African Elephant Crossing to open at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo this month

Old Brooklyn News

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African Elephant Crossing to open at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo this month

By Christopher Lohr
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Depending upon when you’re reading this article, the Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi will officially launch/has already launched with a kickoff event at Estabrook Recreation Center on April 30th 10:30 to noon. This marked a major milestone in construction; the project has reached substantial completion.

Although most of Ward 13 is now covered, some areas have been delayed as the project team secures mounting rights and tests for dead zones, and sets up additional refueling stations. The work is now running normally with the SSID (Network Name) OldBrooklyn, and can be accessed in the list of wireless connections on a wirelessly enabled device.

The kickoff event will give various members of the community the opportunity to learn more about the network ask questions about it and see firsthand how it works. Attendees to the event also will have the chance to win a free computer thanks to partners at the Cleveland Housing Network’s Connect Your Community project. Connect Your Community provides free computer training classes right in Old Brooklyn, and will be expanding the number of classes soon. Participants who complete the training will be eligible to receive a free, refurbished desktop computer. For more information contact Asia Siu di at 216-649-1000 or cye.siuadi@gmail.com.

Speakers at the kickoff event, including Ward 13 Councilman, Marcia Kiley and Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OB CDC) Executive Director Robyn Sandys, will talk/talked about what the project means for the neighborhood, small businesses and residents. “Access, Information, Opportunity and Knowledge” are the key words for this project that will make Ward 13 in Old Brooklyn a truly connected community.

For more information about the Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi, visit www.oldbrooklynconnected.com. For technical assistance call Ed Zubek at 440-941-3705. For general information contact Christopher Lohr at 216-459-1000 christopherl@oldbrooklyn.com.

As always, no matter which political ward in which you reside, remember to check out www.oldbrooklynconnected.com for the most up-to-date news, information and resources for the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods. Plus we WANT your stories and photos to post on this web site. Go to the News section then to Submit News where you can easily add your information.

See additional story on page 2
Old Brooklyn Connected is a community development project designed to bridge the digital divide in Ward 13, and create a community portal for residents of Old Brooklyn and Brooksville Centers.

The project covers roughly 4.5 square miles of Cleveland’s Ward 13 and provides a robust connection to the Internet. The estimated cost for the set up, rollout and maintenance of the project to 11,000 households and more than 300 businesses is $1.3 million dollars for a five-year period, an average cost of $1.91 per household/business per month over the first year. Old Brooklyn Connected is providing wireless Internet. The cost of the project including capital, outreach and community education is covered by:

Cleveland City Councilman Kevin J. Kelley’s discretionary funds (UDAQ) Funding from the City of Cleveland Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is providing community outreach and technical support.

Training is conducted through Cleveland Housing Network’s Connect your Community and technical support.

From the desk of the executive director

robyn sands
robyns@oldbrooklyn.com

I hope that May really brings flowers and not more rain! Actually I am beginning to like rain a bit more than I usually do because of this amazing book I am now reading entitled “The Gift of Rain” by Tan Twan Eng. It is a historical novel that tells the story of Philip Hanlon, the half Chinese son of an Englishman in Penang in the 1930s. It has such moving and poignant prose that spring mist from many of the pages. It is both inspiring and very moving.

By the way anyone in the neighborhood wants to start a book club, let me know. I have been on a reading binge for years now and have belonged to book clubs in the past. It is fun to share ideas after reading all kinds of books.

Back to reality, one way to learn about wonderful reads is to turn to the Internet where you will find excellent reviews and how to purchase or get them from libraries all over town. And right now you can do that for free if you live in Old Brooklyn’s Ward 13 because Old Brooklyn Connected Wi-Fi is now turned on! This has been a labor of much love by Councilman Kevin Kelley who without his incredible determination and commitment this would have never happened. If his energy, heart and soul could be duplicated many times over, the City of Cleveland would a bright shining star. We are all very excited about the Pop Up Pearl event coming up May 21st. Remember pop up books as a kid and how much fun it was to turn each page as and what colorful and fun photos sprang right in front of your face?

Well that is how amazing this event is going to be. Right if it were your yard eyes you see it as a beautiful, fun and amazing downtown Old Brooklyn. We want to show the world how you can take a sleep, some sun, set down random area and turn it into a happening creative scene. And it is all for free, great shops, food and entertainment.

Mark this Saturday and Sunday today and catch all of the news about this event by going to www.poppearl.com, a new site developed just for this event.

Three important things to remember in May: starting a book club, starting to use the Internet for free and starting to gain new businesses downtown.

Old Brooklyn grassroots group to celebrate Cleveland Bicycle Week with Pedal for Prizes

by Jeffrey Sugalski

By participating in Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes, a free event that will begin Saturday May 14th at Loew Park, 3121 Oak Park Ave., on Saturday, May 21st, anyone who enjoys riding a bicycle will have the opportunity to win more than $2,000 worth of prizes just for exploring the Old Brooklyn neighborhood by bicycle. Riders can win one of two new Trek 7000 hybrid bikes, a one-year membership to the downtown branch of the Greater Cleveland YMCA, a $100 Honey Hut Ice Cream gift basket, $50 gift cards to Steelyard Commons, gift certificates to local restaurants and many other exciting prizes.

A small grassroots group of Old Brooklyn residents and merchants is coordinating the event, not only to celebrate Cleveland Bicycle Week May 14th-22nd, but also to allow people from throughout the Cleveland area to experience Old Brooklyn’s many amenities and favorite locally-owned businesses.

Pedal for Prizes will take place from noon till 3 p.m. after registering at Loew Park on the day of the event, bicyclists of all ages and skill levels will receive a map of twenty destinations/points of interest in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. From 12:30 p.m. until the time of the raffle drawing at 3:30 p.m., participants will ride their bikes, either on their own or with a guided group, to as many of these locations as they wish. They’ll receive a free raffle ticket at each stop.

Old Brooklyn Grassroots group to celebrate Cleveland Bicycle Week with Pedal for Prizes

by Jeffrey Sugalski

Late in the afternoon, bicyclists will return to Loew Park to enter their tickets into a Chinese-style raffle for a wide array of great prizes. The raffle items were donated by Old Brooklyn business owners and others from throughout Northeast Ohio.

While the bicyclists can win prizes, neighborhood merchants such as Jack Frost Donuts, Michael's Bakery and Gentile's Imported Italian foods view the event as an opportunity to bring hundreds of new people from throughout the region into their shops. The hope is that they will return and become repeat customers.

At other stops, civic groups like the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden, South Hills Association and Friends of Hamody Park will share news about recent accomplishments and information about upcoming events.

Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes is being supported by Neighborhood Connections, a program of the Cleveland Foundation which provides grants to groups implementing grassroots neighborhood projects. What is unique about this event is that it is being almost exclusively organized through donations and in-kind support.

Pedal for Prizes will be held for the first time in Old Brooklyn last May (also in conjunction with Cleveland Bicycle Week). For more information about this year’s Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes and additional details about the event, visit pedalforprizes.com, “like” Pedal for Prizes on Facebook, and/or follow on Twitter @pedalfoprizes. See display on page 9.

Pedal for Prizes - Downtown Cleveland Bike Week

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Polish Constitution Day Parade

New Community Meetings

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society
Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6563 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Tom Edwards, Cleveland Public Library (downtown) Map Librarian speaking about “Locating Important Homes by Using All Sorts of Maps.” Contact President Don Kozlowski, 440-526-7105, for more info.

Tuesdays

May 3rd - October 25th
Tremont Farmer’s Market
Lincoln Park, 4 - 7 pm. Fruits, vegetables, eggs, cheese, honey, bread & more. Music, chef demos, nutrition information, local artisans, community groups, family fun. For more info call 216-403-9436

New Events


Sunday, May 15th
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/traffic offense, motor vehicle, supplemental reports. These types of reports may be made only if there is no suspect, suspect vehicle, or suspicious activity. For help with this worthwhile opportunity & call Rosemary at 216-749-5367 with any questions.

Volunteer Drivers & Runners needed for Meals on Wheels
Senior Citizen Resources. We deliver Mon. - Fri. 11am-12:30pm. Contact Mandy Mandy@lesliehindley.com if interested. You may choose which days of the week you work & the hours you choose. We need volunteers to deliver meals in the Brooklyn/Old Brooklyn area. Please call 216-240-2598 or visit cuyahogascd.org for more info.

Cleveland Parade
May 29th
Western Reserve Historical Society

Wednesday, May 25th
Master Gardener Demonstration Talk
"Seed Planting & Verticality" - 10 am; “Native Plants in Northeast Ohio" - 11 am. Ben Franklin School Demonstration gardens, 1050 Ridge Rd. Park in front & walk & take vegetable demo garden. Call 216-249-3148 or visit cuyahogascd.org for more info.

Community Meetings

Cleveland Centre Naturalists - No meeting this month. Cleveland Centre Naturalists work day, Fri., May 26th, W. 36th St. Commons, one block south of Denison Ave., 10 am - 3 pm. Fish cleaning station on Denison and refreshments.

Brooklyn Centre Toastmasters Club, Sun., May 15th, 2 pm, Brooklyn Fire Station, 3400 Memphis Ave. at Roadon. Katie Karrick, the "Cemetery Lady" speaking about the "Development of Cemeteries at Roadoan. Katie Karrick, the "Cemetery Lady"

MAY 2011 OLD BROOKLYN NEWS PAGE 3

Comprehensive services to meet educational, health, dental, nutritional, social, mental health & any special needs of children. Several programs. Options & locations. Contact community hotline, 216-961-2997, for more info.

West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM)
Enrolling for Early Childhood Education. Early Head Start, Part C, Head Start, Universal Pre-Kinder garden 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 programs. Options & locations. Contact community hotline, 216-961-2997, for more info.

WSEM Food Center
WSEM Food Center at Brookside, 3784 Pearl Rd., 216-749-4259. Food service available Monday thru Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm. Features a soup shoppe open Mon, Wed, Fri, 10 am - 2 pm. Call 216-749- 4259 for info on how to apply for help with completing food stamp applications, or walk in & ask to speak to an outreach advocate. Assistance will be completed & delivered to Dept. of Jobs & Family Services. Other service options available, call for details.

Ready, Set, Grow Preschool

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: 5 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.

Mary Queen of Peace School
May 20th; pre-payment required. Plants distributed in Sept. Contact Amy Roskilly, 216-749-7980 for tickets or more info. Limited seating.

St. Leo Preschool & School Registrations 2010-2011 School Year
St. Leo Preschool, 4940 Broadway Rd., in Parish Community Center; accepting applications for 3 & 4 year-olds half-day & full-day programs. Call Lisa Mersek, 216-611-5330. Also accepting students grades K-8. Part of the Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring voucher program. Vocal music & instrumental music programs, visual & studio art program, physical education & sports; new PC computer lab. Before & after-school care available. Call Mrs. Eileen Breitmeier to arrange a tour, 216-611-2210.

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 classrooms, instrumental music & art instructor, athletics & more. Call 216-749- 7980 or visit www.smbyz.org.

Old Brooklyn Community Development
Old Brooklyn Community Development, 3714 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, or serial number information. Make an on-line request at www.facebook.com/oldbrooklyn.cleveland or by mail to Old Brooklyn Community Development, 3706 Pearl Rd.; 1 - 2:30 pm. For girls in 1st - 6th grades, core knowledge for challenging times. Free. Call 216-403-9436 for more info.

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District Police Community Relations Meeting, Tues., May 10th (& every second Tuesday), 7 pm, Appalachian Center, 3518 W. 250th St.

Sunday, May 15th

Police Memorial Commemoration
May 18th -22nd
Wednesday, May 18th - 11th Annual Peace Officer Memorial Commemoration.
Thursday, May 19th, 10:00 am, Heroes' Welcome Reception.

Friday, May 20th - Parade, Memorial Service, Larcheone Steak Room
Saturday, May 21st - Police Collectors of Safety Fair & Exposant, Cleveland International Tattoo Expo/Tattoo Convention
Sunday, May 22nd - Police Memorial Mass & Breakfast

www.policememorialsohio.com or email: gcppms1985@yahoo.com

police Memorial Day Celebration
Sunday, May 22nd"
Support from local businesses and residents made the second annual Benjamin Franklin Community Garden (BFCG) fundraiser a huge success. More than 150 people attended the event on Saturday, March 26, 2010, at Cleat’s Club Seat Grille, 3995 Rd.

In addition to enjoying the pizza, wings, pasta and beverages which were included in the ticket price, attendees had an opportunity to win door prizes and participate in a basket raffle; a $50/50 raffle and sideboards. Winner of the $50/50 raffle was, Bob Johnston, who took home $385.

The basket raffle generated a lot of excitement with a wide array of prizes from Old Brooklyn businesses and individuals, "Benji" gardeners, local sports teams, entertainment venues and retailers (see Prize Donor List below).

"We’d like to thank everyone who bought a ticket, donated a prize or participated in the raffles and sideboards," says Jeff Kostura, vice chairman of the BFCG Operating Committee and chair of the event.

Elephants from front page

The Mopsai Range also features a sand pit and a mud wallow in which the elephants have the opportunity to see elephants the best possible way elephants do. African Elephant Crossing gives our elephants the best possible environment and care so that they can continue to amaze and inspire the people of Northeast Ohio as living ambassadors for their wild counterparts in Africa.

Gardner Caryn Rieter took the Breast Cancer Awareness Gardening Gift Basket donated by Cher Miles and Teri Willey.

The funds raised will help operate Cleveland's oldest and largest community garden for the 2011 season, providing the supplies and tools needed to maintain the five-acre space behind Benjamin Franklin School at 1905 Spring Rd., support community events and donate food to the hungry.

Elephants have signed up to garden at Benji during the upcoming season.

By Halie Forcinio

Come to Loew Park
Saturday, May 21st 12 Noon

Take a bike ride around Old Brooklyn - See merchants and points of interest you may never have seen before. Pick up raffle tickets for your chance to win great prizes.

Call 216-351-2106 or pedalforprizes.com for more details

Ad sponsored by: Speed Exterminating Co.

with Coupon. Expires 5/20/11

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Half-funded by Cleveland Metroparks and half by Cleveland Zoo’s Community Fund, African Elephant Crossing is the result of joint planning, hard work and the generosity of the community.

"Most people will never have an opportunity to see elephants in the wild," said Zoo Director Steve Taylor. "Few zoo animals have the capacity to connect with humans the way elephants do. African Elephant Crossing gives our elephants the best possible environment and care so that they can continue to amaze and inspire the people of Northeast Ohio as living ambassadors for their wild counterparts in Africa.

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Ad sponsored by: Speed Exterminating Co.
Although the weather hasn’t been very uplifting lately, May is just about here; like April, it’s a busy month for many families and ethnic groups – Mother’s Day on May 8th, Constitution Day on May 1st for Hispanics, First Communion celebrations for many Catholic families (and ordinations for some others), college graduations for still other families and Memorial Day, both actual and observed, for all Americans.

The last month passed by quickly for us at the Community Development Corporation; as the years go by, it seems that the time between issues of the Old Brooklyn News (OBN) becomes shorter and shorter.

While putting together ads for this issue, Sandy, our advertising/sales manager, happened to pick up a copy of the March OBN which was lying on her desk. After opening it she was somewhat taken aback to realize that an advertisement which the City of Cleveland has which are newsletters is a separate issue under the jurisdiction of resuming landfill operations. The end result was that Mr. Simich was invited from conducting surface mining independently.

The City of Cleveland decided to take the request “under advisement” which means they did not discuss the matter but will do so in their next meeting on May 2nd at 9:30 a.m. It will be discussed again under “Old Business” in Executive Session and no testimony will be taken.

If the Board decides to grant a re-hearing on any of the three issues it will be scheduled for a public hearing at a later date and testimony will again be taken from all interested parties.

Given that there was no testimony taken on this request, it was left to the Board Secretary, Jan Huber, to state the reason the Mayor’s representative submitted the request. The reason stated is that the City administration and Tom Simich have signed a letter of intent outlining the conditions for conducting surface mining. Because this letter was signed on April 18th, the administration did not have a chance to present the letter to the public. The desire to have the matter reheard after that meeting and presentation has occurred.

Additional information including the above named letter of intent and a resolution stating the OBCDC Board’s position is posted on OBCDC’s web site: www.oldbrooklyn.com.
There are serious problems before us as there will always be. The only constant in our economy is change. When change is for the better it does not mean that everyone will prosper at the same time. Yet the economy in Cleveland is improving largely because of the multiple construction projects underway or soon to be underway. Cleveland has started a new period of growth that means our optimistic spirit must be renewed. This is not the “come back city” because we let pessimism rule any more than winter is a permanent season. Look at what is happening. The new medical merchandise market is under construction. The former Higbee Building is being renovated for a temporary casino while the new casino is built. The fist of two new Innerbelt bridges started driving pile in April. The Flats East Bank construction is resumed. The Cleveland Museum of Art is entering the last phase of its expansion construction. The Museum of Contemporary Art is under construction. Case Western Reserve University has the new mixed use retail/residential complex launching. That is seven major construction projects in the city. There are numerous smaller projects in the area building hospital clinics and schools plus the summer road repair season. Even the Cleveland Browns are promoting lakefront development. This means much more than construction jobs. It means engineers, architects, support staff, and structural inspectors are working. It means truck drivers, cargo handlers, warehouse personnel, dispatchers and security personnel are working. It means banks are lending, insurance is being sold, lawyers are doing whatever lawyers do and accountants are managing accounts. Payrolls are pumping dollars into the local economy. Paychecks buy groceries, school supplies, car repairs, home remodeling, home furnishings, all serving to put dollars into a paycheck. Look at what this rolls into Old Brooklyn by noticing who is getting their home repaired, or buying a car, or new appliances or new lawn mowers.

Even with the serious economic problems that are lingering and the continuing high unemployment rate, Cleveland must recapture its optimism. Sunshine broke out briefly as this was being written, so even the weather can display optimism. Spring Means Optimism

Spring began one month ago today but winter does not know that it is past time to move out of the way. It is a cold dark rainy weekend as this is written. Perhaps the day matches the mourning that many experience in their private reflections.

Friday for Christians. Perhaps the day matches the mourning that many experience in their private reflections.

Tuesday is Holy Thursday and Holy Friday for Christians. Perhaps the day matches the mourning that many experience in their private reflections.

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Reflecting about Arbor Day, always celebrated on the last Friday of April, this year the 29th, (the publish date for the May issue of the Old Brooklyn News) reminded me that Brooklyn Center and Old Brooklyn are blessed with some beautiful tree-lined streets; South Hills Drive especially comes to mind.

Many of our majestic trees are reaching the end of very productive lives, having provided shade, cooler air and enhanced beauty and value to their neighborhoods. Many of them have succumbed to the storms of last winter, and this spring the sound of chain saws has returned. Unfortunately, many more have succumbed to the indignity of being reduced to stumps or grotesque caricatures by utility companies and overzealous “tree trimming” crews.

And if and when these trees are replaced, their replacements will never reach the height, breadth and value of those which came before them. In these economic times, the trend is to “go cheap” and “short term” with small-stature trees.

The benefits of planting a large-stature tree outweigh a small-stature tree eight to one, but I doubt that fact would be part of a tree replacement discussion. A large-stature tree provides shade not only for the homes in its vicinity but also shades the paved surfaces surrounding it.

A more shaded street equals a longer time before replacement. Too often, trees are seen as an amenity does not enter into the debate about tree replacement discussion. A large-stature tree lost, less energy is conserved, an urban heat island is formed, and our quality of air and water is compromised. We are fortunate that we can shape our future relationship with trees. Brooklyn Center Naturalists is committed to promoting trees as an integral part of our park neighborhoods, and therefore is committed to the protection, preservation and replacement of large-stature trees.

We should make sure that the subject of trees is placed in all planning discussions by asking these questions each and every time we have the opportunity:

Where are the trees?

How will large trees be strategically placed to maximize the benefits they give?

Make sure that everyone knows that large-stature trees are an integral part of shaping our future neighborhoods and that they are a necessity, not an option. Long-term benefits far outweigh the short-term costs.

How can we afford not to plant trees which will reduce storm water runoff, extend the life of streets, improve local, soil and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, provide wildlife habitat, increase property values, enhance the attractiveness of a community, and promote human health and well being? Tell our elected officials and urban planners that they are thinking about your neighborhood.

Our elected officials and urban planners need to consider the present – for every large-stature tree lost, less energy is conserved, an urban heat island is formed, and our quality of life, cooling the air during hot, humid summers, preventing soil erosion and preventing water runoff, and enhancing their commercial districts and neighborhoods.

Many of our neighborhoods are at a disadvantage because the proper location is not included in their master plans. We are fortunate that we can shape our future relationship with trees. Brooklyn Center Naturalists is committed to promoting trees as an integral part of our park neighborhoods, and therefore is committed to the protection, preservation and replacement of large-stature trees.

Think of our past – forests of oak, beech and maple greeted the early settlers in Cleveland. The folks who built this city of tree-lined streets knew, even without the scientific data, that large, majestic trees would enhance their quality of life, cooling the air during hot, humid summers, preventing soil erosion and preventing water runoff, and enhancing their commercial districts and neighborhoods.

And in honor of Arbor Day, B.C.N reflects about trees and value to their neighborhoods. Many of them have succumbed to the storms of last winter, and this spring the sound of chain saws has returned. Unfortunately, many more have succumbed to the indignity of being reduced to stumps or grotesque caricatures by utility companies and overzealous “tree trimming” crews.

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Brookmere Cemetery — a final resting place for almost two hundred years

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

And one of the oldest graves in the cemetery is that of Anna Brainard (1758-1832). Although not a casualty of the Revolutionary War, he fought in it, including being with George Washington at Valley Forge. Hicklery is the surname of another of the first settlers. Isaac Hickley (d. March 7th, 1852, aged 79 years), his wife, Sarah, and their son and his wife are also buried at Brookmere.

Because of the bicycle tour, and because spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year to visit Brookmere Cemetery, I’ve chosen it for the topic of this month’s history article. Covering 2.98 acres of land, it is the final resting place of almost 3,578 people.

The City of Cleveland’s Public Works Division, Department of Park Maintenance and Properties, is now responsible for the maintenance of non-sectarian cemeteries within the city limits. But when Brookmere Cemetery was established in the first trimester of the nineteenth century, no part of what is now Old Brooklyn was part of the City of Cleveland. Then it was just the southern portion of Brooklyn Township (which has also been known as Brighton and South Brooklyn).

The land on which Brookmere Cemetery is located was originally owned by a man named Warren Young. He generously donated a portion of his property to be used as a cemetery and he himself is buried there. But while his monument states that he is the donor of the land, it is not certain that he was the first person to be buried there.

The record books for Brookmere Cemetery are currently kept at Highland Park Cemetery, 2140 Chagrin Blvd., 44122. 216-348-7210. They list a child named Bertha Albers as the first burial, and Carl and Sylvia Albers as the next two burials; no dates are given.

At the time when it was established, the southern part of Brooklyn Township was largely farmland owned by New Englanders, who were followed by European immigrants from regions which would become the modern Germany. Therefore, some of the earliest monuments at Brookmere Cemetery are written in German. Vater is father; mutter is mother; ehemaliger is the abbreviation for geboren, which is the abbreviation for geboren, which means died.

Anyone familiar with Old Brooklyn history will recognize the names and tomb stones with surnames of many of the early and/or prominent members of the early community here.

Brainard is the name of one of the oldest families in the original Brooklyn Township.

Gates Family Monument Brookmere Cemetery

One of the most beautiful monuments at Brookmere Cemetery is in the circle at the very end of the cemetery. Three generations of the Gates family were prominent millers in the original Brookmere Cemetery. Jeremiah (1795-1870) and Phoebe (1795-1883) Gates came here in 1816 and started a grist mill and a saw mill near Mill St. (now Memphis Ave.) and Pearl St. (now Rd.) Their brick home still stands at the corner of Memphis Ave. and W. 35th St.

Jeremiah and Phoebe’s son, Charles, also operated a saw mill (but one powered by steam rather than water), as well as a paint factory, roughly where Cafe Linda, was located, was not located. He also built a grand home in the same area.

Charles and his brother, Reuben, built the Star (grain) Elevator at the Pearl St. (now Rd.) entrance to Brookside Park (now the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo). He also sold black walnut wood to the Winchester gun company. Charles and his wife, Mary, are also buried around the Gates’ monument.

Charles and Mary’s son, Howard, built a new grain elevator where the Star Elevator was. He and his two business partners called it the Gates Elevator and Mills Company. But the steep hill was too muddy and slippery in winter, so Howard moved his grain elevator to the east side of Broadview Rd, where it still stands today — but not as a grain elevator.

Howard and his brother, Lafayette, rebuilt the old Gates Sawmill and manufactured mineral paint. Eventually Howard bought Lafayette’s old lumber yard and manufactured furni- turer. He owned a lot of land just south of the Big Creek valley.

Howard’s home is still standing, too, on W. 35th St., right next to Jeremiah’s. (Today it is a group home where people serviced by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities live.)

Howard, as well as his wife, Frances, his brother Lafayette, his sister Mary Gates Bratten, and Mary’s husband, Hamilton Bratten, are all buried at Brookmere Cemetery.

(An interesting FYI is that Jeremiah Gates and Holsey Gates, the founder of Gatesville, were brothers; Jeremiah came to Brookmere Township in 1816, whereas Holsey didn’t arrive here until 1826. At that time, Jeremiah, Holsey and another brother, Nathaniel (who had a mill on the Ohio & Erie Canal at Five Mile Leck), journeyed to the Chapin River in order to establish Holsey’s mill in Mayfield Township, now Gates Mills.)

John L. Johnson (1824-1911), who also built much of the former South Brook, is buried at Brookmere Cemetery, too. He earned his money by being a “prospector” in the Gold Rush. When he returned home from California he built a grand hotel, the Johnson House, which was once located on the southeast corner of Pearl St. (now Rd.) and Broad St. (now Rd.), where the US Bank building is now.

In the same vicinity Johnson also built commercial buildings – including what was known as the “Johnson Block.” His home was where MetroHealth’s Senior Health & Wellness Center is now located; when Evangelical Deaconess Hospital was founded there, his home was part of the original complex.

Even someone not familiar with the history of this part of Brookmere Township will recognize the names on the monuments in Brookmere Cemetery which are some of the most prominent names in Old Brooklyn — Biddulph, Henninger, Heathrere, Kraft, Schaeff, Stickney and Wetzell.

And they’ll recognize the Estabrook name, too. Ella Estabrook (1874–1937) was a prominent woman in the social justice and civil rights affairs, which is why the City of Cleveland named its Fulton Rd. recreation center after her.

Though they were not prominent in the early years (nor, for another of the proprietors of a downtown hotel), the Soliver family plot is one which most visitors to Brookmere Cemetery notice. It is surrounded by a wrought iron fence with chains and hollow bells hanging from it. Some cemetery guides say that such bells were intended to ward off evil spirits; some say that it’s related to the old phrase, “a dead ringer”; and some say that it was just because they were attractive and deco- orative.

Of course many graves in Brookmere Cemetery were never marked because the fami- lies could not afford a stone. So often there are people buried in places which look to be empty. Such was the case with one of my great-grandfathers, Charles Kaul, who died in 1914. Just last November, a number of us descendants chipped in the money to purchase a stone for him. But that’s a story for another issue.

If you stop by Brookmere Cemetery in the early to mid-afternoon on May 21st you’ll like- ly find me there, because I promised my friends on the Pedal for Peace committee I would do that for them. Since you’ll proba- bly want to be making a lot of other stops dur- ing that same period, it won’t be the best time to really explore the grounds, but at least you’ll arrive here early and see all of it, in case you haven’t been there before.

If it’s not raining, I will also bring along to sell copies of two of the Old Brooklyn his- tory books which were printed in the 1980s. One has a short section about Brookmere Cemetery. A book that is a part of a 1905 book, is filled with photos as well as text relat- ed to some of the people and places mentioned in this article. They are priced at $5 each.
FAMILY FUN!

Art House  3119 Denison Ave.  216-398-8556  www.arthouseonline.com

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 programs or more info.

Be sure to visit Pop UP Pearl happening in Downtown Old Brooklyn during Pedal for Prizes.

Practice bicycle safety: Bring a lock, wear your helmet, follow traffic laws.
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 Devon. To help with this wonderful opportunity, call Rosemary, 216-749-5567, with any questions.

Thurs., May 12 - 22nd Annual Senior Day Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Ave.; downtown; 10 am; Information Fair - 11 am, upper church. No charge; all seniors invited to attend. Call 216-664-2833 or visit www.cleveland-oh.gov for more info.

Wed., May 11 - 14th
- 9:30 am, Chair Volleyball - 10:45 am.

Fridays: Current Events - 10 am.

Sun., May 22nd - Blood Drive: 1 pm. A Drive before the Fury by Dennis Lehane.

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

Sun., May 22nd - Mass for former members of St. Wendelin Church, 2 pm; former St. Wendelin Pastor Fr. Jerry Lakieski, celebrant; lower church; reception afterwards in Marian Lounge.

Sun., May 29th - Mass with Bishop Martin Amos of Cleveland, “son” of Old Church of Good Counsel Parish, 11 am, upper church; reception afterwards, Marian Lounge.

St. James Lutheran Church
4716 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-664-1999

Sun., May 1st - Metropolitan Chorus - Concert of Christian music, 3 pm. Freewill offering; refreshments served afterward.

Wed., May 4th & 18th - Fifty Plus Fun Group; meetings, upstairs, noon. May 4th - Bring bag lunch; beverages provided. Reprezentive of Cleveland EMS giving Free blood pressure check; glucometer & cholesterol readings, followed by games. May 18th - Hot & Lutheran West Singers concert.


Fri. & Sat, May 13th & 14th - Rummage Sale 9 am - 2 pm, downtown in St. John Hall; $4 bag sale, plus specially marked items.


Brooklyn Trinity UCC
4216 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-664-0277
Sat., May 7th - Salad Buffet Luncheon, 11 am - 1 pm. All you can eat salad, roll, beverage & dessert, $5.

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INSURANCE NATIONALWIDE INSURANCE is now offering Auto, Home, Life, & Business insurance policies as low as $35 a month. Call a local agent at 216-351-5700 today!!

LANDSCAPING BORO'S SPRINGTIME LAWN CARE. Spring clean-ups, weekly cuttings, re-seeding, fertilization. Senior Discounts. As Old Brooklyn business, 216-642-8501 or 216-798-4346.

CRAIGS SIMPLY TURF - Spring clean-ups lawn aeration, lawn cutting, trimming, edging, shrub pruning, mulching, free estimates, Senior discounts. Call Craig 440-667-4311 cell or 440 845-9532 - free estimates.


HELM INVESTIGATIONAL AREA-06

DRESSING WANTED. Dinnerware, milk bottles, glassware, old toys. Call Clarence, 216-749-1016 or 216-407-6329.

“NOBODY BEATS OUR PRICES”

Powerwashing - CRAGS SIMPLY TURF. Powerwashing - patios, sidings, free estimates, Senior discount. Call Craig 440-667-4311 cell or 440-845-9302 home.


WATERPROOFING CHIPPEWA LAKE & PRODUCERS MILK. Milk & Dairy items WANTED. Dairy, Cream, eggs, etc. Bring in all your dairy products at home. No selling, any hours. 500$ weekly potential. Call 1-985-646-1700. OH-6505.

HELP WANTED BAYOU STATE ADVERTISING INC. Now hiring companies desperate to assemble products at home. No selling, any hours. 500 Weekly potential. Call 1-985-646-1700. OH-6505.

WANTED CHUGGLE LAKE-PRODUCERS MILK ITEMS WANTED. Dinnerware, milk bottles, uniforms, photographs, pins or buttons or anything else. Call Don Workman, 216-661-2608.

ELECTRICAL TOY TRAINS & ACCESSORIES WANTED. Any make or age. Cash paid for trains, accessories or parts. Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, LGB. **Also buying Boy Scout Items** call 216-375-4426 & 216-398-9069 (call by 216-459-9270 home).
River Sweep

Anyone interested in helping out on Saturday, May 7th in the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre area can meet at Club Generations, 4902 Jennings Rd. 9 a.m. till noon.

For more information call Old Brooklyn CDC at 216-459-1000.

OBCDC’s guide to: Special Events

- May 6th - River Sweep, 9 a.m.
  Meet at Lower Harvard — Harvard and Jennings
- May 12th - City Music: Daniel & Snakeman, 10 a.m. Mary Queen of Peace Church, 4421 Pearl Rd
- May 21st - Pop UP Pearl - noon - dusk
- June 24th - Movie Night under the Stars, Archmere Park
- July 22nd - Movie Night under the Stars, Loew Park
- August 14th - Bridging the Distance 5k/1 mi Run/Walk, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- August 19th - Old Brooklyn Community Picnic & Movie Night, Brookside Park
- August 21st - Pop UP Pearl on May 21st that Old Brooklyn schools have decorated. The rain barrels pictured here were decorated by Mary Queen of Peace students under the supervision of art teacher Christina Szymanowski.
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