

# UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MOSAIC

Fall 2021

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

## Fall Fest

### 10.10.2021

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# Geriatric EDs provide specialty care to those age 65+.



**Stephen Meldon, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic



**Saket Saxena, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic

Every Cleveland Clinic Emergency Department (ED) in Northeast Ohio (including Akron General's main campus ED) has been awarded national Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation to provide care to older high-risk adults.

Stephen Meldon, MD, vice chair of Cleveland Clinic's Emergency Services Institute, and Saket Saxena, MD, a geriatrician, are co-directors of Cleveland Clinic's geriatric emergency department and geriatric care unit. They discuss the benefits of geriatric ED services.

## Q. What is a geriatric ED?

**A.** Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) is awarded by the American College of Emergency Physicians to emergency departments that meet rigorous requirements to standardize and improve emergency care of older patients with more complex health issues.

## Q. How is a geriatric ED different than a traditional ED?

**A.** Geriatric EDs are within the regular emergency department, where specially-trained emergency medicine and geriatric medicine providers work side by side to assess and treat patients using senior-specific protocols. In addition to the usual rapid assessment and treatment, time and resources are also available to evaluate all aspects of an older patient's health.

For example, when an older adult presents at the ED due to a fall, they undergo a thorough examination, including a complete medical history, review of comorbid conditions to see if they are appropriately managed, and medication review to help determine why they may have fallen and if they are at risk to fall again, etc. Following the assessment, the team of caregivers, which includes physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, social work and case management, collaborates to determine next steps – whether the patient is treated and sent home, admitted to the hospital, transitioned to a skilled nursing or rehabilitation facility, or prescribed home care services.

## Q: What can be treated in a geriatric ED?

**A.** Geriatric EDs are well prepared to manage medically complex older adults who often present with memory/mental health and mobility issues, adverse drug reactions or lack of social support contributing to impaired health. More vague concerns like confusion, weakness, lethargy or 'just not acting right' are often caused by an underlying medical condition, requiring coordination of multidisciplinary care.

*For older adult emergency care, call 911 or choose a Geriatric ED at Cleveland Clinic.*

# Top tips to cope with hay fever.



**Gregory Watts, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic  
Hillcrest Hospital

Nice weather and sunshine sounds like a recipe for – disaster? That can be the case if you have seasonal allergies. During the warm months in Northeast Ohio, trees, grasses and weeds bloom and flourish.

When plant pollen is inhaled, histamine is released in the body triggering allergic rhinitis – or hay fever. Itchy eyes, a scratchy throat or a runny nose are all signs of hay fever season.

"When pollen invades your body, your immune system releases histamines as a form of defense," explains Gregory Watts, MD, an allergy and immunology specialist at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital.

Dr. Watts offers these top three tips to curb allergy symptoms:

- 1. Rinse and repeat.** Irrigate your nasal passages with saline solution to rinse out allergens and relieve congestion.
- 2. Keep your windows closed.** "Avoid fans if possible; they tend to stir up dust. Set your car air conditioning to recirculate air when you're driving alone," advises Dr. Watts.
- 3. Take a shower.** Shower after outdoor activities to wash off pollen that may have accumulated.

If these simple tips don't seem to control hay fever symptoms, an allergy test may be beneficial. An allergist can guide you to the proper over-the-counter medication or prescribe something to clear up symptoms.

Additionally, some allergy sufferers may develop asthma.

"When the weather is nice, people want to be able to enjoy the outdoors. If your allergies act up during hay fever season – or any other time of year – an allergist can help craft a medical plan to help keep them under control," says Dr. Watts.

*To make an appointment with Dr. Watts or another Cleveland Clinic allergy and immunology specialist, call 216.444.6503.*

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Make sure to schedule your advertisement for the Winter/Spring 2022 issue. Call Marilyn Evans at (216) 342-5220 for more information.

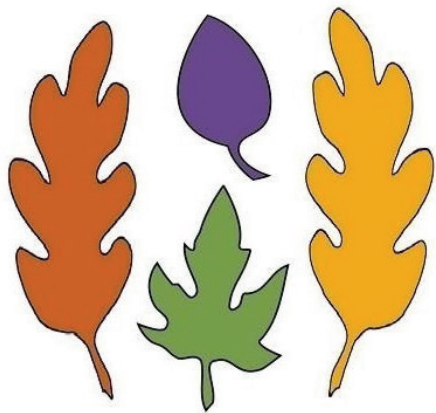
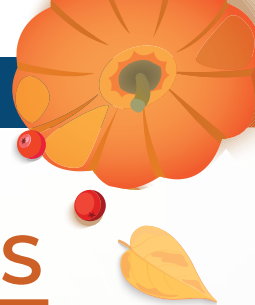
University Heights Mosaic Magazine is a publication of the City of University Heights. We are looking for interesting University Heights people and places to profile in upcoming issues. If you have any story ideas, please share them with us by contacting Mike Cook at [mcook@universityheights.com](mailto:mcook@universityheights.com).

## On the Cover

Back 2 The Future will headline Fall Fest on October 10 at The Walt.

**Photo by: Leanne Moses**





# UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS FALL FEST 10.10.2021

WALTER STINSON COMMUNITY PARK

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS FALL FEST RETURNS TO THE WALT OCTOBER 10

After an amazing inaugural event in 2019, University Heights Fall Fest returns to The Walt on Sunday, October 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. The festival will feature vendors, activities for the kids, and a free concert by Back 2 The Future.

And we've worked it out with the NFL so that the Cleveland Browns game doesn't start until late, so you can attend all of Fall Fest and get back home to watch most of the game.

The city's first Fall Fest impressed the local vendor community. Many will be back this year, and the event's reputation has attracted

new ones like Scott Sumerak of Cleveland Firebrush. "Events like Fall Fest are what makes a community, and I'm excited to be part of that, even just for one day," he said.

"I'm excited to share my custom, rustic, wood-burned art with the UH community."

University Heights native Eric J. Silverman will be coming home for Fall Fest. He'll be selling his architecture photography from his small business, "Dude About Town."

"I had a great time at Fall Fest in 2019," Silverman said. "The Walt is a great venue for events."







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**10.10.2021**  
WALTER STINSON COMMUNITY PARK

**VENDORS  
SCHEDULED TO  
BE ON SITE**



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**Blake Parhamovich from Balloons by Blake**  
**is scheduled to return to entertain kids, as well as the**  
**Bubble King of Cleveland, Dr. UR Awesome.**

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**all afternoon.**





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# BACK 2 THE FUTURE TO HEADLINE FALL FEST 2021



## THE BAND

When the pandemic started, quite a few of us learned to make sourdough bread. Many families adopted a puppy. But local musicians Katie, Jim, Freddy, and Don decided to form an 80's dance band called Back 2 The Future.

The longtime professional musicians used their extra time during quarantine to practice while maintaining social distance. They developed their set list, and put together their stage show.

After a busy summer performing across Northeast Ohio at festivals, fairs and private events, the band is headed to The Walt for the second ever University Heights Fall Fest.

"We are thrilled to be headlining the University Heights Fall Fest and bringing the community back to when music was great," said bassist Jim Moses. "Grab

your friends, dust off your leg warmers, tease up your hair and moonwalk your way to The Walt to have a totally tubular time with Back 2 The Future."

The band will play everyone's favorite 80's hits, including chart toppers from Prince, Billy Idol, Whitney Houston, The Cure, Loverboy, Rick Springfield, Madonna, Journey, and Modern English.

"We love the diverse crowds we draw at community events like Fall Fest," Jim said, "from the original 80's fans that remember the music from their younger years, to the new fans falling in love with the greatest decade of dance music for the first time."

**Back 2 The Future will take the stage at Fall Fest on Sunday, October 10 at 3:30 p.m.**

## MEET BACK 2 THE FUTURE

### KATIE: LEAD SINGER

Katie was previously a professional singer on cruise lines and with bands and orchestras across the country. She is now a mama of three who is not afraid to show that she can still rock.

### FREDDY: LEAD/RHYTHM GUITAR

Freddy has been playing guitar since age eleven. He started playing out in clubs at age 17, and his former bands include Escape, Kickback, Last Days, MadFly, and most recently, That 80's Band.

### JIM: BASS

Jim has played bass for over 40 years in Northeast Ohio. Playing many of the top clubs in the area since the 80's, he gained experience in his playing ability, showmanship, and what it takes to have fun.

### DON: DRUMS

Don has been a musician since he was in grade school. His first big break as a drummer and vocalist came during his teen years, when his sister's band needed a fill-in drummer. From that point on, he began his professional career in music.





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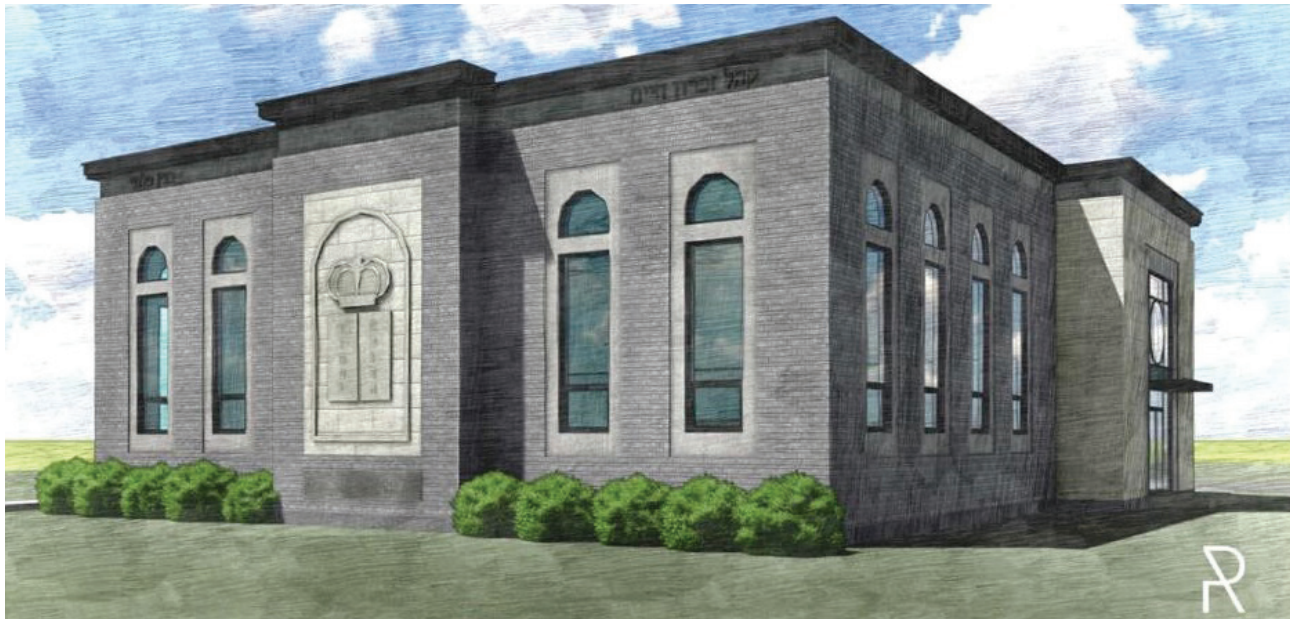
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## Congregation Zichron Chaim to Build New Synagogue in University Heights



Artist rendering of new synagogue for Congregation Zichron Chaim, courtesy Rise Architecture.

**E**arlier this summer, the University Heights Planning Commission and City Council approved a proposal for Congregation Zichron Chaim to build a new synagogue in University Heights. The new building will look traditional in design, but will be built with modern materials.

The synagogue is set to open late next year.

At the June 7 City Council meeting, Mayor Michael Dylan

Brennan praised the congregation on working with the city officials and council “to build something truly beautiful.”

Brennan said this project is an example of the type of development the City wishes to encourage. “This is a project that builds community, builds upon a strong and vital congregation that has long outgrown its present accommodations. I am happy to give the Zichron Chaim project my full support.”

## Residents Invited to Help City Go Green

**A**s Kermit the Frog taught so many of us when we were children, it’s not easy being green, but University Heights residents are ready to make it easier.

Several residents have contacted City Hall about wanting to get involved in city green initiatives. As a result, residents are invited to volunteer for the city’s Sustainability Committee. To volunteer, please send an email of interest to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com).

The Sustainability Committee will be a resident-led movement to develop plans to make University Heights the greenest city in Ohio. Instead of waiting for the state or federal government to take action to combat climate change, University Heights will make changes here at home, and hopefully inspire other cities to do the same.

Transportation, plastic, and energy are three potential areas of focus for the Sustainability Committee.

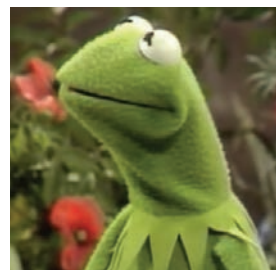
**Transportation.** University Heights is becoming more bike-friendly, but more can be done to encourage cycling, including additional bike lanes and bike racks.

Residents could work with RTA to make University Heights more accessible for public transportation. Use of electric vehicles will be encouraged by installing recharging stations across the city, in addition to the ones planned at City Hall. A proposed scooter ordinance could also promote green transit.

**Plastic.** While the city has previously received grants to encourage recycling, more can be done to discourage the use of single-use plastics, encourage the use of recycled plastic products, and improve recycling rate.

**Energy.** The Sustainability Committee could focus on issues such as promoting renewable energy projects, home solar panels, and improved insulation.

The committee may also coordinate with neighboring cities – both governments and residents – to promote green initiatives.







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# The New Chicken on The Block

## *Chicken Ranch is the Latest Hot Restaurant in Town*



How it started - the original Chicken Ranch in NYC in 1984.



How it's going - Chicken sandwiches as large as your head in UH.

**T**he Block already has The Sauce Seafood Express as well as Ella Mae's Soul Food. And now there's another great restaurant on the corner of Cedar and Vernon.

Mark Vourlids opened the original Chicken Ranch in New York back in 1984. Today, his nephews Demetrios and Niko carry on the Chicken Ranch name in University Heights. While a few things have changed since the old days, one thing remains the same – the family commitment to bringing their customers the very best.

Even if you haven't been to Chicken Ranch yet, you may have already tasted the work of Chef Demetrios Anthenos. He's left his mark at several popular restaurants in North-east Ohio, including Forage Public House, The Oak Barrel, and BOLD.

With Chicken Ranch, Anthenos offers customers a fast-casual, farm-to-table menu. His focus is freshly made products and quality ingredients.

The star of the menu is the chicken, and it comes in the form of grilled or crispy tenders, and crispy thighs and wings. There are 16 different unique sauces. And we mean different. This isn't a boring chain restaurant where you're offered buffalo sauce in mild, medium, and hot.

At Chicken Ranch, the sauce offerings include Cleveland

Hot Sauce, Guajillo Chili Mayo, Black Garlic Toun, Dragon Fire Honey Butter, Maple Tahini Yogurt, and Kimchi Hot Sauce. The consensus favorite sauce among City Hall employees seems to be the Soy Chile Jam.

"When you change sauces, it's like an entirely different meal," gushed WKYC anchor Jay Crawford in a recent story. "If you haven't tried Chicken Ranch yet, you need to. You will thank me later."

If you're hungry for a chicken sandwich, your choices include a Nashville Hot Chicken, Korean Fried Chicken, and Cleveland Hot Chicken.

Perhaps the best item on the menu is the Chicken N Waffle – two crispy tenders, a cane sugar waffle, dragon fire honey butter, and a sprinkling of chili dust.

Perhaps you're not hungry for chicken. Or perhaps you're ordering carryout for Cooper. Chicken Ranch has options for you, such as Roasted Tiger Shrimp, Popcorn Cauliflower, Wild Caught Mahi Mahi, or Ohio Proud BBQ Baby Back Ribs.

Chicken Ranch is located at 13892 Cedar Road. The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.





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## Learn the Sounds of Safety on October 3 at the Fire Department's Annual Open House



Have fun and learn household safety at the 2021 University Heights Fire Department Open House.

**I**n coordination with national Fire Prevention Week, the University Heights Fire Department will host its annual Open House on Sunday, October 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety," works to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will keep you and your family safe.

Scheduled Open House activities include station tours, equipment demonstrations, and medical screenings.

### What is your alarm telling you?

#### SMOKE ALARMS

- A continued set of three long beeps – beep, beep, beep – means smoke or fire. Get out, call 911, and stay out.
- A single "chirp" every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm unit must be replaced.

#### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- A continuous set of four loud beeps – beep, beep, beep, beep – means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call 911, and stay out.
- Like a fire alarm, a single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds mean the battery must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have "end of life" sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it's time to get a new CO alarm.

Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of everyone in your home, including those with sensory or physical disabilities. For example, install a bedside alert device that responds to the sound of the smoke and CO alarms. Use of a low frequency alarm can also wake a sleeping person with mild to severe hearing loss.

*Open House activities are subject to change based on any state or county COVID-19 restrictions.*

**Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.**

**University Heights Fire Department  
will host its annual Open House on  
Sunday, October 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**





## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

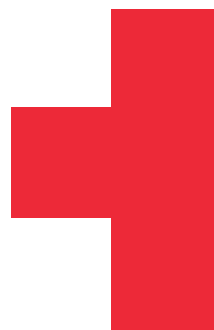
Sunday: 8:00, 10:00 & 11:30 am

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday:  
8:30 am

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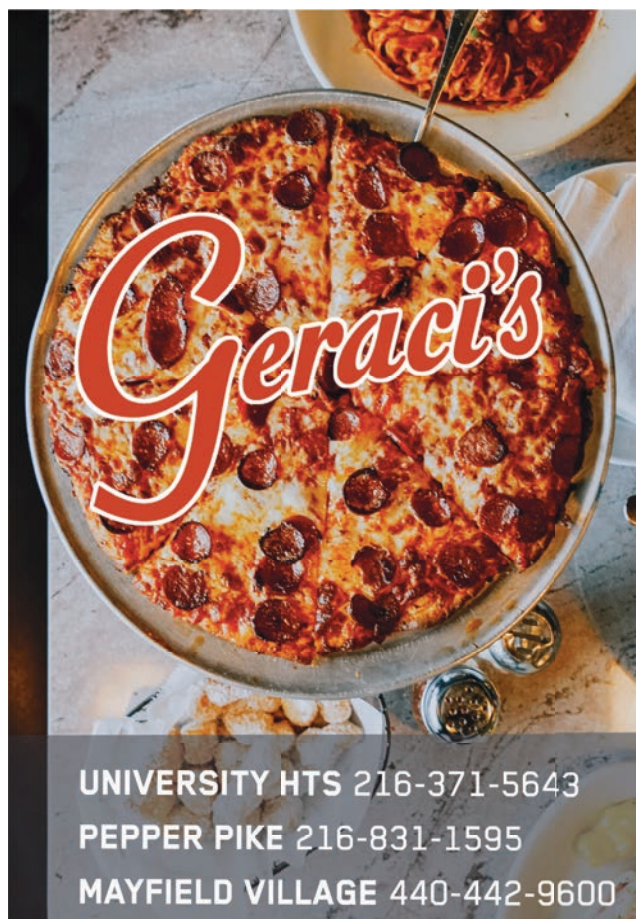


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## Help UHPD Stuff the Cruiser this November

**T**he University Heights Police Department will once again be collecting non-perishable food items during the month of November, leading up to Thanksgiving.

All donated food will be stuffed in a cruiser and given to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB).

In Northeast Ohio, one in five people is food insecure – meaning they may not know where their next meal will come from. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank seeks to bridge the meal gap, connecting individuals with the nutritious meals they need to succeed.

If you donate, please consider the food and non-food items that are most in demand by the GCFB and by their partner agencies.

### THE SIX MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS ARE:

- beef stew
- canned soup
- canned vegetables
- canned tuna
- peanut butter
- cereal

### THE SEVEN MOST REQUESTED NON-FOOD ITEMS BY OUR PARTNER AGENCIES ARE:

- deodorant
- laundry detergent
- shampoo
- toilet paper
- soap
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste



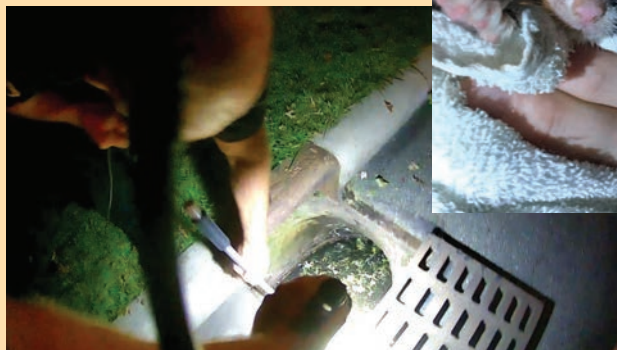
The University Heights Police Department will be collecting food for the hungry again this year.



***In 2020, University Heights residents donated almost 600 pounds of food. Let's see if we can exceed that generous amount this year.***

## Saving Stinky

Our police department works hard to ensure University Heights is a great place to live, work, go to school and raise a family. And be a kitty cat.



**I**n the words of Digital Underground, "If you're dirty, then go take a bath."

Late last month while on his morning patrol, University Heights Police Patrolman Brandon Manley was in the area of Silsby Road near Miramar Boulevard and heard the "meow" of a cat in distress. He followed the sound to a sewer drain and found the little one that was making so much noise. He was able to rescue the kitten and bring it up to dry land.

Corporal Christopher Ferkul, a feline father himself, after affectionately naming the kitten "Stinky," brought it to our police department and treated it to a warm bath. He then returned to the area where the kitten had been located and reunited it with its mother.

Thank you to Ohio's best police department for all they do, big and small, to make University Heights such a great place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family.





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## Beautiful Homes Nominations Now Open *Halloween Awards to Return in 2021 as Well*

**I**t's time to celebrate the beautiful homes in University Heights.

Nominations are now open in our annual Beautiful Homes contest. To nominate a neighbor, please send their name, home address, and category via email to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com). Winners will be presented their award at the upcoming Civic Awards night in November.

**Categories again this year will include:**

- **Curb Appeal**
- **Best Kept Secret (Best Backyard)**
- **Front Door**
- **Two in a Row (beautiful homes, next door to each other)**

New this year will be the **Green Award**, for homes that have beautiful environmental features such as use of native plants, butterfly gardens, and solar panels.

**The deadline to nominate is Friday, October 22.**

Residents are also encouraged to decorate their homes for Halloween this season. The "Boo-tiful Home" awards will return this year. If you see a beautifully spooky home, send us an email, and we'll get you an award sign (while supplies last).



Ibrahim Bazyan

## Ibrahim the Intern Continues to Shine After Stints at City Hall

**I**brahim the Intern was a superstar during his two stints at University Heights City Hall, and he continues to shine as he concludes his college studies.

Fourth-year student Ibrahim Bazyan has been

making an impact in his community as a volunteer for several organizations while also earning his bachelor's and master's degrees through the Mandel School's 3+1 Nonprofit Management program at Case Western Reserve University.

During the early days of the pandemic when there were so many needs due to COVID-19, he wanted to help make a difference. Bazyan saw volunteer coalitions in other areas of the country providing access to groceries for vulnerable populations, but nothing existed in his hometown of Ashtabula, Ohio. To address that need, he founded The Neighbors Project (TNP).

In an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, The Neighbors Project organized a team of volunteers to shop for and deliver groceries to senior citizens, those who were high at risk, as well as health care workers.

TNP's initial efforts were very successful —so much so

the organization expanded its efforts to the Cleveland area to supplement other organized food drives and delivery programs. As pandemic restrictions were lifted, the need for the program diminished, so Bazyan is now restructuring the organization to find another way it can be helpful to Ashtabula County residents.

Bazyan is also heavily involved in Ashtabula County politics. His campaign work gave him the opportunity of working with many local and district races alongside the 2020 presidential campaign. He said the experience opened his eyes to the political, legislative and cultural changes he believes are needed for society to be more inclusive and equitable.

His classes are teaching him strategies to lead organizations in the social sector, skills Bazyan is putting to use this summer at his internship with the Democratic Attorneys General Association.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities that the Mandel School has given me as a student early in my career," said Bazyan, who is expected to graduate in January with his Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) and Bachelor of Arts in psychology degrees after just four years. "I can't wait to use the skills I have learned in the real world!"

*A version of this article first appeared on CWRU's website. Reprinted with permission.*



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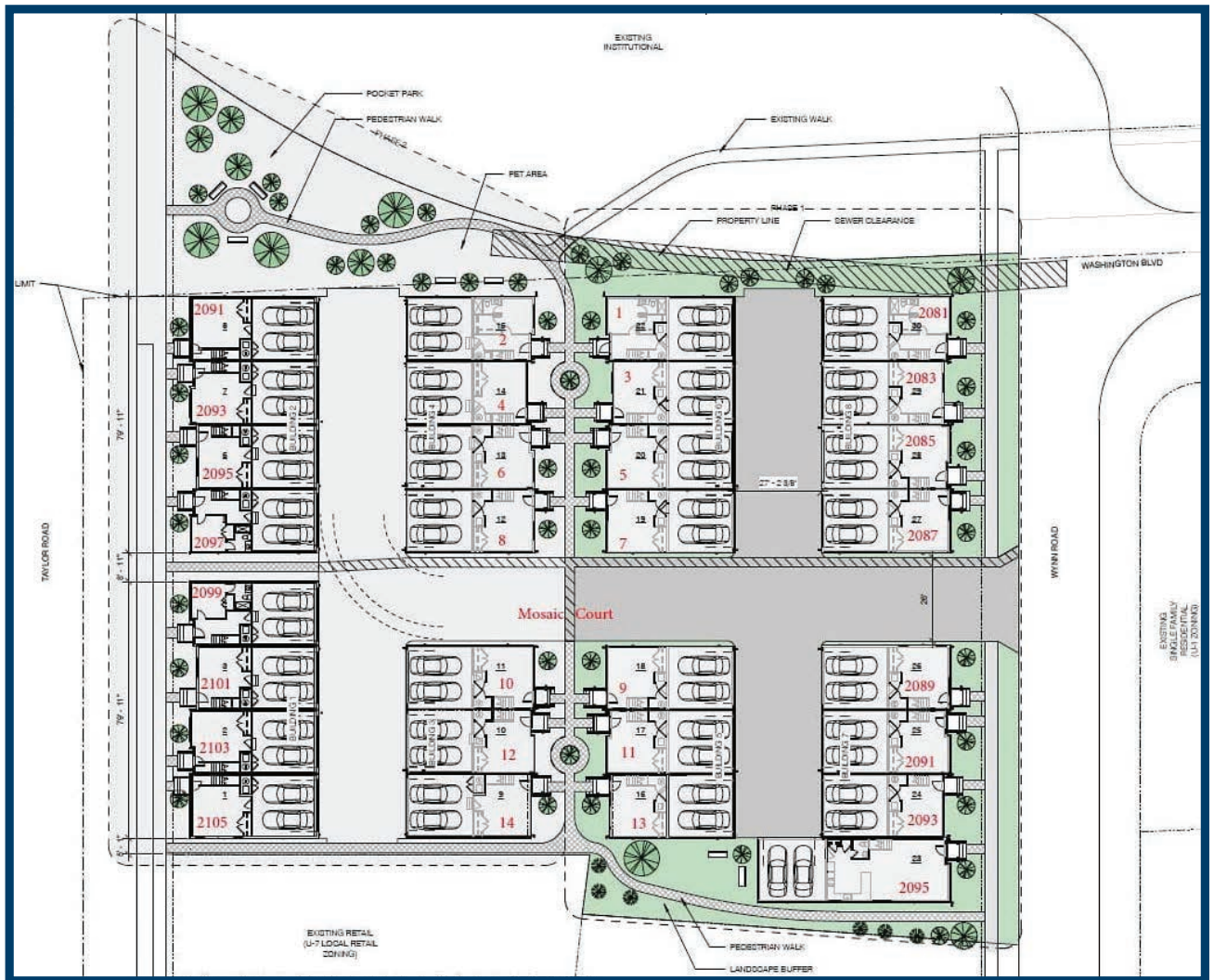
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## Where the Streets Have New Names

### *Mosaic Court to be the Address for New Townhomes Off South Taylor Road*



New townhomes are coming to our new street, Mosaic Court. Rendering courtesy of Knez Construction.

**W**e are building 30 new townhomes in University Heights, with the location just north of Cedar Road on South Taylor Road. The initial plan was to call the new street "South Taylor Court," but after a review of the proposal with city safety services, having a South Taylor Court located off a South Taylor Road could be confusing to residents when making 911 calls.

So, our new street needed a new name.

After immediately rejecting "Cooper Court," and dismissing other names, the name "Mosaic Court" was chosen.

The backstory? When University Heights rebranded and came up with a new logo and slogan in 2018, we also came up with this mission statement of sorts:

***"University Heights is an urban suburb that celebrates diversity. Our community's mosaic is replete with educational and religious institutions, walkable neighborhoods, local eateries, shopping and nearby amenities, offering residents the opportunity to build a life by design, find their forever homes, and plant roots."***

We loved the use of mosaic so much, we named our city magazine after it. And now it's the street address of 14 of the new townhomes.





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## Financial Help is Available

**L**ocal organizations are here to help Cuyahoga County residents financially, whether it's with home improvements, utilities, foreclosure prevention, and more. Below are a few groups that may be able to help you or your University Heights neighbors.

**The Cleveland Restoration Society** offers the Heritage Home Program, which offers free advice on home improvement, repairs, and maintenance projects. You could also apply for a low-interest Heritage Home Program equity-based loan for financing the repairs. Visit [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org) or call (216) 426-3116 for assistance.

**The Cuyahoga County Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)** provides homeowners of occupied or investment properties home improvement loans below normal bank rates for home repair or remodeling projects. There are no income restrictions and few limitations on what improvements can be made to a property. Participating lenders include KeyBank (800) 539-2968 and Huntington Bank (800) 480-2265.

If you served in the Armed Forces, **The Cuyahoga County Veteran Service Commission** offers temporary financial aid to those who are in need. Assistance includes mortgage/rent/security deposit, food, clothing, hygiene, utilities, dental, medical transportation, and other financial assistance. Call (216) 698-2600 for more information.



Financial help is available to veterans and other residents of Cuyahoga County.

**CHN Housing Partners** offers assistance with utilities, energy and weatherization services, debt counseling, foreclosure/eviction prevention, along with other services. For more information on those services, contact them at (216) 574-7100. CHN Housing Capital offers the Cuyahoga County Home Repair Loan Program, providing eligible homeowners with a loan up to \$20,000 for home repairs. For details, call (855) 764-5626.

**Dominion East Ohio Home Performance with Energy Star Program** offers a certified auditor to do an energy audit for \$50, offer an assessment of your home's energy efficiency. They can also provide info on how to select a participating contractor to complete the recommended improvements and take advantage of up to \$1,250 in rebates offered through the program. Call (877) 287-3416 to learn more.

**The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)** offers a grant of approximately \$6,904 per unit used to reduce the energy use of qualified households. Income guidelines apply. For details, contact (800) 282-0880.

## ESOP Offers Financial Support to Local Seniors

**E**very year thousands of Cuyahoga County's older homeowners fall behind on their property taxes. The dollar amounts of the delinquencies are often relatively small, but it can still be a major hurdle for older homeowners with limited incomes. Without options, senior homeowners often resort to payday lenders and/or fall victim to a scam in an attempt to save their homes.

A subsidiary of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging called Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) can help.

The ESOP Senior Property Tax Loan Program provides loans to homeowners age 55 and older to help them pay delinquent property taxes and avoid foreclosure.

Basic guidelines include:

- Loan limit up to \$6,500
- Cuyahoga County properties only
- Property must be owner occupied
- Borrower must be age 55 or older
- Borrower must participate in financial counseling at ESOP
- Borrower must enroll in Cuyahoga County Easy Pay program to keep taxes current

For more information, visit [esop-cleveland.org](http://esop-cleveland.org), or call (216) 361-0718.





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# Getting to know...



# Geoff Englebrecht



Geoff Englebrecht at City Hall, at a family cookout, and taking a picture of President Barack Obama in Cleveland.

Simply put, Geoff Englebrecht is a smart guy who gets things done. Always has. His record of success landed him his new gig as Housing Director for University Heights. And his portfolio of success has only grown since coming on board.

**VROOM, VROOM.** Geoff said his first priority was to get the Housing Department to run on all cylinders. "Since taking on my role," Geoff said, "I've largely focused on addressing code compliance concerns in University Heights."

"Residents and stakeholders have met with me to discuss concerns, such as vacant housing. Progress is being made."

**THE PAST AS A GUIDE.** Over ten years ago, Geoff organized residents in Cleveland to push that city government to demolish over 50 vacant and derelict homes in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood and along Kinsman Road. "People voiced concerns about their own community, and we began to address them," he said.

"I've found that when residents speak up about issues, they can create the change they want to see in their own community. This is starting to happen in University Heights," Geoff said. "When people let their concerns be known, collectively, we can find solutions."

Resident Faye Benson agrees. "Geoff has listened to my concerns about the conditions of the properties (in my area)," she said. "He addressed those issues, describing the actions which will be taken to correct them."

"I am very pleased with the progress he has made in such a short period of time."

**THE MUSIC MAN.** Geoff can often be seen around University Heights with a notebook and pen, carefully listening to residents. But off the clock, the pen is often replaced by a guitar.

"Yes, I play guitar. Sometimes I won't touch it for months. But then sometimes I end up playing it every day. The love of making music is something that doesn't go away," he said.

Geoff also plays a bit of saxophone. He played alto sax for the Euclid High Marching Band. He shifted to tenor sax for the Jazz Band. "It's been a while since I've played the sax. Having a wind instrument in the elements during football season does a number on it, so I'm meaning to get a new one."

**GEOFF ON THE MIC.** While we are yet to find footage on YouTube, we can confirm that Geoff performed in a hip-hop group when he was younger. "Yes, I auditioned with two close friends for the Glenville Festival in 1999. We were all set to perform. Life took us in different directions and away from music as we grew older," he said, "but the connection to the culture, our love for the music, and each other remains."

**MAYBE NEXT YEAR?** Is there a chance we could see Geoff onstage at The Walt next summer? Perhaps playing sax on "Baker Street" with Böaterhead? Or, dare to dream, perhaps a verse or two of "The Humpty Dance" with Old Skool?

Geoff was coy in response. "Maybe. Someday," he said. "I guess we'll have to see."



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# JCU Leads Ohio Programs in CPA Pass Rates

**D**riven by one of the most challenging job markets since the Great Depression, students are choosing programs with high job placement rates to improve their employment prospects after graduation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Accounting and Finance jobs are projected to grow between 4% and 15% over the next decade. Meeting this demand, John Carroll University's Bachelor of Accountancy program has a proven track record of successfully preparing graduates for careers in this challenging and evolving industry.

John Carroll's Accounting Program Has Led Ohio Universities in CPA Exam Pass Rates for Four of The Past Five Years. In 2019, 77.1% of first-time test takers from JCU passed the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam, leading schools like The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, Miami University and University of Dayton.

And despite the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, 98% of JCU accounting students had full-time employment at graduation in May 2020, with the other 2% choosing to attend graduate school.

So what sets JCU's Accounting program apart from those at Ohio's other prestigious schools?

For Lori Kalic, a '94 Accounting graduate of John Carroll and Senior Analyst and Audit Partner at RSM US LLP, JCU students stand out because of their professionalism, critical thinking skills and technical knowledge.

**Committed to Developing Competent Professionals through Experience and Exposure.** The commitment to excellence begins inside the classroom with rigorous coursework and dedicated faculty. Accounting faculty and staff members use their experience and relationships from years of working in the industry to shape and enrich the lessons they teach in the classroom, making the courses more relatable and applicable for students.

Ask any John Carroll student or alumni, and they likely have a similar story of faculty or staff members who truly cared about their success inside and outside of the classroom.

**Dedicated to Relationship-Building with NE Ohio Firms.** In addition to classroom lessons and technical knowledge, John Carroll provides students with hands-on experience and exposure to emerging trends. Professors work with engaged alumni in the industry to regularly bring "micro-internships" and live case studies into the classroom, helping students apply theoretical concepts to solve real-world situations.

JCU students also gain useful, resume-building experience by securing top internships at large- and mid-sized firms across Northeast Ohio and nationally.



Lori Kalic '94 mentors current JCU Accounting Students.

John Carroll's expanded summer coursework enables students to accept full-time internships during spring's Accounting busy season. This allows students to take full advantage of learning opportunities while also offering support to businesses when they actually need it, producing graduates who understand the job and are prepared for its high-demand seasonality.

**A Liberal Arts Foundation Builds Well-Rounded Professionals.** For John Carroll and the Boler College of Business, the development of students doesn't stop at industry skills and knowledge. The university's liberal arts curriculum is dedicated to developing the interpersonal, networking and leadership skills necessary for true career readiness.

In addition to these professional skills, John Carroll graduates begin their careers as ethical professionals who value listening, relationship building and giving back.

Throughout their time on campus, students develop the critical thinking skills necessary to ask questions, challenge norms and make advancements in the workplace--something that accounting firms throughout the country seek and value in recent graduates.

Interested in learning more about John Carroll's Accountancy program? Visit [boler.jcu.edu](http://boler.jcu.edu).



# University Heights Finance Department Earns Another Clean State Audit Report

The financial audit for the year ending December 31, 2020 was completed and filed with the Ohio Auditor of State by James G. Zupka, CPA, Inc. The audit was subsequently approved by the Auditor of State's Office and released to the public on July 8, 2021.

At a special meeting in August, University Heights Finance Director Dennis Kennedy relayed the good news from the audit.

"There were no citations or findings in the audit report. Several management letter comments and recommendations were included in the report that the City has either implemented or are in the process of completing suggested improvements," Kennedy said. "The audit opinion was what we had hoped for: no material issues and confirmation that the statements were prepared to properly and fairly reflect the financial position of the City."

## Here is the actual language from the report:

*'In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of University Heights as of December 31, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.'*

Kennedy also reported to Council that "In 2020, the City was also required to file a schedule detailing all federal monies spent during the year (SEFA). This requirement applies to entities receiving more than

\$750,000 in federal support during a calendar year. This additional filing requirement was necessary to properly account for the expenditures related to federal funding received through the CARES act and spent in 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic."

## Here is the paragraph the auditors used to describe compliance with the SEFA reporting requirements:

"The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.'

Kennedy concluded by saying the Finance Department has worked with all levels of the City Administration to make continuous improvements to internal controls and operating procedures to fairly present financial information to the residents and businesses of University Heights.

"Clean opinions for years 2019 and 2020, with no material instances of non-compliance and no citations, is evidence of the commitment of the City to transparency and fiscal prudence," Kennedy said.

## University Heights is Growing Once Again City's Population Increases for First Time Since 1970

For decades, the City of University Heights has bled population.

The consensus was that our City would lose population again in the most recent count of all Americans. In fact, according to worldpopulationreview.com, the estimated population of University Heights would fall from 13,539 to 12,551.

But the consensus doesn't matter, but the Census does.

The recently released official 2020 US Census numbers show that the University Heights population is 13,914 - exceeding expectations by almost 1,400.

City Hall staff didn't believe the initial negative projections. We knew that more people were moving into University Heights than leaving. Pandemic or not, we were going to do our part to increase the response rate to the census. Through direct mail to undercounted communities, through social media, directing our

building and housing departments to work with the Census takers on rentals and other nonresponding properties -- and simply because more people are buying into UH to raise their families, we are pleased to say it all paid off. We knew we had a higher response rate than ten years ago, and the result was a higher count.

The new Census population number of 13,914 was reached, even with hundreds of John Carroll University students home out of town on the official counting day due to the pandemic. If not for that, we believe our number would be even higher.

This is the first time our census numbers have gone up since the 1970 census.

University Heights is a growing City once again. Our population could increase again soon once new townhomes and apartments at University Square are constructed.

## Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools Update

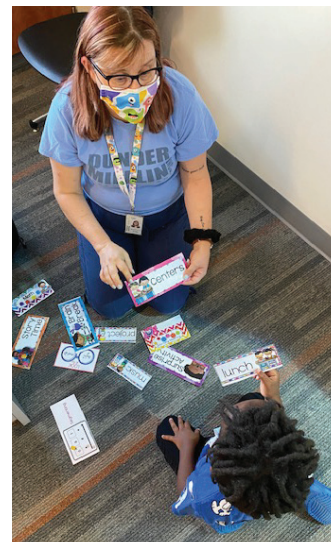
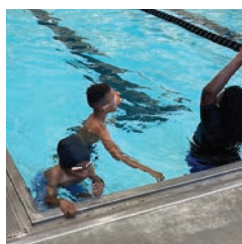
### What's Happening in Your Neighborhood Schools

By Charlie Swift, CH-UH Communications Assistant

#### Summer Camp Makes a Splash

CH-UH held its inaugural Tiger Summer Camp at Heights High School in June and July, with nearly 560 students in kindergarten through eighth grade participating. Children engaged in academic skill building, socialization, and hands-on lessons, all while having a blast. Thanks to partnerships with local organizations, unique enrichment activities included swimming lessons, yoga, African drumming, science projects, and art. The entire program was provided at no cost to families.

The camp experience was facilitated by the district's before and after care partner, Right at School, whose staff members served as "counselors," managing student movement from one activity to another, overseeing lunch and extra activity periods, and coordinating the end of camp carnival, which included a much-coveted dunk tank for teachers and counselors.



It was a busy summer for CH-UH students.

The school district's theme for the year is "Together We RISE." RISE stands for Reunite, Inspire, Support, and Excel. This phrase embodies a vision of coming together to provide our students with what they need to achieve success.

Honor Society applications, and utilize resources for their post-secondary planning. The GEAR UP program focuses on increasing the college and career readiness of low-income students, serving more than half a million students.



#### Back to School

The CH-UH City School District began the school year on August 24. The majority of children have returned to the traditional five-day in-person school model, and some attend class through the fully virtual option, Tiger Virtual Academy. Regardless of how they return, the District is committed to providing each child with a high-quality, 21st-century educational experience.



Taylor Evans

#### Heights High Student Nationally Recognized

Heights High junior Taylor Evans has been named the national GEAR UP Student of the Year. The award is given to one student who embodies the GEAR UP mission to "Excel, Prove, and Mobilize." Taylor serves as the Lead Intern/Ambassador for GEAR UP 2 New Heights, and in that role has worked to help her classmates study for the PSAT, submit National



#### Save the Date for Homecoming Weekend

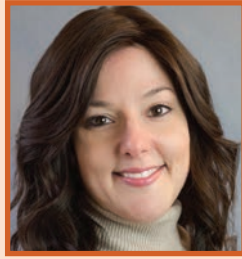
Heights Homecoming Weekend is October 15-16, featuring The Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame celebration, Friday night football game, Heights open house and many ways to connect. Hope to see you there!

Visit CHUH.org to read more about these news stories and many others.





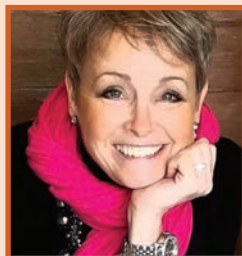
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**Michele Weiss**  
mweiss@universityheights.com



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Jewish Federation  
OF CLEVELAND

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FOR GOOD**  
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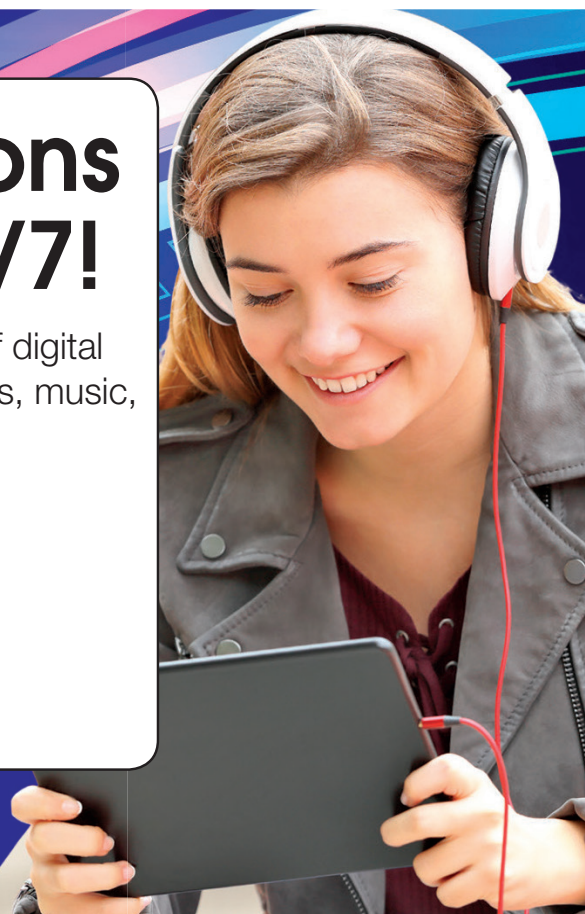
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