

33 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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OBCDC receives funds from Steelyard TIF

by Robyn Sandys
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Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is one of six community development corporations (CDC's) on behalf of City of Cleveland neighborhoods to receive funding from the Steelyard Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program. This program was established to promote commercial and retail vitality in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Steelyard Commons shopping center.

The other five neighborhoods included in this program are: Slavic Village/North Broadway, Slavic Village Development, Clark-Metro, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Lorain Station, Cudell Improvement, Inc., Tremont-Tremont West Development Corporation, Ohio City-Ohio City, Inc.

The TIF was developed because of concern from the business community, residents CDC's, and City of Cleveland officials regarding the effect of Steelyard Commons on small businesses in neighborhoods near this center. The City of Cleveland's Economic Development Department, headed up by Tracey Nichols (an Old Brooklyn resident), is administering this program.

The funds for this effort are 30% of the Tax Increment Equivalent Fund, and the grants are distributed on an annual basis. The program is guided by the "Big Box Centers and Neighborhood Business

Districts: Impact Analysis and Competitive Strategy" Study completed November 21, 2006 by MJB consulting. A copy of this study can be found at http://www.cndc2.org/documents/CleCNDC_Final2.doc.

Each of the six groups is eligible for just under \$115,000 this year. This is a cumulative amount based on funds collected since Steelyards Commons opened in January 2007. After the first year, each of the six groups is expected to receive approximately \$20,000 a year for this program.

Old Brooklyn CDC will be using about 30% of these funds to create a brand and messaging strategy for the commercial core of Old Brooklyn. A new brand would be the way the Old Brooklyn neighborhood would be marketed through words and images that would create enthusiasm for this neighborhood. The overall mission of this work is to fill empty retail and office space in the neighborhood and help to gradually develop a strong mix of retailers at key street-level locations. The work will identify a unique position in the market that the commercial core of the neighborhood can own.

The company hired to do this work, which will begin in December, is Twist Creative. They are a branding/communications and marketing firm located in Ohio City in the city of Cleveland. They have done similar work for Ohio City, Inc., the Downtown Cleveland Alliance, and the Cleveland Health See *Steelyard* page 2

Jim Ptacek prints become ornaments

by Lynette Filips
lynetef@oldbrooklyn.com

The name Jim Ptacek is a household word to many folks in Northeast Ohio. His limited edition prints and posters of neighborhoods, schools, churches and past and present landmarks hang on both residential and commercial walls around town.

three of Jim's prints into aluminum and bronze Christmas ornaments.

And so, the guy who for twenty years designed and distributed limited edition Christmas cards of Cleveland landmarks (1986 - 2005) is back celebrating the season with his art. Here's how it happened...

Photo by Sandy Worona



Jim Ptacek proudly presents the inaugural series of his Wendell August Christmas ornaments of Northern Ohio along with the original prints from which they were engraved.

A graduate of the Cooper School of Art with a major in Architectural Rendering, Jim's camera lens has captured much of Cleveland, as well as buildings in Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Jacksonville, Mobile, Nashville, New Orleans and Pittsburgh.

Since retiring from the Cuyahoga County Engineers, Jim has even transferred some of his work to canvas, lamp shades and a line of men's ties. And just this past year, his work was applied to yet another medium - metal. For each of the next five years, Wendell August Forge of Grove City, Pennsylvania and Berlin, Ohio is converting

Year round, Jim has outlets which regularly sell his artwork. One of them, Ameriflag, Inc., on Broadview Rd., is in the center of the Old Brooklyn business district. But there are many others around town, one of which is The Only Cleveland Store in Tower City. The Wendell August Company contacted them last January.

As store manager Susan Berndt tells the story, "When Wendell August called me looking for a Cleveland artist to work with so they could create Cleveland ornaments, Jim Ptacek immediately came to mind. I had been selling his art work for seven years, and I knew that he did quality work."

A Wendell August representative contacted Jim soon after talking with Susan. At their request he looked through his approximately 75 Cleveland area prints so that when they came to his house with a contract for him to sign, they could pick up about ten See *Jim Ptacek* page 5

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa



Saturday, December 10th
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Goodie bag for the first 300 kids
(10 years and under)

Refreshments
Cocoa & Cookies
Popcorn

Make a craft to
take home

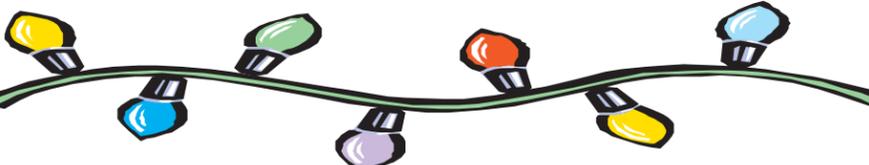
Photo with Santa \$2

The Senior Health & Wellness
Center Atrium
MetroHealth
Old Brooklyn Campus
4229 Pearl Rd., at Devonshire



Old Brooklyn
A Cleveland Neighborhood

OBCDC Holiday Lighting Contest



Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre
Lighting/Decorations contest for residents and businesses.

Sponsored by: Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation and area merchants

One winner in each category will receive
\$50 in gift certificates from area merchants

To enter to have your home or business judged please complete the application below and get it to us no later than **Friday, December 16th**. You can mail or drop off to OBCDC at 2339 Broadview Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109, or send via fax at 216-459-1741 or email to jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Judging will take place by **Monday, December 19th**. Prizes awarded before December 24th and winners photos in the January Old Brooklyn News

OBCDC Holiday lighting contest entry form



Complete the application below and mail to: OBCDC, 2339 Broadview Road, Cleveland, OH 44109, fax 216-459-1741 or email: jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com
Submission must be returned by **Friday, December 16th, 5 p.m**
Judging will take place Monday, December 20th.

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____

INSIDE THE OBN

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Lorene Bowles

by **Jamye Lucas-Bukszar**
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Lorene Olsen Bowles has been the Secretary of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) since 2000 and has assisted the HSOB with a variety of undertakings including the rededication of the "Brooklyn Union Burying Ground" (small, historic cemetery beside Gabe's Family Restaurant), research projects, field trips and speaker luncheons. Most recently, Lorene played a key role in compiling a new book called *Speaking of Old Brooklyn... Oral Histories*.

After joining HSOB, Lorene encouraged her husband, sister, mother (now deceased), niece, and friends to all get involved with HSOB and other civic organizations in the area.

Lorene lives with her husband, Richard Bowles, in their Saratoga Ave. home of twenty-three years; she lived in a number of homes in the neighborhood beforehand, including growing up on Archwood Ave. in Brooklyn Centre. The Bowles' home on Saratoga was formerly owned by an OBCDC executive director, LaVerne Maximuk, and they still remain friends.

Now retired, Lorene taught high school business classes at South High School in Slavic Village (recently closed) for over thirty years and says she loved learning new skills every summer to teach to her students. She added that her shorthand and note-taking skills landed her the role as secretary of HSOB.

From August to October of this year, Lorene, Richard and fellow team member Michael Stachowiak interviewed seventeen Old Brooklyn seniors (age 70 and older) and twenty current or former business owners. Each individual volunteered to be interviewed, and was asked twenty-one questions; business owners were asked an additional fourteen questions. Connie Ewazen, President of HSOB, conducted three additional interviews of Old Brooklyn seniors. These interviews became the *Speaking of Old Brooklyn... Oral Histories* book.

Lorene was the lead team member for the project and spent over 200 hours interviewing individuals, transcribing the interviews and conducting light editing for the book. Richard assisted with the interviews and recordings and



Lorene & Richard Bowles

Michael provided much needed technical and computer support.

When asked how the interviews impacted her, Lorene said "It meant a lot to us that it meant a lot to them" and added that many being interviewed were very touched that someone wanted to hear their stories. She also said that the interviews were often very moving, sometimes filled with laughter and sometimes with tears. During the interviews, each person was asked to provide messages of advice to young people. "The best pieces of advice to young people" were to be forgiving, be willing to compromise, and have respect for each other. Interviews took an average of 2 hours each to conduct, but a few took up to 4 hours to complete.

The oral history project started as a result of a grant from Neighborhood Connections. Neighborhood Connections provides grants of up to \$5,000 to benefit community groups in the City of Cleveland and City of East Cleveland. Originally, the interviews were only going to be conducted with Old Brooklyn residents who were at least 80 years old; however, they were expanded to include one-time residents over 70 years old and long-time business owners.

Lorene said that the project was a very emotional and meaningful journey for everyone who participated, and especially for her, Richard and Michael. She added that Old Brooklyn is blessed to have so many kind and civically engaged residents and business owners. She also said that she is already being asked if there will be a sequel. At this, Lorene smiles and says "We'll see. It all depends on how the sales of the first book go".

The *Speaking of Old Brooklyn... Oral Histories* book is currently being printed and will be available for sale in mid-December. The 312 page book will include 40 suggestions for improving Old Brooklyn and 40 messages of advice for today's young people. To order a copy, call 216-749-7416; the price is \$25 for one copy and \$45 for two copies.

From the desk of the executive director

by **Robyn Sandys**
robyns@oldbrooklyn.com

Here it is the last month of 2011, another great year for the *Old Brooklyn News* and the Old Brooklyn CDC and neighborhood. What I will remember the most about 2011 is all of our great events.

Starting with downtown Old Brooklyn and how it looked on May 21st with hundreds of bicycles whizzing down our neighborhood streets as part of *Pedal for Prizes*. And on the same day seeing Pearl Rd. all dressed up and open for business during *Pop Up Pearl*. There were dozens of pop up shops and hundreds of people strolling down the street to visit these local merchants and food vendors. They were both great events that showcased the Old Brooklyn neighborhood.

I also remember sweating it out running up and down the rolling steep hills at the Cleveland MetroParks Zoo during the *Bridging the Distance* 5K run held on August 14th. I had a goal of winning a medal in my age group and I did it, albeit 3rd place but I reached my goal.

I also loved seeing the streams of children all dressed up in amazing costumes during the *Fall-O-Ween* festival held this past October. We had many other events and even one more to go on Saturday, December 10th, with *Cookies and Cocoa with Santa* at the Senior Health and Wellness Center.

Without the amazing support of all of our partners none of these events would be possible. I want to give a special thank you to staff and volunteers associated with the following: the Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn/Cleveland, MetroHealth's Senior Health and Wellness Center, Deaconess-Krafft, Art House, Speed Exterminating, Ameriflag, Inc., Kehoe

Brothers Printing and Grace Church. There were many others who sponsored these and other events. For a full list, please see our Annual Report at <http://www.oldbrooklyn.com/AnnualReport2011.pdf>

I am also very excited about our new "Old Brooklyn Buzz" community group. This is a late-2011 emergence and it will go far in 2012 and beyond! This group is all about a new surge of energy and enthusiasm for making Old Brooklyn the place we all want it to be. For more information check the article in the paper.

If you are not on our email list to receive our e-newsletter a few times a month, do it now so you can learn about this group and more of our activities. Just email Jayme Lucas at jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com.

I am also enthusiastic about the homes we have been rehabbing and selling in Old Brooklyn. There were two in 2011. We are in the process of completing one now that will be finished in January 2012. See the ad on the back page about the home on Altoona Rd., an amazing home for a great price! And we have one more so far that we will be starting later this winter at 2506 Roanoke Ave..

I will be dedicating my January director's article to a review of the programs and services the CDC provides the neighborhood. You can always check out both of our web sites at www.oldbrooklynconnected.com or www.oldbrooklyn.com where all of our services are reviewed. Also stop by anytime during regular business hours to pick up brochures or talk to a staff member. Happy holidays and stay warm.



Steelyard from front page



Retail store on Memphis Ave. in Old Brooklyn Sandys or Tom Collins at 216-459-1000.

Tech Corridor. For more information about TWIST Creative, visit <http://twist-creative.com/>.

This initial phase by TWIST Creative for Old Brooklyn CDC will inform the use of the remaining 70% of the funds available through June of 2012. These funds will all be geared towards how to build the commercial sections of Old Brooklyn into thriving and vibrant places to visit. The local business community will have the opportunity to participate in this process. Business owners or managers in Old Brooklyn who want to be a part of this dynamic effort should contact Robyn

Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi staff provides additional information and a request for help

by **Christopher Lohr**
christopherl@oldbrooklyn.com

The Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi may be completed and up and running, but the testing, tuning and refining continue in order to make the network robust, consistent and reliable. Of course, the best information about outages, signal inconsistencies and other network problems comes from residents who experience these problems.

In order to resolve these issues as quickly as possible it is important to alert the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) by phone at 216-459-1000 or by email at christopherl@oldbrooklyn.com. Be sure to include the time and date when issues were first experienced, what computer equipment is being used and what type of problems is being experienced.

The Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi is an outdoor network, with access points mounted to street lights throughout Ward 13. Since it is an outdoor network, as opposed to the more common indoor home networks, many households will need wireless antennas, also known as CPE's, to boost the signal and bring it into the home. Old Brooklyn offers a lending library program where residents can borrow antennas by putting down a fully refundable deposit at the OBCDC offices located at 2339 Broadview Rd. between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 216-459-1000 for more information and to check availability of the devices.

Many residents are trying out range-

extenders or wireless repeaters to boost the strength of the Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi. Unfortunately, some residents have named the extended network "OldBrooklyn", the same name as the Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi.

Please remember, when using range-extenders, wireless repeaters or home routers, to provide a different name (i.e. not OldBrooklyn) for the extended network to prevent other residents from having problems connecting. The most common range extender causing this problem is the Netgear Universal Wi-Fi Range Extender sold at Best Buy. For those residents with this device in their home, please be sure to set the network name appropriately.

The Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi is a free broadband wireless network available to residents, businesses and visitors of Ward 13. Some residents, however, have shown concern that the network may not actually be free or that there are hidden costs associated with it. The network is indeed free in that there are no recurring costs to the user associated with its use such as a monthly fee.

There may be, however, fixed one-time costs associated with getting on the network which may include purchasing a computer or a wireless antenna. In order to alleviate this burden, Old Brooklyn Connected has partnered with the Connect Your Community program to offer free computer-training classes which include free or reduced cost computers upon completion of the course. For more information call Ania at 216-459-1000.

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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 will publish its
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 Friday, December 30, 2011

website: www.oldbrooklyn.com

email: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com



Submission Deadlines

Display Ads Mon., Dec. 19th
 Classified Ads . . . Wed., Dec. 21st
 News Releases . . . Wed., Dec. 21st
 For Information call 216-459-0135
 E-mail: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com
 FAX NUMBER 216-459-1741

The Old Brooklyn News (OBN) is a monthly publication of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) and is available free of charge within the community boundaries of Brooklyn Centre, Old Brooklyn & City of Brooklyn. The views expressed in the OBN are not necessarily those of its publisher, editor, staff, or of the board of trustees, officers, or commercial, residential, institutional or associate members of OBCDC.

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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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David Waldman, Program Service Assistant
 Sandy Worona, Community Outreach Coordinator/OBN Advertising & Sales Manager

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board Meetings, are every fourth Tues. of the month, 6-7:30 pm. OBCDC office (2339 Broadview Rd.). 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; Lynette Filipis -- Copy Editor

This month's OBN writers -- Gloria Ferris, Lynette Filipis, Hallie Forcinio and 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.

NEWS & EVENTS

Monday, December 5th

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society
Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7 pm. Surprise Christmas program; optional admission is non-perishable food for City of Independence's food program. Call president Ron Kraine at 440-838-5743 or visit www.cuyahogagenealogy.org for more info.

Thursday, Dec. 8th & Saturday, Dec. 10th
CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra
Thurs., 7:30 pm, St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th St.; **Sat., 8 pm**, Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65th St. Program -- *Christmas Concerto* by Corelli; *Serenade for Strings* by Dvorak; and *Violin Concerto No.3, K216 (Strassburger)* by Mozart. Joel Smirnoff, conductor; Joan Kwuon, featured violinist. Free admission, but free-will donations appreciated.

Monday, December 12th

The Singing Angels Christmas Concert
Cassidy Theatre, 6200 Pearl Rd., 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 each. Call 440-842-4600.

Friday, December 16th

Advent Lessons and Carols
Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 4423 Pearl Rd., 7 pm. Free concert; free will offering taken. MQP parish choir & two other choral ensembles celebrate Advent & Christmas seasons with motets, anthems & carols from past centuries. Based upon holiday tradition first celebrated in 1918 at Kings College, Cambridge (UK).

Sunday, December 18th

Santa Claws Photo Event
Parmatown PetSmart, 6870 Ridge Rd., 11 am - 4 pm. Pets & their parents can pose for a picture with Santa for \$9.95; PetPerks members can capture the festivities with a digital photo & collector holiday-themed frame. Brooklyn Animal Shelter to receive \$5 from every photo package. Visit www.brooklynshelter.org for more info.

Thursday, December 22nd

Arts Renaissance Tremont Concert
"Burning River Brass"
Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th St., 7 pm. Free-will donations appreciated.

Brooklyn Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers
Help support their mission as a no time limit shelter to care for dogs & cats until they find their forever homes. All volunteer organization needs all types of talents -- dog walkers, caring for cats, answering phones, coordinating fundraisers. To volunteer, call 741-1213 or email Nancy at nank17@ameritech.net, or visit

www.brooklynshelter.org and click tab for volunteers; also look at furry friends available for adoption. Located at 8300 Memphis Ave. next to fire station. Training provided.

Cleveland Public Library

Free Adult Classes
Brooklyn Branch, 3706 Pearl Rd. 216-623-6920. **GED class**: Mon & Wed, 1pm, **ESOL class**: Mon & Wed 10 am.

South Brooklyn Branch, 4303 Pearl Rd. **GED class**: Mon & Wed, 10 am. Registration begins Jan. 9th.

Parma-Snow Library

2121 Snow Rd.
216-661-4240 cuyahogalibrary.org
Mon. - Thur., 9 am - 9 pm; Fri. & Sat., 9 am - 5:30 pm; Sun., 1 - 5 pm.

Upcoming Programs: December Celebrations Around the World - Tues., Dec. 6th, 7 - 8 pm. (families) Diverse musical selections with audience participation. Muszikat-Shalom shares history, customs/music associated with Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa & Las Posadas.

A Holiday Celebration with Cheryl Fitiak - Wed., Dec. 7th, 7 - 8:30 pm. (adults) Relaxing music & refreshments. No registration necessary.

Parma Snow Saves Coupon Club - Mon., Dec. 12th, 7 - 8:30 pm. (adults) Bring unwanted coupons & swap with other coupon clippers. Meets once a month.

Evening Book Discussion - Mon., Dec. 19th, 7-8:30 p.m. (adults) *A Woman Scorned* by John Stark Bellamy II.

Morning Book Discussion. Thurs., Dec. 29th, 10:30 am - 12 noon. (adults) *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout.

Unless otherwise noted, registration is required.

Cuyahoga County's Healthy Start Website
County program provides free health insurance for low to moderate income families with children up to age 19. Strives to enroll all eligible children, teens & pregnant women to ensure "well child" checkups, dental & eye exams, preventive & emergency care. Families choose Caresource or Wellcare as their Managed Care Plan. Plans provide services at leading hospitals, inc. Cleveland Clinic,

University Hospitals & Metrohealth Medical Center. Call Healthy Start hotline, 216-987-7346, to enroll or visit www.healthystartcuyahogacounty.us.

WSEM Food Center

WSEM Food Center at Brookside, 3784 Pearl Rd., 216-749-4295. Food service available Mon. - Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. Resale shoppe open Mon, Wed. & Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. Call 216-749-4295 for appointment for help with completing food stamp applications, or walk-in & ask to speak to an outreach advocate. Applications will be completed & delivered to Dept. of Jobs & Family Services. Other outreach services available; call for details.

West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM)
Enrolling for Early Childhood Education. Early Head Start, Head Start & Universal Pre-Kindergarten for children ages birth - age 5. Offers a home-based program to meet the needs of area families. Free services to eligible families & also accepts county vouchers. Comprehensive services to meet educational, health, dental, nutritional, social, mental health & any special needs of children. Several program options & locations. Contact recruitment hotline, 216-961-2997, for more info.

Ready, Set, Grow Preschool

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

Mary Queen of Peace School

Registration for Preschool thru 8th Grade (Formerly Our Lady of Good Counsel.) Call for tour & registration packet. Kindergarten registrants must be 5 years old by Sept. 30th. Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring vouchers accepted; county vouchers OK for preschool & after care. Offers a curriculum to prepare 3 & 4 year-old children for kindergarten. Fulltime: 8 am - 2:30 pm with extended care; part-time: 8 am - 11 am. Call Ms. Patty, 216-741-3685, between 8:15 am & 3 pm for more info.

St. Leo Preschool & School Registrations 2011-2012 School Year

St. Leo Preschool, 4940 Broadview Rd., in Parish Community Center; accepting applications for 3 & 4 year-olds half-day & full-day programs. Call Lisa Mersek, 216-661-5330, for more info. Also accepting students grades K-8. Part of the Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring voucher program. Vocal music & instrumental band program, visual & studio art program, physical education & sports; new PC computer lab. Before & after-school care available. Call Mrs. Eileen Breitmeyer to arrange a tour, 216-661-2120.

St. Mary Byzantine School Registration

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Elementary School, 4600 State Rd., accepting applications for preschool - grade 8. Before & after school services available. Local tuition assistance available to all families; participates in Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program. Updated computer lab, interactive Smart Boards in all classroom, instrumental music & art instructor, athletics & more. Call 216-749-7980 or visit www.smbyz.org for more info.

City of Cleveland, Division of Police, Citizen On-line Reporting System

File your own police report on-line for the following types of incidents/crimes -- lost property; damage to property; criminal damaging; petty theft/theft from a motor vehicle; supplemental reports. These types of reports may be made only if there is no suspect, suspect vehicle, or serial number information. Make an on-line report at www.city.cleveland.oh.us/police & click on the crime reporting link. You must be 18 years old & have an e-mail address.

Toys for Tots

Cassidy Theatre will serve as a collection place for the US Marine Corps toy drive. Toys to be donated can be dropped off during regular box office hrs. Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm or during any performance. Toys must be new & unwrapped.

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Old Brooklyn
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Fred's Christmas Trees
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Free Old Brooklyn delivery for those who need it
Free coffee & hot chocolate with purchase
Fresh cuts made on all trees

* Purchase any tree and receive a free loaf of bread at Fred's Breads & More. (\$2.00 max value)

Tree Lot Hours: Noon - 9:00 (sometimes later)

Fred's Breads & More: 8:30am - 6:30pm
Come check out our selection of fresh produce!
We accept Visa • MasterCard • Discover • Ohio Direction Card



Joe Gigante & Sons
Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas

Isn't it amazing that our Christian heritage is what our constitutional foundation was established on? From the beginning of the pilgrims arrival in a land that was bountiful, untouched by bureaucratic ways, and full of opportunity with dreams to be achieved.

Isn't it amazing that our Revolutionary Fathers chose Christianity as our moral structure of our laws today? It has been proven through both good and bad times. It has been proven for over 200 and some odd years.

Isn't it amazing that today three quarters of our retail economy is based on Christian holidays? We are truly blessed by our faith and obedience because of the gospels of Jesus Christ.

How can we say thanks to the Son of God for all the blessings and freedom that we enjoy today? What is the best Christmas present we can give to our Lord and Savior that was born in a manger? We have so many blessings to be thankful for. What can we give to him to say thank you?

This reminds me of a story:
There was a king that called for a celebration of his birthday. Everyone was to bring a gift for his birthday.
There was a cow, a chicken, and a pig discussing what they would bring as a gift to the king.
The cow said, "I'm going to bring 10 gallons of milk in 2 shiny, new pails."
The chicken said, "I'm going to bring 2 dozen eggs in 2 beautiful baskets."
They looked at the pig he said nothing and walked away. So the great day came, the cow got his milk and the new pails, the chicken gathered his eggs and placed them in the beautiful baskets. The pig still said nothing.
The cow went to the king and gave his gift. The king was pleased at such a nice gift.
The chicken went to the king and gave him his gift. The king was very pleased at his gift.
The pig walked up to the king he had a beautiful red bow tied around his neck. The king asked, "Where is your gift?" The pig replied, "All I have to give is myself." The king was moved to tears and told the pig that this was the best gift that anyone had ever given him.

Christmas is a time of great happiness or much sorrow. It is a season of reality. It's a season that causes us to reflect the days of our lives.

Isn't it amazing that Christmas has an effect on both young and old? I pray that this Christmas will bring hope, and joy, and newness of life for all who are heavy hearted and overcome by the burdens of life. May this Christmas be full and free.

Our gift of freedom was not free, It came with a price. Remember all our troupes and their families who are serving now and all those that have served.

Merry Christmas from Joe Gigante family and Company

Tips to help residents get safely thru holidays

from National Crime Prevention Council

Barbara Spaan
Outreach Manager
barbaras@
oldbrooklyn.com



This holiday, don't let the spirit of giving lure you into giving burglars, muggers or pick-pockets a chance to do

their dirty work. Criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else, chiefly because it's a perfect opportunity to commit a crime. Keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy holiday season --

If you're at home ...

- Turn on outside lights to deter burglars.
- Report any suspicious behavior to the police or local community watch groups.
- Make sure your homeowners' (or renters') insurance is up-to-date and everything is inventoried properly.

If a stranger comes to the door ...

- Stay alert to suspicious-looking couriers delivering packages to you or your neighbors.
- * Beware of con artists taking advantage of peoples' generous holiday spirit by going door-to-door. Ask for identification and get specifics re: how and where the donations will be spent/used.
- If you feel uncomfortable, just say "No thank you" and shut the door.

If you're out for the evening ...

- Turn on lights and a radio or the TV so it appears that someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you're out, even if you'll be gone for just a few minutes.
- Do not place packages or gifts near windows or high-visibility sites.

If you're shopping ...

- Don't let your guard down just because you are rushing.
- Stay alert and be aware of everything around you at all times.
- Park in well-lighted spaces and as close to the store as possible, lock your car doors, and hide packages in the trunk or under the seats.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card if possible.
- Make sure that you do not carry all your packages at the same time.
- * Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- If you take your children shopping, teach

them to go to a police officer or a store security guard if they get separated or get lost.

If you're traveling ...

- Set an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask your neighbor to watch your home, shovel the walks, pick up the newspapers, collect mail and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Hide any gifts that may be left in the house while you're gone.

Shopping Safely Online

In the course of the day you may write a check at the drugstore, charge tickets to a concert, or apply for a credit card. Chances are you don't give these everyday transactions a second thought. But others may. They may be trying to steal your identity.

The Internet is an exciting tool that puts a vast amount of information at your fingertips. With the click of a mouse you can buy the latest bestseller, make travel arrangements, rent a video or purchase;

Shop with companies you know

• Anyone can set up an online shop under almost any name. If you're unfamiliar with the merchant, ask for a paper catalog to get a better idea of their merchandise and services. Also be sure to determine a company's return and refund policies before making your purchase.

Keep your password private

• Never give your password to anyone. Avoid using a birthday or a portion of your Social Security number. If possible, use a combination of letters and numbers.

Pay with a credit card

• If you pay with a credit card, your transaction will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, you have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor investigates them.

Keep personal information private

• Do not give out your Social Security number, e-mail address, telephone number or address unless you know who is collecting the information, why they're collecting it, and how they'll use it.

Save all transaction information

This includes e-mails and records of any phone conversations.

Interested in more information on starting your own street watch? Call Barb at 216-459-1000 today before your street becomes a victim of crime.

On behalf of the *Crime Watch* program, I thank you for another year of support, and wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday.

Gyro Guys share chicken pot pie soup recipe

by **Jamye Lucas-Bukszar**
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Gyro Guys, located on 4348 Pearl Rd., is a new Old Brooklyn restaurant which opened on May 15th. The restaurant has a bright and open feel, is nicely decorated and the food is delicious. They have specials on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Hours are Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, closed.

Gyro Guys is a retail partner for the "Buy Old Brooklyn Restaurant & Specialty Food Store Challenge". (See the article on page 1.) The restaurant serves homemade soups, salads and specialty sandwiches and offers catering for local parties and events. In addition, Gyro Guys will host the "Old Brooklyn Buzz Committee" discussion on December 1st at 6 p.m. (Again see the article on page 1.)

The recipe below is a soup that is made and sold at Gyro Guys.

For more information about their catering or about the restaurant, contact Gyro Guys at 216-739-3033.

Chicken Pot Pie Soup

Total time: 1 hour, 20 minutes; Prep time: 20 minutes; Cook time: 1 hour; Serves: 6 - 8

Ingredients:

- 4 medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 quarts water
- 1 ½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, split

- 1 TBL bouillon flavoring
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ½ small white onion, diced (1/4 cup)
- 2 stalks celery diced (1/2 cup)
- ½ cup all purpose flour
- 2 TSP Italian seasoning
- 1 TSP cracked black pepper
- 1 ½ pounds frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Pinch sea salt

Directions:

• Add diced potatoes to a large bowl filled with cold water. Set aside.

• Bring 2 quarts of water to a boil, add chicken. Reduce heat to a simmer and poach for about 8-10 minutes. Remove the chicken to a plate to cool. Continue to simmer the broth, adding the bouillon until reduced by half (about 10 minutes). Dice the chicken when cooled.

• In a large skillet heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the onions and celery and cook until translucent (about 2 minutes). Stir in the flour and whisk until it forms a roux. Add the Italian seasoning and pepper. Cook for 3 more minutes.

• Whisk the roux into the broth and bring back up to a boil. Drain the potatoes. Add the potatoes to the broth over low heat and stir in frozen vegetables. Place a lid on the pot and simmer until the potatoes are tender (about 15 minutes). Stir in the cream and the pinch of salt and cook for 5 more minutes.

OBCDC launches "Buy Old Brooklyn" restaurant & specialty food store challenge

by **Jamye Lucas-Bukszar**
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) is launching a "Buy Old Brooklyn" campaign, beginning with a restaurant & specialty food store challenge. The goal is to encourage residents to support Old Brooklyn businesses. OBCDC hopes to add other categories and create a general "Buy Old Brooklyn" program in the near future.

The contest began on Monday, November 21, 2011 and will run through Thursday, December 15, 2011. The person who spends the most at Old Brooklyn restaurants/specialty food stores will win \$75 or more in gift certificates. There will also be 2nd and 3rd place prizes as well as a bonus raffle. To enter the contest, send receipts to OBCDC by December 19 by US mail, fax (216-459-1741) or e-mail (jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com).

Local restaurants and specialty food stores partnered with OBCDC by donating gift certificates valued at \$5 or more which will be used as the prizes for the contest. All retail partners were given colorful flyers to put in their windows to advertise their participation in the program. OBCDC encourages everyone to shop at all 29 of the "Buy Old Brooklyn" retail partners.

Here is a list of the current retail partners:

Acropolis Restaurant & Tavern, 6021 Memphis Ave.
Athens Imported Foods, 5120 Pearl Rd.
Bonnie's Catering (Ampol Hall), 4737 Pearl Rd.
Burger King, 6000 Memphis Ave.
Carmino's Pizza, 4728 Pearl Rd.
Corky's Express, 5164 Pearl Rd.
Dee's Old Brooklyn Diner, 4326 Pearl Rd.
Dina's Pizza & Pub, 5701 Memphis Ave.
Don Gi's Pizzeria, 2159 Broadview Rd.
Fat Guy's Bar & Grill, 5517 Memphis Ave.
Gabe's Family Restaurant, 2044 Broadview Rd.
Gentile's Imported Italian Food, 4464 Broadview Rd.
Gus's Family Restaurant, 4377 State Rd.
Gyro Guys, 4348 Pearl Rd.
Honey Hut Ice Cream, 4674 State Rd.
Luci's Coffee, Donuts & More, 4855 Broadview Rd.
Memphis Bakery, 6100 Memphis Ave.
Memphis Eatery, 6212 Memphis Ave.
Memphis Station Bar & Grill, 6101 Memphis Ave.
Memphis Tavern, 4818 Memphis Ave.
Michael's Bakery, 4478 Broadview Rd.
M & W Market, 4391 State Rd.
Steve's Family Restaurant, 4457 Broadview Rd.
The Sausage Shoppe, 4501 Memphis Ave.
Tommy's Family Restaurant, 5198 Pearl Rd.
Villa Mia Restaurant, 4890 Pearl Rd.
Wexler's Tavern & Eatery, 4555 State Rd.

Contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar by phone at 216-459-1000 or by e-mail at jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com for more information about the "Buy Old Brooklyn" campaign.
See display ad on back page.

OBCDC creating home-based business network

by **Jamye Lucas-Bukszar**
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) wants to create a network to help strengthen fledgling businesses in Old Brooklyn. The network could afford many opportunities for home based entrepreneurs including:

- Cooperative marketing and advertising opportunities
- Business planning, training, and financial assistance

- Growth management assistance
- Help with facilitating cooperative store fronts and other affordable brick and mortar options
- Other services that the group would find helpful

Individuals who own home-based businesses in Old Brooklyn and would be interested in joining and helping to create a "Home-Based Business Network" are asked to contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar at 216-459-1000 or via jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com. The group will plan its first meeting in January, depending on the businesses which contact OBCDC.

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THEATER NOTES



Cleveland Public Theatre
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www.cptonline.org

"Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant: Home for the Hollandaise"

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Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., 7 pm. Gordon Square Theatre; Tickets: \$60. Cabaret style, 5-course dinner, wine, ensemble theater.

"Santa Land Diaries" and "The Lough Sisters: Making the New Year Gay"
Now until Sat., Dec. 17th; in co-operation with Playhouse Square; presented at the 14th St. Theatre downtown; Tickets: \$20-\$30.

Liminis Theatre
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216-687-0074

www.convergence-continuum
(one block west of Lincoln Park in the historic Tremont neighborhood)

"The Internationalist"

Thurs. - Sat., Dec. 17th, 8 pm. Tickets: general admission, \$15; seniors, \$12; students, \$10.

"Apokalypse"

Now thru Sun., Dec. 19th; Thurs, Fri. & Sat.,

8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Tickets: adults, \$15; seniors/students, \$12.

Near West Theatre

St. Patrick's Club Building
3606 Bridge Ave. 216-961-9750
www.nearwesttheatre.org

"Oliver"

Now - Sun., Dec. 4th; Fri., Sat. - 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets - \$8, adults; children 12 years & under, \$6; "Star Seat" patron, \$20.

Playhouse Square Center

1501 Euclid Ave. 216-241-6000
www.playhousesquare.com

Great Lakes Theater at the Ohio Theatre

"A Christmas Carol"

Fri., Dec. 2nd - Fri., Dec. 23rd, Tickets, \$28-\$60. Sun., 3 pm; Sat., 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm; Fri., 7:30 pm; Weds., 14th & 21st, 7:30 pm, Thurs., 15th & 22nd, 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm; Tues., 20th, 7:30 pm; Fri., 23rd, 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm.

State Theatre

"The Nutcracker - Royal Winnipeg Ballet"
Thurs., Dec. 8th - Sun., Dec. 11th. Thurs. & Fri., 7 pm; Sat., 1 pm & 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$80.



It's been a few years since I did a column totally devoted to recently published books. People in general these days are so into technology that I wonder if books will even be on many Christmas lists. Everything the younger generation does seems to be on a screen.

To me, however, one of life's greatest pleasures is time with a good book. Maybe it's because I'm a "word-smith", but a home library is very important to me.

No doubt some of our readers are of the same mind-set and think "books" when they consider possibilities for Christmas gifts. And while the shelves in bookstores are loaded with many genres, I think that buying/giving books about Cleveland subjects and/or written by Cleveland authors is especially nice. With that in mind, here are some suggestions for holiday book giving --

As reported in this month's *Community Spotlight*, the **Historical Society of Old Brooklyn** has compiled a book of oral histories titled *Speaking of Old Brooklyn...* The details of how it came to be are all in the *Community Spotlight* article. If you haven't already read it, it's on page 2.

Although I haven't written about what's been happening with church closings recently, the appeals in Rome are still very much alive for fifteen churches; parishioners from other shuttered congregations, too, aren't yet "over" the closing of their ancestral worship homes, especially during the holidays.

The summer before last, Cleveland Landmarks Press published Cleveland Hts. photographer **Debra First's** book, *Founded in Faith: Cleveland's Lost Catholic Legacy*. It is the second Cleveland book of photographs which deals with the topic.

The soft cover, 144-page book contains over 200 very artistically - taken photos -- as well as accompanying text -- for twenty-one closed parishes. Several photos from a few churches which aren't covered in as much

depth are also included. The price of the book is \$19.95.

The churches which Debra was able to photograph in the most detail are: Historic St. Peter, St. Procop, St. Stanislaus (Lorain), St. Adalbert (Cleveland), St. Francis, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Ladislaus (Lorain), St. Casimir, St. Lawrence, St. Wendelin, Blessed Sacrament, St. Emeric, St. Barbara, St. Hyacinth, St. James, St. Hedwig (Lakewood), St. Cecilia, St. Margaret of Hungary, Our Lady of Mercy, Epiphany and SS Philip and James.

Local history is a popular topic for big-time publishers, too, and one of the largest nationwide is Arcadia Publishing. There are thousands of titles in their *Images of America* series. I've written about a few of them in the past and now I've heard that earlier this year, two more books of local interest are out.

Judith Cetina, Ph.D., the archivist at the Cuyahoga County Archives on Franklin Blvd., wrote *Cuyahoga County: The First 200 Years* in honor of the County's bi-centennial. One hundred and twenty-eight pages long, it follows Arcadia's typical format of pages of sepia-tone photographs and accompanying text. The bonus in this case is that the person selecting the photographs and writing the text has a higher than average background in terms of the photos and text she included.

John Sabol has also had another book published by Arcadia this past year. It's called *Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood*, but I haven't seen a review copy yet.

Probably the fastest way to get what a person's written before the public eye is to self-publish, and that's what former Clevelander **Ed Griffin** did last spring -- even though he's had other books published in the past.

Ed was a newly ordained Diocesan priest when I met him at Holy Family Church in Parma in 1962. He remained in the active ministry for only five years, but as the title of his autobiography, *Once a Priest*, suggests, he views himself as having done priestly work for the rest of his life, anyway.

Progressive-thinking individuals will appreciate reading the details of why Ed left the priesthood, and anyone from Cleveland Hts. will enjoy the childhood stories from his growing-up years in that suburb. The book is available via his website, www.edgriffin.net, but because shipping them individually from

British Columbia, Canada is so expensive, Ed sent me a quantity which I'm able to sell for him for less money (\$18). Contact me at lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com if interested.

A couple of years ago I wrote about a book which a girl with whom I went to high school authored. The girl was **Julie Jason** (aka, Julie Pauliukonis, back at Nazareth Academy) and the book was the *AARP Retirement Survival Guide*.

That book received a host of awards, and now Julie has a second book out, *Managing Retirement Wealth An Expert Guide to*

Personal Portfolio Management in Good Times and Bad. The price is \$16.95, and it's 306 pages of judicious advice for folks with a moderate amount of money to invest.

An attorney, a financial topics columnist and the director of an investment management practice in Stamford, Conn., Julie is well-qualified to write about the topic.

Gray & Company Publishers, Inc., a Cleveland-books-only company has many new titles out; I'll start with them next month. Email any other possibilities to Lynette Filips at lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com; 216-459-1000.

Jim Ptacek from front page

images from which to choose this year's Artist Series ornaments. (Cleveland is just one of the cities they are featuring this year; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are the two others.)



Cleveland Football Stadium

The three views of Northeast Ohio which they chose for 2011 are the Cleveland Football Stadium, North Coast Lights (a collage of lighthouses in Cleveland, Lorain, Marblehead, Fairport and Fairport Marine Museum) and the Veterans Memorial Bridge (looking east toward the city from the vantage point of the Cuyahoga River in the Flats). So far, the one of the Veterans Memorial (formerly Detroit-Superior) Bridge is the best seller.

All the ornaments are hand-made, pounded into the 3-1/2 inch round die which Master Die Engraver Dave Bruck made from Jim's prints. That's why it seems unbelievable that the ornaments are so reasonably priced -- \$12 for the ones in aluminum and \$19 for the ones in bronze.

Jim saw the finished product for the first time in late spring, and although they are Christmas ornaments, he actually began selling them at a "signing" with Dave Bruck last July at Wendell August's Berlin, Ohio location. Will Knecht, the president of Wendell August Forge, views the partnership with Jim as "a natural fit". Jim, after meeting Will and the members of his staff and fellow workers, "was



North Coast Lights



Veterans Memorial Bridge

impressed with... the family atmosphere at all their locations." They are both looking forward to working with each other for the next five years.

The ornaments have been in stores for just over a month now, and Susan from The Only Cleveland Store notes, "I'm proud to carry Jim's Christmas ornaments. Even before Thanksgiving, they were selling very well."

In addition to the Tower City location, the ornaments are also available at Ameriflag, Inc. and Fred's Breads in Old Brooklyn, the Frame Shop in North Royalton, the Frame Center Gallery in the Galleria, Lake Erie Artists at Shaker Square, Stanton Jewelers in Westlake, True North in Sheffield, online at Clevelandvintage.com and at 34 Giant Eagle stores -- including the ones at South Land, City View, Brookpark, W. 117th at I-90, and Day Dr. (Unfortunately, at this point in time, the Giant Eagle at Biddulph Plaza only has the Wendell August ornaments of Pittsburgh!) Not all stores stock the bronze ornaments, so buyers who desire that variety should probably call first.

Looking toward a year from now, Jim has already submitted five prints for Wendell August to consider for next year's ornaments; if they've made a decision, he hasn't heard about it yet. But of this we can be certain -- it will be a view of Cleveland from an angle which only a person with an artist's eye like Jim's would think of.

BCN shares ideas for homemade nature gifts

by **Gloria Ferris**
Brooklyn Centre Naturalists

Shopping and buying locally is a wonderful idea for this gift-giving season. The Brooklyn Centre Naturalists believe that recycling, reducing and reusing should also be added to the mix. When choosing gifts for the humans on their Christmas lists, they would like everyone to consider the wildlife living in their backyards, too.

During the winter, older folks spend many hours looking out their windows watching the world go by. Supplementary feeding of birds and wildlife is very important during these months to decrease the stress of the combination of cold weather, short days and scarcity of natural foods which make foraging difficult.

Combining the need for entertainment to wile away long winter days and the necessity of food for our fine feathered friends makes for many opportunities for unique, inexpensive gifts.

Homemade baked goods are often given to our family and neighbors during the holidays. Instead of adding discarded apple cores to the compost pile, make a wreath from a length of floral wire and the apple cores. Wrap two or three turns of floral wire around the first core. Leave about 1/2 inch of space between the cores to form a wreath; allow about six inches of wire between the cores if you would prefer to hang them garland-style from a fence. Bend the string of cores into a circle and wire the last core to the first one.

Peanut butter pine cones and soda bottle bird feeders are two other simple gifts which can easily be hung outside a window and giving hours of entertainment to children and old folks alike. Instructions for these two gifts as well as more ideas for edible garlands and wreaths for wildlife can be found at: www.brooklyncentrenaturalists.net.

Here is another idea for providing food for birds and wildlife and at the same time providing entertainment for our house-bound family and friends -- Choose a tree branch or evergreen in the back yard which can be seen through a favorite window. If none is available,

find a fallen branch or purchase an inexpensive white pine tree to hang split corn cobs, suet balls and holiday treats made with peanut butter, nuts and seeds.

Remember that the cold and dark winter months last far beyond December and a visit with more goodies for the backyard habitat will be a welcome respite from the short days and long nights of winter for both you and your backyard friends.

As I see it...

by
Pastor Jerry



The angel Gabriel appears to young Mary of Nazareth, proclaiming that she's been chosen by God. Without "knowing" a man, she will become pregnant. Joseph, Mary's fiance, is also counseled. He's not to subject her to public disgrace, but instructed to marry her. It's all part of a divine plan.

Shepherds outside Bethlehem, watching over flocks of sheep, witness angels declaring the supernatural birth of the child, who will bring peace on earth, good will toward men. Some wise Eastern philosopher-kings follow a star to visit the "newborn king."

Since the Christmas story is founded on the miracles mentioned above, there's little wonder that miracles of faith and wonder continue occurring during a holiday season held sacred over 2000 years. For those who believe Jesus was far more than an extraordinary prophet, the true meaning of Christmas far transcends gift exchanges and families gathered around plum puddings or decking hall with boughs of holly.

Every Christmas season millions of folks acknowledge the promise of a peace that passes all understanding, allowing themselves to perceive the world with child-like wonder and joy. May you experience that kind of season.

Jerry Madasz is the Pastor at
St. Luke's United Church of Christ,
4216 Pearl Rd. (corner of Pearl & Memphis)

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by Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

Keep the Thanks in Thanksgiving

My column this month will be a departure from my normal focus on economic development in Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre. I am writing it during the wonderful few days after Thanksgiving, the time to take stock in all those good things that occur each day that are taken for granted. So if Thanksgiving is just the kick-off to holiday shopping for you, then skip this column and go back to the mall.

Yes, Cleveland and Old Brooklyn have an array of problems and everyone struggles with difficulties but for this season, take inventory of what is good in life. Start with health. Put aside the minor aches and pains and be thankful if you are healthy. My grandmother was fond of saying, "If you have good health, you have everything." It only takes a few days of poor health to prove her correct.

For those who are experiencing health problems, Greater Cleveland offers the finest array of health care services to be found anywhere. And if your health has been permanently altered, the range of human services available is equal to health care services.

Family, extended family and friends come right after health in items of topics worthy of gratitude. Think about all the people who care about you and those you care about. It may be the evening phone call with a parent or sibling or a child's birthday party that brings that special feeling in a day of stress. What is it about a familiar voice or ordinary visit with a friend or family member that delivers a sense of peace? If this is the first holiday season without someone who has always shared your holidays, find some comfort in the cherished memories and share your grief with others who miss the loved one. Holidays are as much a time for remembering as they are for cele-

brating.

Moving to the less personal and more routine, pause to give thanks for the many conveniences we all use every day. Heat, water and electricity make every day manageable. It takes thousands of people to insure that they get delivered every day. When storms disrupt that delivery there are hundreds of specialists who quickly become crisis managers, responding to the problems and restoring the stability of service delivery that is taken for granted when it works.

Even when a pothole looms like a crater in your path, it is the exception to the easy travel found throughout Northeast Ohio. Roads need constant maintenance, as the orange barrels remind us, but doesn't that just prove the point that mobility is important to everyone? And we have it! Be thankful for the thousands of miles of good roads and be patient with their maintenance.

City services are necessary for good living. Garbage collection and waste water removal are just two items which are so essential that any breakdown becomes a public health issue. Paying for these services has become a major urban problem. Be thankful for all the people who work in these public service industries and for those charged with planning for the future. Everyone consumes these services and no one wants diminished service. Conservation will reduce volume. The public's need to have these services, and also pay for these services, will never be eliminated.

If you have ever needed the help of EMS, the Fire Dept. or the Police Dept. in an emergency, then you have already expressed your thanks. If not, then just be thankful that they are prepared to respond when you need them.

There was a growing negative trend this Thanksgiving which I found terribly out of character with our shared American tradition of pausing for a day to give thanks for all that is good in our lives and all that is good among our families and friends. There is a retail push to reduce the day to a few very rushed hours so that big box stores and shopping malls can extend the shopping day. This is an invisible weakening of what Thanksgiving is all about as it disrupts the all-too-precious family gathering.

If you went shopping on Thanksgiving

Day, think about how a retail corporation changed your behavior through marketing.

Please do not let someone else's greed change your Thanksgiving.

Happy Holidays! "Seize the season" and enjoy your family and friends.

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For more information contact
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Commercial Program Manager
216-459-1000

tomc@oldbrooklyn.com,
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Old Brooklyn's Pedal for Prizes May event is recognized at LiveCLEVELAND award night



Live CLEVELAND! hosted its 28th annual meeting and fourth "Excellence in Neighborhood Marketing" awards luncheon. LiveCLEVELAND! welcomed over 100 partners from the City of Cleveland, local community development corporations and the real estate industry to a luncheon at Park Lane Villa in University Circle to commemorate its accomplishments over the past year and share its vision for future civic marketing initiatives. At the event LiveCLEVELAND! presented its annual "Excellence in Neighborhood Marketing" awards. One of groups which received an award was *Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes*. Pictured above (left - right) John Young, owner of Speed Exterminating; Jeff Sugalski, Old Brooklyn resident; and Jeff Kipp, Executive Director of LiveCLEVELAND! This annual event connects bicyclists with retailers in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. The organizers also advocate for biking causes year-round on social media. pedalforprizes.wordpress.com.

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What to do with all those fallen leaves

by David Waldman
davidwl@oldbrooklyn.com

It's the time of year again when the leaves are falling, which invariably leads to lots of raking. Since the City of Cleveland no longer picks up loose leaves curbside, most leaves are now getting bagged and thrown out with the trash. Residents looking for a greener option for their leaves should consider mulching or composting them instead.

After the leaves have been raked up, the first step is to shred them before using them for mulch or compost. Folks who do not own a shredder or wish to rent one can use a lawn mower instead. Use the bag so that the leaves will be gathered in it or, if using a mulching attachment, make sure that the output is directed so that the leaves will end up in one pile. After the leaves are shredded, one option is to immediately place them into the garden as mulch. The mulch will serve as a weed suppressor and a barrier between the soil and the cold.

The other option is to compost the leaves, which is a lot more time-intensive. The easiest method is to wet the leaves and leave them in a wire bin over the winter, turning them occasionally. Come spring the leaves will have become leaf mold which decomposes slowly and does a great job of retaining moisture.

The most successful compost pile of

leaves requires a few additional materials. Leaves are very rich in carbon and in order to create a balanced compost mix, adding materials rich in nitrogen is necessary. Good sources for nitrogen-rich materials are grass and plant clippings, uncooked fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds and manure.

Put the different materials in layers and turn the pile occasionally to aerate it and speed up decomposition. The addition of commercial compost starters or fertilizers will speed up the process, but it is not necessary. Depending on the size, conditions and composition, the process can take anywhere from six to nine months; the final product will be a great asset to the garden.

Residents who don't have the time or the need to use the leaves themselves can take them, as well as any other organic yard waste, to Rosby's Resources Recovery, Inc., 42 E. Schaaf Rd. Brooklyn Hts., and they will be recycle them there. Make a difference by putting those leaves to good use instead of dumping them in a landfill.

<http://compostguide.com/using-leaves-for-composting/>
http://emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles/frederick/2001/compost_leaves.htm
http://landscaping.about.com/cs/compostandmulch/a/leaf_mulch.htm

Garden experiments with cover crop

by Hallie Forcinio

The Benjamin Franklin Community Garden concluded its 2011 season on October 16th, but preparations already are underway for 2012.

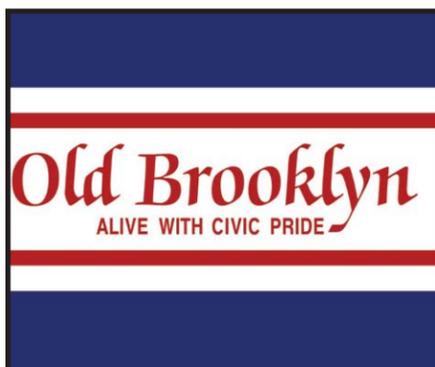
With encouragement and free seed from the Ohio State University Extension - Cuyahoga County, the Garden Committee planted four cover crops in a small area in the southwest corner of the Garden (closest to Tampa Ave. and W. 20 St.). The pilot project, which involves planting oats, clover, radish and peas that will be tilled under in spring, is designed to return nutrients to the soil. Soil tests show the Garden has low levels of nitrogen, an element essential to photosynthesis and plant growth. As of mid-November, the clover seemed to be growing the best.

The cover crops will be supplemented by compost from the Garden's composting program, another pilot project. The composting program, established midway through the 2011 season by Garden Coordinator Carol Stadden, is designed to convert weeds, grass clippings and other plant matter from the Garden to a usable form of nourishment for gardeners' crops. Plans also call for purchase of a several dozen yards of topsoil. It will be spread to fill in low spots, which turned into small ponds during the frequent rains this past season.

In addition, the Garden Committee's Projects Subcommittee is busy taking inventory of tools and equipment, performing maintenance and repairs, and identifying items which need to be replaced for the 2012 season.

Progress is also being made on a tree-labeling project. Signage and a map are under development so that students at Benjamin Franklin School, gardeners and garden visitors can learn about the many unusual trees in the Garden, including several American elm trees. Unlike most elms in the area, this small cluster of trees has survived the epidemic of Dutch elm disease which started in the 1960s and is responsible for killing most of the elm trees in North America and Europe.

To help support the 2012 season, planning has begun for the Garden's third annual fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 24th, 2012. Watch for details about the fundraiser in upcoming issues of the *Old Brooklyn News*.



New wastewater affordability program for residents upcoming rate increases

by Jamye Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Sewer bills will begin increasing 18 percent each year beginning in 2012. Northeast Ohio Sewer District officials say the rate increases are necessary to maintain and update the current infrastructure, including 300 miles of sewer pipe, three wastewater treatment plants and other sewer facilities within the 62 communities the District serves.

The rate hikes will also help pay for a \$3 billion settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the amount of raw sewage which enters local waterways, including Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River, during heavy rains.

Three programs will help some consumers deal with the rising sewer bills:

- ♦ A new Wastewater Affordability Program will provide a 40% discount to homeowners of any age who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (e.g., currently \$44,700 for a family of four).

- ♦ A new crisis voucher program, expected to be in place next year, will provide one-time

assistance of up to \$300 for people who've lost a job, had a medical emergency or are going through a divorce.

- ♦ An existing Homestead Program which provides a 33% to people who own homes, are 65 or older or permanently disabled, and have an annual household income of \$30,385 or less. Next year the Homestead Program discount will increase to 40% and it's likely that the income limit will rise as well, allowing more people to take advantage of the program.

Seniors who get a County "Homestead" discount on their property taxes are NOT automatically enrolled in the Sewer District's Homestead Program.

For more information about these programs, call the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District customer service line at 216-881-8247.

Consumers who'd like Sewer District officials to speak to a group can also call this number about that.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/10/sewer_district_programs_help_e.html#incart_hbx

<http://www.neorsd.org/homestead.php>

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/04/sewer_officials_answer_questio.html

New group working to redesign Old Brooklyn

by Jamye Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Approximately twenty-five residents and business owners gathered at Grace Church on November 17th to discuss practical ways to strengthen the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. The diverse group is enthusiastic about the neighborhood. In October, they'd held their first brain storming session at Wexler's Tavern & Eatery; that encounter generated three pages of ideas related to topics like business development, neighborhood beautification, community involvement and foreclosure prevention.

At the November meeting, the group prioritized the aforementioned ideas and came up with a variety of activities they could work on. Four committees were formed --

Garden/Green Space Committee

- ♦ Urban Gardening
- ♦ Farmer's Market/Co-op Grocery Store
- ♦ Community Kitchen

Small Business Development Committee

- ♦ Old Brooklyn "Cash Mobs"
- ♦ Pop-up Holiday Craft shops
- ♦ Education & support for starting a business, including cooperative businesses

Community Engagement Committee

- ♦ Maintenance Service Corp (an organized group of volunteers who can help seniors with small home maintenance projects)
- ♦ Neighborhood Beautification projects

Foreclosure Prevention Committee

- ♦ Aggressive marketing of programs that could help residents stay in their homes

There is still space on all of the committees, and interested Old Brooklyn residents and business owners are invited to join us in January, date to be announced in the January paper. The current participants are considering *Old Brooklyn Buzz Committee* as a name for this new group, but are open to other possibilities. Anyone who has suggestions for a short, clever name should e-mail jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com.

Stop paying too much to heat and cool your home!

You hear a lot about being green these days. Did you know being green can save you money? Learn how your roof, foundation, furnace, light fixtures and whole house insulation can start money flowing back into your house. You will notice a return on your investment and your home will be more comfortable!

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JOHN PETERS
Old Brooklyn Homeowner

Czechs/Bohemians continue to preserve and share history of Cleveland ancestors

by Lynette Filipis
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

Not too many years ago, all I knew about Czechs is that they were half of the ethnic group which comprised what was then Czechoslovakia.

And all I thought in my mind about Bohemians was that they were some kind of irregular or unconventional folks — artists/writers/philosophers, the beatniks or hippies of a previous generation. (I got the latter idea from a painting I once viewed, called, I think, The Bohemians.

It was a picture of a number of men sitting around a table in what I presumed to be deep discussion.) It was not until I organized a tour to Cleveland's Bohemian National Hall a few years ago that I began to associate Bohemians with Czechs.

Now, after visiting a number of Czech sites and Roman Catholic - founded by Czechs - churches around town, after researching the Czech articles I've been writing for the past few months, and after reading and responding to all the emails from folks of Czech descent which I've been receiving, I'm realizing just how large a role Czech/Bohemian people have played in the history of Cleveland.

I closed last month's article about Czech secular organizations, halls, Sokols and newspapers by saying that this month I'd write about the churches, and that I'd be happy to also include any Christmas customs which people might send me.

As it happened, I did hear from a couple of folks about Czech Christmas customs as well as more general comments. Sharing those responses and the Christmas customs will be more than enough for one article, so, again, the article about the churches which the Czechs established in Cleveland will be put off till next month.

Let's start with the Christmas customs first...

Scott Phillips, our reader from Duneland Beach, Indiana, actually wrote to his cousin, **Barbora Knechtl**, in the Czech Republic, asking her for an authentic Czech Christmas tradition. She replied:

Our favorite Christmas tradition is picking a cherry or forsythia sprig (we call it picking "little Barbora's" - in Czech Barborky). This sprig is cut on December 4 (Barbora's/St. Barbara's name day) and it is believed that if the sprig comes into blossom by Christmas Eve, the girl who picked it will marry the next year.

As for his own childhood holiday memories growing up in Cleveland, Scott wrote:

Every year our Christmas included three traditions from our Bohemian ancestry. First was that St. Nicholas brought not only gifts on



Czech Republic custom ornament

Christmas Eve, but also he brought the tree! If you look at very old images of St. Nicholas, he often has a tree sticking out of his sack. It truly did make Christmas morning all the more magical. As children we would go to sleep and awake to a room trans-

formed with tree, gifts, and beauty! Years later my folks told me they kept the tree at our Aunt's home a few doors away and would spend all night decorating it. Our second Bohemian Christmas tradition continues to the day. Our Christmas dinner is goose, knedliky (potato dumplings), and zelli (sauerkraut). My grandmother and later my mother would spend the day before making the dumplings and on Christmas half of them would hold a peach slice in the middle as a very special treat!

The third was that our Christmas stocking always had, in the toe, an orange. When my mother was small, often this was all that her family could afford for the stocking, so she continued to do this. Up top, was always a candy cane. When we finished our stocking-emptying, we would stab the orange with candy cane and suck out the juice through the peppermint! It was heaven!

Closer to home, I received a call from **Betty Svaty**, an octogenarian who lives in Old Brooklyn. Twice in 1997 (in July and November) she had written about her experience of "Growing up Czech" in a publication called *The Times of Your Life*. Betty was kind enough to loan those articles to me, and some of the memories she recorded in them are about the Christmas season. I combined the relevant parts from each article for this rendition of what Betty remembered from past Christmases:

When I was small, I always had to hang up a stocking on St. Nikulas Day on December 6th. In the morning if I had been good all year I found oranges, apples, nuts and candy in the sock. However, if I was bad, my sock was filled with coal—I was lucky.

I never saw the Christmas tree until Christmas morning. Santa Claus came Christmas Eve, decorated the tree and left all the presents under the tree. Our Christmas Eve



Czech flag Christmas ornament

supper was pancakes made with yeast, another one of Mother's Czech customs.

For Christmas it was traditional to have kuba - a barley mushroom dish. The mushrooms were dried and came from Czechoslovakia in cloth bags. There were those special raised doughnuts with prune lekvar on top, plus a topping of real whipped cream. Mother was also noted for her listy, better known as leaves.

On New Year's Eve it was our tradition to attend a duck dinner at Ceska Sin Sokol Hall on Clark Ave. and W. 43rd St. It was held by an all-men's lodge, so the wives had to prepare the ducks by stripping the feathers, roasting the ducks and making the dumplings and sauerkraut. Usually the Frank Mates Band played for dancing upstairs in the big hall. The ladies got dressed up in their formals...

Betty didn't write about the main course at Christmas dinner in those articles, but when I talked with her she seemed to recall that it was goose for Christmas as well as Thanksgiving. She did write about the family's weekly Sunday dinner menu, though, which sounded good enough for a Christmas dinner to me —

We had home-made chicken noodle soup for Sunday dinner at 12 o'clock noon prompt. Pork, dumplings and sauerkraut was our main course. There was always fresh baked rye bread with plenty of caraway seeds.

Every Saturday Mother baked kolacky filled with either cheese, apricot, prunes or poppy seed. There was always a poppy seed buchta, crumb kuchen and grape kolac, with grape seeds. Mother said you would spoil the grapes if you removed the seeds.

Betty also shared many other day-to-day as well as other holiday Czech customs in her articles, and I hope to be able to include them some time in the future. Now moving on to the other responses in the last month --

The first one I received was from **Tim Allport** of Tarrytown, New York. Tim grew up in Old Brooklyn and is a 1960 graduate of Rhodes High School. He wrote:

I read with great interest your article on the Czech Clevelanders. Your mention of the Hruby Conservatory of Music brought back a flood of fond memories as both my brother and I took lessons at the Conservatory while living on Morningside Dr. in Old Brooklyn. Every Saturday morning our dad would drive us over to Broadway for our lessons. I took piano lessons from Fred Hruby and French horn lessons from Marge Kolda, related by marriage to the Hrubys. My brother took drum lessons from William Hruby. We both played in the Rhodes band.

I am still playing the horn in a local concert band where I live in Tarrytown, New York. I attribute much of what musical success I have had to those Saturday mornings at the Hruby Conservatory of Music at Broadway and 55th. I was sorry to see it close.

Ward 12 Councilman Tony Brancatelli, in whose ward the Bohemian National Hall and Broadway Conservatory of Music are/were located, also wrote in response to last month's article. While I had written about the long-ago history of some of the places, he obviously wanted *Old Brooklyn News* readers to also know what's happening with those buildings at this point in time. Councilman Brancatelli wrote:

The Broadway Conservatory of Music is still operating in the Hruby Conservatory building under the name the Broadway School of Music and the Arts. They still are providing wonderful arts and music instruction as well as hosting recitals and programs at 5415 Broadway.

Also, the Bohemian National Hall is still a beautiful historic structure at 4949 Broadway. In fact they just hosted their annual Czech Holiday Fair and the Hall was packed with folks from around the region buying wonderful garnets, Czech crafts and great food. They have added a Czech Museum to the hall which is absolutely fabulous and they continue to host gymnastic programs.

Councilman Brancatelli also included the following link for the music school - www.broadwayschool.org - as well as the following information about the facility:

The Broadway School of Music & the Arts is located in a landmark building that originally housed the Hruby Conservatory of Music (1918-1968). The building is prominently positioned in the Broadway Historic District of Cleveland's Slavic Village area. Through the years, the Conservatory served thriving Polish and Bohemian/Czech neighborhoods economically dependent upon the area's steel mills.

Ten years after the Conservatory closed its doors, the building was purchased by Dr. Nicholas Demmy and his wife, Olean, who lovingly restored it and guided the establishment of the Broadway Branch of the Cleveland Music School Settlement in 1980. In 1983, the organization became an independent non-profit, and later the building was sold to a private individual. The Broadway Branch of the Cleveland Public Library is located on the building's first floor.

The Councilman also sent a link for Sokol Greater Cleveland, 4939 Broadway Ave., located at Bohemian National Hall -- www.sokolgreatercleveland.org

I also received an email about the Sokols from a reader who wishes to remain anonymous. She had read about the Czech and Polish Sokol clubs in last month's article and thought that the Slovaks had Sokols, too. I contacted **John Sabol**, author of two Arcadia Publishing books, *Cleveland Czechs* and *Cleveland Slovaks*, and he confirmed that yes, the Slovaks had Sokols, too.

Concerning the Slovak Sokols, John wrote:

The Slovak Catholic Sokols have branches in the Cleveland area. <http://www.slovak-catholicsokol.org/localldges.asp> and in many cases Slovaks participate in Czech Sokol organizations. There is also the American Slovak Sokol Camp in Broadview Heights (president, John R. Fisher)... Rudy Bachna, a retired professor of Phys. Ed. at Kent State University, is a Slovak who has been extremely active in Sokol his entire life.

John Sabol also thought that it would be appropriate for me to mention the Hruby Conservatory of Music/Hruby family connection with the Cleveland Orchestra. According to William Ganson Rose in his epic work, *Cleveland: The Making of a City*, the six Hruby brothers — Frank, Alois, John, Fred, Charles and William — launched the music school, and at one time, five of them (not Fred) played in the Cleveland Orchestra.

According to the Hruby Family entry in the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, however, only the two older brothers, Frank and Fred, founded the music school. There were also two girls in the Hruby family, Celia and Mayme, and Mayme played in the Cleveland Orchestra, too.

John Sabol's *Cleveland Czechs* book, in addition to being available online directly from Arcadia and at certain bookstores (\$21.99, plus tax) is also available for \$20 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, E.55th St. just south of Broadway Ave., Purchase it after the weekend Masses or stop by the office during the week, if interested.

Your responses from near and far amaze me! If you send me more information, I will work it into the January article.

Persons of Czech descent may be interested in reading the want ad which Scott Phillips has placed in the paid classified section of this paper on page 11.

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FAMILY FUN!

Art House
3119 Denison Ave., 216-398-8556
www.arthouseinc.org

All Ages Family Open Studios - 3rd Sat. of every month; 1- 3 pm. Make individual pieces of family art works. Each month has different theme; Art House provides materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit website for other programs or more info.

Camp Crowell / Hilaka,
4374 Broadview Rd. Richfield

Friends of Crowell / Hilaka's Sunday Funday: Sledding Extravaganza, Sun, Dec. 11th, 2 - 5 pm. Free & open to everyone. Activities include: hills, warming stations, hot cocoa. Daisies & Brownie arrive 1:30 pm; Juniors & Cadettes arrive 1:45pm; Seniors & Ambassadors arrive 2 pm. Bring reusable mug for hot cocoa & a sled. Patches & FoCH merchandise available to purchase.
RSVP: corey.ringle@gmail.com.

Children's Museum of Cleveland
10730 Euclid Ave. 216-791-5437
www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org

Hours: Mon. - Sun., 10 am - 5 pm. Exhibit areas close 15 min. prior to Museum closing. Cost - \$7, children age 1 - 12; \$6, adults & children 13 & over; free, under 11 months.

The museum closed on Mon, Dec. 5th.

Galapagos Sands grand opening party - Sat., Dec. 10th. Enjoy free cake & refreshments. Treasure Hunt 11am free. Recycled Art "Pirate Ships" 1:30 pm, \$1. Island Explorers - "Volcanoes" 3:30 pm, \$1.

"Holiday Cookies" Family Workshop - Sun., Dec. 18th, 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Registration & fee required.

6th Annual New Year's at Noon Celebration - Fri., Dec. 30th, 10 - 2 pm. Advance tickets required -- \$10, members; \$15, non-members; free, age 3 & under.

Christmas Story House
3159 W. 11th St. 216-298-4919
www.AChristmasStoryHouse.com

Tours of *A Christmas Story House* are every half hour beginning at 10:30 am. Last tour of begins at 4:30 pm. Purchase tickets at giftshop, 3166 W. 11th St., across from the house. Admission -- \$10, adults; \$8, seniors; \$6, children aged 7 - 12; free for children 6 & under. Group discounts available. Price includes guided tour of house & yard & admittance to museum. Hours: Thurs. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., 12 pm - 5 pm; year-round. Visit website for holiday hours and more info.

Closed Christmas Day, New Years Day, Easter & other major holidays.

Cleveland Botanical Garden
11030 East Blvd. 216-721-1600
www.cb garden.org

WinterShow - Now - Sat., Dec. 31st. Tues. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve, 10 am - 3 pm. Included with Garden admission: \$7.50, adults; \$3, children 3 - 12; free for members members & children under 3. Big sparkling tree, gingerbread houses, window displays depicting winter scenes, gifts for everyone in garden store, food, cookies, hot chocolate.

Breakfast with Santa - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 10th & 11th, 10 - 1 pm. Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus, take pictures & hear last minute wishes. Holiday crafts & a live reindeer. Cost: \$22, adult member; \$28, non-member; \$17, child member; \$22, non-member. Registration required; can register online.

Brecksville Nature Center / Reservation
(off Chippewa Creek Dr, off Route 82)
440-526-1012

Family Fun Night - Thurs., Dec. 29th, 6:30 - 8 pm. Enjoy some family fun around the fireplace. Learn about animals in the winter through a story, games & a craft. Call for more info.

Cleveland Metroparks - CanalWay Center
E. 49th St. bet. Grant Ave & Canal Rd.
216-206-1000 or clevelandmetroparks.com

Mr. Jingeling - Make holiday craft. before Mr. Jingeling stops by. Bring own camera; he will be posing with kids of all ages, 2 - 4:30 pm. \$5 (2 years & under & 80 years & over, free.) Registration required.

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

Tobogganing - Season opened Fri., Nov. 25th; runs thru first weekend in March; Fri., 6 - 10:30 pm; Sat., noon - 10:30 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Cost - adults, \$8; children ages 11 & under, \$6. One time ride tickets, \$3. Thurs.: school & college ID night, \$5 with ID. Season passes -- adults, \$35; children 11 & under, \$25. Family pass \$100 (up to four) available. 20% discount on season passes if purchased before Dec. 24th. Call for holiday hours.

Cleveland Metroparks - Earth Words Nature Shops - The Chickadee Nest Kids Only Shop. Sat., Dec. 3rd & Sun., Dec. 4th, 11 am - 4 pm. All three "nests" open for kids 12 and under; packed with gift items priced right for their wallets/purses. "Elves" help kids find perfect gifts for everyone on list. No reservations required. Call CanalWay Center, 216-206-1003; North Chagrin Nature Center, 440-449-0511; Rocky River Nature Center, 440-734-7576. Wed. - Sat. 10 am. - 4:45 pm., Sun. for more info. Shops open noon - 4:45 pm..

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

Gingerbread Birdhouses - Sat., Dec. 10th, 1:30 - 3 pm. Tues., Dec. 20th, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Build gingerbread birdhouses & enjoy views of feathered friends while building it. Ages: adults & children 10 years & older. Registration required.

Eco-Friendly Ornaments - Sun., Dec. 11th, 2 - 3:30 pm. Use leftover household items to make fun holiday ornaments. Bring empty plastic water or pop bottle &/or aluminum can to use to make ornaments. Adults & children 10 years & older with adult.

Fable and Fire - Wed., Dec. 28th, between 1 & 3 pm. (Stories told on the hour.) Gather 'round the fire to hear fun animal fables. After the story, enjoy warm chocolate treat & explore exhibits.

Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center/Frostville Museum, Rocky River Reservation 24000 Valley Pkwy.,
North Olmsted 440-734-6660

Second Saturday Storytelling - Sat., Dec. 10th, 7:30 - 9 pm. Enjoy old-fashioned stories around a warm fire. After refreshments, share family-appropriate stories during story swap. RSVP if planning to tell a story.

Winter Birds - Thurs., Dec. 29th, 1:30 - 2:30 pm. After learning about the feathered residents, create feeders to take home. Limited space; registration required.

Cleveland Metroparks
Winter Recreation Fun

Sledding, cross-country skiing, ice fishing & ice skating at various locations. Use caution & proper equipment; use area only when proper weather/snow-ice conditions exist. Call any park district facility, 216-635-3200, or visit www.clevelandmetroparks.com for more info.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
3900 Wildlife Way 216-661-6500
clemet zoo.com

Reduced Winter Admission - Now thru March 31st; both Zoo & RainForest. Adult admission, \$8; children 2 - 11, \$5; under two & Zoo members, free.

Breakfast with Santa - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 10th, 11th & 17th, 18th, 8 am; Cost : \$22.50, ages 12 & older; \$18.50, ages 3 - 11; free for kids under 2. Takes place in The RainForest; includes Zoo admission, meal, holiday crafts for kids, visit with Santa & Get Close Animal Encounters. Registration required; call 216-635-3300.

December Days - Mon. - Fri., Dec. 19th - 24th & Sun. - Thurs., Dec. 26th - 31st; 11 am - 3 pm. Santa Claus will pose for pictures Dec. 20th - 24th in Wolf Lodge. Reduced Zoo admission - adults, \$6; ages 2 - 11, \$4; children under two & Zoo members, free. Activities included with admission.

Zoo closed Sun., Dec. 25th & Sun., Jan. 1st
Noon Year's Eve - Sat., Dec. 31st, 10 am - 1 pm. Family-friendly event includes crafts for

Schools as Neighborhood Resources (SNR)

The Schools as Neighborhood Resource (SNR) program has started at James Ford Rhodes High School, 5100 Biddulph Rd. Class days and times are - 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Sign up anytime, through April. Both children and adults can participate for free.

If the Cleveland Municipal School

kids, live animal shows, alcohol-free toast & ball drop at noon. Presented by Dollar Bank with support from Radio Disney.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR), Rockside Station, 7900 Old Rockside Rd.
800-468-4070 www.cvsr.com

A Christmas-Time Excursion - Sat. & Sun., Dec., 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 10 am. Depart Rockside Station in Independence; ride to City of Akron. Trolley picks up participants in Akron & takes them you to Lock 3 for ice skating & shopping at outdoor German Village. Visit any local restaurant for lunch (not included). Trolley returns riders to station, & back on train, be visited by Santa. Cost: \$22, adults; \$12, children ages 3 - 12.

Mr. Jingeling & Friends Holiday Express - Dec., 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th. Mr. Jingeling, Santa's #1 Elf & Keeper of the Keys, on board, singing a song, telling a story & handing out his magical keys. Santa will visit, too. Depart Akron Northside at 11:35 am for 3-hour round trip with no layovers or deboarding. Return to Akron at 2:50 pm. Cost: \$22, adults; \$12, child

Great Lakes Science Center
601 Erieside Ave. 216-694-2000
www.GreatScience.com

"Goose Bumps" the science of fear - thru-Apr. 29th, 2012. Mon. - Sun., 10 am - 5 pm. Explore popular fears in this heart-pounding, laughter-filled (& totally safe) exhibition about the often-dreaded emotion.

NASA Glenn Visitor Center relocated to Great Lakes Science Center. Free general admission to NASA Glenn & the Science Center on Tuesdays to youth 18 & under or any student up to the 12th grade accompanied by adult. Regular admission ranges from \$7.95 - \$9.95 a person. Free admission for members.

Grand Pacific Junction
Mill St & Columbia Rd., Olmsted Falls
440-235-0623
www.grandpacificjunction.com

Christmas Open House - "The Sounds of Christmas" - Sat, Dec. 3rd; 9 - 4 pm. 9 am - 1 pm - Secret Santa - Boy Scouts - Falls Lenox; 9 am - 5 pm - Christmas tree sale - Boy Scouts - Schuester Green House; 11 am - 1 pm Snow Dogs - Siberian Husky Club; 11 am - 4 pm - Talking Christmas Tree-Courtyard; 11 am - 5 pm - Kids crafts - Kiddie Cargo; 12 - 2 pm - Sleigh rides, tickets: adult, \$5; child, \$3; 12 - 2 pm - Christmas Carolers - Olmsted Falls Middle School Singers; 12 - 5 pm - Train Club Open House - Garfield Rd. Depot Station; 1 - 3 pm, Santa & Mrs Claus-Stories in the Caboose; tickets: \$5. 1 - 3 pm - Snow Dogs - Alaskan Malamute Club; 2 - 4 pm - Celtic Harp Christmas Music Shamrock & Rose Creations.

Hale Farm & Village
2686 Oak Hill Rd., Bath
330-666-3711 www.wrhs.org/halefarm

Fun on the Farm - One-hour preschool program -- craft, story, snack & visit to a museum site. Winter Program - Sat., Dec. 10th, **Holiday Treats & Traditions**, 4 pm. Sun., Dec. 18th, **Family on the Farm Holiday Tour**, 4 pm. Call 330-666-3711 x100 or visit halereservations@wrhs.org to make reservations.

Lantern Tours - Fri. & Sat., Dec. 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, Fri. - Sun., 16th, 17th, 18th, Tues. - Fri. 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd. 90-minute, lantern-lit journey; see, hear & smell holidays as experienced in 19th-century. Tours every 20 minutes, beginning at 6 pm (last tour, 8:20 pm). Indoor/outdoor activity; dress for the weather. Reservations required. For ticket availability & reservations call 330-666-3711. Admission: WRHS members; \$15; non-members, \$18. Group rates available for 15 or more.

District (CMSD) is closed on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, either for a scheduled holiday or because of inclement weather, the evening classes at Rhodes will not be in session (even though these classes are not taught by CMSD personnel).

For more information call 216-812-8700 or visit the website: www.neighborhoodleadership.org/programs/snr.

Progressive Field
2401 Ontario Street
216-420-HITS indians.com/snowdays

Indians Snow Days - Now thru Mon, Jan. 16th, inc. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve & New Year's Day. Usually open noon-10 pm. Must sign a participant waiver of liability; participants under age of 18 must provide signed waiver from parent or legal guardian. Must be over 42 inches tall to snow tube on The Batterhorn. Children 2 years old & younger admitted free but not allowed on The Batterhorn or The Frozen Mile. Strollers allowed but not recommended. Ice skate rental included in price of a ticket; no discount for supplying own ice skates. Snow tubes & sleds not allowed. Visit indians.com/snowdays for complete schedule & more info.

Stearns Homestead Historical Farm - Parma 6975 Ridge Rd 440-845-9770
www.stearns homestead.com

Christmas on the Farm - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 3rd & 4th, 12 - 4 pm. Christmas store in Gibbs house; Mr. & Mrs. Claus; bake sale, entertainment, refreshments & vintage decorations in two museums & meeting cabin. All proceeds benefit Stearns Homestead educational & historical programs.

Tower City Center, 230 W. Huron Rd.
216-623-4750 www.towercitycenter.com
Grand Staircase - Level 1

The 22nd Annual Tower City Toy Soldier & Fairy Godmother Holiday Show - Sat., Dec. 3rd, 10th & 17th, 1 & 3 pm; Sun., Dec. 4th, 11th & 18th, 1 & 3 pm; Mon., Dec. 19th - Wed., Dec. 21st, 7 pm. Music, dancing & storytelling with special appearances from Rudolph, Frosty, Raggedy Ann & Andy & the princess. New this year -- Martel. Lasts approx. 30 minutes; then a "Meet & Greet" with the Toy Soldier, Fairy Godmother & their friends.

Photos with Santa - Offerings Kringle's InventionariumTM - Visit the inner workings InventionariumTM & assist his personal team of inventors in the testing & development of future toys. Meet the Master Toy Maker himself! Receive access to four Inventionarium TM departments. Explore each area & engage in hands-on activities, inc. opportunity to invent your own toy. Tour length: 35 minutes. Mon.-Sat., 10 am - 8 pm; Sun., 11 am - 7 pm. Fri., Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd; Sat., Dec 3rd, 10th & 17th; Sun., Dec 4th, 11th & 18th. Mon. - Thurs., Dec., 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd. General admission, \$6 per guest, child or adult. Children under 2 free. Reservations required. To book online visit http://www.mrkringle.com

University Circle
216-791-3900 www.universitycircle.org

The Rink at Wade Oval - Open Dec. 4th - Jan. 29th; Fri. & Sat., noon - 7 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. (Open daily: Mon, Dec. 19th - Sat., Dec. 31st. Sun. - Thurs. noon - 5 pm; Fri. & Sat. noon - 7 pm.) Closed Christmas & New Year's Day. Rink hours subject to change. Bring own skates or rent them for \$3; hot chocolate & coffee available. Call 216-707-5033 for daily info. Open on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 16th, noon - 5 pm.

Holiday CircleFest - Sun., Dec. 4th, 1 - 5:30 pm. Free day of music, activities & shopping at over a dozen University Circle museums, gardens, galleries, churches & schools; 17th anniversary. Cleveland Museum of Art's Winter Lights Lantern Procession on Wade Oval, 5:30 pm. Rink at Wade Oval open 1 - 7 pm; free admission; skate rental, \$3. Coffee & hot chocolate for sale at new Wade Oval Information Center. Free or paid parking at many UC institutions day of event. Also free University Circle, Inc. shuttle bus service.

SENIOR NOTES

Senior Citizen Resources (SCR)
Deaconess-Krafft 3100 Devonshire Ave.
(Must be 60 and over) 216-749-5367

Mondays:

Chair Bowling- 10 am. **Wii** -11 am. **Canasta** - 12:30 am

Tuesdays:

Crafts - 9:30 am, **Crochet Group** - 9:30 am, **Horse Racing** - 10:30 am, **Pinochle** - 12:15 pm, **Line Dancing**- 1 pm.

Wednesdays:

Trivia - 10 am., **Bingo** - 10:30 am, **Canasta** - 12:30 pm.

Thursdays:

Crafts - 9:30 am, **Chair Volleyball** - 10 am, **Arm Chair Exercises** - 10:45 am.

Fridays:

Current Events - 10 am, **Corn Hole** - 10:30 am, **Wii** - 11 am.

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

Volunteer Drivers & Runners needed for Meals on Wheels

Senior Citizen Resources. Deliveries Mon. - Fri. to Old Brooklyn residents. Only one hour of time needed between 10:45 & 11:45 am. All routes originate from 3100 Devonshire. To help with this worthwhile opportunity, call Rosemary, 216-749-5367, with any questions.

Senior Living Guide

Provides professionals & consumers with comprehensive & current information about long term care resources & facilities. Distributed quarterly. Pick up free copy at OBCDC office, 2339 Broadview Rd.

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 957-2800 (a direct line) for more information.

CHURCH NOTES

Mary Queen of Peace Church
4423 Pearl Rd. 216-749-2323

Fri., Dec. 2nd - First Friday Mass & Eucharistic Devotions, 8 pm; lower chapel.

Sat., Dec. 3rd - Ladies Advent Day of Reflection, 9 am - 2 pm. Free-will offering; call to RSVP. Marian Lounge.

Tues., Dec. 6th - Communal Penance Service, 3 pm., St. Thomas More Church; 6:30 pm, Mary Queen of Peace, upper church.

Tues., Dec. 7th - Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 5:30 pm, upper church.

Wed., Dec. 8th - Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8 am, noon & 7 pm; upper church.

National Night of Prayer for Life - 9 pm -1 am; lower chapel.

Fri., Dec. 9th - Family Friday for Homeschool Families: 6 pm -- potluck; 7:30 pm -- rosary; 8 pm -- Mass; Marian Lounge & lower chapel.

Sat., Dec. 10th - Men's Advent Retreat Day, 9 am - 2 pm. Free-will offering; call to RSVP. Marian Lounge.

Sun., Dec. 11th - Breakfast with Santa, 9:30 am - 1 pm. Children & seniors, \$4; adults, \$6. Call for tickets. Parish Center cafeteria.

Wed., Dec. 13th - School Christmas program, 1:30 pm & 6:30 pm; upper church.

Sun., Dec. 18th - Free Community Meal, 1 pm. Parish Center cafeteria.

Christmas Eve & Christmas schedule - Masses: Dec. 24th, 4:30 pm; Dec. 25th, midnight, 8:30 am, 11 am; upper church.

Sat., Dec. 31st - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, Vigil Mass, 4:30 pm, upper church..

Sun., Jan. 1st - Masses 8:30 & 11 am.

St. Barbara Church
1505 Denison Ave.

Sun., Dec. 4th, 3 pm. Prayer service to com-

memorate feast of St. Barbara; rain or shine, on front steps of closed church. (Parish is appealing to Rome to reopen.)

St. James Lutheran Church
4771 Broadview Rd. 216-351-6499

Sundays - Sunday School Breakfasts, 9 am. Upstairs Gathering Rm. Children 3 years & up to age 12 & parents are welcome to attend.

Wed., Dec. 7th & 14th - Advent services, 10:30 am & 7 pm. Coffee hour follows evening service.

Wed., Dec. 14th - Fifty Plus group meeting upstairs. Menu: marinated chicken, au gratin potatoes, vegetable blend, tossed salads, rolls & dessert. Cost:\$10 per person.RSVP by calling church office.

Sat., Dec. 24th - Two Christmas Eve services with many Christmas carols. **Family service**, 3 pm & **Celebration service**, 7:30 pm. Come early for the carols. Both services have candle lighting during "Silent Night." All children receive a special gift for the evening.

Sun., Dec. 25th - Christmas Day service, 10 am. Featuring beautiful, lesser-known Christmas carols.

Tues., Dec. 27th - Widows & Widowers luncheon, noon. Menu: cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans & salads Cost - \$3 per person. Contact church office, 216-351-6499, to RSVP.

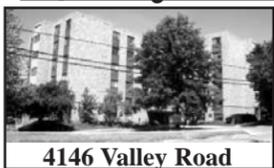
St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church
4600 State Road 216-749-7980

Annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale - Sat., Dec. 10th, 5 pm - 6 pm & Sun., Dec.11th, 11 am - noon. Cookies sold for \$7 per pound; containers provided. Contact school office for more info.

St. Theodosiosus St. Theodosius
733 Starkweather Ave. 216-741-1310

35th Annual Landmark Christmas Concert
Sun, Dec 18th, 3 pm. Free tours 1 - 2:30 pm.

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ANGLICAN

Westside Anglican Fellowship

2716 West 14th St. 216-264-6004
(Meet at Zion UCC)
Father David Smith, Jr.
Holy communion, Sun., 1 pm.
Coffee fellowship following service.

BAPTIST

Broadview Baptist Church

4505 Broadview Rd. 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. Wed. Bible Study: 7 pm. <http://broadview-baptist-church.org> broadview-baptist-church.org

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

3354 Fulton Rd., 216-631-9199 Rev. Freddie Ray, 216-355-2137. Sun. Schl: 10 am. Ser: 10:30 am, Sun. eve. serv: 6 pm. Thurs. eve. Bible Study, 7 pm. Good gospel singing & preaching Free bread give-away, 2nd & 4th Sat. of the month, 10 - 11 am.

Galilean Baptist Church

4520 W. 11th St., Brooklyn, Between SchAAF & Spring Rds. Rev: Carson Hall, Pastor Phone: 216-749-7787 or 216-392-4653 Sun. School: 10 am; Worship: 11am & 6 pm. Wed. 7 pm.

Harmony Baptist Church

4020 Ridge Rd., Brooklyn, Pastor: David Wojnarowski. Phone. 216-351-3740 Sunday Worship: 11am & 6 pm. Sunday School: 9:45 am; Wed. Prayer 7 pm

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

4600 State Rd. Phone: 216-741-7979
Pastor: Very Rev. Steven Koplinka
Father Deacon: Joseph Hnat, 216-233-4118.
Divine Liturgies: Sat. Vigil, 4 pm.; Sunday, 10 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.197.
Fri. 6:30 pm, Ch 21 Time Warner Channel.

EVANGELICAL

Grace Church

2503 Broadview Rd. & W. 28th St.; 216-661-8210
Pastors: Charlie Collier & Jeff Doeringer
Sundays: 9 am. Bible Study, 10 am. Service, Wednesday: Kid's Church 6:45 - 8 pm.
Thursday: Youth Night 6:45 - 8 pm.
Email: Grace.Church@graceoldbrooklyn.org

LUTHERAN

Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church

4470 Ridge Rd. Phone: 216-749-5585 Pastor David W. Bennett. Sunday worship, Traditional service 9 am. Praise service 10:30 am. Sunday school, 10:30 am. www.LutheransOnline.com/DMLChurch.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

5801 Memphis Ave. Phone: 216-741-8230
Pastors Bela Berhardt & Jon Paulus. Sunday Worship 10 am. gloriadeicleveland.org email: gloriadeicleveland@yahoo.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Scranton & Seymour Ave. Phone: 216-781-9511
Pastor: Rev. Horst Hoyer & Rev. John Hoyer
German Worship: Sun. 9 am. English 10:30 am

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd ELCA

8235 Memphis Ave. 216-661-9818. James D. Eckert, Interim Pastor. Sun., Worship Sun: 10:15 am; Sun. Schl. 9 am. www.goodshepherdelca.org

Parma Evangelical Lutheran Church

5280 Broadview Rd. (North & Tuxedo Ave.)
Phone: 351-6376 Pastor: Donald E. Frantz II
Sunday Worship 10:20 am Sat. 5:15 pm.
Sunday School: 9 - 10 am. Coffee, 8:30

St. James Lutheran Church

4771 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-351-6499
Pastor: Paul W. Hoffman
Sun. Worship: 8 & 10:30 am / Sat. Serv: 5 pm.
Sun School & Bible Class: 9:15 am.
Website: stjamescleve.com

St. Mark Lutheran Church

4464 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-749-3545
Pastor: Stephen Shrum. Sun. Worship: 10:15 am, Wed. 6 pm. Sun School & Adult Bible Study, 9 am.

Unity Lutheran Church

4542 Pearl Rd. 216-741-2085. Rev. Peeter Pim
Worship Service: 9:30 am. & 7 pm.
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study: 11am.
www.unity-lutheran.org

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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All invited & encouraged to attend!

POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC

St. Mary's Church

5375 Broadview Rd at Wexford, Parma
Pastor: Rev. Roman Misiewicz
Phone: 216-741-8154 Sunday Masses: 9 am
English, 11 am Polish/English Holydays: 10 am
Sunday School: 10 am www.stmaryspncc.com

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Church of St. Leo The Great

4940 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-661-1006
Pastor: Fr. Russ Lowe
Masses: Sat., 4 pm. Sun., 8 & 10 am & 12 noon,
Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sun. 10 am.
Mon - Thurs 7:30 am, Fri. 8:30 am, confessions
2:45 - 3:30 pm Sat. www.saintleoschurch.org

Mary Queen of Peace

4423 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-749-2323
Pastor: Father Douglas Brown
Masses: Sat., 4:30 pm. Sun., 8:30 & 11 am. &
Children's Liturgy Sun.11am. Weekday Masses:
Mon- Sat 8 am. mass. www.maryqop.org

St. Thomas More Church

4170 N. Amber Dr. Phone: 216-749-0414
Pastor: Rev. William G. Bouhall.
Masses: Sat., 4:30 pm. Sun., 8am, 10 am & 12
noon. Confessions: Sat. 3 - 4 pm. Weekday Masses:
M, W & F 7 am, T & Th. 8:15 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

SWEDENBORGIAN

Swedenborg Chapel

4815 Broadview Rd, Phone: 216-351-8093
Pastor: Rev. Ron Brugler
Sun. Worship: 11am, adult class Sun., 10 am
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Brooklyn Heights U.C.C.

Rev. Dr. Lee Holliday
2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Phone: 216-741-2280
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Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 am

Brooklyn Trinity U.C.C.

8720 Memphis Ave: Phone: 216-661-0227
Pastor: Sue Tamilio
Sunday School & Worship: 10:30 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

UNITED METHODIST

Pearl Rd. United Methodist Church

4200 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-661-5642
Pastor: Rev. Paul Wilson
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 am
Coffee Hour: 11 am. Wed. Bible Study: 9:30 am.
Free hunger meal Thursdays: 6 pm
<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/pearl-road-umc>

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COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Centre Bicentennial Meeting - Wed, Dec 7th, 6 - 8 pm. Applewood Center, Gymnasium, 3518 W. 25th St.; enter off Daisy Ave. Join your neighbors & friends for evening of brainstorming, discussion & planning for 2012 celebration. Dinner & beverages served. Call Adam Gifford, SCFBCCDO 961-9073 x205, for more info.

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists - No meeting this month. For more info. email bnaturalists@gmail.com.

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation -- no Board meeting this month.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., Dec. 13th (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 25th St.

Southwest Citizens Area Council meeting, every first Thurs., 7 pm, Gino's, 1314 Denison Ave.

Ward 13 Democratic Club meeting, Tues., Dec. 20th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

Ward 13 Republican Club meeting, Tues., Dec. 13th (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Calvary Chapel, 6770 Brookpark Rd.

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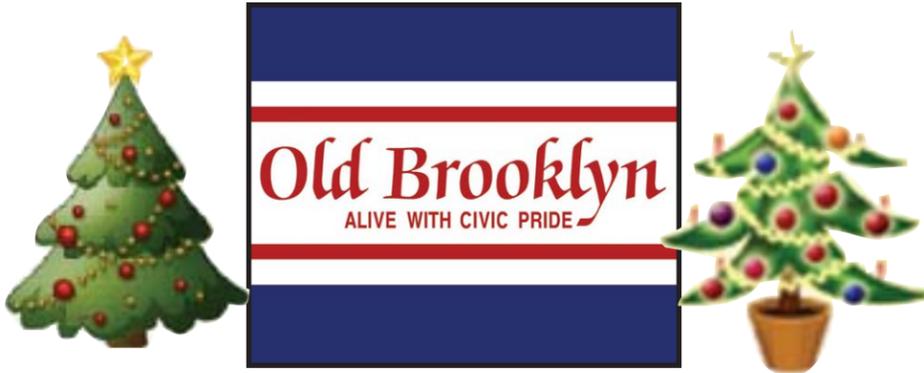


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Charming Colonial for Sale! Home is being completely renovated, like brand new!

4 bedrooms including a new large master suite with bath & walk-in closet, plus another full bath. Brand new 2 car garage and driveway, large private back yard with new deck.

Home being remodeled with green building standards so will have lower utility bills. All new siding, roof, windows, kitchen, bathrooms, flooring & energy star appliances. Close to bus stop & Senior Health & Wellness Center. Mortgage payments affordable at around \$600.00 a month. Call 216-459-1000 for more information.

Don's Brooklyn Automotive Inc.

4941 PEARL ROAD
 CLEVELAND • 216-741-1500
 www.donsbrooklyn.com

We Service All Makes & Models!

DELUXE OIL CHANGE
\$19⁹⁵

*Lube, Oil Change & Filter
 *Top Off All Fluid Levels
 *Tire Rotation*Vehicle Inspection
 *Check Tire Pressure & Tread Depth
 *Lube All Door Hinges
 *Check Wipers
 *Check Headlights & Bulbs
 *Check Air Filter

Special oil filter extra. Synthetic oil extra.
 Up to 5 qts. Environmental disposal fee will apply.
 Most vehicles. Certain restriction may apply.
 Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

\$20 OFF NEXT BRAKE SERVICE
 Save \$20 Off Our Regular Price of **ACDelco** Brakes

Environmental disposal fee will apply. Most vehicles. Certain restrictions may apply. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

SAVE \$10 OFF
 Any Purchase Of \$75 or More

\$20 OFF
 Any Purchase Of \$150 or More

Certain restrictions may apply. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

ANTIFREEZE FLUSH
\$99⁹⁵
 Regular *129**

Certain restrictions apply. Valid only with coupon

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

FREE ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS
 Free With Approved Service Repair

*45° WITHOUT REPAIR
 Certain restrictions may apply. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

\$20 OFF FLUID CHANGES

*Cooling System
 *Transmission Fluid
 *Power Steering Fluid
 *Fuel System Flush

Environmental disposal fee will apply. Most vehicles. Certain restrictions may apply. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

TUNE-UP SPECIAL

4 Cyl. **\$20 OFF**
 6 Cyl. **\$25 OFF**
 8 Cyl. **\$30 OFF**

Environmental disposal fee will apply. Most vehicles. Certain restrictions may apply. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other offers or specials.

EXPIRES 12/31/2011

Full Service Body Shop
FREE ESTIMATES • We Honor ALL Insurance Claims

\$2500⁰⁰ OFF ANY VEHICLE PURCHASE

Must be redeemed at time of purchase. Valid only with coupon. Not valid with any other specials or offers. EXPIRES 11/30/2011

Serving The Cleveland/Akron Area For Over 75 Years!

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE!

Eat in or Carry Out! Win great prizes by dining in Old Brooklyn!

Buy Old Brooklyn RESTAURANT & SPECIALTY FOOD STORE CHALLENGE!

What: Win up to \$100 in prizes for spending at Old Brooklyn restaurants & specialty food stores!

When: Monday, November 21, to Thursday, December 15, 2011

How it works: To enter, provide receipts by December 19th to OBCDC, 2339 Broadview Rd., Cleveland 44109, or fax 216-459-1741, email jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Prizes are gift certificates from participating restaurants/stores!

RETAIL PARTNERS:

Acropolis Restaurant	Fat Guy's Bar & Grill	Memphis Eatery
Athens Imported Foods	Gabe's Family Restaurant	Michael's Bakery
Bonnie's Catering (Ampol Hall)	Gentile's	Steve's Family Restaurant
Burger King	Gus' Family Restaurant	The Sausage Shoppe
Carmino's Pizza	Gyro Guys	Villa Mia Restaurant
Corky's Express	Honey Hut Ice Cream	Wexler's Tavern & Eatery
Dee's Diner	Lucy's Donuts & More	And more partners to come!
Dina's Pizza & Pub	M & W Market	
Don Gi's Pizza & More	Memphis Bakery	

For more info:
 www.oldbrooklynconnected.com
 or 216-459-1000