallner, and the remainder when the crafts are



Ten Thousand Villages on Cedar Road.

received by TTVC. Entire villages are often involved in producing crafts, providing a better quality of life.”

*Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.*

### Ten Thousand Villages

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# Reunion aims to capture Coventry Village history

Kelli Fontenot

At a reunion this summer, merchants and local residents who were active in the Coventry Village Business District during the 1960s, '70s and '80s can swap stories with friends and help document community history.

Coventry residents Ellen Strong and Marcia Polevoi are organizing the event with Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun Toy Store and president of Coventry Merchants Association. Strong said that although the reunion is aimed at bringing back merchants who were

present during that time period—as well as customers, residents, and former members of the now-defunct Coventry Neighbors—the reunion is open to all who would like to attend.

Participants are encouraged to share their recollections with Mark Souther, a Cleveland State University professor who will be taking histories. Strong indicated that video and audio recordings collected during the event might be included in a segment for the Cleveland Memory Project, a searchable collection of digital resources on Cleveland history.

“A remarkable number of businesses that were established in that time period are still around. We’re putting out the call to anyone and everyone who was there at the time, to come on in and tell their stories,” Strong said, explaining that she and others in the community had noticed that the era has not yet been documented. She hopes the reunion will make a difference.

“It was a time of great change. Coventry went from being a small sleepy neighborhood to a place that was opening up to new ideas. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and people

that I haven’t seen for 40 years, and people who are going to come in from as far away as Australia to hang out with us.” Hundreds of people are expected to be there, Strong said.

The reunion is scheduled to take place on June 18 from about 2–5 p.m. at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park, where attendees will be able to buy food provided by Tommy’s restaurant. More information about the reunion is at [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org).

*Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.*

# Fadi Kdayssi’s VideoDub handles diverse video formats for CIFF

Jewel Moulthrop

Remember purchasing your first VCR and having to choose between Beta and VHS formats? While VHS dominated the consumer market, Beta became the preferred format among video professionals worldwide.

But it didn’t end there. Both here and overseas, dozens of other formats developed, along with DVD technology; and the situation couldn’t be more confusing. There are source formats (what comes out of the camera), editing formats, sharing formats, and archiving formats.

Although some filmmakers still shoot film, an increasing number are turning to video. That’s where Fadi Kdayssi, president of VideoDub International, and a Cleveland Heights resident for 25 years, comes in. He’s the go-to guy

who converts video submissions to the Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF) to the format that the festival uses in screening movies for its audiences. Because filmmakers from at least 60 different countries submit movies to CIFF, Kdayssi is a busy man in the weeks before the festival’s opening night, and even during the run of the film festival.

Films selected for the festival begin to trickle in about five to six weeks before the event’s opening night. Like taxpayers waiting until the last minute to file their returns, many filmmakers are reluctant to release their projects in advance, making adjustments to their films until the last possible moment. That means long hours for Kdayssi in the final days before the festival begins.

Kdayssi started VideoDub in the mid-1980s with a small office in the Hanna Building, a couple of video con-



Fadi Kdayssi in his VideoDub International studio.

verters from England, and a few other pieces of equipment. As his business expanded, Kdayssi moved his company to a larger space, and added an impressive array of professional equipment to handle the demands of his growing client base in television and video production, and in the corporate world.

“Kdayssi’s VideoDub has been essential to our industry for over two decades,” said Reggie Carter, a videographer and regular client. “We don’t know what we would do without him.”

With the new technologies, movie submissions to the festival began arriving in a variety of different and incompatible formats. That is when David Wittkowsky, volunteer and later executive director of the festival, turned to VideoDub to convert them. It was also the start of a successful and ongoing relationship between Kdayssi and the festival.

Currently, about 70 percent of the movie submissions CIFF receives are in digital formats. Kdayssi converts them to a single format that is compatible with

CIFF’s equipment. Kdayssi’s VideoDub is the only company in Cleveland with the capability to convert these formats, thereby providing a fast turn-around for late submissions.

The walls of VideoDub International are neatly lined with racks holding dozens of broadcast and professional video recorders, computers, and sophisticated video processing and testing equipment. In addition to converting materials from one format to another, Kdayssi is adept at enhancing them for optimum visual and auditory quality—an important skill when working with the output of new filmmakers.

Kdayssi said he is happy to be one of the sponsors of the film festival. “CIFF not only enhances Cleveland’s reputation,” he added, “but it also provides a great showcase for new filmmakers from around the world.”

*Jewel Moulthrop is Cleveland Heights resident and a member of editorial advisory committee for the Heights Observer.*

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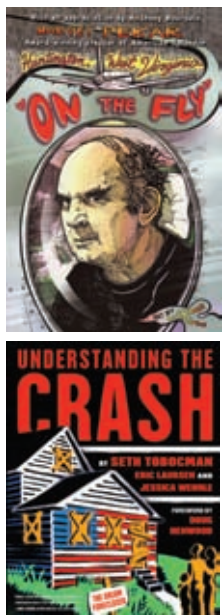
## Mac's Backs event to celebrate local comic book authors

Dana Finley

Though underground comic book writer Harvey Pekar died last July, his works continue to be released posthumously. His latest book, *Huntington, West Virginia 'On the Fly'* (Random House) was released April 26 and will be celebrated on June 2 at an event at Mac's Backs on Coventry Road.

The book chronicles Pekar's encounters with a variety of characters in his everyday life, including a chapter titled "Neighborhood Spark Plug," devoted to Steve Presser, owner of Coventry's Big Fun.

Suzanne DeGaetano of Mac's Backs explained that, along with celebrating the release of Pekar's new book, the bookstore event will also host fellow Cleveland Heights native and comic book artist Seth Tobocman, who recently wrote his own graphic book *Understanding the Crash* with Eric Lauresen and Jessica Wehrle. The book focuses



on the foreclosure crisis.

"I interviewed a lot of people in Cleveland," Tobocman said. "The economic crisis is getting deeper and people need to address it politically."

Tobocman will present a slideshow presentation at the bookstore about the foreclosure crisis.

The book delves into how Wall Street fueled the economic fire with the help of Washington politics, while explaining the logistics behind mortgage-backed securities, derivatives and foreclosures.

Tobocman also had a unique connection to Pekar as a teenager. He said

that Pekar gave him his first exposure to the world of underground comic books.

"Who would be willing to have two teenagers over to his apartment and show us comics that we weren't allowed to buy?" Tobocman asked with a chuckle. "He was quite an anomaly to us. He got us free sci-fi books out of the VA hospital."

Tobocman's early encounters with the underground comic book scene grew into a lifelong occupation. He has authored many comic books focusing on local and international politics, including *Three Cities Against the Wall*, *Disaster and Resistance*, and *War in the Neighborhood*.

For more information about the June 2 event, visit [www.macsbaks.com](http://www.macsbaks.com).

Observer intern Dana Finley, editor-in-chief of Shaker Heights High School's newspaper, The Shakerite, will attend Boston University in the fall to study journalism.

## Summer heats up on Coventry

Heights Observer staff

Coventry Village, the street known for its eclectic mix of merchants and patrons, will host a number of fun-filled events this summer designed to celebrate the artist and free spirit in all of us. The Coventry Village Special Improvement District (SID) will sponsor two arts festivals, a music and movie series, and a pie fight.

This year's Coventry Village Street Arts Fests will be bigger and better than ever. According to Steve Presser, marketing director for the Coventry Village SID, organizers are expecting a huge turnout. "We've moved the festivals from a weekday to a Sunday and expanded the hours," he said, adding that "it's still free, family oriented and open to the public."

The two festivals will be held on Sunday, June 26, and Sunday, July 24, from noon to 6 p.m., and will feature dance, music and drum circles, said Presser. "The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Progressive Arts Alliance are just two of the organizations we are partnering with this year. We'll have giant puppets, Flower Clown, jugglers, stilt walkers, a local farmers market, artists, arts and crafts, and a variety of musicians all along the street."

Coventry merchants will hold

sidewalk sales and host special events. Neighborhood restaurants will also offer specials.

A new feature of the festival is a main stage at the north end of Coventry that will host an exciting mix of bands. There will be two music sessions, from noon to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. During the break, from 2 to 4 p.m., Passport Project will present a dance performance.

There will be plenty of opportunities for festival attendees to support the activities. The Coventry Village SID is considering enabling residents to donate online, holding a 50/50 raffle, and placing a donation box at the festival. "As always, funding is tight," said Presser, "but the festival will remain free, and we appreciate the goodwill of this community in helping us keep it that way."

Thursday evenings, from June 23 through Aug. 4, the Coventry Village SID will host a music and movie series at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park. The evenings will start with music at 7:30 p.m., followed by a movie at 9 p.m.

"Not all of the movies are chosen yet," said Presser, "but the series kicks off with 'The Wizard of Oz' on June 23. On Thursday, June 30, we will show 'Madagascar.' On July 7, we will show an independent film to help celebrate In-

dependents Week, which promotes the locally-owned, independent merchants who make our community unique."

On July 21, Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park will be the site of the notorious pie fight. "It lasts about 30 seconds," said Presser, "but there's nothing that's more fun than hitting your friends—and total strangers—in the face with a whipped cream-filled pie crust."

"Coventry Village is always looking for volunteers for our summer events and sponsorships are greatly appreciated," said Presser. For more information, contact him at [steve@bigfunbigfun.com](mailto:steve@bigfunbigfun.com).

## HeightsWrites

Poem for June 2011

*The trees are finally in full leaf, and the Cleveland Indians have the best record in major league baseball. We dare to hope, and the stadium fills. Not so fast, warns the poet, it's early in the season.*

—Meredith Holmes

### Shakespearean Baseball Sonnet #105

by Michael Ceraolo

Let not the phenom be shown idolatry  
After an admittedly great first game;  
Save alike all the songs and praises be  
Till he is more deserving of such fame:  
Though having a dazzling array of  
pitches,  
Hype may make him too big for his  
britches;  
The specter of injury always lurks  
Hidden and ready to gum up the  
works.  
And let us not forget the other side,  
Hitters stung in their professional pride  
To make necessary tweaks at the plate.  
So let us go slow anointing him great:  
Stuff, makeup, luck have often lived  
alone,  
Which three have but rarely kept seat  
in one.

*Michael Ceraolo, a resident of Willoughby Hills and self-described civil servant, is the author of one full-length book, Euclid Creek (Deep Cleveland Press) and several chapbooks. "Shakespearean Baseball Sonnet #105" is from Ceraolo's Baseball á la Shakespeare.*

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Sponsored by Coventry P.E.A.C.E. and the Coventry Village Special Improvement District



**Thursday, June 23**



**Thursday, June 30**

**Find out more about Coventry's free summer  
activities at [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org)**  
**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Heights photographers show rock music photos on Waterloo

Heights Observer Staff

Cleveland has been a hotbed of rock and roll for more than five decades. "Visual Music: Northeast Ohio Photographers Look at Rock and Roll" presents the work of a dozen photographers who lived and worked in Northeast Ohio since the 1960s. Among them are three photographers who live and work in Cleveland Heights: G.M Donley, Aaron Mendelsohn, and Anastasia Pantsios, who is organizing and curating the show.

The show opens at the Zaller Building Gallery at 16006 Waterloo Road in the Collinwood neighborhood of Cleveland, a block from the Beachland Ballroom, on Saturday, June 11, with a reception from 7 to 11 p.m. It's free and open to the public. It will run through Saturday, June 25, concluding with an all-day open house from noon-8 p.m., to coincide with the Waterloo Arts Festival.

Over the years, the talented photographers in this show have documented Cleveland's vibrant music scene from the Beatles to Bruce Springsteen to the White Stripes. Longtime Coventry Village resident Anastasia Pantsios has been shooting for 40 years, since she came to town to attend college. She currently has a show at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum titled "Girls on Film: 40 Years of Women in Rock."

G.M. Donley is head of creative services at the Cleveland Museum of Art



Bruce Springsteen at the Richfield Coliseum in 1980.

and a member of the board of Heights Arts. He creates overlapping images to express the passage of time.

Aaron Mendelsohn has traveled around the country shooting festivals and special events as well as covering concerts close to home at the Grog Shop.

The show also features work by Ken Blaze, Jay Brown, Bob Ferrell, Joe Kleon, Bryon Miller, Karen Novak, Stephanie Saniga, George Shuba, and Linda Woods. All have created distinctive bodies of work. "Visual Music" will be largest survey of local music photography ever assembled, with almost 200 prints.

For more information, look for "Visual Music" on Facebook.

## Heights resident wins Cleveland Arts Prize



Marsha Dobrzynski with students from Roxboro Elementary School who worked with Young Audiences artists on a Chinese cultural art residency.

Stacy Goldberg

Cleveland Heights resident Marsha Dobrzynski was selected as a 2011 Cleveland Arts Prize recipient for her role as executive director of Young Audiences. Since 1994, her work has inspired young people in Northeast Ohio through arts and education.

Dobrzynski will receive the Martha Joseph Prize for Distinguished Service to the Arts at the 51st Cleveland Arts Prize Award event on Tuesday, June 28, at 6 p.m.

When Dobrzynski assumed the leadership of Young Audiences, the organization was on the verge of bankruptcy. Through her tireless commitment to establishing a financially sound organization, with the capacity to serve many children, she turned things around. Today, Young Audiences operates on a

budget of nearly \$2 million and serves more than 242,000 children each year. Her goal remains to introduce an increasing number of children to the joy and excitement of the arts.

The mission of Young Audiences is to enrich the lives of children and promote creative learning by uniting arts and education. Young Audiences offers programs in dance, theater, music and visual art.

With a legacy of service in offering quality, hands-on experiential learning in the arts, Young Audiences has more than 110 experienced teaching artists who not only excel in their art form, but also love working with and inspiring children of all ages.

*Stacy Goldberg, director of marketing for Young Audiences, is a resident of Cleveland Heights.*



# Heights Arts expands on Lee Road

Peggy Spaeth

Heights Arts has been envisioning an arts center for more than 10 years. In the beginning, we imagined converting the former stables on the Severance property into such a facility, but realized that as a new organization we needed to build our own infrastructure rather than rebuild a physical structure. Then, the library offered us space in its newly acquired YMCA, which was slated to be developed into a community art space. As we waited several years for that construction to be approved and finished, we settled into a 900-square-foot storefront near the Cedar Lee Theatre—not exactly what one might envision as an arts center, but it became one as we developed programs that connected our community with its creative residents. When the library space finally became available, we kept our Lee Road gallery and added art classes and workshops at the library.

Next, we actively advocated turning the former Coventry Elementary School into an arts center, but again we were not positioned to take on a major project. Eventually, the library's priorities changed and the one-time art space there became a computer lab. Our classes and workshops were temporarily homeless. But we always kept our eye on that prize of establishing a multidisciplinary art space where artists, musicians, and writers could expand the scope of our community's access to a broad range of artistic endeavors.

Last year, a storefront adjacent to the gallery became available. It was our Goldilocks moment: This one is just right! The space—previously a Starbucks and then a sushi restaurant—provides us with a total of 2,400 square feet that opens to the adjacent public minipark. We began fundraising a year ago with a lead grant from the George Gund Foundation, then signed a lease in October, and started construction in April. More than 350 individuals have made donations to make this renovation happen.

The new space will bring to street level our office (which has been on the second floor of the building) and a new classroom, as well as expanded display



COURTESY HEIGHTS ARTS

and performance space. We're planning movable walls so that the space is flexible, and we are especially excited that we'll be able to seat 75 people for concerts and other events.

Recently, the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture published "Putting Artists on the Map," a study of Greater Cleveland artists' locations. We were not surprised that the county's artist sector is concentrated in Cleveland Heights by a wide margin (17.9 percent of all respondents), because that is why Heights Arts was founded. A dozen years ago, we recognized this city as the epicenter of a rich cultural region.

The summary report further said, "Artist-based community development is more than opening an art gallery or having an artist move into a neighborhood." Indeed, Heights Arts was founded on the premise that capitalizing on our community's rich artistic resources would positively impact all aspects of community life: community-building, economic development, education and public spaces.

With our expansion, we are doing just that. This is possible because our community believes what we believe: that the arts simply make life better.

The gallery's next show, "Building Below the Radar," will open Friday, June 10, with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. The show illustrates, through constructions and visual displays, three distinct approaches to architecture in Cleveland today by small, independent architecture firms doing high-quality work: Anthony Paskevich & Associates, Kordalski Architects, and Studio Techné.

To learn about upcoming classes and workshops, shows, concerts, and public art projects, or to make a renovation donation, please visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org).

*Peggy Spaeth is the executive director of Heights Arts.*

## 'Klezmer Guy' at Nighttown

Heights Observer staff

Bert Stratton, the leader of the klezmer band Yiddishe Cup, performs "Klezmer Guy," an original prose-and-music show at Nighttown on Tuesday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m.



Bert Stratton (L) and Alan Douglass.

Stratton reads comedic prose sketches and plays clarinet, accompanied by Alan Douglass on vocals and piano. This fuel-injected show has no brakes. It is a nudnik/beatnik show, with music ranging from "St. James Infirmary" to "The Berkowitz-Kumin Rag."

Stratton's son, Jack, is on drums. Jack Stratton produced, recorded and played on the album "Starship," which is currently #1 on Billboard's "Top Cast Albums" chart.

Bert Stratton's prose pieces have appeared most recently in *The New York Times* and *The Forward*.

Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit at [www.nighttowncleveland.com](http://www.nighttowncleveland.com) or call 216-797-0550.



**Saturday, June 11**

**In University Circle**

**Circle Village 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**

**Parade at noon**

**Free**





FutureHeights

# 2011 BEST OF THE HEIGHTS AWARDS

Best New Business

Best Place for Kosher Options

Best Customer Service

Best Dining Ambiance

Best Realtor

Best Boutique or Specialty Shop

Best Auto Service

Best Place to Get Healthy

Best Looking Store Front

Best Place for Pets

Best Breakfast or Brunch

Best Live Entertainment

Best Casual Meal

Best Place to Take the Kids

Best Ethnic Eats

Best Salon or Spa

Best Place for Vegetarian Cuisine

Best Grocery Store

Best Place for Sweet Treats

Favorite University Heights Business

Best Carryout

Favorite Cleveland Heights Business

Bonus Question! Business you would like to see in the Heights

Cast your ballot today for Best of the Heights!

Complete this ballot or go online to: [www.futureheights.org](http://www.futureheights.org)

Deadline for ballot submission: August 31, 2011.

**Please Note!**

Voting is for Cleveland Heights and University Heights localities only.

One ballot per person.

In order for your ballot to be counted, you need to vote for at least half (11) of the ballot categories, and include your name and contact information. Ballots not meeting these requirements will be considered invalid.

**Mail your ballot to:**

FutureHeights  
2163 Lee Road #103  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Questions? Call 216-320-1423

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## WIN A BRAND NEW 2011 HONDA OR TOYOTA

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Motorcars unveiled Straightforward Pricing at the 2011 Autoshow, and to help get the word out, we're giving away a 2011 Honda or Toyota through an interactive information campaign. For the next 3 months, Motorcars will be posting informational videos online at StraightforwardPrice.com. Each video will contain a link to register another ticket for the drawing. Enter every week for the best chance to win. On July 14th, come to the Motorcars Toyota showroom and claim your tickets for the drawing.

Find us on Facebook  
"Like" us on Facebook to be notified automatically when new videos are posted.  
[Facebook.com/Motorcars](http://Facebook.com/Motorcars)

More details online: [Straightforwardprice.com](http://Straightforwardprice.com)



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### Important Dates

**Every Tuesday**

A new video is posted to Straightforwardprice.com. Watch the video for the codeword you can use to register another ticket in the car drawing.

**July 14th - 6:30 p.m.**

Live drawing in the Motorcars Toyota Showroom. Come into the dealership to collect the tickets you've registered by watching videos. Must be present to win.



**2011 Toyota COROLLA**

**2011 Honda CIVIC**



Motorcars Straightforward Price Giveaway Official Contest Rules -- 1) NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Odds of winning are based on the number of entries. 2) Register to win at straightforwardprice.com. Entrants must watch a video about the benefits of purchasing from Motorcars to participate. Entrants may watch up to 20 videos for a chance at winning. Each video has a codeword that can be used to register a ticket for the drawing, and entrants may register up to 20 tickets. Claim your tickets at Motorcars Toyota showroom the night of the drawing, to be held on July 14, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. Tickets will be entered into a drawing and winner must be present to win. 3) Winner will receive his/her choice of a 2 year lease of a 2011 Honda Civic LX or 2011 Toyota Corolla. Lease includes 12,000 miles per year. No alternative prize will be awarded. The approximate retail value of the prize is \$6,000. 4) Winner must qualify for financing approval from Toyota Financial Services or American Honda Bank, be 21 years of age or older, responsible for all city, state and federal taxes, vehicle registration and titling fees and documentary services fees, and mileage fees of 0.15 per mile over 24,000 miles, and any excess wear and tear charges. No security deposit, disposition fee or option to purchase. 5) Winner is required to provide a W-9 form to Motorcars for tax purposes. 6) Employees of Motorcars and their immediate families are ineligible. 7) Winner acknowledges that Motorcars shall have the right to use winner's name, likeness and voice in promoting that he/she is the winner, in both print and broadcast. The prize winner must sign a standard release form providing Motorcars with their address and telephone number. 8) Winner expressly releases Motorcars, their affiliated companies and employees, from any and all claims, demands, damages, and/or liability of any nature whatsoever that winner has or claims to have relating to the herein contest, and without limitation, any and all known or unknown claims for damages or injuries arising out of said contest, whether founded in fact or in law. 9) Motorcars is the sole judge of all matters pertaining to this contest and reserves the right to change the rules and/or discontinue the contest at any time without notice. All decisions by Motorcars are final.