

Old Brooklyn News

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STM Wolverines are 2007 CYO City Champs in varsity football

by Lynette Filips
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For the fourteenth time since they've been keeping track of such things — the first season for which records were kept was in 1952 — the St. Thomas More (STM) eighth-grade varsity football team has been named the CYO Division I Citywide Champions. (CYO stands for Catholic Youth Organization.)

The deciding playoff game was Sunday evening, November 11, at Baldwin-Wallace College's George Finnie Stadium. The STM Wolverines defeated the CYO eastside champions, the St. Gabriel Grizzlies from Concord, 6-0.

The previous weekend, Sunday, November 4 on Fairview High School's football field, the Wolverines had been proclaimed the CYO west-side champions when they defeated the Knights from St. Columbkille School in Seven Hills, 26-12.

The twenty-one eighth grade boys who comprise the football team aren't all from St. Thomas More School, though. Seven are from St. Thomas More, about the same number are from St. Leo the Great, and the remainder are from Our Lady of Good Counsel, Metro Catholic, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Incarnate Word Academy, St. Bridget and one of the City of Brooklyn's schools.

So even though the designation puts the



Photo by George Shuba

St. Thomas More varsity team - #73 Ryan Nenadal, #54 Jeff Leiseberg, #56 Ty Walz, #70 Zack Rivera, #4 Paco Otiz, #13 Vinny Funari, #58 Zak Kempe, #51 Gregory Baldwin, #34 Tyler Calton, #91 Jerry Schubert, #9 Alan Harper, #50 Shane Kazlmer. Head Coach Mike Slama, Asst. coaches, Norm Stickney, Rob Previts, Vinny Funari, Jack Walz, Pat Costanzo, Justin McGinty. Athletic Director, Rob Prvits

name of St. Thomas More in the public eye, the team is really representative of much more of Old Brooklyn and even some schools in surrounding neighborhoods.

The last time that the Wolverines were named city champs was in 2002; the number of times they've earned that title is believed to be the record for an elementary school. In addition to their fourteen times as city

champs, the Wolverines have also been the CYO west-side champions many more times in years when they didn't win the final playoff game.

St. Thomas More has over 100 boys participating in its football program, working their way up to the varsity level. There are five levels of football teams, beginning with fourth grade and going through eighth grade. This past season, the fourth grade team was undefeated; the fifth grade team had seven wins and one loss; the sixth grade team had six wins, two losses and one tie; the seventh grade team had four wins and three losses; and the eighth grade team finished the season with seven wins and two losses.

Rob Previts has been St. Thomas More's athletic director for one year and is also an assistant coach; Mike Slama has been the varsity team's head coach for four-

teen years; Norm Stickney, Justin McGinty, Pat Costanzo (an assistant varsity coach for thirteen years and the athletic director for three years before moving on to being the varsity assistant coach at Brooklyn High School), Vinny Funari, and Jack Walz are STM's other eighth grade assistant coaches. Every one of the men who guided the boys to victory volunteers his time and services.

The members of the eighth grade Wolverine team are: Greg Baldwin, Tyler Calton, Edward Cleveland, Logan Fahey, Bronson Feckner, Vinny Funari, Alan Harper, Shane Kazimer, Zak Kempe, Jeff Leiseberg, Alexander Naida, Ryan Nenadal, Shane O'Malley, Andreas "Paco" Ortiz, Hector Rivera, Zack Rivera, Anthony Santos, Jerry Schubert, Ben Szmigielski, Ty Walz and Nate Yarborough.

At the end of the school year, Coach Slama will award (in honor of his father and brother) two athletic scholarships of \$500 each to a STM graduating boy and girl. Both athletic participation and academic performance are factored into choosing who will receive them. In 2007, R. J. Previts (who is now a freshman at St. Ignatius) and Beth Thomas, (who is now a freshman at Holy Name) were the recipients.

Distinguished alumni among former Wolverines include Nate Oliver, who now plays for Ohio State University; Joe Pickens, who's played for Ohio State University and Duke University; and John Gannon, who is an assistant coach with the Atlanta Falcons.

But whether or not they win the scholarships, and whether or not they pursue successful careers in athletics, Rob Previts is just impressed with the students in general. "I cannot say enough about the character, work ethic, and dedication of the young men we have the pleasure to coach year in and year out," he said. He also noted his appreciation of the parental and family support the team has received.

Meeting discusses redevelopment & restoration of the Big Creek Valley

by Lynette Filips
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"What if..."OBCDC Commercial Program Manager Tom Collins asked in a "box" on the front page of last month's *Old Brooklyn News*. He was advertising an upcoming meeting at the MetroParks Zoo about the redevelopment/restoration of the Big Creek Valley in addition to what the Metroparks is already doing at the Zoo and Brookside Reservation.

Approximately eighty people responded to Tom's question by attending the meeting on November 20th. The evening was organized into two main segments, first a general presentation, and then having attendees rotate among five stations.

The primary goal of the brainstorming centers around a trail which will link the Zoo with the Ohio and Erie Canal's Towpath Trail. But there are also many related points under consideration.

Tom Collins opened the first segment by introducing the project. Then George Cantor from the City of Cleveland's Planning Department talked about its historical back-

ground. Next Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins and Ward 16 Councilman Kevin Kelley spoke about its importance to Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn. Finally, Dennis Mersky of the Floyd Browne Group (the consultants who are writing the final plan) presented concepts.

The work stations in the break-out session were designed to be smaller groups so that participants could more easily voice their ideas. The topics discussed were: *longterm land use* (in addition to the businesses, accessed either under the Brooklyn-Brighton Bridge or via Valley Rd, which are already there); *alignment alternatives* re: where to locate the trail; *"green" infrastructure and ecological restoration* issues like water runoff and erosion; the possibility of establishing *adventure sports* such as gravity games, rock climbing, rappelling, obstacle courses and BMX biking in the Valley, and also having *camping* or a hostel there. Stay tuned! A rejuvenated Valley will lead to a rejuvenated neighborhood. Economic consultants will be checking out the financial feasibility of all the suggestions.



Photo by George Shuba

ONE WAY

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ONE WAY

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Traffic Alert!

In preparation for upcoming construction at Old Brooklyn Community School, the traffic pattern on Leopold Ave. and Dawning Ave. has changed during drop-off and pick-up times on school days. Between 7:30 and 9 a.m. and 2:30 and 4 p.m., Dawning Ave. will only be open to westbound traffic, and Leopold Ave. will only be open to eastbound traffic. Signage on Leopold Ave. at State Rd. and Dawning Ave. at Pearl Rd. advises motorists of the change.



This is the design on Old Brooklyn artist Michelle Baran's 2007 Christmas card, but year-round, landscapes and seascapes are the main subjects of her paintings. They're done in oils and acrylics; her architectural drawings are done in charcoal and pencil. Visit www.beartracksart.com for more information about all of Michelle's art work and classes.

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By Donald Heckelmoser
donnalhd@oldbrooklyn.com

Johanna Hamm
Ward 15's Executive Assistant



Photo by Donald Heckelmoser

Johanna Hamm has been Ward 15's City Council Executive Assistant since Brian Cummins took office in January of 2006, but in reality she has been with Councilman Cummins since he started his campaign for council. She is a graduate of Kent State University and has a degree in Art Education.

Johanna and her husband, Darren Hamm, were members of the Brooklyn Centre Civic Association (of which Darren is now the president) when they met Councilman Cummins. At the time Brian was the Executive Director of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation.

When Councilman Cummins won the Ward 15 council race, he offered Johanna a job as his executive assistant. Johanna accepted the job with an open heart and open mind. Already possessing the mindset to want to see positive change in her neighborhood, the new job would give her the opportunity to be a real catalyst for change in the community in which she lives and works.

Johanna has lived in Brooklyn Centre for the past four years. She was originally from Solon and Darren was originally from Fairview Park. Both Johanna and Darren wanted to move into the city to do their part to reverse urban sprawl. They've been advocating for the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood, Ward 15 and the City of Cleveland ever since.

Johanna's job can be very complicated at times, but she does the best she can to help as many people as effectively and efficiently as possible. Her favorite part of being Councilman Cummins' executive assistant is having the ability to make connections with residents and help them navigate through the bureaucracy that can be City Hall and all its departments.

Johanna wants to give residents the opportunity to see why they can believe in Cleveland as a city where they can live, raise a family and grow old. In turn, residents have given Johanna a renewed hope for the city into which she moved, hope because the passion and drive that comes with community activism leads to renewed life in communities. And Johanna can attest to the passion and drive of Ward 15 residents!

When asked what her least favorite part of the job is, Johanna replied "Not being able to get something done." Similar to what many others have probably noticed in their own jobs, there are bureaucratic and/or organizational walls that are impossible to scale. "These are the frustrating parts of my job," Johanna stated.

"What we hope to do," Johanna continued, "is learn from particular situations and start to be able to foresee them. Once we can foresee them, we can develop ways in which people can avoid the situation in the first place."

This attitude leads to what the main part of Johanna's job — to better the community for all who live within her service area, which will lead to Cleveland as a whole being a better place to live, too.

Johanna and Councilman Cummins are on the same wavelength when it comes to how they want to accomplish this goal. That is why they are out in the field as much as possible to help residents solve their problems on a hands-on level.

The Ward 15 Council office is located at 4483 Broadview Rd.; either Johanna or the Councilman can be reached at 216-459-8400. Johanna is in the office four to five days a week and is only downtown when Brian has committee meetings. Although she is almost always available to take your calls, Johanna stresses the importance of leaving a message. Even though she has a very high daily call volume, she always returns phone calls to the residents.

From the desk of the executive director

by Robyn Sandys



Where has the time gone? Here it is the early part of December and many of us are wondering how we are going to get ready for this holiday season and a new year! I will be entering my 9th month as executive director. I feel like we all have been giving birth to a new beginning as we enter into a new year.

During my eight months here I can see how the blending of Wards 15 and 16 into one CDC is a great thing for the community. This process involved intense work between the boards of Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services and Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) who successfully tackled very complicated issues. Both Councilmen Cummins (Ward 15) and Kelley (Ward 16) offered support as the combined Boards and staff forged a new path. We are now all working together as a team to try and meet the demanding needs of our large service area which encompasses about 45,000 people. If you would like specific information regarding the services we provide and what we have accomplished over this past year, please go to our web site at www.oldbrooklyn.com. Our new annual report is on the site as well as a list of all of the programs and services we provide.

As we look toward next year, we will be focusing on marketing efforts which will include new print material about the area and the CDC, and a new look with more community news in the OBN. We are also planning a Housing Fair for late spring which will showcase our neighborhoods and excellent housing stock. If anyone from the area is interested in

working on this effort, please email me at robysn@oldbrooklyn.com.

We are also lucky to have a great new group of board members most of whom either live or run a business in our area. They along with board members that are continuing on have a great deal to offer our organization. On page 4 of the paper is information on each of our board members. We also had several long standing board members leave the organization in November. They all provided a great deal of time and energy with the organization. We want to commend and thank the following board members who are now no longer serving, they are: Maribeth Feke, past board president, Paul Kazmierczak, past Treasurer, Peggy Zeleznik, past secretary, Constance Ewazen, chair of the board development committee. Two board members left in earlier in 2007, Judy Varn and Susan Alexander who once served as vice-president of the board. Again, we wish to thank all of these folks who contributed so much to OBCDC.

If anyone in the community is interested in serving on the board, the best way to get started is to volunteer to be a member of one of the Board's standing committees, such as fundraising and membership development and finance. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer in any capacity, please email me or Matt Reitz, our board president at mmreitz@hotmail.com.

Have a wonderful holiday and a very happy New Year!

Cleveland Reduces, Reuses and Recycles

by Lori A. Peterson
lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

They swooped in like they were on a covert operation, leaving behind blue and gray soldiers standing at attention until their rightful owners returned home. The blue and gray "soldiers" are the newly purchased trash cans that selected streets received from the City of Cleveland to participate in a pilot curbside recycling program. It's a six-month test that started in October and hopes to expand to every household over a six-year period.

Approximately 15,000 residents were randomly selected throughout the City's twenty-one wards to participate in the initial phase. If the results of the pilot program show that it's successful, then the rest of the city will be phased in. Currently in Old Brooklyn there are thirteen streets in the Memphis Fulton Pkwy. area and twenty three streets in the Brooklyn Centre area.

The City has provided a 96-gallon grey or black cart for waste disposal and a 64-gallon blue cart for recyclables. The gray/black carts can hold six to eight bags of garbage; the blue carts are for bagged recyclable products, 1-7 only in the case of plastics. Carts are assigned to each home with a seri-

al number attached to the resident's address.

The City dumps approximately 300,000 tons of trash in landfills every year. Councilwoman Dona Brady, Chairperson of Cleveland City Council's Public Service Committee, Committee said that for every ton of trash not dumped in landfill, the City could save \$41.00. "At a 25 percent citywide participation rate, we would save \$1 million per year." City Council budgeted \$780,000 for the pilot program.

The newly automated collection vehicles are equipped with arms that grasp, lift and quickly empty the cart and return it to the curb. This allows the drivers to remain in their cabs. The semi-automated vehicles include a tipper on the back. The operator rolls the cart to the back where the arm lifts and tips the contents into the vehicle.

Because of this new system, not only will the City earn money by recycling, but there will be other benefits as well. They include reduced employee injuries, lower turnover rate and reduced Workmen's Compensation claims. The pilot program also has the potential to help beautify and keep our city green.

If you need more information on the pilot program, contact the recycling hotline at 216-664-3717.



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Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

MISSION STATEMENT: We are committed to uniting, engaging and empowering the community to improve the economic vitality and quality of life within the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods

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Christina M. Kowalski, Treasurer
Robyn Sandys, Executive Director
Cynthia Cejka, Office Manager
Tom Collins, Commercial Program Manager
Donnal Heckelmoser, Jr., Residential Services Coordinator
Lori Peterson, Residential Program /Marketing Manager
Barb Spaan, Community Outreach Manager
Sandy Worona, Community Outreach Coordinator/OBN Advertising & Sales Manager
Debra Zeleny, Code Enforcement Manager

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board Meetings, are every second Tues. of the month, 6-7:30 pm. OBCDC meeting room (3344 Broadview Rd., upstairs). Meetings open to the public but the board reserves the right to close portions of the meetings. To confirm call 216-459-1000.

Old Brooklyn News
Sandy Worona -- Layout & Ad Manager George Shuba -- Photographer
Lynette Filips -- Copy Editor Lori Peterson -- this month's Assistant Copy Editor
This month's OBN writers - Lynette Filips, Denise Donaldson, Rev. Paul Wilson & OBCDC staff
OBCDC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that serves the communities of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn- For more information regarding services and projects call 216-459-1000.

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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NEWS & EVENTS

Monday, December 3rd

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society
Independence Civic Center, White Oak Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. CVGS member and speaker Don Kozlowski, a volunteer researcher at the Cuyahoga County Archives, will present "Where There's A Will...There's Relatives." about the sometimes dead-end roads of the wills & estate case files of Cuyahoga County. Also a business meeting and refreshments. Voluntary admission fee -- canned goods suitable for distribution to the needy. Call CVGS president John Stoika, 216-524-3472, for more info.

Tuesday, December 4th

12th Annual Providence House "Deck the House" Benefit Auction
Cleveland Browns Stadium - City View Lounge, 100 Alfred Lerner Way. Win professionally decorated Christmas trees, shop more than 100 silent auction gift packages. VIP auction package, \$100 per person, includes dinner, drinks & early admission. General auction package, \$25 per person, includes hors d'oeuvres & auction. For more info call Crystal Colar, Providence House, 216-651-5982 x 226, or Jodi O'Neill, LandauPR, 216-912-2855.

Thursday, December 6th

The Singing Angels "Holiday Spectacular Concert"
St. Leo the Great Church, 4900 Broadview Rd. 7:30 pm. Also a baskets of goodies raffle. Sponsored by St. Leo Band Boosters. \$5 ticket donation (cash or checks payable to St. Leo) in advance, or \$6 at the door. Tickets on sale at the church rectory, from band families, at St. Leo School or at the door. Potential singers aged 8-15 invited to audition for the Singing Angels after the performance. No accompaniment necessary.

Friday, December 7th

Technology Day for High School Students
DeVry University, the Genesis Bldg., 6000 Lombardo Center, Suite 200, Seven Hills, 10 am - 1 pm. For students interested in computer information systems, network systems & administration degree programs. Free event includes campus tours, an opportunity to meet with DeVry faculty members & a computer lab simulation.

Saturday, December 8th

St. Peter Chanel Scholarship Exam
St. Peter Chanel High School, 480 Northfield Rd., 9 am - noon. Cost -- \$20; pre-registration suggested, but not required. Call the admissions office at 440-232-5900 x 133 or 144 for more info.

Sunday, December 9th

Christmas Candle Lighting & Remembrance Ceremony
Cornerstone of Hope, Rappe Hall, 6906 Chestnut Rd., Independence, 3:30 pm. Mail or email a photograph of your loved one along with his or her name to be placed on a keepsake candle. Call 216-524-3787.

Thursday, December 13th

Antique Collectors Club Meeting
Busch Funeral Community Meeting Room, 7501 Ridge Rd., 7:30 pm. Speaker: Guests welcome.

Thursday, December 13th

Cornerstone of Hope Christmas Open House
Cornerstone of Hope, 6600 Schaaf Rd., Independence. 4:30 - 8:30 pm. Food, fun & fellowship. Every donation item enters you in a drawing for a Christmas basket of treats worth over \$500. RSVP to 216-524-3787 by Mon., Dec. 10.

Thursday, December 13th

Community Forum on Equalizing the Provision of Uncompensated Care
Pilgrim Church, 2592 W 14th St., 6 pm. Guests include representatives from MetroHealth Systems, Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, State Senators & Representatives, Cuyahoga County Commissioners, Cleveland City Council members & Cuyahoga County citizens. Call Amy Weahry at 216-771-5077 for more info or to inquire about transportation. Community forum is brought to you by CPAAHC (Community Partners for Affordable, Accessible Healthcare)

Sunday, December 23rd

American Indian Education Center's Annual Christmas Party
Pilgrim Congregational UCC, 2592 West 14th St., 4 - 6 pm. Food, fun & Santa with toys for all the kids. (Donations of money or new toys greatly appreciated.) Call 216-351-4488 for more info.

Saturday, January 19th

Burgers for Boxer
Pounders Bar & Grill, 6370 York Rd., 440-887-0185, 6 - 9 pm. \$20 per person. Burgers, fries, veggie burgers, all you can eat wings, salad, pasta, domestic beer. Benefit lighthouse boxer rescue. Order tickets online at www.rustyspaws.com.

Every Tuesday

Food Stamp Information & Sign Up
Brookside Center in the lobby area, 3784 Pearl Rd., 10 am - 2 pm. Representative from The Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland's Project B.R.E.A.D. will be available to provide info & help eligible people sign up. Call Patricia Gillbery, Project B.R.E.A.D. Outreach Specialist, 216-432-4770, for more info.

Tuesdays until Christmas

The Brooklyn Historical Museum gift shoppe. 4442 Ridge Rd. Open for Christmas shopping on all Tues., 10:30 am. - 1:30 pm. A selection of warm scarves & hats, hand-loomed rugs, handmade gift cards, towels, baby boutique, toddler pillows & cases, dog blankets, fleece throws, hemp bead necklaces, Amish jams & jellies, purses & misc crafts. Featured items for Christmas -- slates, aprons, runners with napkins, potholders & glass ornaments. Call Barb at 216-941-0160 for more info.

Free Evening Classes at Mooney

Schools as a Neighborhood Resource (SNR) Program at Charles Mooney School, 3213 Montclair Ave., Mon., Wed. & Thurs., 6 - 8 pm, now thru April 2008. Activities for children & adults. **Computers** -- M, W & Th; **Walkercise/Exercise** -- M, W & Th; **Basketball** -- M, W & Th; **Karate** -- M & W; **Crafts** -- M & W; **Games** -- Thurs.; **Cooking** -- Wed.; All classes free. Sign up anytime during the year.

WIRE-Net's AIM Program

Designed for students in 8th & 9th grade
Max Hayes High School. Beginning Dec. 5. The AIM program is 100 hours long & takes place on Wed. after school, Fri. (during teacher in-services), & some Sat. All sessions begin & end at Max Hayes High School. Students can study machining, welding, computer programming & computer-aided drafting. Companies need skilled employees! In the Cleveland area there are 700 annual openings any questions or concerns coffering an average annual salary of over \$33,000. AIM only has room for 25 students. Contact Colleen Kushlak, School-to-Career Coordinator, 216-634-8684, with any questions or concerns.

Ready, Set Grow Preschool

Located in Brooklyn Heights Church, 2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Ages 3 - 5. Learning & social skills for kindergarten readiness. Certified teachers. Registration fee, \$25. Class times 9:20 - 11:20. Call 216-741-2280 for more info.

St. Leo Preschool Registration

St. Leo Preschool, 4940 Broadview Rd.; located in the Parish Community Center. Registration began Feb. 1 at the preschool. \$50 nonrefundable fee & a copy of the child's birth certificate required at time of registration. The preschool offers programs for skills development & kindergarten readiness for three- & four-year-old children. Children who are four years old by Sept. 30 attend classes Mon., Wed. & Fri. Children who are three by Sept., 30 attend classes Tues. & Thurs. Class times are 8:15-10:45 am or 11:55 am - 2:25 pm. Call Jeanne Sabol, 216-661-5330, for more info.

St. Mark Lutheran School Registration

St. Mark Lutheran School, 4464 Pearl Rd. Applications accepted throughout the school year for kindergarten - 8th grade. Participates in the Cleveland Scholarship & tutoring program. On-site before & after school daycare, hot lunch program, sports, music, newly updated computer labs, accelerated reader program, interactive white boards, Girl Scouts & Cub Scouts. For registration info or to schedule a private tour, call the school office, 216-749-3545, or visit www.orgsites.com/oh/stmarklutheran.

Free Afternoon Tutoring

Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, 4308 Pearl Rd. is offering free afternoon tutoring to students ages 3 - 10 who attend Cleveland Metropolitan school district. S.E.S. eligible schools call NorthCoast Tutoring Services at 216-574-8050. Call Harriet, 216-351-2076 for application or more info.

Free Flu Shots

Dec. 4th, Merrick House Fulton, 3167 Fulton Rd., 10 am - 12 pm. Call 216-281-4212 for more info.

Dec. 7th, Halloran Park Recreation Center, 3550 W. 117th St., 10 am - 12 pm. Call 216-664-4187 for more info.

McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Ave. , provides shots every Fri. till Dec. 28th, 8 - 11 am. Call 216-651-5005 for more info.

Cleveland Recycles

REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

The City of Cleveland will pick up Christmas trees from curbs from Dec. 26 - Feb. 1. In the spring, the mulch from the recycled trees will be made available to Cleve. residents at no cost, while supplies last. Reuse or recycle holiday wrapping paper & gift boxes. Continue to recycle throughout the year by dropping off glass, plastic, aluminum, cardboard & paper at any of Cleveland's convenient drop off locations. (There are nearby blue bins at Brooklyn Hts. United Church of Christ, Trinity United Church of Christ, William Rainey Harper School, Discount Drug Mart, Estabrook Recreation Center.) Call the recycling hotline for more info, 216-664-3717, or visit www.cleveland-oh.gov.

Cleveland ROCKS! RARE PHOTOS

FROM THE 60'S THRU THE 80'S CLEVELAND CONCERTS & SHOWS



- Beatles • Rolling Stones • Doors
- Hendrix •Joplin •The Who •Beach Boys
- Monkees •Neil Diamond •James Brown
- Sly & Family Stone •Aretha Franklin
- Simon & Garfunkel •Grand Funk •Platters
- Paul Revere & The Raiders •Otis Redding
- The O'Jays *And lots more*

ORIGINAL PHOTOS

photographed by
George Shuba
Call 216-351-5080

Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 9th 7 pm

Brooklyn Hts. UCC
2005 W. Schaaf Rd.
216-741-2280

Admission:
A new toy for
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Center



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NEW WEEKLY SPECIALS

- Monday** Beef stew \$5⁹⁵
- Tuesday** - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggie, roll & butter \$5⁹⁵
- Wednesday** - Hot beef plate & veggie \$5⁹⁵
- Thursday** - City chicken, mashed potato, veggie, roll & butter \$6⁹⁵
- Friday** - Fish (batter dipped cod) fries, cole slaw, roll & butter \$6⁹⁵
- Steak dinner - baked potato, veggie, roll & butter \$7⁹⁵

4002 Jennings Road (at Jennings & Harvard)
741-0010 * Fax 741-3882

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board of Directors

by Robyn Sandys
robysn@oldbrooklyn.com

Listed below is a brief description of each of the members of the OBCDC Board. Board members represent three categories within Wards 15 and 16: residents, commercial businesses, and institutional organizations.

John M. Appeldorn - Institutional

John has been employed at MetroHealth since 1987. He currently serves as the Safety Director for the MetroHealth System. He is also enrolled in the Baldwin Wallace College Executive MBA program.

Sue Allen - Institutional

Sue is the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. In that capacity she oversees all aspects of marketing, special events, advertising, and public relations. She has been at the zoo since 1990. Sue resides in Old Brooklyn.

Abraham Bruckman, Vice President - Residential

Abe is employed with Ohio City Near West Development Corporation as their Real Estate Project. He holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning Design and Development from Cleveland State University and a B.A. in Theater from Kent State University. Abe resides in Brooklyn Center.

Paul Ciupa - Institutional

Paul Ciupa is a Traffic Engineer at the Cuyahoga County Engineer's Office where he has worked since 2000. He graduated from Cleveland State University with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Paul was born and raised in Old Brooklyn, and remains a resident and homeowner in the South Hills area.

Steve Henstridge - Resident

Steve has been a resident of Old Brooklyn for 36 years. He was employed with the Internal Revenue Service for 30 years. He received his B.A. and M.A. from John Carroll University and a Ph.D. from Kent State University.

Greg Huth - Resident

Greg is an attorney with the Cleveland law firm of Kahn Kleinman, LPA, where he is a member of the real estate practice group and the public law and economic development practice group. He joined this firm in April 2006 after 10 years with the City of Cleveland serving part of that time as Director of the Economic Development Department. Greg received his *Juris Doctorate* from Cleveland Marshall College of Law and currently resides in Ward 16.

Christina M. Kowalski, Treasurer - Commercial

Christina is a branch manager for Key Bank. Prior to Key Bank, she was responsible for business development at a local credit union, a position she held for 20 years. She holds a

Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from the University of Akron. Christina is representing Key Bank.

David Lawhun - Commercial

David is the General Manager and CEO of Steel Valley Credit Union. He has been there for 20 years. The Credit Union has 18 employees with 5 branch offices. David has been in this business most of his professional career.

Jim O'Connor - Residential

Jim's professional background is in the area of real estate marketing and development. He is currently the COO of Heartland Homes, previous to that position he was the Director of Strategic Marketing for Pulte Homes of Ohio, LLC. Jim is a licensed Realtor and he has received many honors including being named in 2001 as one of Crain's under "40 under 40". He resides in Ward 15.

Alice Ratka - Residential

Alice is a lifelong resident of Old Brooklyn and still lives in the house that her father built. She worked in the Cleveland Public Schools for 25 years in the classrooms with the reading program. Her prior nonprofit experience includes two years as a trustee with Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services.

Dane Reich - Institutional

Dane is a life long resident of Brooklyn Centre and resides in the house that he was born and raised in. He is a graduate of West Technical High School and has been a member of Southwest Citizens Area Council for 11 years, serving as the president for the past five years. He works for Allied IT.

Lynea M. Reindel - Residential

Lynea is working as the Assistant Administrator to the Commissioner of Water for the City of Cleveland. Lynea was the Executive Assistant to former Councilwoman Merle R. Gordon. Lynea was born and raised in Brooklyn Center and Old Brooklyn and has been actively involved in the community for over 30 years. She is currently pursuing a master's degree from CSU in Urban Affairs.

Matthew Reitz, President - Residential

Matt has been a dedicated resident of Old Brooklyn for over twenty-three years. He works as an Operations Engineer providing logistics and management solutions for a global chemical company based in Greater Cleveland. Matt served on the board of Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services before joining OBCDC's board.

Ralph Thompson - Commercial

Since Ralph's retirement from the Navy in 1995, he has been active in the restoration of several neighborhoods in the city of Akron. He has a personal commitment to public service that began 30 years ago when he enlisted in the Navy and continues today in the preservation of Browns Lanes, a 150 year old structure and neighborhood icon.

Lovellee's Pizzeria opens in Brooklyn Centre

By Donald Heckelmoser
donaldh@oldbrooklyn.com

Lovellee's -- pronounced LaVelli's -- Pizzeria, 4462 Denison Ave., on the north-westcorner of Fulton Rd. and Denison Ave., is one of the newest restaurants in our neighborhood. When they opened it, Brenda and Bob Lovell brought over twenty years of pizzeria experience to the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood.

Lovellee's Pizzeria celebrated its grand opening on Saturday, October 20th, 2007. Since then it's been open Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Before coming to our neighborhood, Brenda and Bob Lovell owned a pizzeria in the Tremont neighborhood for twenty years. They decided to shut down that business, buy an old building in Brooklyn Centre and rehab the building from top to bottom (including the four studio-apartments above the restaurant which, in July, they'll be renting to incoming interns at MetroHealth.)

Whether you are a business or a resident, dine-in, carry-out and delivery are your options at Lovellee's Pizzeria. The menu includes everything from pizzas of all sizes to salads, sandwiches, pastas, appetizers,

dinner entrées and desserts.

In 1990, when they were in Tremont, Lovellee's took two of the prizes in Cleveland's Pizza Bake-Off Contest -- first place for their sauce and second place for their pizza. Brenda and Bob looks forward to receiving similar accolades in the future.

When you go to Lovellee's Pizzeria, also notice the daily dine-in specials Tuesday through Saturday, as well as the full service, sit-in bar that will be up-and-running in the coming months.

On Saturday, December 15, beginning at 10 a.m., Lovellee's will be sponsoring a breakfast (pancakes, sausage and eggs) with Santa. The price includes a very nice gift as well as a picture with Santa. Reservations are recommended but not required.

Lovellee's Pizzeria has already started to make a difference in our neighborhood. They've rehabilitated a building which was a neighborhood eyesore and a rowdy bar. (That was such a major undertaking that it took them two years and five months to complete the renovation.) And on their first Thanksgiving here they hosted a dinner for the less fortunate.

We wish them success in their current business venture.

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)

THEATRE NOTES

Cassidy Theatre of Greenbriar Commons
6200 Pearl Rd. 440-842-4600

"1940's Radio Hour"

Now thru Sun., Dec. 16th, 3 pm. Tickets, \$20; limited number available. Join some of the cast after the show at 'Downunder the Cassidy' for cake & coffee with an opportunity to mingle! Call JoAnn Hardony, 440-845-4392, for more info.

"Stagecoach Christmas"

Sat., Dec. 8th & 15th. Youth Theatre, 11am & 2 pm. Tickets, \$10. Sing along-with the cast & a pizza lunch & a visit with Santa.

Great Lakes Theater Festival

Ohio Theatre, Playhouse Square Center
1501 Euclid Ave. Suite 300
216-241-5490 mail@greatlakestheater.org

"A Christmas Carol"

Now thru Sun., Dec. 23rd. Evening curtain time - 7:30 pm; Fri. & Sat., 1:30 pm matinees; Sun. matinees, 3 pm. Tickets, \$28 - \$56 (students, \$28, any seat, any show).

Karamu House

2355 E. 89th St. 216-795-7070

"Black Nativity"

Fri., Dec. 7 - Sun., Dec. 30. Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets, \$20 - \$30.

Near West Theatre

3606 Bridge Ave. 216-961-9750

"Beauty and the Beast"

Now - Sun., Dec. 2. Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets, \$6. Call 216-961-6391 for reservations. Free parking at St. Patrick's Club Building, W. 38th St. & Bridge Ave.



The Beck Center of the Arts

17801 Detroit Ave. 216-521-2540
www.beckcenter.org

"Beauty and the Beast"

Now thru Sat., Dec. 22, Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm & Sun., 3 pm. Also select Thurs. evening & Sat. matinee performances. Call or check web site for special dates & times. Tickets, \$10 - \$28.

The Play House

8500 Euclid Ave. 216-795-7000, ext.233
www.clevelandplayhouse.com

"A Christmas Story"

Bolton Theatre, now thru Dec. 23. Wed. - Sat. evening, 7:30 pm; Sat. matinee, 3 pm; Sun. matinee, 2 pm. Tickets, \$25 - \$61. Free pre-show discussions led by a member of the cast & production staff 45 minutes prior to curtain time every performance.

Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus Theatre Dept.

11000 Pleasant Valley Rd, 216- 987-5536

Tri-C West Dance Concert

Mainstage events are held in the Tri-C Western Campus Theatre in the T building. Fri., Dec. 14th, 7:30 pm. General admission tickets - \$10; student, senior & staff tickets - \$8; Tri-C students admitted free with valid identification. Group rates for groups of ten or more. Call for reservations; visit www.tri-c.edu/theatre/west for more info.



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- *Fresh Pork Loin
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- *Holiday Kielbasi
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- *Holiday Shaped Leberwurst Paté
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Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving are already past; Christmas and New Year's are what's on the horizon. Before looking to the future, though, we must first take a couple of minutes to look back to those special days in November.

In an effort to keep the original reason for Veterans' Day in peoples' minds – and it's not door-buster sales in the retail world – the *Plain Dealer* (PD) ran a special article on page B-1 (the Metro section) of its Monday, November 11, issue. It featured interviews with three individuals who had relevant stories to share, and the one from an Old Brooklyn woman was the lead.

Saratoga Ave. resident **Lorene Olson Bowles** is an active member of both the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn and a couple of genealogy groups. She grew up on Denison Ave. in Brooklyn Centre, as did her mother and an uncle who was killed in World War II. The uncle's name was **John Carney Olson**, and it was his story which the PD related.

"Carney" was a Warrant Officer in the Marines on the island of Coreggidor in the Philippines when he was captured by the Japanese in 1942. He was a prisoner of war (POW) in the Philippines until 1944 when he and 1800 fellow POWs were placed in a transport ship to be moved to Japan. Although international law required that ships carrying POWs be appropriately marked, unfortunately his wasn't.

Unaware of whom was in the hold, Americans torpedoed the Japanese ship Carney was on, and he and virtually everyone on it sunk to the bottom of the ocean. His mother was so distraught over the incident that she

never accepted anything that the US government sent her after his death.

When Lorene became interested in genealogy in 2000, she contacted the Marine Corps. about her uncle. A year passed, and then one day in the mail she received his original military papers and letters (which had been in storage in a vault in Kansas) and his medical records – in Japanese – from when he was a POW. Eventually the government also gave Lorene the medals her uncle had earned during his years of service. A large color picture of Lorene with some of these artifacts accompanied the article.

Moving on to Thanksgiving, I'd like to officially "give thanks" to the first person who's responded to our request for past copies of the *Old Brooklyn News* in last month's article about the **Historical Society of Old Brooklyn** (HSOB). The HSOB wants to assemble a complete set of copies of the *Old Brooklyn News* for its growing archives, and **Rev. Karl S.** of Ridgeview Dr. called the Old Brooklyn CDC office to say that he had saved many issues of the *OBN* over the years, the oldest dating back to 1989. He promptly delivered his collection to our office at 3344 Broadview Rd.

Thank you, Karl! On behalf of the HSOB, I'll officially repeat last month's request — Please call 216-398-5868 if you have back issues of the *Old Brooklyn News* which you are willing to donate to us. Ultimately we would like to have at least two copies of each issue.

Looking toward Christmas and the New Year now, taking in a play or a concert can be a great way to usher in the holidays. There're a lot listed in the *Theater Notes* section of this edition, but the entry for **Near West Theatre** deserves additional mention because a number of students from **Old Brooklyn Community School** are part of the ensemble.

Kaz Klein is a second grader there, **Grace Schumann** is a third grader, **Hayden Neidhardt** is a fourth grader, **Andy Schumann** is a fifth grader and **Ben Schumann** is an eighth grader.

This weekend (November 30 and December 1 and 2) is the third and final one for

Beauty and the Beast. Happily for Near West – but not for potential theater-goers – the phone reservation line for the show has been filled up since before Thanksgiving. Sometimes people change their minds, though, and sometimes they just plain don't show up. So if you want to attend a quality show for a bargain price (\$6), get your name on the cancellation list or be in line at the box office when they release the tickets which no one has claimed.

When Christmas is in sight, New Year's Day resolutions can't be far behind. If getting or staying in shape is one of your goals, and you need a facility or a role model to help you reach it, you might want to look at what **Sr. Dianne Skubby, CPPS** has been able to achieve at the **Curves of Brooklyn**, 7003 Memphis Ave. Curves is open six days a week, and Sister Dianne has been there the first thing every day since it opened in March of 2004. It's no surprise, then, that she's the first patron to have those famous ½ hour workouts add up to 1000 hours. (She actually reached that milestone in mid-September.)

In addition to staying fit in the neighborhood, Sr. Dianne also grew up, lives and works here. She attended Our Lady of Good Counsel School, currently lives just a few doors away from her childhood home on Behrwald Ave., and works (more accurately, *volunteers*) at the

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Biddulph Plaza.

That mention of **Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) School** reminds me that we never finished listing all of the eighth-graders who were recognized at their graduation ceremony last June. There were other scholarship and essay awards in addition to the PTU Scholarship winners we listed in *The Town Crier* in our September issue.

Two grads who are now attending Cleveland Central Catholic High School received OLGC's Brian Himes Memorial Awards. They were **Joseph Prendergast** and **Holly Ulery**.

Two other OLGC grads received Darlene Brezovsky Memorial Scholarships. They are **Dana Barnes**, who is also at Central Catholic, and **Courtney Kinstler**, who is now at St. Joseph Academy.

In addition, **Amanda Valentine**, who is also at St. Joseph Academy, was the winner of the Polish Legion of American Veterans essay contest, and **Kristen Mercurio**, who is now at Holy Name High School, won the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest.

Help us include a variety of topics in this column by sending your submissions to Lynette Filips, The Town Crier, c/o the *Old Brooklyn News*, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Centre Community Association every fourth Thurs., 6:30 pm, Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave.

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation board meeting every second Tues. of the month, 6-7:30 pm, OBCDC meeting room (3344 Broadview Rd., upstairs). Meetings open to the public for review & comments, but the board reserves the right to close portions of the meetings from the public. Call 216-459-1000 to confirm date.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., Dec. 11th (&

every second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

Southwest Citizens Area Council meeting Thurs., Dec. 6th (& every first Thurs.), 7 pm, Gino's, 1314 Denison Ave.

Ward 15 Democratic Club Meeting, (Every fourth Tues.) No meeting this month. Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd., 6:30 pm.

Ward 16 Democratic Christmas dinner party, Tues., Dec. 18th, 6:30 pm, Murphy's Law Tavern, Memphis Ave. Bring a side dish. They are also having a Chinese raffle.

Cleveland Cavaliers help feed the hungry

by Rev. Paul Wilson, Pearl Road UMC

On Thursday, November 15, the Cleveland Cavaliers proved that there are more important things in life than w's in the win column. Six players, an assistant coach, a bevy of volunteers, and Moondog the mascot volunteered at Christ the King and Pearl Road United Methodist Church's Thanksgiving community meal, serving turkey and dressing to guests to kick off the season of giving. Mr. Marshall's entire family placed the desserts on the tables. The guests were overwhelmed and overjoyed by the Cavs' hospitality; grown men wept over the warmth the players displayed. In addition, the Cavs gave out hats and t-shirts, which they autographed while visiting with the guests. And they gave out \$3,000 in gift cer-



Photo courtesy of Pearl Road United Methodist Church

tificates to Giant Eagle grocery stores. Thanks to the Cavs, many families were able to "set a table" on Thanksgiving. The Cavs proved that no matter how important you are, you can always take time to help your neighbors! The Cavs treated Pearl Road's guests to a night they'll never forget. LeBron might be the king, but the Cavs made those at the hunger meal feel like the royalty.



Jeffrey A. Halpert, D.P.M.*

On Your Feet

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Thomas J. DePolo, D.P.M.*

PLANTAR WARTS

A plantar wart is a small skin lesion that resembles a callus and is found on the bottom of the foot or toes- They are usually under 1 cm diameter, but can occur in clusters and can be much larger. Sometimes a single larger wart is surrounded by many smaller warts. In this case, they are called mosaic warts. All warts are caused by the Papilloma virus, a slow growing virus which invades the skin. The viruses are common in all of our environments

and they don't readily grow on intact skin. But if there is a break in the skin, like a scratch or dry skin, this gives the virus the opportunity to get in and start growing. There are several methods for treating warts. Cryotherapy or freezing the wart, strong topical acids or surgical removal with the use of laser. Warts should be treated in a timely manner as to prevent the possible spread to other parts of the body or other family members.

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by Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

Thanksgiving

It is Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving. Sitting here at the computer, my mind is wandering away from the tasks that need attention to the thoughts of why I am thankful. So instead of writing about commercial items, storefront renovations or the development projects that are underway, I am going to write about the people throughout the community for whom I am grateful. I'm thankful for their presence, their desire to improve the community, their passion about living in Cleveland and their spirit.

First, I am thankful to be working with this community development corporation on matters that make a difference in people's lives. Almost every day I like coming to the office and working on items of importance to the people of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn. Like everyone else there are some days when the frustration is stronger than the progress, but those days are far fewer than the good days.

Then there is the team of dedicated people with whom I work: Barb, BJ, Cynthia, Deb, Donn, George, Lynette, Lori, Robyn, Sandy and Tom. If you have ever called or visited this office you likely have met these people. I thank them for their team support. We all work for a board of directors who volunteer their time and energy to guide this

community development corporation. Their passion for their service sometimes creates tension but their individual commitment to the mission is their motivation. So thanks to the board members and past board members for serving the community.

Two City Council members, Kevin and Brian, secure funds to support Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. More importantly they work together on common issues recognizing that the invisible Ward boundaries are not stopping and starting points for building a healthy community. Thanks for your long hours and willingness to listen to everyone.

Quietly but ever so strongly serving our community are the two assistants to the council members; Cindy and Johanna's skilled hands often repair what is broken.

The grass roots work of two hundred and twenty-one block clubs is the heart and soul of living in Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn. Theirs is the spirit which nurtures the community.

There are three civic associations which strive to promote and renew the quality of residential life. Thanks to the officers and members of Brooklyn Centre Concerned Citizens, South Hills Neighborhood Association and Southwest Citizens Area Council. Your presidents, Darren, Mary Ann and Dane, deserve thanks from all of us.

The churches of the community are the foundation stones. We so often do not notice the churches because their presence is so strong that we take for granted their daily contributions. Thanks for welcoming all people, thanks for the youth groups, the community meals, the drop-in centers, the visits to the elderly and the ill. Thanks for leading us in prayer and reminding us that all individuals are worthy of love and respect.

Offering assistance of all kinds are the many institutions that make living in Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn desirable. There are the thirteen schools whose

staffs are dedicated to educating young people and building responsible citizens. Their work is in the trenches and they must battle the ills that infect urban living, but they are dauntless in their mission. Thanks for accepting the challenge.

The people at the MetroHealth System and the newly-arriving people at the Metro Senior Health and Wellness Center heal wounds, treat illness and grow healthy life styles. Your faces may be better known than your names to the thousands of people you serve every year. Thanks for caring and healing; please share the thanks with all the behind-the-scenes support personnel who work to operate the health delivery systems.

The smaller institutions serve as well: Brookside Center, United Hearts Mission, Divine Mercy, The Mercy Seat Mission, church hunger centers and the many more neighborhood-based service organizations that help those in times of transition. Thanks for serving.

To the non profit organizations like Art House, the two historical societies, Friends of Big Creek, Ohio Canal Corridor and the special focus groups which offer residents multiple opportunities to enjoy living in Cleveland: thanks for sharing your talents.

Numerous other volunteers staff the design and review committees, work the booths at festivals, raise funds for charities, serve with the auxiliary police and just seem to show up when extra help is needed. Thanks for contributing.

Government is the skeleton that supports everything we do in the community. Just like our bones, when it works well, we take it for granted. When it aches, we complain. So thanks to the people who strive to make it work from the city: George and Scott from Planning; and Terri, Tim, Ed, Bob, Terry, Rita, John and Daryl from Community Development.

Thanks, too, to those whose names are not known: those who repair the roads, collect the garbage, respond to fires, arrive in ambulances, patrol the streets, fix the traffic signals, clean the sewers, drive the busses and make the city work.

Someone at the federal level calls upon your home six days a week. Thanks to the postal carriers who are the silent security guardians of homes and streets.

The list could continue, but I have a turkey to prepare. Thanks to the readers for reading this column. Thanks to all of you whom I have only identified by first names. Thanks to all of you whose names I did not mention or may not know.

Thanks to all of you who recognize that problems have solutions and that working on solutions is better than complaining about conditions.

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AMERIFLAG DISPLAYS LOCAL ART

Old Brooklyn artist Jim Ptacek (right) has once again teamed up with local businessman Don Workman (left) to provide a selection of Cleveland area prints and Christmas cards for the holiday season. The prints consist of local landmarks such as stadiums, ballparks, the downtown skyline, lighthouses, high schools, etc. The Christmas cards are a collection of 20 years of limited edition cards, each signed and numbered by Ptacek. Shop Ameriflag for your gift-giving needs.

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From: Old Brooklyn Community Development

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Detach this entry form and mail along with a photo of your display to: 2007 Cleveland Holiday Lighting Contest, 1300 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, or E-mail your digital picture to kismith@cpp.org. You can also drop off your photo and entry form to our offices at the above address. Entry must be received by the close of business Friday, December 14, 2007 to be eligible. One entry per household please. For more information, call 216.664.3922 ext. 253.

Name: _____
Address/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____

Check one category in which you want your display to be considered

Best Use of Single Color in a Display Most Imaginative Display
 Best Use of Multiple Colors Best Theme-Oriented Display

All entrants must keep displays lit between the hours of 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. beginning Monday, December 17, 2007 thru December 21, 2007.



The Grinch that *could* steal Christmas

by Lori Peterson
lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

With the holidays quickly approaching and the spirit of giving abiding within most of us, it's easy to get carried away with spending. Beware! You could find yourself in a dire situation with an institution that could not only ruin your finances but keep you — or put you — into a vicious cycle of poverty.

This institution has an innocuous enough name — Payday lenders — but it is detrimental to families because predatory lending is their game.

You see payday lenders on many corners; their advertising is slick and becoming more legitimate sounding. One payday lending company even offers its customers a frequent buyer card — take out nine loans and get the tenth free. So how can they be all bad?

This is how it works: Payday loans are marketed as short-term cash advances and are available to anyone with a checking account and proof of income. You give them a postdated check or electronic checking account information to use as collateral for the loan and voila!; you have the money in your hand.

The catch is that customers pay approximately \$15 in fees every two weeks for each

\$100 they borrow. They are required to pay the principal and fees in full when the loan is due, typically on the next payday.

Payday lenders rely on their customers not being able to pay back the loan in full and encourage them to re-borrow the same amount the very next day, incurring the same fees. The result is that the fees and interest on the loans amount to an annual percentage rate (APR) of 391%!

The Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending conducted a report on payday lenders and coined the term "payday debt trap" — repeated borrowing which ensnares payday customers in "a spiral of expensive, short-term loans."

The Coalition also studied what the cost is to Ohioans. In Ohio, over 300,000 people are trapped by the payday lending industry each year, and it costs them \$318 million in excessive fees. That is money that could be spent on food, clothing, rent, mortgages and utilities.

The problem is only going to compound because of the rise in payday lenders. Ohio now has 1,562 payday loan outlets. This is a 1500% increase from 1996. They outnumber the combined total of McDonalds, Wendy's and Burger King restaurants.

On September 12, 2007 at a Washington, D.C. press conference on the Payday industry, two previous managers gave their testimony about the inner-workings of the industry. Cameron Blakely stated, "We make the process very simple and easy at the front end to get people into the loan. But at the back end, we made it very difficult for customers to get out of the loan. It became a situation where our borrowers were like indentured servants, but with indefinite terms of servitude. They would work and work. But each payday, we'd claim a piece of their paycheck, every paycheck."

"My goal as a payday loan employee," Cameron continued, "was to keep that customer in the loan for as long as I can. And the way I do this is to loan him more money than he can realistically pay back in just two weeks."

To illustrate this point Cameron Blakely told of one customer who he kept in a loan for six years by luring him with a "personal, friendly and reassuring manner, repeating his name and acting like I cared about his personal welfare." This particular customer ended up paying \$14,997 in fees for borrowing \$900.

William Harrod a former store manager for Check n' Go, also testified. In respect to marketing he stated, "We also included churches in this program, giving pastors \$20 referral fees as well, if they sent us a member of their congregation. We did this because the church is connected to the community. It gave us credibility. It got us more deeply into the customer base. Sometimes we went even further than that." He then described how he was instructed to start attending church services "to gain favor with the minister and convince him to support us publicly."

To help curb this vicious cycle, Rep. William Batchelder, R-Medina, and Rep. Robert Hagan, D-Youngstown, introduced leg-

islation that would reduce the average rate from a 391% APR to a 36% APR. Needless to say, the payday lenders are not happy about this drastic reduction. But Batchelder feels "it's doable" considering that some credit unions offer cash advances at a 17% APR.

Batchelder further stated, "Their people [payday lenders] basically have indicated to me that they cannot meet 36%, that this would put them out of business."

Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre have approximately ten payday lenders operating in our neighborhood, preying on our most vulnerable of neighbors, and leaving us all susceptible to the havoc they create on a family. Currently, eleven states, including Pennsylvania and West Virginia, have banned payday lenders from operating. In order to serve a growing need, credit unions and some commercial banks are now offering short-term loans, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Company is creating incentives to encourage the financial institutions they serve to offer similar small loan packages.

Credit unions are an alternative to payday loans and we have one right in our neighborhood — Steel Valley Credit Union, a non-profit lending institution that is made up of members. According to Bob Boyce, its Operation Manager, they call theirs the "Courtesy Pay Program". It is based on the amount of a members' direct deposited check; they can receive up to 50% of their check but cannot exceed \$500, all at a cost of \$35.00.

Another aspect that credit unions offer their members is financial counseling. This is offered to every customer that applies for a courtesy pay loan and can help create a working budget.

Just remember that the holidays are a time for gathering family and friends not about the gifts. If you are tempted to succumb to the glitz of a payday lender, remind yourself of Carmen Blakely and how he really was the Grinch

**Data compiled from: A report from the Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending September 19, 2007*

What a difference a community association can make!

by Denise Donaldson

The Brooklyn Centre Community Association (BCCA) has had a very busy summer and fall. The organization undertook several street clean-ups along Denison Ave., took advantage of the City's paint program to give a neighborhood residence a whole new look, sponsored a flower giveaway, and joined with other organizations to plan a special day for local police, fire and EMS services.

The Safety Forces Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, September 29th, was a big hit with our police, fire and EMS services. In conjunction with the Southwest Citizens Area Council and the South Hills Neighborhood Organization, the BCCA served at least 120 organization members and police officers, firefighters and EMS crew.

Area businesses generously donated food and cash, along with gift certificates and merchandise used as prizes for the games. A good time was had by all, thanks to the many volunteers who helped set up and tear down, and who donated food (e.g., pierogies, lasagna cakes and other treats). The BCCA looks forward to making next year's event even bigger and better!

October 6th was the date of the first annual Brooklyn Centre Flower Giveaway. The BCCA, with some assistance from The Home Depot at Steeple Commons, purchased dozens of flowers and bulbs to give away to area residents as a small part of Councilman Brian Cummins' Denison Avenue beautification plan.



Photo courtesy of Denise Donaldson

Sherry Perry lent the parking lot of The Ugly Broad for the event, which was a great success. BCCA president Darren Hamm took a work crew of area youth and assisted with the planting of flowers and bulbs in nearby yards. The flowers added some welcome color along the street, and the bulbs will give residents something to look forward to next spring.

The season's social event for the BCCA was an Oktoberfest on October 20th. Host Mike Tur fired up the grill and served brats and sausages, along with beer, of course! Members and guests brought covered dishes and danced to live, traditional music on a beau-

tiful Saturday afternoon.

An upcoming event is a holiday potluck dinner on December 16th at Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist Church, 2607 Archwood Ave, at 6 p.m.

If you are interested in joining BCCA, there are several ways to do so -- by e-mailing www.bcca07@yahoo.com, by calling Denise Donaldson, 216-485-1387, or Darren Hamm, 216-741-7990, or by attending an association meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28th at Archwood United Church of Christ from 6:30-8 p.m.

The organization also has a new website: www.brooklyncentre.org

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Italians in Cleveland Part IV — some Christmas customs and the last of their churches

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

In December, 2005, prompted by a desire to remember our immigrant ancestors and the languages in which they celebrated their first Christmases in Cleveland, I wrote an article which mostly focused on some of the religious traditions which the Germans brought to our city (and, in the case of the Christmas tree, gave to America, too). New Englanders and Irish, of course, were here before the Germans, but any Christmas worship services they might have been conducting would have been spoken in English.

Since Cleveland is such a mosaic of ethnic cultures, one article led to another, no longer just about Christmas traditions, but about later immigrants and the churches they, too, established. We've been paying particular attention to the "mother" churches, and then moving on to congregations in or close to our neighborhood.

Last December we back-tracked a bit and returned to the English (New England) influence here, and how Protestant congregations, especially downtown, observed — and sometimes refused to observe — Christmas in bygone years.

This December we're ready for the fourth and final chapter in the Italian segment of our continuing immigrant churches story, but first, we want to share some of the Christmas customs this ethnic group brought here. Tradition has it that in 1223, Francis of Assisi popularized the practice of setting up crèche/manger scenes by organizing nativity pageants with live characters; thus the nativity set is an important part of the Italians' celebration of Christmas.

Legend also has it that St. Francis had a lot to do with establishing Christmas carols as religious, rather than popular, music. But centuries before that, even the date that the birth of Christ would be celebrated came from "Italy" because Rome was the center of Christianity, and the Church worked its feast days around the Roman calendar. Thus it was that Christmas came to be situated between the Roman feast of Saturnalia, a pagan winter solstice festival circa December 19, and Kalends, the Roman New Year's Day on January 1st.

The feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem, was assigned to January 6. It was also important to the early Christians,

and a well-known legend in Italian religious folklore is related to that day. It's the story of "La Befana" who is sometimes viewed as an old woman, sometimes as a good witch, sometimes as a fairy queen, and always as someone who visits households with children on the eve of the Epiphany.

An Italian (and female!) version of Santa Claus, Befana was a diligent homemaker who was too busy cleaning to accompany the Magi when they stopped at her house on the way to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the Infant Jesus. She later regretted that decision and set out to look for them, but was unable to find them. Now every year on the night before the Epiphany, Befana rides her broomstick throughout the sky, sliding down chimneys to deliver gifts to good Italian children (and coal or black sugar to the not-so-good ones).

Though the Italian legend is more complex, it doesn't take much to recognize that Befana is a variation of the Byzantine St. Nicholas who evolved into the American Santa Claus. It was the Epiphany (aka, "Little Christmas"), though, not December 25th, which was traditionally the Italians' day for exchanging gifts; its importance is demonstrated by the fact that several years ago, Holy Rosary Church instituted/reinstated "Little Christmas in Little Italy".

Well, that's enough "Buon Natale" (Merry Christmas); now it's time to return to the churches Italians established in Cleveland. Just to refresh your memory, in September we talked about **St. Anthony of Padua** and the combined **St. Anthony-St. Bridget** downtown; in October we had more information about St. Anthony's and then moved on to **Holy Rosary Church** in Little Italy; and in November we covered **St. John's Beckwith Memorial Church**, which



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-West
6928 Detroit Ave

had once also been in Little Italy, the nearby **St. Marian's**, and **St. Rocco's** in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood just north of our own.

We closed last month's article by mentioning that the priests at St. Rocco's had helped to establish **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church-West** at 6928 Detroit Ave. That may be because there had been dissension between the two west-side Italian communities, the one in Clark-Fulton and the other at Detroit Ave. and W. 65th St., each wanting a church in its neighborhood.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel - West began as a Mission in 1926. A family home (1925), a former tavern (1926), a double house (1932), and a combination church-school (1949) have all sheltered its worshipping community before the construction of the current church in 1953.



Holy Redeemer Church
15712 Kipling Ave.

Now returning to the other side of Cleveland, another substantial east-side Italian settlement was in the Collinwood area (E. 152nd St. and St. Clair Ave./Waterloo Rd.); in 1924 the Catholic Diocese established **Holy Redeemer Church** for these people. The current church at 15712 Kipling Ave. was built in 1960.

In 1936, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland dedicated a second Italian parish to the same Marian apparition as the church it established ten years earlier on Detroit Ave. **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church - East** was originally a mission of St. Marian Church, organized to serve the growing

post-World War I Italian community in the Luna Park area. (Luna Park was located between Woodhill Rd., Ingersoll Rd./now Mt. Carmel Rd., Woodland Ave. and Ferncliff Ave./now E. 110th St.) The church was built at 11515 Ingersoll Rd., just west of Larchmere Blvd. and E. 116th St.

With the passing of years, Our Lady of



Our Lady of Mount Carmel - East
11515 Mt. Carmel Rd.

Mount Carmel - East experienced the same ups and downs which many of the inner city parishes did. In 1991, it was able to keep from being closed by obtaining Diocesan designation as an "oratory" (literally, a place for praying). Lacking a pastor or resident priest, **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Oratory** must bring in visiting priests for weekend liturgies, but the congregation is nonetheless grateful to still be in existence at Mt. Carmel Rd. and Notre Dame Ave.

Although it shares the same name with the other two, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Euclid Ave. in Wickliffe is not an Italian parish. It was actually founded in 1923, before either of the two we have just discussed. As they moved from the neighborhoods of their roots, east-side Italians largely went out Mayfield Rd. to Mayfield Hts. and Lyndhurst, and west-side-Italians largely went out W. 25th St./Pearl Rd. to Parma. But as they moved to the suburbs, they were mainstreamed into "American" congregations, and did not establish any more Italian parishes.

According to the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, the Italians were the second-largest immigrant group in Cleveland (and that is no doubt one of the reasons why it has taken us four articles to write about their neighborhoods and the churches they established!) Next month, we'll be back looking at smaller Eastern European groups.

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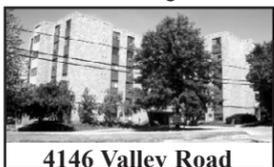
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FAMILY FUN!

by Lynette Filips & Sandy Worona

If you have information regarding upcoming events/activities that are appropriate for all ages, please submit your listing(s) to The Old Brooklyn News, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109; Fax: 216-459-1741; e-mail sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com.

Art House,

3119 Denison Ave., 216-398-8556

Family Open Studio – Third Sat. of the month, 1 – 3 pm; \$5 per person; \$18 family of four; children 3 & under, free. Family members & above cost per visit: \$5 per adult, free for 2 children, \$3 for each additional child. No pre-registration required. Family Open Studio provides a safe & fun environment for families to create art together. Self-guided activities at drawing/painting station, clay hand-building station & craft station. Craft projects vary each month.

Saturday children's classes, after school children's programs, evening teen and adult classes - A complete schedule of classes, including dates, times & fees is available on the website www.arthouseinc.org To register for a class or workshop call 216-398-8556. Art House is open to the public Mon. — Thurs., 10 am – 4 pm, Fri. by appointment only, & Sat., 9 am — 12 pm.

**CanalWay Center, E. 49th St
between Grant Ave & Canal Rd
216-206-1000**

Winter Nature Art -Tues., Dec. 11. Become an artist using the free materials that nature provides. Join Naturalist Pepe Chavez to explore the reservation & create a masterpiece. 10 am - noon or 1- 3 pm. Ages 6 - 12. Call to register.

CanalWay Exploration Stations - Sat., Dec. 8, 10 am - 2 pm, for 6 -10 year olds. Explore history hands-on. Compare camping today to camping in the 1800's. Run a model boat through a working canal, pass through a lock, & unload your cargo. Build your own railroad, push a train along the tracks & become a monopoly. Explore the Boredom Busters of the 19th century like Jacob's Ladder & Tabletop Ninepins.

Long Winter's Night - Fri., Dec. 21, 9 am - 10:30 pm. 1 - 2 mile hike. Learn some of the folklore surrounding December & the Winter Solstice, & hear some of the Hidden Valley's nocturnal residents.

Short Winter's Day - Sat., Dec. 22, 9:30 - 11 am. 1 - 2 mile hike. Learn some of the folklore surrounding December & the Winter Solstice, & see some of the Hidden Valley's residents.

City of Brooklyn

8th Annual Tree Lighting - Fri., Dec. 7th, 7 pm, Brooklyn Veterans Memorial Park. Holiday music, refreshments, a visit from Santa & a holiday story read by Mayor Patton.

8th Annual Old-Fashioned Holiday Gathering - Sun., Dec. 9th., 4-6 pm, Brooklyn Senior-Community Center. Holiday crafts for kids, local choirs & holiday music, cookies & refreshments.

Skate with Santa - Sun., Dec. 9th, 2:30 - 3:45 pm. John M. Coyne Recreation Center. Skate with Santa, Mrs. Claus & the elves.

Christmas Luncheon/Dance - Thurs., Dec. 13th, Brooklyn Senior Community Center,

Lunch served at 11:30 am; music & dancing to follow at 1 pm. Tickets, \$7; available at Brooklyn Senior Center.

Santa & his helpers will visit the streets of Brooklyn - Sat. & Sun, Dec. 15th & 16th, noon - 5 pm, handing out candy canes. South of Biddulph, Sat.; north of Biddulph, Sun.

Cleveland Metroparks

Walking Works- Walkers have until Feb. 28, 2008 to hike at least 8 of 13 designated trails & return their form to Cleveland Metroparks to receive the 2007 shield. Download forms at www.clevelandmetroparks.com.

**Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation - Meadows Picnic Area
440-526-1012**

Breakfast in the Park , Sun., Dec. 9, 8 - 10 am. Early morning stroll through the reservation. Admire the beauty of the Chippewa Creek Gorge & return to a hot breakfast prepared by volunteers. Call to register.

Animal Crackers, Wed., Dec. 12, 10 - 11:15 am. or 1 - 2:15 pm. - Discover the ways some animals store food to eat during the winter. Ages 3 - 5 yrs. with adult will enjoy story, short hike, snack & more. Call to register.

Family Fireside Series, Fri., Dec. 14, 7 - 8:30 pm. A special reading of the season's classic story, *Night Tree*. Afterwards, make some special treats for the animals & go for a short walk. Call to register.

Solstice Dog Walk, Sat., Dec. 22, 10 - 11:30 am. A fun, 2-mile walk through the woods for adults & families. Learn a bit about nature,

**Cleveland Metroparks Chalet Valley Parkway, Mill Stream Run
Strongsville 440-572-9990**

Tobogganing - Two 1000-foot refrigerated ice chutes operate with or without snow the day after Thanksgiving through the first weekend in March, weather permitting. In addition to tobogganing, guests can enjoy the facility with a snack bar, two fireplaces, a large-screen television, indoor restrooms & a main gathering area. To make reservations or for more info call 440-572-9990 Thurs., 6 - 10 pm.; Fri., 6 - 10:30 pm; Sat., noon-10:30 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Cost -- \$8.

**Cleveland Metropark Garfield Park Nature Center 11350 Broadway Ave.
216-341-3152**

Heritage Hobbies: Felting - Tues., Dec. 11. 6 - 9 pm, 16 yrs. & over, \$15 fee. Felting is an ancient skill that is still alive in the US as wearable art. Each participant will complete a one-of-a-kind felt scarf. No experience necessary. Call to register.

Wild Wednesday Deer, Wed., Dec. 12, 4 - 5 pm, 1st - 5th graders. After-school hike to learn about whitetail deer. Investigate where they live, what they eat & how they are as neighbors. Call to register.

Victorian Christmas, Sat., Dec. 15, 6, 6:30, 7 or 7:30 pm. Travel back in time & tour the grounds of old Newburgh Park. Guided horse-drawn trolley tours on the half hour. Discover the rich history of Garfield Park Reservation. Indoor activities. Space on trolley is limited.

**Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center 24000 Valley Pkwy.,
North Olmsted 440-734-6660**

Family Holiday Hike - Thurs., Dec. 27. 1:30 - 3 pm. Join naturalist Chris Larson Mckenzie to explore one of the trails at Rocky River Nature Center. 1.5 miles. At trail's end enjoy

snacks & a campfire at the nature center's outdoor amphitheater. Register Dec. 1 - 26.

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
3900 Wildlife Way
216-661-6500 clemetzoo.com
Zoo Closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1**

December Days - Dec., 17 - 24 & 26 - 30. 10 am - 5 pm. Admission, \$3.50 per adult, \$2.50 ages 2 - 11, free for Zoo members & children under 2.

Noon Year's Eve - Mon. Dec. 31. Ring in the new year 12 hours early at the second Noon Year's Eve party. Special activities, including "New Year ReZOOlution" & performances by Dr. ZooLittle, 11 am - 1 pm. Gather at the Welcome Plaza at noon for a traditional ball drop, countdown & toast to ring in 2008.

**Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Blvd. 216-421-7340**

Impressionist & Modern Masters from the Cleveland Museum of Art on view at the museum now - January 13. Impressionist & Modern Masters from the Cleveland Museum of Art, curated by William H. Robinson, features over 130 works from museum's collection of 19th & 20th century European art exhibition. Also known as Monet to Dalí, includes masterworks in painting, drawing, prints & sculpture by most important & influential modernist era artists.

**Cleveland Public Library, Brooklyn
3706 Pearl Rd. 216-623-6920**

Play and Learn! - Every Fri., 10-11 am. Join other caregivers & toddlers, have fun with a variety of books & learning toys.

Preschool Story Time - Every Fri., 11-11:30 am. Stories & songs for children ages 3-5. Call for specific program requests or more info.

**Cleveland Public Library, South Brooklyn
4303 Pearl Rd. 216-623-7067**

Preschool Storytime - Every Tues., 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Thurs., 10 - 11 am. Interactive stories, rhymes, songs & other activities for children 3-5 years. Call to register.

Toddler Time - Every Tues., 10:30 - 11:30 am. Interactive stories, rhymes, songs & other activities for children 1-2 years. Call to register.

Play and Learn - Every Fri., 11- 12 pm. Join other caregivers & toddlers. Have fun with a variety of books & learning toys & make new friends. Call to register.

**Estabrook Recreation Center
4125 Fulton Rd. 216-664-4149**

Recreational Activities - Family Swim - Family Gym - Ceramics - Weight Room. Call for schedule; times vary. All above activities free. Call for more info.

**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
28728 Wolf Rd. Bay Village 440-871-2900
www.lens.org**

Stellar Stars - Wed., 11 am. & Sat. noon. Fee children \$2. Marvel at the night sky & enjoy

As I see it...

by
Pastor Jerry



Every Christmas I'm reminded of the longing I felt growing up in anticipation of this special season. Although I admit to having been more excited about opening gifts than anything else, the longing is still appropriate. The days leading up to Christmas - Advent, or "waiting" - are about anticipation, reflection, and feeling the weight of the Coming of the Christ Child. Yet, as we immerse ourselves in the spiritual practice of waiting, we know that Jesus has already come. It's this tension that we live in-between; the already; and the not yet.

The season of Advent is a reminder of the broader groaning and anticipation we experience all life long, for the restoration of this broken world. The Christian journey is a long-term advent...a patient longing for renewal and destination, for restoration. However, we should never feel that we're in a waiting room. Remember that Emmanuel means "God with us." Christ has come, and we have a present peace and assurance through Him. May the Peace of Jesus bring light to the darkness that threatens to overwhelm.

*Jerry Madasz is the pastor of
St. Luke's United Church of Christ
4216 Pearl Rd.*

(at the corner of Pearl & Memphis)

the stars, watch lasers moving to music & learn fun facts about the solar system. Take home a planet picture to color & add a sticker to your passport.

Backyard Astronomy - Saturdays. 1 pm. Fee, \$2 per person. Explore the night sky from your own backyard. View constellations & other celestial objects.

Here Comes Mars - Sat., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2 pm. Fee, \$2 per person; Sat., 1, 15 & 29 7 pm. Fee, \$3 per person.

**Western Reserve Historical Society
10825 East Blvd. 216-721-5722**

History Museum, Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, & Library. Regular hours, Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Hay-McKinney Mansion tours daily, noon - 5 pm. Regular admission - adults, \$8.50; seniors, \$7.50; students, \$5. Parking, \$5. Special exhibit in the WRHS's Humphrey Gallery about **Applewood Center** -- formerly the **Jones Home** -- in honor of the facility's 175th anniversary, thru the end of the year.

Fish Fry & Homemade Pierogi

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SENIOR NOTES

Senior Citizen Resources 216-749-5367

MetroHealth Lite & Easy Exercise - Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9:30 - 10:30 am. Light exercise class with a certified fitness instructor; \$2 per class.

Active Living Every Day - Presented by the Schwab Center, Tuesdays 10 am. Call 216-749-5367 to register.

Chair Bowling - Fri., 10:30 am, The Schwab Center. Mon., 10 am, Deaconess-Krafft Center.

Craft Classes - Tues. & Thurs., 9:30 - 11:30 am, Deaconess Krafft.

Crochet Klatch - Tues., 9:30 - 11:30 am, The Schwab Center.

Chair Exercise - Tues., 11:30 am, The Schwab Center. Thurs., 10:30 am, Estabrook Recreation. Fri., 10 am, Deaconess-Krafft.

"SCR Strollers" - Walking group, Mon., Dec. 3rd & 10th & Tues., Dec. 18th. 10:30 am, meet at The Schwab Center.

Bocce ball - Tues., 8:30 am, Estabrook.

Line Dancing - Tues., 1 pm. The Schwab Center. \$15 for a six-week session.

Post Office on Wheels - First Thurs. of every month, 9:30 - 10:00 am, Deaconess-Krafft. 11 - 11:30 am, The Schwab Center.

Book Club - Call 216-749-5367 to register.

Fun & Games

Canasta - Mon. & Wed., 12:30 pm, Deaconess Krafft.

Fruit Bingo - Mon., 11:30 am, The Schwab Center; & Wed., 10:30 am, Deaconess-Krafft Center.

Pinochle Playing - Tues. & Fri., 12:15 pm, Deaconess-Krafft.

Movies - Mon., Dec. 17th. noon, Deaconess-Krafft Center. Wed., Dec. 19th 12:30 pm. The Schwab Center.

Tuesday, December 4th
Christmas Mystery Trip - Cost -- \$59 per person.

Wednesday, December 26th
Foot & ankle service, 9:30 am, Deaconess-Krafft Center. Call 216-749-4477 for appointment.

Active Living Every Day - Tues., 10 am. Estabrook Recreation. Call 216-749-5367 to register.

Sunday, December 23
Carousel Dinner Theater
A matinee performance of "White Christmas". Theatre, lunch, a stop at Harry London's chocolates for shopping & a few samples, a leisurely drive through Blossom to look at the holiday lights. Enjoy the musical along with a delicious lunch & topped off with a tour of the second annual holiday lights at Blossom Music Center. Don't worry about the weather--Lake Front Lines is driving! Plan to meet at the W. Ridgewood entrance of Macy's/Parmatow to board the Lakefront motorcoach between 10:30-11 am. Leave Macy's promptly at 11 & return to Macy's at approximately 7:30 pm. Call 440-886-1157 for more info, or to sign up & pay by credit card.

MetroHealth Senior Advantage
Individuals 55 years of age and older are invited to join MetroHealth's Senior Advantage program. Among the many benefits available to members are \$1 off parking in Metro's parking garage, free transportation to and from Metro appointments for seniors lacking other means of transportation, 10% discount in Metro's cafeteria, and invitations to special senior seminars and parties. Call 778-3210 (a direct line) for more information.

Senior Living Guide
Provides professionals & consumers with comprehensive & current information about long-term care resources & facilities. Distributed quarterly. For free copy, call OBCDC, 216-459-1000.

CHURCH NOTES

Wednesday, December 5th
St. Ann's Womens Guild Card Party
Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Parish Center, 4429 Pearl Rd., 12 - 3 pm. Call Julia Santamaria, 216-351-9970, for more info.

Sunday, December 9th
Christmas Concert
Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ, 2005 W. Schaaf Rd., 7 pm. Admission is a new toy for Brookside Center. Refreshments will follow the concert. Call 216-741-2280 for more info.

Saturday, December 15th
Christmas Cookie Walk
Ridge Manor Party Center, 4630 Ridge Rd. (corner of Ridge & Biddulph Rds.), 9 am - 1 pm. Sponsored by St. Mary's Altar Society of St. Theodosius Orthodox Church. Cookies - \$9 per pound; many different varieties. Call Susan Lentz, 216-621-2282, or Virginia Medvec, 440-892-4562, for more info.

Tuesday, December 18th
Widows and Widowers Luncheon
St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., noon. Menu -- cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes, Christmas beans, salads & desserts. Cost - \$3 per person. Reserve a place by contacting the church office, 216-351-6499.

Sat., December 15th & Sun., December 16th
Christmas Cookie Bake Sale
St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 4600 State Rd., Sat., 5 - 6 pm & Sun., noon - 1 pm. Cookies sold for \$5 per pound; containers provided. A \$1 discount on a pound of cookies for those who attended the Cassidy Theatre Production "1940's Radio" on Dec. 2nd. (Bring Cassidy Theatre stub to qualify for discount.) All proceeds from the Christmas cookie sale will go toward the major improvement fund. Contact the church school office, 216-749-7980, for more info.

Sunday, December 23rd
Cleveland Landmark Concert
St. Theodosius Cathedral, 733 Starkweather Ave., 3 pm. Free. The cathedral choir presents a program of a cappella liturgical music of the Orthodox church followed by sing-a-long caroling for all. Also free tours of the cathedral at 1 pm & continuing until 2:30 pm. Call 216-741-1310 for more info.

Monday, Dec. 24th & Tuesday, Dec. 25th
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services
St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd. Two **Christmas Eve** candlelight services, 3 pm & 7:30 pm. Children will receive a special gift. **Christmas Day** service, 10 am.



Photo by George Shuba

When you're driving past Jindra Floral Design, 4603 Pearl Rd., this holiday season, be sure to notice all the beautiful Christmas decorations in their display window.

Our Churches Welcome You

Sponsored by the GREATER BROOKLYN MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION. If your Church would like to be included in this ad or changes in this ad are desired, PLEASE CALL (440)845-5128

BAPTIST

Broadview Baptist Church
4505 Broadview Rd. Over 80 yrs. of worship
Pastor: Rev. Brent Richards
Asst. Pastor: Dr. John Wood
Phone: 216-351-8414 or 216-431-3515
Sun. School: 9:45 am. Sun. Worship: 11 am
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7 pm

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
3354 Fulton Rd. Phone: 216-631-9199
Rev. Freddie Ray, 216-355-2137
Sunday School: 9:30 am Service: 10:30 am
Sunday evening service: 6 pm
Thursday evening Bible Study, 7 pm
Good gospel singing & preaching

Harmony Baptist Church
4020 Ridge Rd., Brooklyn
Phone: 216-351-3740
Rev. Ed Allen, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 11am & 6 pm.
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Wednesday Prayer 7 pm

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
4600 State Rd. Phone: 216-741-7979
Pastor: Very Rev. Steven Koplinka
Divine Liturgies: Sat. Vigil, 4 pm.; Sunday, 11 am; Holy days, 9 am. Crystal Chalet phone: 216-749-4504
School #: 216-749-7980 Pre-School #: 216-351-8121

CHARISMATIC

Good News Ministries Church
3705 West 36th. (W. 36th & Mapledale Ave.)
Phone: 216-398-4913
Pastor: Ernie Green.
Sunday Worship, 11 am
TV - Tues. 6:30 pm. Ch. 21- 9 pm Ch. 26.
Fri. 6:30 pm, Ch 21 Time Warner Channel.

EVANGELICAL

Grace Church
2503 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-661-8210
Pastor: Jeff Doeringer
Sundays: Cafe Oasis, 11:15am.
Worship service: 10:00 am.
Wed. nights: call for available adult classes.

LUTHERAN

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
5801 Memphis Ave.
Phone: 216-741-8230
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 am.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Scranton and Seymour Ave.
Phone: 216-781-9511
Pastor: Rev. Horst Hoyer & Rev. John Hoyer
German Worship: Sun. 9 am. English 10:30 am
Christmas Eve: German 7:30 pm, English Candelight 9:30 pm. **Christmas Day:** German 9 am, English 10:30 am

Parma Evangelical Lutheran Church
5280 Broadview Rd. (North & Tuxedo Ave.)
Phone: 351-6376 Pastor: Donald E. Frantz II
Sat., Services: 5:15 pm, Sun. 10:20 am. Sun. School: 9 - 10 am. "Rejoicing Spirits", worship service for developmentally disabled -- second Sun. of the month, 5:30 pm. Call for new member classes being scheduled.

Unity Lutheran Church
4542 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-741-2085
Rev. Peeter Pirm
Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School & Adult Study: 11am
Preschool/Day Care 3-12 yrs.

St. James Lutheran Church
4771 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-351-6499
Pastor: Paul W. Hoffman
Sunday Worship: 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School & Bible Class: 9:15 am
Sat. Services: 5 pm.
Website: stjamescleve.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Circle of Inner Light Spiritual Community
4615 Broadview Rd. at Swedenborg Chapel
Rev. Virginia Collins, 216-398-7743 & Reniela Brooksieker, 440-897-9505. 6 pm Sun. service. Healing & message services. Classes, circles, & ceremonies. LTeacherforlife@aol.com

Institute Of Divine Metaphysical Research
4150 Pearl Rd. Free Public Lectures.
Phone: 216-398-6990 www.idmr.net
Sun.: 11 am - 1 pm, Mon. & Wed.: 7-9 pm.
All invited & encouraged to attend!

Palace of Praise
4274 Pearl Rd.
Phone: 216-741-9322
Pastor: Rev. Joseph Terry
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday Service: 7 pm
Miracle Service: Friday, 7 pm

POLISH NAT'L CATHOLIC

St. Mary's Church
Corner Broadview & Wexford, Parma
Pastor: Rev. Roman Misiewicz
Phone: 216-741-8154
Sunday Masses: 9 am English, 11 am Polish
Sunday School: 10:00 am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
4423 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-749-2323
Pastor: Fr. LeRoy J. Moreeuw, C.P.P.S.
Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm; Sun., 8:30 & 11 am
Weekday Masses: Mon.-Sat., 8 am
School Phone: 216-741-3685

Church of St. Leo The Great
4940 Broadview Rd.
Phone: 216-661-1006
Pastor: Fr. Russ Lowe
Masses: Sat., 4 pm. Sun., 8 am, 10 am & 12 noon

Saint Barbara Church
1505 Denison Ave.
Phone: 216-741-2067
Administrator: Fr. Lucjan Stokowski
Masses: Sat., 4:30 pm;
Sun., 9 am, 11am (Polish)

Corpus Christi Church
5204 Northcliff Ave., Phone: 216-351-8738
Pastor: Fr. Russell Lowe
1st Fri. of the month: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5 - 7 pm Communion Service. Weekday Mass: Mon. & Wed., 9 am. Weekend Masses: Sat., 4:30 pm; Sun., 10 am. Communion services Tues. & Thurs. 8 am.

PRESBYTERIAN

Brooklyn Presbyterian Church (USA)
4308 Pearl Rd. at Spokane Ave.
Phone: 216-741-8331 Rev. Adrienne Lloyd
Sun. Worship: 10:30 am. Sun. school 10:15 am
Parking at Busch Funeral Home

SWENDENBORGIAN

Swedenborg Chapel
A New Christianity 4815 Broadview Rd.
Phone: 216-351-8093
Pastor: Rev. Junchol Lee
Sunday Worship: 11am
Adult Bible (non-fundamental): Sat., 10 am
Non-Denomination Weddings- 216-351-8093
A Warm Welcome Awaits You.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Archwood U.C.C.
2800 Archwood Ave. Phone: 216-351-1060
Rev. Dr. John S. Campbell, Interim Pastor
Sunday: 11 am (ASL Interpreted)
Nursery provided ages 1-5
Children's Sunday School: 11:15 am
Multicultural Open & Affirming.
www.archwooducc.org

Brooklyn Heights U.C.C.
Rev. Dr. Lee Holliday
2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Phone: 216-741-2280
Nursery with adult supervision
Sunday Worship & Church School: 9:30 am

St. Luke's U.C.C.
4216 Pearl Rd. (corner Memphis Ave.)
Phone: 216-351-4422
Pastor: Gerald Madasz
Sunday Worship: 10:15 am

Trinity U.C.C.
3525 West 25th St. (entrance off Scranton)
Phone: 216-351-7667
Pastor: Rev. David T Durkit
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
email: ucctrinitychurch@sbcglobal.net
Multicultural, Open & Affirming

United Church of Christ in Brooklyn
8720 Memphis Ave. Phone: 216-661-0227
Pastor: Rev. Robert Z. Lahr
Sunday School & Worship: 11am

UNITED METHODIST

Brooklyn Memorial UMC
2607 Archwood Ave. Phone: 216-459-1450
Pastor: Rev. Pamela Buzalka
Sun. Worship: 10:45 am. Sun. school 10 am
Tues., Weekday wonders bible study, 11 am.
Thurs., New Church contemporary service 6:45 - 8 pm.

Pearl Rd. United Methodist Church
4200 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-661-5642
Pastor: Rev. Paul Wilson
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 am
Adult Study & Coffee Hour: 11 am
Free hunger meal Thursdays: 6 pm
http://www.gbgm-umc.org/pearl-road-umc

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RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICAL WORK. Panel upgrades, new circuits, etc., violations corrected. Call, 216-324-6007.

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RICK'S FIX-IT. Handyman services, home repairs, free estimates. Call 216-323-8564.

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HAULING ALL TYPES. Garage Demolition. Call Richard's Landscaping, 216-661-7608.

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Federal and state laws state that no person shall be discriminated against while seeking to buy, lease or rent housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. This newspaper will not accept any advertising for real estate which expresses a preference, limitation or discrimination. CLEVELAND TENANTS ORGANIZATION is a fair housing agency available to persons who believe they have been discriminated against. Cleveland Tenants Organization is located at 2530 Superior Avenue. Cleveland, Ohio 44115 and may be reached at 363-5270 (discrimination complaint hotline) or 621-1571 (tenant/landlord helpline). All advertisements for the sale or rental of a dwelling published in The Old Brooklyn News are subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to express a preference, limitation or discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. Readers and advertisers are hereby informed that all housing opportunities advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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Photo by Sandy Worona



Photo by George Shuba

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Photo by George Shuba

We didn't have fires fueled by hot winds, typhoons, monsoons, hurricanes, tornadoes, cyclones or bad floods, but 2007 was still a crazy year weather-wise in Old Brooklyn. Easter (top left) and what should have been the beginning of spring found us battling a record snow-storm instead; there were (top right) some roses in bloom at the end of November, and during the same time period, (center) the leaves were still on many trees, in spite of light snow.