

Brookside Center: Serving Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn for over 30 years

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
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Brookside Center, now officially called the WSEM Food Center at Brookside (WSEM stands for West Side Ecumenical Ministry), was founded in 1981 by five churches who wanted to better serve west side families. It is located at 3784 Pearl Rd. in Brooklyn Centre.

The organization has gone through several changes since its inception; in April 2011 it merged with The Centers for Families & Children. This move expanded services for both organizations, including enhanced mental health services community outreach at WSEM Food Center at Brookside.

Brookside Center first opened in a house on W. 33rd St. north of Denison Ave., behind the former St. Phillip the Apostle Episcopal Church. It moved to its current location in 1994.

The onsite staff consists of Heidi Bonness, Coordinator of Food Center Services; Lourdes Santiago, Facilitator of Outreach; and Cathy Wootan, Facilitator of Food Services. Between them they have



Left to right -- Lourdes Santiago, Facilitator of Outreach; Heidi Bonness, Coordinator of Food Center Services; and Cathy Wootan, Facilitator of Food Services. Photo by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar

over 25 years of experience at Brookside Center.

The food pantry provides a 3-day supply of emergency food every month to income-eligible households in their service area (which includes Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre). There is also a resale shop where families can purchase clothing at reasonable prices and income-eligible households can receive up to three free complete outfits every quarter.

See *Brookside Center* page 8

Wendell August Forge releases second year of Jim Ptacek's Christmas ornaments

by Lynette Filips
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Old Brooklyn artist Jim Ptacek is no doubt more famous for his limited edition Christmas cards (1986-2005), prints and posters of neighborhoods, schools, churches and local landmarks than he is for the engraved Christmas ornaments which also bear his images. Nonetheless, his legacy in

collage of lighthouses in Cleveland, Lorain, Marblehead, Fairport and Fairport Marine Museum); and the *Veterans Memorial Bridge* (looking east toward the city from the Cuyahoga River in the Flats). Last year, the Veterans Memorial Bridge was the best seller of those three designs; so far this year, the lighthouses seem to be the hottest.

All six ornaments are hand-made, pounded into the 3-1/2 inch round die which



Photo by Sandy Worona
Don Workman and Jim Ptacek are all smiles as they show off Jim's three 2011 Christmas ornaments and three 2012 Christmas ornaments. (See *Ameriflag, Inc.* ad on back page.)

the Cleveland Christmas market is continuing to grow. This holiday season marks the second year of his five-year contract with Wendell August Forge in Grove City, Pennsylvania and Berlin, Ohio. Each year they are introducing three new ornaments with Jim's designs.

The three ornaments for 2012 are titled *Cleveland Market* (issued in the year of the West Side Market's 100th anniversary); *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument* (the recently renovated structure on the southeast quadrant of Public Square which honors Clevelanders who fought in the Civil War); and *Cleveland Municipal Stadium* (Gate D of the former lakefront stadium with Cleveland Indians' mascot Chief Wahoo included in the engraving).

The 2012 ornaments join the three ornaments which made their debut in 2011 — *Cleveland Football Stadium* (the current lakefront stadium); *North Coast Lights* (a

Wendell August Forge's master die engraver, Dave Bruck, made from Jim's prints, and all are available in either aluminum or brass. This year's price is \$18 for aluminum and \$25 for bronze.

Jim saw this year's ornaments for the first time in September, and shipments for the Christmas season began arriving at stores in November. He has been doing signings at The Cleveland Store in Tower City since the beginning of November, and he was at the Christmas Connection at the I-X Center for all three days last month, too. Jim will be doing a signing in Old Brooklyn from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 15th, at Ameriflag, Inc., 3307 Broadview Rd.

See *Jim Ptacek's ornaments* page 5

Old Brooklyn Greenhouse is a family affair

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
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Photo by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar

Old Brooklyn has a long history with greenhouses and is still home to one of the only remaining full service greenhouses in the city of Cleveland, Old Brooklyn Greenhouse. One interesting piece of Old Brooklyn history is that "during the late 1880s, farmers in the Schaaf Road area were among the first in the Midwest to use greenhouses to cultivate vegetables. By the 1920s the neighborhood was one of the nation's leading producers of greenhouse vegetables, with more than 100 acres under glass." (Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Brooklyn)

A part of this rich history, Old Brooklyn Greenhouse, 4646 W. 11th St. (between Spring Rd. and W. Schaaf Rd.), has been in operation since 1915. The Wilson family has owned and operated it for 22 years.

Old Brooklyn Greenhouse is a family affair with husband and wife Jerry and Kim at the helm and their adult children Kelly, Gary, Jonathan, Justin and Stephen helping out as needed.

Jerry worked at Richardson's Greenhouse from when he was 14 years old until he was 28; he also worked at Brooklyn Heights Greenhouse for ten years. He and

Kim decided to strike out on their own when the greenhouse came up for sale in 1991.

When asked why they wanted to invest in Old Brooklyn, Jerry and Kim agreed that the location is convenient, accessible and close to where they both grew up. Kim lived on Schaaf Rd. and Jerry grew up on Tarlton Ave.; they currently live in nearby Brooklyn Hts.

Jerry and Kim and their staff do 95% of their own seeding and growing, setting them apart from most urban greenhouses which purchase the plants they sell. According to

Kim, "One of the most rewarding things

See *Old Brooklyn Greenhouse* page 4



Old Brooklyn Community Collaborators

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

Saturday, December 8th 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Goodie bag for the first 500 kids
(10 years and under)

Make a craft to take home

**Refreshments
Cocoa & Cookies**

Photo with Santa \$2

Presented by:
The MetroHealth Senior Health & Wellness Center
Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn-Cleveland
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
Deaconess-Krafft & Zane Centers
Art House
Senior Citizen Resources
Kehoe Brothers Printing
Speed Exterminating
Ameriflag, Inc.
Sonic - (Parma-Snow & Broadview Rd.)
Memphis Bakery
Michael's Bakery
St. James Lutheran Church
Memphis Fulton Shopping Center
Roger Bundy, Attorney at Law

The Old Brooklyn Health Center
4229 Pearl Rd., at Devonshire
(Fee for parking in garage)

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Gloria Ferris Brooklyn Centre Naturalists

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Mention a community activity which includes Brooklyn Centre, and it's likely that Gloria Ferris is/has been involved in it. The Brooklyn Centre resident is active with Friends of Big Creek; Brooklyn Centre Naturalists; Stockyard Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community Development Organization; Garden Walk Cleveland; and Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's Green Space Committee. She is also a regular contributor to the *Old Brooklyn News*.

Originally from Shreve, Ohio (a rural community outside of Wooster), Gloria arrived in Cleveland in 1973 to teach junior high school and work as librarian at West High School (now Joseph M. Gallagher High School).

After that, Gloria became the Campaign Administrator for State Senator Charlie Butts; a later job was taking care of national railroad accounts at BP America for twelve years.

Before settling in Brooklyn Centre in 1981, Gloria lived in several places in Greater Cleveland -- the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, Cleveland Heights and Lakewood. When asked why she moved to Brooklyn Centre and why she and Tim, her husband of twenty-eight years, have stayed, Gloria replied, "the people, convenience, transportation options and amenities like the Zoo and Brookside Reservation. And I love the small-town feel we have here."

Gloria's involvement in all things green started with creating a *Backyard Habitat* at her own home. The goal of the National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org) certification program is to provide food, water and cover for wildlife. Through it, Gloria connected with people in Friends of Big Creek and the Cleveland Metroparks who were already working on similar initiatives.

As Gloria forged even stronger links with like-minded residents in both the Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn neighborhoods,



Gloria Ferris

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists was born. Among other things, they have been working to make the 44109 zip code a registered National Wildlife Community since 2008.

In 2011, Gloria and the Brooklyn Centre Naturalists collaborated with employees of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and members of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers to plant a *Polar Plot* at the W. 36th Street Commons Park. *Polar Plots* is a program in which participants plant trees and native plants in local communities to help educate the public about how the presence of trees counteracts a warming climate. (See <http://www.worldzootoday.com>.)

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists also received a *Neighborhood Connections* grant for a children's educational program which took place in 2009 at the former Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist Church. The program looked at community through nature, and included courses on gardening, backyard retreats, and arts and crafts.

In 2012 the Brooklyn Centre Naturalists were the impetus for getting the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods included in the second year of *Garden Walk Cleveland*.

Gloria's current efforts include planting herb and dye gardens at Art House, Inc., 3119 Denison Ave. Dye gardens incorporate plants such as hibiscus (red, white and pink dyes), coreopsis (yellow and orange dyes) and purple basil because they make nice fabric and paper dyes. She hopes to utilize the dye plants next year for projects at Art House.

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists are now focusing on getting the last twenty-one of the necessary one hundred backyard habitats needed for the National Wildlife Community certification. More information about how to cre-

From the desk of the executive director

by Robyn Sandys
robyns@oldbrooklyn.com



December is here and almost the end of 2013! I hope you all had a great year and that you are looking forward to the holidays. One way to celebrate early is to attend the Old Brooklyn Community Collaborators Cookies and Cocoa with Santa event on Saturday, December 8th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the MetroHealth Old Brooklyn Health Center, 4229 Pearl Rd. at Devonshire Rd.

This is a free event where the first 500 children attending who are 10 years and younger will receive a goodie bag filled with fun stuff. The event will also include locally made cookies and cocoa, of course, along with a holiday craft to take home. There is a small fee (\$2.00) for photos with Santa. There is always a great turnout for this fun-filled afternoon!

Our very own Jim Ptacek has more new beautiful Christmas ornaments for sale. See the story on the cover of the paper. Ameriflag at 3307 Broadview Rd. will be hosting Mr. Ptacek at their store on Saturday, December 15th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where he will sign his originally designed ornaments. Ameriflag has a collection of unique and fun gifts beyond their flag collection which provides another great reason to shop locally for holiday gifts in Old Brooklyn!

The holidays are also a good time to give back to your community. See the article

also on the front page about the WSEM Food Center at Brookside. Most churches in the neighborhood also welcome donations for needy children and families.

If you have not completed the community survey that is posted on www.oldbrooklynconnected.com, please do so right away. Answering this quick and easy survey is a great way to provide your feedback about the neighborhood. If you complete the survey by Friday, December 14th, you will be eligible for a \$25 gift certificate from local retailers. We will be giving away two of these.

The home that OBCDC has for sale at 2506 Roanoke Ave. is a wonderful starter home for a couple, single person or family. It has been fully remodeled. The asking price has now been reduced to \$59,900 from \$64,500, which means the monthly payments, including real estate taxes and insurance, is estimated to be less than \$460 a month. This is much less than rent for any home in the Cleveland area. Homeownership provides great personal income tax benefits as well.

A potential buyer need only have about \$3,500 to purchase this home. For more information contact Robyn or Jayme at 216-459-1000; also check out the advertisement for the home on page 12.

Happy Holidays!

ate backyard habitats can be found at <http://www.brooklyncentrenaturalists.net>.

The Brooklyn Centre Naturalists have also compiled a cookbook using recipes from Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre residents called *A Taste for All Seasons*. It will be for sale for \$10 at the Art House's *Short & Sweet Holiday Shop*, which will feature sixteen local vendors. The dates are November 30th to December 2nd, and December 7th to December 9th, and the hours are Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. More information is can be found at www.oldbrooklynconnected.com/short-sweet-holiday-shop/.

When asked how she stays so passionate about Brooklyn Centre and the environment, Gloria replied with a huge grin, "I don't think

I could be anything else! I've always thought that every day is an opportunity. And after my heart attack and two-month hospital stay, I wanted even more to keep on doing as much as possible for as long as possible. My community involvement has allowed me to meet so many great people. My place now is to help younger people find those connections and continue this great work. At the end of the day, it's about people. We're still here and change is good."

Gloria and Tim have two daughters and two granddaughters. Older daughter Maureen and her husband, Geri, and granddaughters Teagan and Maggie live in Knoxville, Tennessee. Katie, their younger daughter, lives outside of Philadelphia.

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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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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- 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 Filips -- Copy Editor

This month's OBN writers -- Gloria Ferris, Lynette Filips 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.

Old Brooklyn Community Development seeks qualified contractors to rehab homes

OBCDC is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to compile a list of qualified contractors who can successfully rehab homes for resale. Contractors on this list will be given the opportunity to purchase homes at a significantly discounted rate for rehab/resale through a simple bidding process. OBCDC will purchase the homes from entities such as the Cuyahoga County Land Bank and will sell them to the contractor with the best bid. The homes on average cost under \$10,000 and need approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 of work. The goal of the program is to put vacant homes

back into productive use.

Contractors will need to demonstrate that they can successfully complete home rehabs, have the financial wherewithal to take on projects from start to finish, have sufficient staff and proper licenses, and have good references and ratings from the Cleveland Better Business Bureau. Any interested contractor can submit a proposal. The RFQ can be found online at www.oldbrooklynconnected.com or by contacting Jayme Lucas-Bukszar at 216-459-1000 or jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com. The deadline to submit a proposal is December 17, 2012.



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NEWS & EVENTS

Reduced Admission & More at the Maltz Museum

Now through Sunday, January 13th
Maltz Museum, 2929 Richmond Rd. Beachwood. Admission - all adults, seniors & students - \$5; children 12 & under - free. Fee provides access to permanent collections & current special exhibition Israeli Arts & Culture featuring Bezalel on Tour (showcasing contemporary art from Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem).
Wed., Dec. 5th & 12th; The Mini - Mall-tz. & Hanukkah shopping nights for children ages 2 - 12; no item over \$5; 11 am - 9 pm.
Wed., Dec. 12th - Hanukkah Candle Lighting & Author Talk: Leona S. Green; 5:30 pm.
Concert: Music for an Exhibition; 7 pm.
Tues., Dec. 25th, annual Chinese food & movie day. Call 216-593-0575 or visit maltz-museum.org for more info.

Now - February 14th, 2013 Tying the Knot:

Cleveland Wedding Fashions, 1830-1980
Western Reserve Historical Society History Center, 10825 East Blvd. Wedding gowns & trousseaus of those who wore them. Exhibit draws exclusively from extensive WRHS Costume & Textile Collection; highlights wedding attire worn by Cleveland brides over 150 years & other wardrobe items ("trousseau") of dresses & lingerie brides brought to marriages.

December 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th & 9th Short and Sweet Holiday Shop

Art House, 3119 Denison Ave. Handmade & unique gifts created by local artists & artisans. Hours: Sat., Dec. 1st & 8th & Sun., Dec. 2nd & 9th, 1 - 5 pm; Fri., Dec. 7th, 4 - 8 pm. Sponsored by Brooklyn Centre Naturalists, Art House and Stockyards, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community Development Organization. Check out www.brooklyncentrenaturalists.net for updates.

Monday, December 3rd

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society
Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Program: "Some Documents that Might Work When Joining a Lineage Society". Speaker: Thomas Stephen Neel from the Ohio Genealogical Society. Also, optional collection of non-perishable food items for needy Independence families. Contact president Ron Kraine, 440-838-5743, or via www.cuyahogagenealogy.org for more info.

Saturday, December 8th

Holiday Peace Festival & Bazaar
Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th St., Tremont; 10 am - 4 pm. Local artists work for sale -- peace & justice cards, calendars, T-shirts, gifts, books, house plants, poinsettias, bake sale. Homemade soup, chili, sandwiches & tamales. Accessible to physically challenged. Free admission & parking (south of building on W. 14th St.) Sponsored by Women Speak Out for Peace & Justice. Call 216-231-4245 for more info.

Wednesday, December 12th

Friends of Big Creek Holiday Open House
4352 Pearl Rd. at Brooklyn Ave., 2nd floor, 4 - 8 pm. Refreshments & good cheer. Learn about current & future projects; bring ideas.

Wednesday, December 12th Westside Basket Guild

St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., downstairs Fellowship Hall off parking lot; 5 pm. Weave baskets from beginners to advanced. New basket each month. This month's basket -- Candy Cane basket, just the right size for candy canes. Cost - \$9, due night of class. Call Connie, 216-749-7912, or sign up on bulletin board, by Dec. 8th. Supplies to bring when weaving -- old towel, bucket, clothes pins, ruler, pencil, scissors.

Thursday, Dec. 13th & Saturday, Dec. 15th City Music Cleveland Concerts

Dec. 13th, 7:30 pm, St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th St; and **Dec. 15th**, 7:30 pm, Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65th St. Visit citymusiccleveland.org for more info.

Saturday, December 15th

Tremont Holiday BrewHaHa/Santa Shuffle
Stop by circa 2 pm to begin enjoying specials from neighborhood bars, restaurants & retail shops. Race starts at 4 pm, followed by after party at the Southside for all race participants. Registration required for race; 216-623-9933.

Tuesday, December 18th

Arts Renaissance Tremont Concert
Burning River Brass - Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th St.; 3 pm. Admission: freewill donation.

Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma-Snow Branch

Temporary location 1700 Snow Rd. (in Midtown Shopping Center, next to Marc's)
216-661-4240; www.cuyahogalibrary.org
9 am - 9 pm, Mon - Thur.; 9 am - 5:30 pm, Fri. & Sat.; 1 - 5 pm, Sun.
Adult Programs this month -- (Unless otherwise noted, registration required.)

Cleveland Christmas Memories, Tues., Dec. 4th, 7 - 8:30 pm. Local foodie & poet Gail Bellamy reminisces & shares holiday stories from her latest book, *Cleveland Christmas Memories*. Books available for purchase & signing.

Fire Your Boss, Work From Home, Thurs. Dec. 6th, 7 - 8:30 pm. Business expert, Dave Roman teaches creative techniques for creating profitable home businesses.

Sho-jo-ji Japanese Dancers, Sat., Dec. 8th, 2 - 3:30 pm.

Parma Snow Saves Coupon Club, Mon., Dec. 10th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm; 2nd Mon. each month.

Midwinter's Night Dream, Wed., Dec. 12th, 7 - 8:30 pm.

Books Discussions, Mon., Dec. 17th, 7 pm -- *Faithful Place* by Tanya French; Thurs., Dec. 20th, 11 am -- *Room* by Emma Donoghue.

Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out! Annual Essay Contest

\$100,000 in total scholarships & prizes. Essays for 6th - 10th graders due Jan. 15th, 2013.

CLEVELAND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING BRADLEY ROAD LANDFILL SURFACE MINING PERMIT

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3rd,
9:30 a.m.**

**CLEVELAND CITY HALL
ROOM 514
601 LAKESIDE AVE.**

Pay parking available in the City Hall parking garage entered from the west side of the building. A photo identification is required to enter City Hall.

NOTE: this meeting date is subject to change after the publication of this edition of the Old Brooklyn News. Call the number below for confirmation of the meeting or www.oldbrooklyn.com

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
3344 Broadview Rd.
216-459-1000

Deadline for 11th & 12th graders due Feb. 23rd. Students encouraged to submit essays electronically through official *Stop the Hate* website. Complete info, current guidelines & copies of all past winning essays available at www.maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate/contest.

Connect to College Now Affordable Internet & Computers for College-Bound Students

Get home access to college & educational resources such as Naviance, Coursera, Khan Academy & other college planning tools. Special offer for college-bound students & adults. Opportunities available for free computer training. Products available: **Desktop Package** - \$120: Includes desktop computer, modem with one year of internet service. **Laptop Package** - \$230: Includes laptop computer, modem with one year of internet service. **Internet Service Only** - \$55: Modem with one year of internet service (with verification of working computer); supply limited, prices subject to change. Call 216-202-4292 to order service or for more info.

Ozanam Food Pantry

2145 Broadview Rd. (Broadview Rd. & Searsdale Ave.), Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am - 1 pm. Bring photo ID & current piece of mail with correct address. Food & clothing available; no charge for either.

Mary Queen of Peace School

Preschool - Grade 8. Register current or new student for 2012-13 school year before Mar. 15th & get 1/2 off registration & ticket (one for each child registered) for chance to win XBOX 360 Kinect Bundle. Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring vouchers accepted; county vouchers OK for preschool. Stop by for a tour or call 216-741-3685, Mon. - Fri., 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Visit mqpschool.com or Facebook page 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.

St. Leo the Great Preschool Registration 2012-2013

Preschool located at 4940 Broadview Rd. on second floor of St. Leo's Community Center. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education & operated according to mandated rules & regulations. Part-time am & pm classes & full-day program with option for extended care for 3 & 4 year olds. To be eligible for enrollment, child must be 3 by September 30th. Bring child's birth certificate & \$50 registration fee; registration continues till all classes fill. Contact school's director Lisa Mersek, 216-661-5330, to schedule appointment or for more info.

St. Leo the Great School Registration 2012-2013

St. Leo the Great School, 4900 Broadview Rd, grades K - 8. Children must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30th to be eligible for all-day kindergarten. \$50 non-refundable registration fee required along with birth & baptismal certificate. Pick up registration forms from school or rectory office. For new students grades 1-8, copy of most recent report card also required. Applications for Cleveland Scholarship Voucher Program available. Call 216-661-2120 with questions or to schedule tour of school.

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; Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring vouchers accepted. 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.

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 home-based program to meet 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.

Not a creature was stirring
not even a mouse ...

4141 Pearl Rd.
1 block north of Broadview Rd.
216-351-2106

Schedule service at your home or business.
We provide quality, dependable
pest-control service.
Or visit our do-it-yourself store.



from:
Speed Exterminating

OBCDC sponsoring holiday lighting contest

Snow is on the ground, hot cocoa is in hand, and the street is lit up from end to end as you and your family ride in a horse drawn carriage along your street...

The 2012 Winter Lighting Contest is here and Cleveland Carriage has offered a free carriage or sled ride, depending on conditions, to the Old Brooklyn street that has the homes lit up with holiday lights. Everyone knows that

one house lit up bright is a wonderful sight, but we are looking for the block that has the most homes participating, so be sure to encourage your neighbors to get their lights up this year.

Our own 2nd district police will be on the lookout for streets that have lots of lights during their normal patrols. If you think your street is looking bright, call 216-459-1000 and we will make sure your street gets reviewed.

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Old Brooklyn CDC 2012 WINTER LIGHTING CONTEST

Old Brooklyn CDC is proud to announce that Cleveland Carriage has offered a free horse drawn carriage or sleigh (depending on conditions) to the neighborhood block that has the most participating homes with lights.

One house with a whole lot of lights is a wonderful sight but we are looking for the block that has the most overall participation!

Police officers patrolling the neighborhood will help identify the best block starting in December so be sure to get your lights up and encourage your neighbors too!

Start preparing for bad weather now!

by Barbara Spaan
barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

How did your home and family make it through this last storm?

You can do a few things to prepare your family and property for the next big one, and now is time to take action. Don't wait, because no one will do it for you. You could be without power... or worse. Our climate is changing and with it, the severity of our storms.



CRIME WATCH

When there are warmer days, get out in your yard and put away things which could be thrown through the air. Tie down or secure patio furniture, yard decorations, grills, etc.

Check your gutters and down spouts; are they secure and clear?

Rake and bag all leaves, since the City does not pick them up curbside any more. Clear leaves and other debris from the sewer grid in the streets.

Look at the trees and shrubs; are they clear of electrical and phone wires? If not, call now (Cleveland Public Power -- 216-664-4600; The Illuminating Company -- 800-589-3101) to have them trimmed.

How does your roof look? Did shingles come off with this last storm? Take care of this now, before you get water in your house. If you are a senior and need help, call the City of Cleveland's Office of Aging at 216-664-2833.

How do the telephone poles on the street look? If they are questionable, call and have them checked out. Are all your street lights working? If not, call 216-621-LITE.

Can your house number be seen from the street? In an emergency, the last thing you

want is to slow down help because first responders can't see your address.

Assemble an emergency preparedness kit inside your house --

- three to five days of water (one gallon per person per day);
- food that will not spoil or require cooking;
- first-aid kit & needed medicine;
- battery-powered radio, cell phone, flashlights & matches;
- lot of batteries;
- personal items like toilet paper, soap & garbage bags;
- extra clothing & blankets;
- portable generator if possible.
- a list of important phone numbers.

Place items together -- food & small items in a cooler; other items in plastic storage boxes -- in the basement, if you have one.

Discuss your plan with all family members; choose one person, preferably an out-of-towner, for family members to check in with.

Establish a meeting place outside of your home, in case you can't return to your neighborhood.

This all takes time to set up, but if family comes home for the holidays, ask them to help you. And encourage family members to do the same kind of planning, too.

Traveling this holiday season? Ready your car. Check tire pressure, gas, oil and windshield washer fluid. Do you have a tire jack & flares? Are all your lights working? Be sure to carry bottled water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, a first aid kit, and a blanket.

Leave plenty of driving time so that you can be relaxed and enjoy your family and friends.

Be safe, and... Merry Christmas to all!



Old Brooklyn Buzz launching Salads for Seniors project

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Old Brooklyn Buzz, in partnership with Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) and approximately fifteen other Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre groups, is launching a new *Salads for Seniors* program that will provide free container gardens to 150 Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre seniors this spring. The new initiative was made possible by a *Neighborhood Connections* grant.



Photo by Sandy Worona

Children from local groups, churches and schools will volunteer to plant the containers under the watchful eye of Master Gardeners at the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden. The containers will be delivered to interested seniors and/or residents with mobility issues for free. The goal of *Salads for Seniors* is to provide free healthy food to seniors and to teach children about gardening and the value of community involvement.

There are no income requirements for the program, and up to 150 seniors (65 years or older) or persons with mobility issues in Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre are eligible to receive container gardens. Each participant will receive a large container with a tomato plant and tomato cage and a smaller container with a pepper plant and lettuce. The containers will be delivered and placed on porches/balconies by adult volunteers. Watering cans will be available for participants who need them.

The soil will be a high quality "worm dirt" which incorporates worm castings. Because it is very rich, it can be reused, making the program sustainable for years to come.

Old Brooklyn Buzz would like to thank its partners which so far include the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation; Benjamin Franklin Community Garden;

Will container gardens yield the same results as these tomatoes grown by Ben Franklin gardener Tom Sargent? A hundred and fifty seniors will certainly be hoping so!

Brooklyn-Cleveland Kiwanis Club; Junior Jitterbugs; Art House, Inc.; Grace Church; Mary Queen of Peace Elementary School; Girl Scout Troop 266, Parma, and 1821, Cleveland; Foster Pointe Senior Apartment; Southwest Citizens Area Council; Senior Citizen Resources, Inc.; Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community Development Organization; Councilman Kevin Kelley; Councilman Tony Brancatelli; Councilman Joe Cimperman; and Councilman Brian Cummins.

Old Brooklyn Buzz will need adult volunteers to help the children planting the containers, delivering containers, etc. as well as additional children's groups to pitch in to plant 150 container gardens. Anyone interested in receiving a container garden or volunteering to help with the project should contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar, 216-459-1000, or jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com.

Because the number of gardens is limited, Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre seniors are encouraged to call right away to get on the list for this spring.

OBCDC answers WiFi Question of the Month

This month's question is from Michelle on Bader Ave.

Question: Why don't I get a good signal everywhere in my house? It is really good in my living room, but not in my basement or dining room.

Answer: Michelle, the signal is typically better, the closer you are to our antennas. The antennas are located on various light poles throughout the Ward. Many of times,

the best signal would be in the front of the home, but there are situations where the side, or even the back, provides a better connection. Feel free to contact our WiFi support. They will be happy to tell you where the closest antenna to your house is.

Do you have a question? Please submit your question via email, to: edz@oldbrooklyn.com, or leave a message at 440-941-3705.

W.C. Bryant School, anything but 'average'

Courtesy of
Cleveland Metropolitan School District

The soft chatter of children fills the air as boys and girls move through the main corridor of William Cullen Bryant School. One thing holds their attention: a bake sale.

On this fall morning, parents and a couple of students wear the mischievous grins of elves at a Christmas Eve party as they wait behind tables lined edge to edge with cookies and cupcakes. Boys and girls, faces aglow, form neat queues.

Such a day is common. But even on a typical day, what makes William Cullen Bryant the public school it is now, is its school-community partnership.

Principal Melissa Watts beams about the high-powered academic ranking of her Old Brooklyn neighborhood school; the environment she has created affects learning in significant ways. An academic heavyweight in the pantheon of public education, Bryant is one of the schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District where students, parents, teachers and staff feel at home.

"Everyone gets along great," said David Partee, a paraprofessional at the school. "Everyone looks out for each other. Here, it's more of a family environment."

Creating that safe, family environment didn't occur overnight. When Watts arrived in 2007, the school ranked "continuous improvement," the equivalent of a C.

Mark Pattera is a math teacher in his ninth year at the school and chess coach. "When I first got here," he said, "it was a survival kind of thing, as teachers questioned how best to prepare the students of tomorrow with an 'average' educational environment today."

That's one of the reasons the culture of the school needed changing. Watts said that's also why she took over the school: to change its culture. She and her staff weren't there to settle for "average".

"We focused the instruction," Watts said. "Instead of an inch deep and a mile wide, we really focused on reading and math."

She pored over test scores and outlined objectives based on data -- cold, hard statistics which indicate students' strengths and weaknesses.

Numbers alone weren't enough, she said. Numbers don't put change in motion. Change comes from leadership in the school and in the classroom, and Watts provided it by working closely with teachers and staff to prepare them for changes. She had a sales pitch on how to reach students -- Treat them as though they're your own children.

"I asked them every time: 'Would you want your child to sit in your class?'" she said. "If you do not answer 'yes', then you really need to do something else."

The result has been a K-8 school that is the model of excellence. The school has since become the envy of others, said Mark Pattera.

"When I go to meetings, I always hear we're the 'country club,'" Pattera said. "But I come back, 'Yeah, but you know why? We make it that way.'"

Teachers, he said, don't allow complacency. They put expectations in place - high expectations. They push each student to exceed those expectations.

Bryant has become no place for slackers, noted Bailey Wright, an eighth-grader. "Since we've been pushed so hard, a lot of the kids have come to their senses. They've said, 'Wait; in a few years, this is going to matter, so we have to try our best to do this.'"

And the students are succeeding. In the spring, the school earned an "Excellence in Urban Education Award" from the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST), an organization which shines a spotlight on the "best of the best" urban schools and their practices.

"We're the 'best of the best', and we have to prove it," Wright said. "We can't slack or otherwise we'll lose that title. So we have to do our best."

OB Greenhouse from front page

about owning Old Brooklyn Greenhouse is to watch what we plant as a seed grow and become something that makes people so happy. Our customers are so excited about what they buy here, which gives us a lot of pride in our work."

The Wilsons are also proud of their community involvement. They help local schools, churches and Boy Scout troops with fundraisers throughout the year. They offer Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for holiday fundraisers, and in spring, they also sell flats of flowers and hanging baskets. They also offer Benjamin Franklin Community Garden a significant discount for plants and supplies.

Looking back over their years in business, Kim said, "We accomplished something that

people didn't think we could keep going. And despite the recent economic times, we have been able to keep Old Brooklyn Greenhouse successful. For this, we thank our loyal customers."

She added, "We hope more people will support local businesses in our community, and we appreciate the efforts of Old Brooklyn Buzz which hosts Cash Mobs which really do help bring new people in the door."

Old Brooklyn Greenhouse is open year round, Sunday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the winter holiday season they offer poinsettias, wreaths, pine roping, etc. They have a variety of flowers, vegetables and plants all spring and summer. Contact them by phone at by phone at 216-351-9338.



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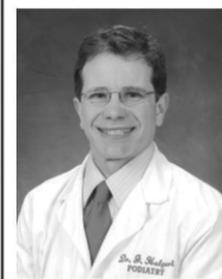
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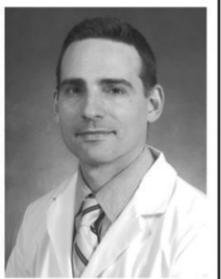
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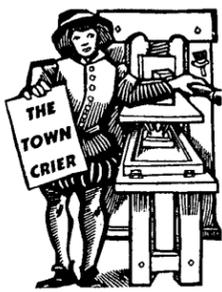
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Even before Thanksgiving Day, decorated Christmas trees began appearing in the living room windows of homes in our neighborhood. Whether those residents are rushing the Season or merely trying to extend a very pleasurable time of the year is a matter of opinion. As for myself, I have other trees on my mind...

While I do like to decorate outdoor trees for Christmas, they aren't the trees I'm thinking about right now. I'm in mourning for all the trees which met their demise is the residual -- but still mega -- winds which blew our way in the wake of **Hurricane/Superstorm Sandy** just over a month ago.

This wasn't the first occasion, of course, that high winds have toppled both deciduous and pine trees in our neighborhood, but whenever more fall, some of our neighborhood's character dies.

It also seems that every time nature downs a sizeable number of trees, an equally sizeable number of people, worrying that their homes or electric wires will be hit in Mother Nature's next show of power, decide to eliminate that problem before it occurs by having the mature trees on their properties cut down.

How many years had it taken for the trees in the **South Hills** neighborhood, for instance, to grow to their current stature? That tree-scape has been majorly diminished in the 32 years I've lived there; no doubt that's the case in other parts of our community, too.

I'll leave touting the natural benefits of a treed property to an article penned by **Gloria Ferris** speaking for the **Brooklyn Centre Naturalists**. But I will plead the case for replanting what has been downed.

The architectural diversity of the homes in certain parts of our neighborhood is only a

part of the charm of those areas. Trees and other plantings are major contributors to the ambiance. In one way or another, we must replace the trees we've lost.

It looks like residents who put up live Christmas trees inside their houses will have to go beyond the neighborhood to buy theirs; **Fred Manson**, owner of **Fred's Breads**, isn't selling Christmas trees in his parking lot this year.

Last year, after the OBCDC office moved to our new location across from Fred's, I particularly enjoyed looking out the window and seeing the flashing lights of the Christmas memorabilia Fred had set up around the trees, and hearing the Christmas music he had playing, too.

I ended last month's column with a request for any other church congregations with new clergy or clergy/staff in the news to contact me, but no one did. I have, however, heard about numerous church-related things on my own, and they seem like good topics for a December/Christmas column.

When spaces allows, I will write another update article about the reopened Roman Catholic Churches, including the two most recent ones -- **Historic St. Peter's** on Superior Ave. at E. 17th St., and **St. Emerie's**, on W. 23rd St. behind the West Side Market.

For now I'll just report that our reopened **St. Barbara Church**, 1505 Denison Ave., has added another Mass to its schedule. In addition to the Saturday Mass at 4:30 p.m. which is in English, and the Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m. which is in Polish, there is also now another option -- an English Mass on Sunday at 9 a.m.

I talked with **Bishop Richard Lennon** at the installation of the new pastor at **St. Casimir's** (E. 82nd St.) last weekend because I'd heard that he'd concelebrated the Thanksgiving Day Mass at **St. Leo the Great Church** and wondered how that came to pass. He told me that he'd asked St. Leo pastor **Fr. Russell Lowe** about it when he saw him at the biennial gathering of Diocesan priests in October at Saw Mill Creek.

In addition to Confirmations, apparently visiting on major Church feast days as well as holidays is one of the ways the Bishop keeps

in touch with his parishes.

If you read *Church Notes* you know that **Mary Queen of Peace Church (MQP)** has a variety of well-known speakers/programs going on there, too. **David Jaronowski**, the parish's Director of Music, has many connections in the musical world and thus he has been able to establish a **Great Music in a Great Space concert series** there.

Seven concerts are scheduled for the 2012-2013 season, the most recent of which was the **Oberlin College Choir** on November 13th. Oberlin College in general and its Conservatory of Music in particular have a reputation for excellence, but I had thought of the music school more in terms of instruments than in voice. How wrong I was!

The Oberlin College Choir has been in

existence since 1929. It has a history of performing with the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall, and in 1964, performed 39 concerts in the USSR and Romania as part of a U.S. State Department Cultural Exchange Program. Last month's performance consisted of mostly a cappella pieces.

As is the case with almost every concert at MQP, admission was free, but donations are encouraged. See this month's *Church Notes* for information about MQP's December concert.

I still haven't gotten through quite all of the church-related news in the queue, but feel free to add yours to the line-up by mailing it to me -- Lynette Filips, c/o OBCDC, 2339 Broadview Rd., 44109 or emailing lynet-tef@oldbrooklyn.com.

Jim Ptacek's ornaments from front page

Ameriflag owner Don Workman, who carries Jim's prints, postcards, Christmas cards and ornaments year-round observed, "It's impressive to me that a respected company like Wendell August Forge (established in 1923) sought Jim out to be the Cleveland area artist whose work they would use as the basis of some of their ornaments. The ornaments are Cleveland collectables right now; imagine how much more collectable they'll be in the future!"

In addition to the Tower City and Ameriflag locations, the ornaments are also available locally at Fred's Breads & More, 2330 Broadview Rd. in Old Brooklyn; the Frame Shop in North Royalton; the Frame Center Gallery in the Galleria; some Bed, Bath & Beyonds; Lake Erie Artists at Shaker Square; Stanton Jewelers in Westlake; True North in Sheffield; and some Giant Eagle stores.

Not all stores stock the bronze ornaments, so buyers who desire that variety should probably call to inquire about availability first. The ornaments are also available at Amazon.com.

A graduate of the Cooper School of Art with a major in Architectural Rendering, in addition to Cleveland sites, for years Jim's camera lens has been capturing buildings in Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Jacksonville, Mobile, Nashville, New

Orleans and Pittsburgh. And now that he's retired from the Cuyahoga County Engineers, Jim's artistic mediums have become even more diversified.

We told the story of how Wendell August Forge found Jim Ptacek in last December's article, which can be found online at www.oldbrooklyn.com. Know that Susan Berndt, store manager of the Cleveland Store in Tower City, had the most to do with making it happen. She's been selling Jim's work year-round for eight years.

While you're online refreshing your memory about that (or even if you're not), visit the Wendell August Forge website at www.wendellaugust.com. If you click on the link to "The Christmas Shop", then "Ornaments", and then "Artist Series" you will see photos of three people across the top of the page.

Jim is the first one pictured, then Linda Barnicott of Pittsburgh and Richard Bollinger of Philadelphia. Underneath that are images/data about all of their ornaments depicting Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia scenes.

Last year, some of Jim's ornaments sold out before Christmas. No one knows what will happen this year, but "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush". If purchasing some of Jim's ornaments is on your Christmas "to-do" list, it would probably be better to get them sooner rather than later and thereby avoid the chance of disappointment.

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by Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

Thanksgiving

This column is an updated version of a column which first appeared in December of 2007.

It is Friday, the day after Thanksgiving Day. Some retailers have given this day an awful name that is not worth typing because it tarnishes the spirit of Thanksgiving. Sitting here at the computer my mind is wandering away from the tasks that need attention to the thoughts of why I am thankful.

So instead of writing about commercial items, storefront renovations or the development projects that are underway, I am going to write about the people throughout the community for whom I am thankful - thankful for their presence, their desire to improve the community, their passion about living in Cleveland and their spirit.

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

There is the team of dedicated people with whom I work: Sandy, Barb, Cynthia, Robyn, Sheila, Christopher, David and Jayme. Much of the work of a community development corporation is people-to-people and this team knows that improving a community means making things better for each person who seeks assistance.

We all work for a Board of Directors who volunteer their time and energy to guide this

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

There are also many people and business who volunteer hundreds of hours of service on projects throughout Old Brooklyn which may or may not be connected with this community development corporation.

A local group known as the Old Brooklyn Community Collaborators is made up of businesses, institutions and non-profit agencies. They contribute time, talent and funding for a range of community events including *Fall-O-Ween* and *Cookies and Cocoa with Santa*.

An Old Brooklyn-based bicycle club sponsors *Pedal for Prizes* which brings 500+ visitors to businesses and parks throughout the community. The resident group *Old Brooklyn Buzz* decorates store windows and sponsors monthly cash mobs which introduce people to the diversity of shops in the community as well as other community projects.

Three City Council members (Kevin Kelley, Tony Brancatelli and Joe Cimperman) secure funds to support Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC). More importantly they work together on common issues, recognizing that the invisible ward boundaries are not stopping and starting points for building a healthy community. Thanks for your long hours and willingness to listen to everyone.

Quietly but ever so strongly serving the community are the three assistants to the Council members (Cindy Flannigan, Tony Zajac and Rachael Sommer) whose behind-the-scenes work is invaluable to problem solving.

OBCDC has a good neighbor in Council member Brian Cummins and his staff who also serve the common interests of the residents of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn.

Thanks for the civic associations and block clubs who strive to promote and renew the quality of residential life. Led by volunteer officers these citizens are the agents of change that make the community the welcom-

ing place that it is.

There is an individual to recognize for extraordinary volunteer service who will not like that he is being singled out. Anthony Petti is the Old Brooklyn resident who has made removing the graffiti that vandals inflict upon commercial buildings, utility boxes and street signs his mission. He quietly patrols the streets of Old Brooklyn with his box of brushes and detergents. After obtaining the approval of the property owner he removes the damage and teaches the owner how to remove it if it appears again. Thank you, Anthony.

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

A special thanks is offered to the people of St. Barbara Church who kept their community together while appealing to the Vatican a decision to close the parish. Their discipline and energy is the spirit of Cleveland.

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

There are thirteen schools whose staffs are dedicated to educating young people and

building responsible citizens. Their work is in the trenches and they must battle the ills that infect urban living. They are dauntless in their mission. Thanks for accepting the challenge.

Thanks to the social service agencies (Brookside Center, United Hearts Mission, All Faiths Pantry Mercy Sear Mission, The Food Pantry, the church hunger centers and many more neighborhood-based service organizations that help those in times of stress) for serving.

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

There are numerous volunteers who staff the Design and Review Committees, work the booths at festivals, raise funds for charities, serve with the auxiliary police and just seem to show up when you need extra help. Thanks for contributing.

Government is the skeleton that supports everything we do in the community. When it works well, just like our bones, we take it for granted. When it aches we complain.

Thanks to all those people who repair the roads, collect the garbage, respond to fires, arrive in ambulances, patrol the streets, fix the traffic signals, clean the sewers, drive the buses and make the city work. Thanks also to the postal carriers who are the silent security guardians of homes and streets.

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

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NHS opens Consumer Law Center

by Mark Wiseman, Director
NHS Consumer Law Center

For over thirty-seven years, Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHS) has been helping the residents of Cleveland achieve, preserve and sustain the American Dream of home ownership.

NHS classes and resources are designed to teach people how to qualify for a home loan; how to do the repairs needed to their homes; how to refinance the loan that they are in; how to get help if they are in trouble with their payments; how to be financially responsible.....and so many other topics.

But NHS realizes that (whether or not someone owns his/her own home) there are so many other decisions that consumers face every day. Therefore, they decided to start the NHS Consumer Law Center to help Cleveland consumers make those kinds of important decisions.

People are under constant attack from the marketplace. NHS wants you, and everyone else, to know how careful you need to be, how to protect yourself, and what alternatives to choose, when you make those (seemingly) routine buying decisions.

- How should you treat solicitors who call during dinner?
- What should you do if you get a strange bill

- on your credit card statement?
- Should you bother trying to clean up your credit report if you want to borrow money?
- What should you know about a company that wants to lend you money, while having you sign your next paycheck over to them 'just in case'?
- Should you sign up for a credit card every time somebody offers you a free T-shirt to do so?....

Consumers must answer these (and many other everyday) questions on their own - without knowing what will happen if they make the wrong choice. The NHS Consumer Law Center was created to help people make these decisions in a way that will help them make the most of their money.

There are many companies and scam artists which have a business model that is designed to take advantage of unsuspecting consumers. They rely on the fact that consumers don't fully understand all of the aspects of their purchasing transactions and are led to make quick, uninformed decisions.

As long as quick, uninformed decision-making exists, con-artists and scammers will make tons of money. The antidote is a system to teach consumers exactly what things like 'Variable Interest Rates' and 'Disputing Credit Errors' and 'Fair Debt Collections Practices Act' mean. That is the mission of the NHS Consumer Law Center.

The goal at the NHS Consumer Law Center is to provide the citizens of Northeast Ohio with the information that they need to make the intelligent, informed and financially beneficial decisions which will help them build long-term wealth.

The new Center has started a website: www.nhsconsumerlawcenter.org that has helpful information in many important areas (Credit Cards; Scam artists; Quick Cash Lenders; Picking a Home Repair Contractor....just to name a few).

In addition, the NHS Consumer Law Center has a Consumer Issues blog (called 'Consumer Courage') that is updated several times each week with new stories geared toward the consumer.

Renovated home receives green certification

by Christopher Lohr
christopherl@oldbrooklyn.com

A single family home at 3307 Altoona Ave. which the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation renovated over the course of 2012 through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP 2) was recently certified by Enterprise Green Communities as meeting their standards for energy efficiency and green building. The home is only the second fully certified project in the city of Cleveland, and the first project to use the more stringent 2011 Enterprise Green Communities Criteria.



OBCDC-renovated home, 3307 Altoona Ave.

Three additional older, multi-family projects in Cleveland are Enterprise Green Communities developments which were qualified as part of the initial rollout by Enterprise, but these did not go through the existing certification process.



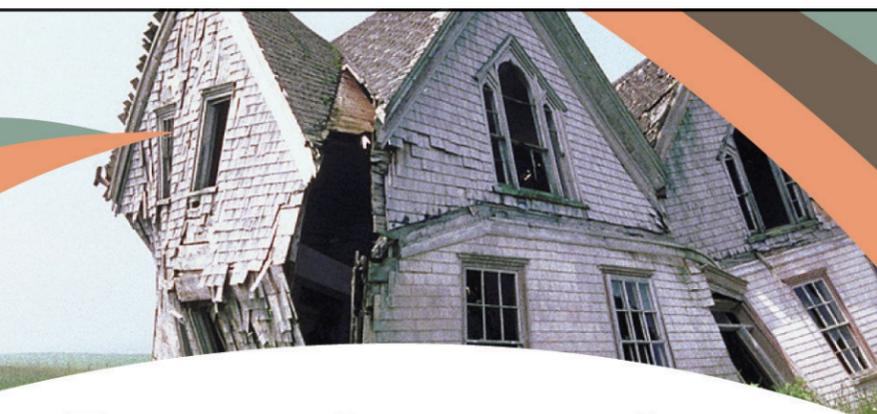
They are Tremont Pointe, 2556 W. 6th St., in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland; Cogswell Hall, 7200 Franklin Blvd., in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood of Cleveland; and Cornerstone Senior Apartments, 18221 Euclid Ave., in Cleveland, a bit west of the city of Euclid.

Overall, fewer than twenty projects have been fully certified in Ohio. The OBCDC house, because it met these standards, has also been approved for a ten-year property tax abatement on its improved value, meaning that the new homeowners will not only save on their utilities, but will also save on their annual real estate taxes.

The Enterprise Green Communities Criteria are a framework for comprehensive green building practices, applicable for all affordable housing development types, in any location in the country. In 2004, Enterprise set out to prove that it was possible to bring the health, economic and environmental benefits of green building to low-income communities nationwide.

The Enterprise Green Communities Criteria were developed by Enterprise Community Partners, Inc, a national Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides expertise for affordable housing and sustainable communities.

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American observance of Christmas, like Thanksgiving, varied with century, locale

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

Our November history article about how Thanksgiving in America has changed from the times of the Pilgrims to the present day could be considered an introduction to this month's article about how the celebration of Christmas, too, has changed in our country. In case you missed it, here's a brief summary from last month about how Thanksgiving contributed to the increasing commercialization --

From an official perspective, Thanksgiving Day was first declared by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Then every year his successors declared a day of thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November.

Things changed in 1939, when the United States was still trying to recover financially from the Great Depression. There were five Thursdays in November that year, and since it was unacceptable in that era to begin advertising Christmas goods before Thanksgiving, the founder of the Federated Department Stores (later Macy's) convinced President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move Thanksgiving up a week, to allow merchants seven more days to sell Christmas wares and gifts between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

That year, and again in 1940 and 1941, some states went along with the fourth Thursday change, while others retained the last Thursday for their Thanksgivings. But then in 1942, the date of Thanksgiving became a matter of federal law when Congress set the date as the fourth Thursday of November.

Based on that historical data, it would seem that the American Christmas' increasing commercialization has been going on for seventy years. But *Unplug the Christmas*

Machine, a book which was published in 1991, relates a much earlier decade for the onset of the trend toward greater commercialization.

(Although I just recently chanced upon the book at a resale shoppe, I remember a former pastor of St. Leo's, Fr. William Eylar, referring to it in his homilies at the time it was published.)

At the beginning of their book, authors Jo Robinson and Jean Cooper Staeheli relate how they spent days at the library cranking through reels of microfilms of old December newspapers. From the ads they could see how the celebration of Christmas in America had evolved.

The Victorian era (1837-1901) is most often depicted as a romantic time when all was rosy at Christmas, as well as year-round. Based on newspaper ads from that period, that perception is probably correct. In addition to the religious side of the holiday, the Victorian Christmas was a day for family togetherness, and children were the focus of the gift-giving. If exchanged at all, adult gifts were simple "holiday notions" such as books, pipe tobacco, handkerchiefs or a packet of pins.

Charles Dickens' representation of the Victorian Christmas in *A Christmas Carol* (1843) supports the "family, food -- the Christmas goose -- and playing of games" mode of the holiday (as well as the practice of donating alms to the less fortunate of society).

If there had been radio stations playing Christmas carols in those days, the songs would have started, rather than ended, on Christmas Day. Celebrating *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was a reality which started on Christmas itself. Advent was over and the days between Christmas and New Year's -- or actually, January 6th, Day 12, the traditional date of the feast of the Epiphany -- was a very social time of visiting family and friends.

The Industrial Revolution and the new capacity for mass production which it made possible was probably the first significant factor in the shift in the way Americans observed Christmas. The *Unplug...* authors reported that ads for jewelry for women and waistcoats for men began appearing alongside the trains and dolls in the first decade of the Twentieth Century.

The situation stepped up a notch during the final years of World War I. Gifts became more extravagant and advertising copy became guilt-inducing in terms of the necessity of giving worthy gifts to the significant others, as well as the children, in one's life. (Even back then, the economy seems to have been driven by war and Christmas.)

The American economy (until the crash of the stock market) boomed through the 1920s, and Christmas spending contributed to it. The Depression put a damper on things for several

years, but with the changed date in 1939, the Christmas Machine got the boost it needed, and it's been gaining momentum ever since.

I well remember Christmases in the 1950s. One of the high-points of autumn was when the Sears & Roebuck toy catalogue arrived in the mail, right around the time of Halloween. But that was really far in advance of everything else related to Christmas. Thanksgiving was celebrated for its own merit, and no one would have thought about leaving an extended family gathering early to go bargain-shopping. People did not put up Christmas trees or outdoor Christmas lights until

well into December. They were too busy writing Christmas cards -- and the accompanying letters -- by hand, and baking from scratch.

Perhaps next year's December history article will also be about how Christmas used to be. Send me reminiscences, if you care to.



Brooklyn Centre Naturalists have cookbook published

by Gloria Ferris
Brooklyn Centre Naturalists

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists (BCN) is happy to report that our new cookbook, *A Taste of All Seasons*, has arrived in time for the holidays. It will be offered for sale in the Short and Sweet Holiday Shop at Art House, 3119 Denison Ave., beginning on Friday, November 30th at 4 pm. Anyone who comes to the "Meet the Artist" reception from 6 to 8 pm that day will be able to sample a few tasty morsels from the cookbook, as well as try some other munchies.

Many moons ago, BCN requested recipe contributions from Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn residents for these very pages. Quite a few folks responded with family recipes, family stories and adapted recipes which have become part of their culinary mode of operation.

Many of you will recognize the names which appear in this cookbook as friends and neighbors. One eighty-four-year-old contributor said that for years, family and friends had begged her for a cookbook, and now she could use the opportunity BCN gave her to write down some of her recipes not only for her family and friends, but for her neighbors as well.

Many of her favorite recipes had been handed down through the years.

Just like a pot of stew on the back burner, the BCN cookbook stayed patiently waiting in the background until the cookbook committee had the time and energy to finish the book the way they wanted it to be. (Gardening projects always take priority for the BCN because if volunteers appear and the weather holds, it's necessary to take advantage of the opportunity!)

Although BCN's vision for the family stories and quotes was altered a bit by the publisher, Fundcraft Publishing of Collierville, Tennessee, the finished product stayed true to what was envisioned - a compilation of recipes for all four seasons. A chart listing local harvest times is included in the book so that cooks can take advantage of lower pricing and the great taste and ease of cooking in season. The price of the cookbooks is \$10 each, and both cash and credit cards will be accepted as payment. Reserve one today by emailing bcnaturalists@gmail.com or by calling Gloria at 216-351-0254.

Just as *A Taste of All Seasons* would make a great gift for the cooks in your life, registering their backyards would be a great present for the bird watchers or gardeners in your life. Visit <http://www.nwf.org/get-outside/outdoor-activities/garden-for-wildlife.aspx> to learn how easily you can do it.

In addition to promoting the cook books, a BCN volunteer will be at the Short and Sweet Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 1st and 8th, and Sunday, December 2nd and 9th between 1 and 5 p.m. to answer questions concerning backyard certification. Some well-known Gray and Company, Publishers books about Cleveland will also be offered for sale. (Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)

Brookside Center from front page

Special programs are available for the winter holidays. During December, WSEM Food Center at Brookside is providing additional food for holiday meals, and children up to 12 years of age can receive toys. Each child will receive a small toy, large toy, stuffed animal, candy, hat and gloves, and a story book or coloring book and crayons.

The toys will be distributed Wednesday through Friday, December 19th, 20th and 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a first come, first served basis. The parent/guardian must bring a current piece of mail, photo ID, and ID for each child receiving toys. Suitable identification for children are a report card, shot records, birth certificate, or a medical card.

The Food Center at Brookside serves 900 households per month and the need has been increasing since the economic downturn in

2007. Donations are needed year round. Currently the most needed items are peanut butter, rice, canned tuna, soup, one-dish meals, baking items, turkeys, fresh vegetables such as potatoes, onions, carrots, broccoli, etc., butter, toiletries, baby food and diapers. Brookside also needs toys for babies and toddlers and for children in the eight to twelve year old range. Cash donations are always welcome as well.

For more information about qualifying for assistance, volunteering, or making a donation, call 216-749-4295. Anyone wishing to drop off donations may do so Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. using the back entrance off Archwood Ave.

During the month of December, donations can also be dropped off at Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave., on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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www.BrooklynHeightsCemetery.com

As I see it...

by
Pastor Jerry



In "A Christmas Story" Ebenezer Scrooge scolds his nephew about Christmas. The conversation, paraphrased, goes something like this
Ebenezer: What's Christmas but a time of paying bills without money; for finding yourself a year older and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books? If I had my way, every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart! Much good it has ever done you!

Nephew: There are many things from which I have derived goodness by which I have not profited, Christmas among them. I am sure I have always thought of Christmas as a good, kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time. It's the only time I know of in the long calendar year when men and women seem to open their hearts freely. Therefore, Uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good.

Christmas can be a joyous, giving time when our hearts are open to God's love. Don't get so caught up in the buying, wrapping, cooking, etc. that you forget the real reason for Christmas: a tiny baby sent to save the world from sin.

Have a Merry, Blessed Christmas!

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

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Art House
3119 Denison Ave., 216-398-8556
www.arthouseinc.org
All Ages Family Open Studios - 3rd Sat. of every month. Make individual pieces or family art works. Each month has different theme; Art House provides materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration required. *Visit website for other programs or more info.*

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.

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

Tours of *A Christmas Story House* every half hour beginning at 10:15 am. Last tour begins at 4:30 pm. Purchase tickets at gift shop, 3166 W. 11th St., across from 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 - 5 pm; year-round. Visit website for holiday hours and more info. Closed Christmas Day, New Years Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day & other major holidays.

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

WinterShow - Now - Sat., Dec. 31st. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Wed., & Fri. 10 am - 9 pm. Sun., noon - 5 pm. Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve, 10 am - 3 pm. Included with Garden admission: \$12, adults; \$6.50, children 3 - 12; free for members & children under 3. Big sparkling tree, gingerbread houses, hop aboard the Garden Express for magical train ride. Decorate gingerbread house to take home., little ones shop for gifts in kid-size Treetop Shop, all-new Wishing Tree, hot chocolate, town square full of trees, holiday shopping & delectable treats.

Breakfast with Santa - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 8th & 9th, 10 - 1 pm. Visit with Santa, enjoy breakfast buffet, make a craft. take pictures & hear last-minute wishes. Cost: \$22, adult member; \$28, non-member; \$17, child member; \$22,

non-member, under 3 child complimentary. Garden & GLOW admission included. Register in advance online or by calling 216-721-1600 x100.

Cleveland Metroparks Winter Recreation Fun
Enjoy 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 - Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation's CanalWay Center
E. 49th St. bet. Grant Ave & Canal Rd.
216-206-1000 or clevelandmetroparks.com
Kids' Day - Sat., Dec. 29th, 10 am - 3 pm for 6 -12 year olds. Drop off kids for a day of entertainment. Hike, do some crafts, play some games & watch a movie. Bring lunch & water bottle & dress for weather. Fee: \$20. Terrain: inside & outside. Call to register.

Cleveland Metroparks Chalet Valley Parkway, Mill Stream Run Strongsville 440-572-9990
Tobogganing - Open thru mid-March. Thurs., 6 - 10 pm; Fri., 6 - 10:30 pm; Sat., noon - 10:30 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Cost - adults, \$10; children ages 11 & under, \$8. One time ride tickets, \$4. Thurs.: school & college ID night, \$5 with ID. Season passes -- adults, \$40; children 11 & under, \$30. Family pass (up to four) available. Discount on season passes if purchased before Dec. 24th. Call for holiday hours.

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

Recycled Card Ornaments - Sat., Dec. 22nd. Naturalist Beth Whiteley demonstrating fun way to make recycled holiday ornaments. Bring favorite used greeting cards & a metal jar lid or two to make something beautiful. Registration begins Dec. 1st.

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

Reduced Winter Admission - Now thru March 31st; both Zoo & RainForest. Adult admission, \$8.25; children 2 - 11, \$5.25; under two & Zoo members, free.

December Days at the Zoo - Dec. 17th - 30th. Seasonal activities - holiday crafts, entertainment, music, pictures with Santa & more! Full

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

schedule of events posted on clemetzoo.com. Visit The RainForest, or ride on Zoo's complimentary heated transportation to Northern Trek.

Breakfast with Santa - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 15th, 16th & 22nd, 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 216-635-3306.

Zoo closed Tues., Dec. 25th & Tues., Jan. 1st

Noon Year's Eve - Mon., Dec. 31st. Noon Year's Eve lets kids celebrate New Year 12 hours early. Family friendly event, 10 am - 1 pm, features live entertainment, crafts, ReZoolutions & ball drop at noon. Presented by Dollar Bank with support from UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital & Kohl's.

Noon Year's Eve - Mon., Dec. 31st, 10 am - 1 pm. Family-friendly event includes crafts for kids, live animal shows, alcohol-free toast & ball drop at noon. Presented by Dollar Bank with support from Radio Disney.

Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma-Snow Branch

Temporary location 1700 Snow Rd. (in Midtown Shopping Center, next to Marc's)
216-661-4240; www.cuyahogalibrary.org
9 am - 9 pm, Mon - Thur.; 9 am - 5:30 pm, Fri. & Sat.; 1 - 5 pm, Sun.
Children's programs this month -- (Unless otherwise noted, registration required.)

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Happy Days Lodge
500 West Streetsboro Rd (SR 303) Peninsula 330-657-2909 ext. 119
Year round, daily, 10 am - 4 pm; free. Some park areas close at dusk; remaining areas open 24 hours.

Grace Church
2503 Broadview Rd. 216-661-8210
Special Christmas Program! Fri. & Sat., Dec 14th & 15th; 6 pm. Program will feature gospel choir, children's nativity, drama, singing & more! Delicious homemade appetizers served afterwards.

Holiday Happening - Wed., Dec. 26th - Fri., Dec. 28th & Wed., Jan. 2nd - Fri. Jan. 4th. 11:45 am - 1:30 pm. K - 8th grade; free. Hot lunch, entertainment, fun activities, holiday gifts. Space limited to first 50 sign-ups per day.

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 - Holiday Treats & Traditions** - Dec., 8th; 2 pm; *The Night Before Christmas*. Look at different trees, talk about why we decorate for the holidays. make an ornament & have a snack:

Snowy Day - Dec. 15th; 2 pm; *The Snowy Day*. Learn where snow comes from, play in the snow, make snow flakes, eat snow cookies. **Lighting Lanterns** - Dec., 22nd; 2 pm; *Winter's Eve, Love and Lights*. Mini-lantern tour; make your own tin lantern, Christmas cookies. Call 330-666-3711, ext. 100 or visit halereservations@wrhs.org to make reservations.

Lantern Tours - Fri. & Sat., Dec. 7th & 8th; Fri. - Sun., 14th, 15th & 16th; Wed. - Sun. 19th - 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 weather. Reservations required. For ticket availability & reservations call 330-666-3711. Admission: WRHS members - \$15; non-members - \$20. Group rates available for 15 or more. Reservations required.

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.

Home Depot homeimproverclub.com/kidsworkshops
Build a picture frame - Sat., Dec. 1st. Workshops offered 1st Sat. of every month, 9 am - noon. Free hands-on workshops designed for kids ages 5 - 12 at all Home Depot stores.

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

Christmas on the Farm - Sat. & Sun., Dec. 1st & 2nd, 12 - 4 pm. Christmas store in Gibbs house; Mr. & Mrs. Claus photos (for a fee), 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 23rd Annual Tower City Toy Soldier & Fairy Godmother Holiday Show - Sat., Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd - 1 & 3 pm; Sun., Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 18th, 23rd - 1 & 3 pm. Music, dancing & storytelling with special appearances from Rudolph, Frosty, Raggedy Ann & Andy the Princess & Martel. Lasts approx. 30 minutes; then a "Meet & Greet" with Toy Soldier, Fairy Godmother & friends.

Lunchtime Meet & Greet with the Toy Soldier - Tues., Dec. 18th - Fri., Dec. 21st; 12 pm at the grand staircase.

Holiday Express Train Ride - Dec., 1st - 2nd, 6th - 9th, and 13th - 23rd. Daily, 10 am - 8 pm. Sun., 1am. - 7 pm. Admission: \$3 per guest. Children under 5 must be accompanied by adult.

Bruce the Talking Spruce Dec., 1st, 2nd, 6th - 9th, 13th - 23rd. Daily: 10 am - 8 pm; Sun., 11 am - 7 pm.

The Twigbee Shop - Dec., 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, & 10th - 23rd. Daily 10 am - 7 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. For children ages 12 & under. Gifts priced under \$10 & are pre-wrapped to ensure everyone is surprised.

Photos with Santa - Offerings Kringle's InventionariumTM - Sat., Dec 1st, 8th & 15th; Sun., Dec 2nd, 9th & 23rd; Mon.- Sat., 10 am - 8 pm; Sun., 11 am - 7 pm. Visit inner workings InventionariumTM & assist his personal team of inventors in testing & development of future toys. 35-minute, guided, hands-on & interactive tour through Mr. Kringle's toy laboratories. Meet Master Toy Maker himself! General admission: standard \$8 per guest ages 3+; free per guest under 3. Reservations required. To book online visit http://www.mrkringle.com

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

Holiday CircleFest - Sun., Dec. 2nd, 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.

The Rink at Wade Oval - Open now - Feb. 18th; Fri. & Sat., noon - 7 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Open daily: Mon, Dec. 17th - Mon., Dec. 31st. Sun. - Thurs. noon - 5 pm; Wed., Dec. 5th & 12th; 3 - 9 pm. Fri. & Sat. noon - 7 pm. Closed Christmas & New Year's Day. Open President's Day Feb. 18th & MLK Day, Jan. 21st, noon - 5 pm. Rink hours subject to change. Bring own skates or rent for \$3; hot chocolate & coffee available. Call 216-707-5033 for daily info.

City of Cleveland waste fee increase
Monthly waste collection fee, instituted to recover part of cost of waste collection service, will increase to \$8.75 per unit for Cleveland property owners effective with Jan., 2013 water bill (25 cent increase from 2012). Those seeking exemption must apply by Mar. 31, 2013. Call 216-664-2272 or email DALBilling@city.cleveland.oh.us or website www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/FormsPublication for forms or more info.

THEATER NOTES

Cassidy Theatre
6200 Pearl Rd. 440-842-4600
cassidytheatre.com
"Rented Christmas - The Musical"
Now - Sun., Dec. 16th; Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets: adults, \$20; students & senior citizens, \$15.

Cleveland Public Theatre
6415 Detroit Ave.
216-631-2727, x501 cptonline.org
"Amahl and the Night Visitors"
Sat., Dec. 15th; 3 & 7:30 pm. Admission free with donation of warm clothing or outerwear or monetary contribution to be sent to The City Mission. Presented by Opera per Tutti.

Playhouse Square Center
1501 Euclid Ave.
216-241-6000
www.playhousesquare.com

Allen Theatre
"A Carol for Cleveland"
Now - Sun., Dec. 23rd. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm; Sun. matinee, 2:30 pm. Tickets: \$49-\$69.

Hanna Theatre
Cleveland Jazz Orchestra
"A Not So Silent Night"
Sat., Dec. 8th, 8 pm. Tickets: \$25 - \$45.

"Jingle Bell Jazz"
Sun., Dec. 9th. 2 pm. Tickets: \$10.

"A Son is Given"
Fri., Dec. 21st - Sun. 23rd. Fri. 7:30 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 & 7 pm, Sun., 3pm. Tickets: \$25 - \$40.

Great Lakes Theater at the Ohio
"A Christmas Carol"
Now - Sun., Dec. 23rd. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets: \$28 - \$60.

Palace Theatre
"Tap Dogs"
Wed., Dec. 5th, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$39.50.

"Olivia Newton-John"
Sun., Dec. 9th, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$75.

State Theatre
"The Nutcracker"
Sat. & Sun., Dec. 1st & 2nd. Sat., 2 pm & 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$85.

Cleveland Public Theatre at 14th Street Theatre
2037 E. 14th St. between Euclid & Prospect
"The Santaland Diaries"
Now - Thurs., Dec. 22nd. Wed., Thurs., Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 5:30 pm & 8 pm. Ticket prices: \$20 - \$30.

SENIOR NOTES

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

Mondays:
Ez-Exercise - 9 am; Chair Bowling- 10 am;
Wii -11 am; Canasta - 12:30 am.

Tuesdays:
Crafts - 9:30 am, Crochet Group - 9:30 am,
Table Bowling - 10:30 am, Pinochle - 12:15 pm,
Bocce Ball - 12:30 pm; Line Dancing- 1 pm.

Wednesdays:
Ez-Exercise - 9 am; Chair Bowling- 9:30 am;
Chair Volleyball - 10:15 am., Fruit Bingo -
10:30 am, Canasta - 12:30 pm.

Thursdays:
Crafts - 9:30 am, Chair Volleyball - 10 am,
Trivia - 10 am; Horse Racing - 10:30 am;
Bingo - 12:30 pm.

Fridays:
Ez-Exercise - 9:15 am; Crochet Group - 9:30
am, Chair Exercise - 9:30 am; Current
Events - 10 am, Corn Hole - 10:30 am, Wii -
11 am; Pinochle - 12:30 pm.

LITE and EZ exercise classes
 Metro Health Senior Advantage sponsors LITE and EZ Exercise Classes for people 55 years of age and older. They are one-hour, strengthening and balance classes, 75% sitting and 25% standing. (The entire program can be done sitting.)
 Class size averages 15 to 20 folks who meet at Estabrook Rec. Center on Mon., Wed. and Fri. mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. There is a \$2 fee per class or \$20 pass for 15 classes.
 It is a very supportive and non-competitive group. Each participant is encouraged to work at his/her own pace
 A doctors release form can be picked up at MetroHealth Wellness Center or by stopping by the class at Estabrook. Observe a class at the same time.

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

Archwood United Church of Christ
2800 Archwood Ave. 216-351-1060
Tues., Dec. 18th - Blue Christmas service, 7
pm. Mon., Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve service
with open communion; 8 pm.

Sunday Worship - 11 am; all welcome; Rev.
Sara Ross, pastor.

Brooklyn Hts., United Church of Christ
2005 W. Schaaf Rd. 216-741-2280
Christmas Eve service - Festival of Carols,
7:30 pm; Candlelight Communion Service
with Rev. Lawrence Craig, 8 pm.

Social Rooms for Rent for Business
Meetings; rental fees negotiable depending on
group size & facilities needed. Call Mon. -
Thurs., 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Mary Queen of Peace Church
4423 Pearl Rd. 216-749-2323
Men's Prayer Group, Sat., Dec. 1st, 8:30 am;
Parish Center.

Cluster Communal Penance Service - Sun.,
Dec. 2nd, 2 pm; St. Leo the Great Church.

Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception, Fri., Dec. 7th, 5:30 & 8 pm; Sat.,
Dec. 8th, 8 am & noon; upper church.

All night Eucharistic Adoration - Fri., Dec.
7th, 8:30 pm - Sat., Dec. 8th; 8 am; chapel.

National Night of Prayer - Sat., Dec. 8th; 9
pm - 1 am; upper church.

Notre Dame College Choral Ensemble - Sat.,
Dec. 8th, 4:30 pm Mass; upper church.

Breakfast With Santa - Sun.,
Dec. 9th, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm;
Parish Center; call for tickets.

Mary Queen of Peace seniors
Christmas party Wed., Dec.
12th, 11 am; Marian Lounge.

Lessons & Carols with
Cantores Cleveland & Mary
Queen of Peace Choir - Fri.,
Dec. 14th, 7 pm; upper church.

Men's Advent Retreat Day - Sat., Dec. 14th;
8:30 am - 2 pm; chapel & Marian Lounge.

Free Community Meal - Sun., Dec. 16th; 1
pm; Parish Center cafeteria.

Blue Army Holy Hour - Sun., Dec. 16th, 2
pm; chapel & Marian Lounge.

Mary Queen of Peace School Christmas
Program - Tues., Dec. 18th, 1 & 6:30 pm;
upper church.

Christmas Mass schedule - Mon., Dec. 24th;
4:30 pm; Choir Concert - 11:30 pm; Tues.,
Dec. 25th - midnight, 8:30 am & 11 am.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God - Mon.,
Dec. 31st, 5:30 pm; Tues., Jan. 1st, 8:30 am &
11 am; upper church.

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Mon., Dec. 24th - Two Christmas Eve serv-
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3 pm & Celebration service 7:30 pm; come
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Christmas Eve Candlelight
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Galilean Baptist Church
 4520 W. 11th St., Between Schaaf & Spring Rds. 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 Pastor: Charlie Collier Sunday: Bible Study 9 am. Sun. Worship 10 am. Wednesday: Dinner 6:30 pm., Kid's Church & Adult classes 7 - 8 pm. Thursday: Youth Night 7 - 8:30 pm. Website: graceoldbrooklyn.org

Gospel Christians Church

4780 W. 11th St., 216 459-2855 Pastor: Will Rothenbusch Sunday School: 10 am Worship Service Sundays 11 am.

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 Bernhardt & 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 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, 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: stjamesleve.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

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St. Mary's Church
 5375 Broadview Rd at Wexford, Parma Pastor: Rev. Stanley Bilinski 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

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. Barbara Church

1505 Denison Ave. Phone: 216-661-1191 Masses: Sat., Vigil 4:30 pm. Sun., 9 am English, 11:30 am Polish. confessions: Sat., 3:45 - 4:15 pm. Weekday Mon. - Fri. 7:30 am.

St. Leo The Great

4940 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-661-1006 Pastor: Fr. Russell P. 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

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: Mon. thru Fri; 7 & 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

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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 meals 1st & 2nd Thurs., 6 pm & last two Sun., 5 pm. http://www.gbgbm-umc.org/pearl-road-umc

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The drawing will be held on
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Energy-efficient holiday lights save money

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Families can decorate their homes beautifully for the holidays and save money. Energy Star decorative exterior and interior lights consume 70%-90% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. This can mean a savings of \$10-15 for five strings of lights (approx. 500 watts). The more someone decorate, the more is the savings potential with energy-efficient lighting.

Energy Efficient decorative lighting often utilizes LED (light emitting diodes) technology. Basically, LEDs are just tiny light bulbs that fit easily into an electrical circuit. But unlike ordinary incandescent bulbs, they don't have a filament that will burn out, and they don't get especially hot.

According to Energy Star, LEDs present many advantages over incandescent light sources including lower energy consumption, longer lifetime, improved physical robustness, and smaller size. They are also cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire, and more

durable than incandescent lights that have filaments or glass.

Solar holiday lights use a small solar panel for power and are another energy-efficient option. Because they use solar power instead of electricity, there are no extension cords to be plugged into outlets. The panel -- about the size of a hockey puck -- powers rechargeable batteries which illuminate a 25 to 100-bulb string of LED lights. One disadvantage of solar powered lights is that won't get fully charged on cloudy days.

LED holiday lights powered by the sun and by electricity are available at local stores for approximately \$25.00-29.00 for a 100 mini light set or 50 larger light set. More information about energy-efficient holiday lights and other products can be found online at www.energystar.gov or by calling 1-888-782-7937.

Sources: <http://www.energystar.gov>
<http://www.homedepot.com>
 Cleveland Public Power: <http://www.cpp.org/>
<http://www.houselogic.com/>

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation board meeting, 6 pm. Meetings are fourth Tues. of the month; OBCDC meeting room, 2339 Broadview Rd. Meetings open to public for review & comments, but Board reserves right to close portions of meetings from public. Call 216-459-1000 to confirm.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., Dec. 11th (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

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

Ward 13 Democratic Club meeting, Tues., Dec. 18th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

Ward 13 Republican Club meeting, Tues., Dec. 11th (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Brooklyn Heights Church meeting room, 2005 W. Schaaf Rd. (near Broadview Rd.)

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Bella Pizza celebrates 35 years in business

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Bella Pizza, 4830 Memphis Ave., is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and owner Dennis Bellisario is proud of their history. His father Richard Bellisario, a retired Cleveland Police officer, opened the first Bella Pizza on Fulton Rd. across from St. Rocco Church in 1977. Shortly thereafter they moved to Fulton Rd. across from the library. They have been at their 4830 Memphis Ave. location since 1990.

The Memphis site had been home to Mama Mia's, one of the first pizza shops to open on the west side (in 1953). Bella Pizza kept their phone number so 216-661-2626 has been a working pizza shop's phone number for almost 60 years.

Dennis has been working at Bella Pizza since he was 13 years old. He said he learned many things from his father throughout the years, but one of his dad's main messages was, "Provide a top quality product and sell it at a good price. Quality and affordability always win."

Dennis, like his father, finds great joy in making customers happy and strives to keep them coming back year after year. He didn't raise prices for almost five years to try to help his customers through recent difficult economic times.

The dough and sauce are handmade daily. To ensure that every pizza, Stromboli, calzone, pasta dish or salad tastes the same regardless of who makes it, Dennis personally trains every employee. *Nothing* is fried, including the wings.

"I bake them in the oven because it keeps them tender," Dennis stated. "I have a money back guarantee on my wings, so please come try them. I will be at Old Brooklyn's *Wings & Things* Cookoff in 2013 to prove that we have the best wings!"

Some readers may recognize Dennis Bellisario as Christopher Columbus in the Columbus Day Parade in Little Italy; he has been featured in the *Plain Dealer* several times over the past few years. He also works at St. Rocco's Italian Festival every summer.

Bella Pizza will be offering anniversary specials throughout the upcoming months. Dennis advises customers to, "keep your eyes out for specials in *Old Brooklyn News* and on facebook." He also offers his gratitude saying, "The Bellisario family would like to sincerely



Dennis Bellisario

say thank you to all our loyal customers for 35 years; we look forward to serving you for many years to come".

Bella Pizza is open seven days a week: Sunday-Thursday, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday & Saturday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Pickup and delivery are available by calling 216-661-2626. Bella Pizza also offers catering for any occasion. Contact Sandy at 440-777-5692 for more information about that.

Rigatoni with Cream Sauce & Peas

- 1 lb. rigatoni
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese (or to taste)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can peas, drained (approx. 14 oz.) or 1 cup frozen peas, thawed

Sauce Instructions:

1. Put milk in sauce pan and heat over low to medium temperature.
2. Add Cheddar cheese and let melt in milk, stirring often.
3. Add Parmesan cheese and let melt in mixture, stirring often.
4. Add one can cream of mushroom soup; continue to stir.

Pasta Instructions:

1. Cook pasta al dente but just before done add peas (long enough to heat peas through).
2. Drain pasta and peas.
3. Place in serving dish and pour cream sauce over mixture. Stir together to coat pasta and peas and serve. Serves 6 - 8

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