

economic development

Cleveland Heights Economic Development Office

The City of Cleveland Heights staff works with developers, business owners, special improvement districts and residents to encourage redevelopment of our commercial districts. Financing is available for building and business owners to improve commercial properties. For more information, including land, building and lease opportunities in the City of Cleveland Heights, contact Greg Zucca, Economic Development Director, at 216-291-4857 or gzucca@clvhts.com or visit www.clevelandheights.com/economic-development.

Businesses Win CIA Awards

Congratulations to the following businesses for being recognized at the 39th annual Community Improvement Awards:

Gigi's on Fairmount, 3477 Fairmount Boulevard – Gia Lijasic and Jim Patsch were recognized for creating an inviting outdoor eating area. The restaurant is also expanding to the space next door.

Mandel Veterinary Hospital, 1794 South Taylor Road – This animal hospital was recognized for its rebuilt, newly painted building and attractive, new plantings.

Motorcars Honda, 2953 Mayfield Road – Honda Motorcars was recognized for their new signage, new car display platforms along Mayfield Road, new trees and landscaping, wall refinishing and the cleaning of the stone of the old City Hall entrance. The business was also recognized for the improvements to the former Pontiac dealership building.

Simon Automotive, 1830 Lee Road – Simon Daher transformed his small automotive shop by extensively renovating and rebuilding his family-run business, incorporating some beautiful exterior design features with some creative landscaping.

More Business News

Clairfait Holdings, LLC recently moved to Cleveland Heights. Clairfait is the maker of Sun Putty products, 100% organic, gluten-free, eco-friendly, cruelty-free skin care products. Cleveland Heights residents and Clairfait founders Ben Blue and Danielle Dronet worked with the **CSU Small Business Development Center** (see next column) and have successfully procured financing to expand the Sun Putty line.

Herb's Plumbing and Heating, 2556 Noble Road, has recently expanded the business into the former Charlie's Fabric location. Herb's, which specializes in older homes, has been serving the Heights for 25 years.

World Gym is opening at Severance Town Center. It offers state-of-the-art equipment, cardio machines, Martial Arts, group exercise and personal trainers.

Area Businesses Thrive with Help of Library–City–SBDG Partnership

In July 2013, a new partnership was established – one of Ohio's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) opened in the Heights Library at 2340 Lee Road. The SBDC, hosted by CSU's Monte Ahuja College of Business, provides no cost, confidential, in-depth, one-on-one counseling, as well as training, technical assistance, loan packaging guidance and preparation. Previously, the City of Cleveland Heights housed the SBDC at City Hall. The in-kind services provided by the City helped establish the Center's presence. After operating for a year at City Hall, the Heights Libraries invited the SBDC to relocate within the Library's Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC), a workspace dedicated to business and creative endeavors for entrepreneurs. In the spirit of true collaboration, the Library, the City of Cleveland Heights and CSU jointly funded the build-out of 15,000 square feet of flex space, along with office furniture and computer equipment to establish the HKIC. In one year, the vision of the collaboration has turned out better than anyone imagined.

"The City of Cleveland Heights is committed to helping small business thrive in our community," said Mayor Dennis Wilcox. "The City is proud to have partnered with the Library and CSU in the funding of the HKIC," he continued. "Now small businesses and entrepreneurs have greater access to vital resources they need to grow."

"It made sense to provide our customers with access to free services offered by the SBDC," said Nancy Levin, Library Director. "The new space in the library was perfect for use by SBDC clients and the public in general."

"I am extremely excited to be in a position where I can leverage relationships within the entrepreneurial network, while at the same time collaborating with the Library, which offers amazing and vast resources geared towards entrepreneurs," said Katie Van Dyke, Director of the CSU SBDC.

In the past year, the SBDC counseled 265 clients, many of whom were looking to start a business or seeking growth strategies for an existing business. HKIC offers access to public computers, technology training and computer instruction and even iPad rentals – all free with a library card. The Library also offers access to business databases, periodicals, annual reports, free Wi-Fi, easy parking, and space to work and meet before and after advising appointments at the SBDC. Both the Library and the SBDC offer a full array of classes that benefit budding business people. The SBDC teaches business; whether it be pivoting on product design, or cutting expenses to optimize cash flow, the training entrepreneurs receive sets the bar for the future successes.

Along with partnering with the Heights Libraries, the SBDC collaborates with many local entrepreneurial resources including economic development directors, SIDs, CDCs, The Launch-House, the Cleveland Culinary Launch Kitchen, ECDI, and local bankers who offer SBA Loan Packages.

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Give the gift of Cain Park this holiday season. And when you add the colorful Cain Park 12-oz. mug (\$6), your gift will be complete! Call 216-291-5792 to purchase a gift certificate (cash, check, credit card). Cain Park mugs may be purchased at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle.

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Please direct correspondence about FOCUS to the Editor, FOCUS City Hall, 40 Severance Circle Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, December 13

Holiday Stroll & Lolly the Holiday Trolley

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
City Hall and the Community Center Closed

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day
City Hall and the Community Center Closed

Wednesday, January 14

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
7:00 pm, Community Center

Monday, January 19

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
City Hall and the Community Center Closed

Monday, February 16

Presidents' Day
City Hall and the Community Center Closed

city council

Dennis R. Wilcox, Mayor
Cheryl L. Stephens, Vice Mayor
Janine R. Boyd
Jeff Coryell
Mary Dunbar
Jason S. Stein
Melissa Yasinow
Tanisha R. Briley, City Manager

council meetings

Cleveland Heights City Council meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm, in City Hall Council Chambers, 40 Severance Circle. If a holiday falls on the Monday Council meets, the meeting is usually moved to Tuesday. In January, Council meets on Tuesday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 20. February's Council meetings are on Monday, February 2 and Tuesday, February 17.

Connect with Cleveland Heights on:



* free parking!

Parking in all City lots, garages and at on-street meters will be free on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until the last weekend in December.

Hiring a Snow Removal Contractor?

Unfortunately, winter weather has arrived. The Building Department would like to remind you that when you hire a Snowplow Operator, be sure that the contractor is registered with the City of Cleveland Heights Building Department. The Snowplow Operator must have a Snowplow Operator's Bond and a Certificate of Liability in order to be registered with us. Go to www.clevelandheights.com/building-permits for registration information.

Storm Water Management System

The City of Cleveland Heights, rich in natural streams and waterways, continues to be committed to addressing Storm Water Management to make sure our waterways are environmentally clean. The City follows Environmental Protection Agency guidelines, including public education and participation, eliminating sanitary discharges into the storm water system, maintaining proper inspections on construction sites and adhering to Best Management Practices concerning sanitary and storm sewers. Visit www.clevelandheights.com/storm-water for the 2014 update.

Important Fire Department Reminder

Carbon Monoxide (CO), a colorless, tasteless and odorless gas, kills hundreds of people in the United States each year. Most of these fatalities are readily preventable. CO is produced by the incomplete combustion of fuel-burning appliances – often poorly maintained appliances, such as furnaces, hot water tanks, gas ovens and fireplaces. Vehicles left idling in garages or next to a building frequently cause high indoor CO levels. Carbon monoxide detectors can warn of the presence of CO, but they are not a substitute for properly operating fuel-burning appliances.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All residents are encouraged to attend the 17th annual Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 7:00 pm** at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, Monticello Boulevard at Mayfield Road. The event will feature the Heights Barbershoppers from Cleveland Heights High and student winners from our MLK art, essay and poetry contests. This year's topic comes from a quote from Dr. King: **"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"** The deadline to have your child enter is January 7, 2015. For more information, call Community Relations, **216-291-2323**.

recreation

Cleveland Heights Community Center

Community Center Open House First Sunday of Each Month
If you haven't been to the Community Center at 1 Monticello Boulevard (at Mayfield Road), stop by the first Sunday of each month for a free Open House from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. You can tour the building, try out the equipment in the Fitness Center, talk with a personal trainer about your fitness goals, meet with Recreation instructors to learn about their classes for fitness and fun, and even have your blood pressure checked! Find out what you've been missing!

Work Out at the Fitness Center

The time for New Year's resolutions is upon us! For those who resolve that 2015 will be the year to improve their health, exercise and stay fit, we've got a great workout center for you! You can even have a personal trainer to assist you. If you live in Cleveland Heights, University Heights or in the CH-UH School District, work in Cleveland Heights (bring a recent pay stub) or have children in the Community Center programs, you may join the Cleveland Heights Fitness Center. For more information, visit www.clevelandheights.com/fitness-center or call **216-691-7373**.



housing preservation office

Lead Safe Program

Grants of up to \$9,500 are available through the Lead Safe Program to alleviate lead-based paint hazards in homes. Lead-based paint is a highly toxic metal that can cause a range of health problems in young children. The City of Cleveland Heights, in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, wants to help make your home lead safe. Items that may be addressed through this program include painting, repairs, new windows and doors. Household income limits apply; there must be child(ren) age five years or younger in the home. For more information, call **216-291-4869**.

Help for Homeowners

The Cleveland Heights Housing Preservation Office offers eligible Cleveland Heights homeowners various programs to assist with the repair and improvement of their homes. Eligible applicants' household incomes must be within H.U.D. established limits per household: one person: \$35,100; two persons: \$40,100; three persons: \$45,100 and four persons: \$50,150.



Spotlight on the Noble Neighborhood

In the northeast quadrant of Cleveland Heights, the Noble neighborhood is an established, diverse, family-friendly community with a rich variety of housing options, parks and playgrounds, community gardens and neighborhood schools – Noble and Oxford elementary schools and Monticello Middle School – and a neighborhood library. The Police Academy, 2595 Noble Road, is in the neighborhood and having the "Meet Your Police" evenings there on the first Thursday of every month (6:00-8:00 pm) makes it convenient for residents to attend.

Neighbors care about each other in the Noble neighborhood. Many streets have block parties and events throughout the year to draw neighbors together. The growing Noble Neighbors organization is a group of active, involved citizens working to keep the neighborhood strong. The group holds regular meetings and keeps residents up to date with its website, www.nobleneighbors.com. A Real Estate Fair is in the planning stages for April 2015. Not only will Realtors be holding open houses at available homes in the community, organizers are hoping for church communities, local businesses and residents to be involved. Visit the Noble Neighbors website for more information.

Deferred Loan:

- Whole house rehabilitation.
- Must have owned and occupied home at least five years.
- Homeowner(s) must be at least 62 or permanently disabled.
- Property and lead paint inspections are required.
- All violations and lead paint risks must be addressed.
- Loan payments deferred until title transfer.

No Interest Loan:

- Whole house rehabilitation.
- Must have owned home at least three years.
- Property and lead paint inspections required.
- All violations and lead paint risks must be addressed.
- Loan repayment terms up to 15 years.

Please call Housing Preservation at **216-291-4869** or visit www.clevelandheights.com/housing-preservation for further information and specific program requirements.

shop locally this holiday season and always!

Cleveland Heights is fortunate to have a number of local independent businesses, stores and restaurants. This holiday season – and always – think and shop locally! Money spent at our local businesses is reinvested in our community and helps our city to maintain its unique appeal. Visit the shops in our commercial districts and you'll be sure to find just what you're looking for!

Holiday Stroll (and Holiday Trolley) at Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee and Coventry – Saturday, December 13

Spend the day shopping locally in Cleveland Heights! On Saturday, December 13, stores in our commercial districts open at 10:00 am and will be filled with great gift ideas. In the evening, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, you can ride the **"Lolly the Holiday Trolley"** to take you from Cedar Fairmount to Cedar Lee to Coventry and back again. Have lunch (and dinner) at one of our outstanding restaurants too. Don't forget that there will be FREE PARKING that weekend.

Heights Arts Gallery Holiday Store

Be sure to stop at the Heights Arts Holiday Store, now through December 30 at **2175 Lee Road**. The shop features the distinctive work of over 80 Heights area artists, with works ranging from industrial-inspired jewelry and clutches created from repurposed paintings to innovative, contemporary glassware. For information visit, www.heightsarts.org or call **216-371-3457**.

at your service

Holiday Collection Schedule

- **Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25:** City Hall closed. Collection for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will take place as usual. Thursday's and Friday's collection will be delayed by one day. Friday's collection will be on Saturday.
- **New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1:** City Hall closed. Collection for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will take place as usual. Thursday's and Friday's collection will be delayed by one day. Friday's collection will be on Saturday.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 19:** City Hall closed. Refuse collection will be delayed by one day for the rest of the week. Friday's route will be collected on Saturday.
- **Presidents Day, Monday, February 16:** City Hall closed. Refuse collection will be delayed by one day for the Monday through Friday routes. Friday's route will be collected on Saturday.

Reminders

- The City will stop collecting all **yard waste** December 1, 2015 through March 29, 2015. Yard waste (loose, tied or bagged) collection will resume March 30.
- The City no longer sells Strash or Kraft bags.

Be A Good Neighbor

Think about neighbors and friends who do not have the ability to shovel snow from public sidewalks, their walkways and/or driveways. Let neighbors know ahead of time if you are willing to help and check with them after a storm to see if they need assistance. **Clear your sidewalk and walk.** Make your sidewalk easy to navigate for the elderly, disabled, or parents with strollers. It is your responsibility as the property owner to clear off any snow or ice that accumulates on the sidewalk that is adjacent to your property. Also, try to keep fire hydrants visible and clear of snow and ice.



Christmas Tree Disposal

Live Christmas trees will be collected **December 26-January 30**. Trees are chipped; so, to avoid damage to our equipment, please remove all decorations, stands and bags from the tree. Trees that are not properly prepared will NOT be collected. Note: Collection could be delayed due to winter weather. Snow and ice operations have priority over tree collection.