Jeffrey T. Verespej from Ohio City, Inc. selected as new OBCDC executive director

by Lynnette Filips
lynette@oldbrooklyn.com

The Board of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) has selected a new executive director for the organization, and the man they chose is someone with roots in this neighborhood. Jeffrey T. Verespej — pronounced VUr’ - S-P — spent almost the first seven years of his life on South Ridge Dr. (in the Skyview Estates, just east of the current Spring Rd. exit on the Jennings Freeway). And even after his family moved to North Royalton, Jeff was back in Old Brooklyn every spring and summer, playing on one of the Old Brooklyn Youth League’s teams until he was 17 years old. His father, Michael, was one of the coaches.

Jeff will assume the executive director position here on Monday, April 7th. He comes to Old Brooklyn from Ohio Incorporated (OCI), formerly Ohio City Near West Development Corporation, where he served as their Director of Operations since 2010. At OCI Jeff was responsible for a broad spectrum of activities – large scale planning projects; community events; safety issues; outreach; the Near West Recreation League; attracting and retaining small businesses; and the passage and implementation of a special improvement district.

Reflecting on the four years when he was employed at Ohio City’s development corporation, Jeff remarked, “During my time at Ohio Incorporated I have been especially proud of the relationships that I have built across the neighborhood that have led to many critical initiatives. As a team we have successfully attracted over sixty new businesses; planned a complete and green street district; and launched a recreation program to serve the growing number of families on the Near West Side.”

One factor which may have helped Jeff secure his job at Ohio City Inc. is that for seven months prior to that appointment he volunteered at Ohio City Near West Development Corporation. He was so enamored with the neighborhood that in 2009 he purchased a small, completely renovated ‘worker’s cottage’, built in 1890 on the western end of Carroll Ave. (close to Fulton Rd.) – Jeff still lives in Ohio City but when he married Sara Witt in 2012, they purchased a bigger, newer (1994), single-family home on Fulton Rd.

In addition to living in Ohio City, Old Brooklyn and North Royalton, Jeff has also lived in downtown Cleveland and Little Italy, and on campus at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree (with a double minor in Environmental Science and German) from CWRU in 2007 and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from CWRU’s Weatherhead School of Management in 2011.

While earning his MBA degree, Jeff worked at the University by day and attended classes in the evening and on Saturday. His job title was Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions in the Division of Enrollment Management. Jeff has also worked in another section of University Circle — a one-year internship at University Circle Incorporated (UCI). At the time, Jeff was still an undergrad at CWRU and Chris Ronayne (formerly the City of Cleveland’s Planning Director) had just become UCI’s president. Chris and Jeff knew each other from a sophomore year City Politics class Jeff took; the project he’d been assigned to follow was the City’s plans for the Lakefront.

It was also during this City Politics class that Jeff’s passion for cities began to develop. Like many college students who choose to major in political science, he originally thought that he would go on to law school after he earned a bachelor’s degree. But now the revitalization of Cleveland became his top priority.

Although Old Brooklyn can take some credit for Jeff’s older siblings’ schooling (his two brothers and one sister attended St. Leo the Great School). Jeff did not receive any of his lower-level education in our neighborhood. He started kindergarten at St. Francis de Sales School in Parma, and even after the family moved to North Royalton, his mom drove him back there every day until he finished sixth grade. He attended seventh grade at Incarnate Word Academy in Parma, Hts., and after that he transferred to North Royalton’s public schools. Jeff graduated from North Royalton High School in 2003.

In their free time, Jeff and Sara (who is an attorney) concentrate on taking in as much as possible that the City of Cleveland has to offer in the way of theater, restaurants, night life, the Metroparks and other opportunities to enjoy nature. They also enjoy bicycle riding, gardening in their double lot yard and walking to church at St. Patrick’s on Bridge Ave. They like the experience of both national and international travel, too.

Looking forward to his starting day, Jeff does not yet know which Old Brooklyn project he will tackle first, but he stated with certainty, “I will be very present to the neighborhood. I believe that it is integral for the Community Development Corporation to be out in the community, building relationships, listening, and providing consistent communication.”

Old Brooklyn looking to bicentennial - III

by Lynnette Filips
lynette@oldbrooklyn.com

Every issue of the Old Brooklyn News this year brings us one month closer to Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation’s (OBCDC’s) Pop UP Pearl Complete Street Festival on Saturday, May 17th, and the historical activities related to our neighborhood’s two hundred years of being settled by people of European descent. Among the activities which we’ll announce in this newspaper in May are an historically-themed art contest for school children in OBCDC’s service area; a community photo contest; and the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn’s release of a captivated book of old photos.

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Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board Meetings are every fourth Tues. of the month, 6 - 7:30 pm. OB CDC board (239 Broadview Rd.). Meetings open to the public but the board reserves the right to close the meeting in certain instances.

Old Brooklyn News

Sandy Worona - Layout & Ad Manager, Lynette Filips - Copy Editor

This month’s OBNC writes - Gloria Ferra, Lynette Filips, Kim Repinski and OBNC staff.

OBNC is an equal opportunity (501c3) that serves the communities of Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre.

For more information to advertising and projects call 216-459-1000.

Cleveland Maennerchor, 4551 S. State Rd., Fridays, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Fish, shrimp, scallops, schnitzel, bratwurst, pierogi, potato pancakes, German potato salad. All dinners include bread & butter & choice of potato salad or French fries, apple sauce, coleslaw or salad. Specials every Fri. Call 741-7728 for more info.

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, 700 Ridge Brook St. Woronki, Fri. & Apr. 4th, Apr. 11th, Apr. 4th, 4-7:30 pm. Weekdays, Pierogi, cabbage & noodle dinners, $5 - $9. Sides, $1. Take out available. Call 216-749-5585 for more info.

Mary Queen of Peace Church Parish Hall, 4427 Pearl Rd., Fri., Apr. 4th & 11th, 4:30 - 7 pm. Salmon, baked or fried cod, or shrimp dinner with a choice of potato pierogi, homemade potato pancakes, fries or cabbage-and-noodles. All meals include coffee, soft drink, bread, bakery & choice of coleslaw, tossed salad or applesauce. Kids meals also available - a la carte. Children’s meals & takeout. 440-868-2108.

St. Leo’s Lux Hall, 4900 Broadview Rd., Fri., Apr. 4th & 11th, 4:30 - 7 pm. Dine-in or take-out. Four dinner selections: baked seasoned fish, fried fish, shrimp & pierogi, $8 combo dinner. $10. Dinners include main entree, choice of fries or baked potato, cole slaw & a salad. Kids meals available - a la carte.

St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 5720 State Rd., Fri., Apr. 4th & 11th, 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Salmon, baked or fried cod, or shrimp dinner with a choice of potato pierogi, homemade potato pancakes, fries or cabbage-and-noodles. All meals include coffee, soft drink, bread, bakery & choice of coleslaw, tossed salad or applesauce. Kids meals also available - a la carte. Children’s meals & takeout.

OBBCD board president describes process of hiring new executive director

By Jeff Kipp

OBBCD Board of Directors Chair

Spring is here Old Brooklyn! The change in season will bring a more enjoyable and warmer weather. And that’s not all that is changing. As you read on the front page, the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBBCD) is very pleased to share the news that a new executive director has been hired. Jeff Verespej will join us this month and we are excited to start working with him.

Jeff and I have been working closely these last few months to develop plans and strategies for the upcoming year. We have been concentrating efforts to focus on the Pearl/Broadview corridor to bring back our downtown Old Brooklyn.

We believe that spring will turn into summer, festivals, 1-ball and gardening will be in full swing. We’ll be there and we’ll love to chat with our neighbors and businesses.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kipp, President

OBBCD Board of Directors Chair

The Board of Directors of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBBCD) is pleased and excited to name Jeffrey T. Verespej as OBBCD’s next executive director. He will assume this role on May 12th. Jeff has a unique combination of executive experience in the community development field, governance and experience within the community development field.

Jeff is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that serves the communities of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn.

The Board of Directors assessed the situation and immediately formed an Executive Search Committee. This Search Committee comprised of the current and former Board members, was assigned the task of coordinating the entire search process and recommending a potential candidate to the full Board in a timely manner. The job description was finalized and the position was posted within OBBCD’s communications outlets and through various community partners. While resumes were coming in, the Search Committee gathered valuable input about the vacant position from the Board, staff, Cleveland City Council members, CDC partners and the community.

We began our search process once we learned that OBBCD’s previous director, Timothy Yanko, had been hired by another organization, including over forty years of experience in various capacities within the community development field.

Now that OBBCD’s Board of Directors has a new executive director, OBBCD is very pleased to share the news with the Old Brooklyn community.

The Board of Directors is being hired, it’s an exciting time for the neighborhood. The Board of Directors of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBBCD) is very pleased to name Jeffrey T. Verespej as OBBCD’s next executive director. He will assume this role on May 12th. Jeff has a unique combination of executive experience in the community development field, governance and experience within the community development field.

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**NEWS & EVENTS**

**Monday, April 14th**

**Monday Night at the Movies**

“Blender 70”

River’s Edge, 3430 Rocky River Dr. 7pm. Optional discussion following. Free but free will offerings accepted. Register at www.riversedgecleveland.com.

**Thursday, April 17th**

**Antique Ukrainian Chat Meeting**

Busch Community Meeting Room, 7501 Ridge Rd., 7 pm. Suze Murcer, Teacher & speaks about Ukrainian eggs. Call Publicity Chairman Robert Murdoch, 440-845-7046, for more info.

**Saturday, April 19th**

**Taste of Seven Hills**

Seven Hills Community recreation center, 7777 Summitview Dr., 6-9 pm. Tickets: $30 includes food, wine, beverages & entertainment by Victor Samak. 1-year old & over. Call 216-525-6227 for more information.

**Tuesday, April 22nd**

**Rain Barrel Workshop**

Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, 6-8 pm. Make rain barrel to store rainwater that would otherwise be lost to runoff or diverted to storm drain. Use water on lawns & gardens. Call 440-358-6200 to register.

**Saturday, April 26th**

**Spring phiên bản Show**


**Friday, April 25th**

**Cultural Cleveland Tour Series:**

**The Clevelanders Who Made Cleveland Big**

Historical interpreter Doug Kuskul celebrates Polish heritage with history & kids. 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. Visit St. Stanislaus Church, Polish American Cultural Center & Immortal Heart of Mary Church. Bring your lunch money. Adults & children 10 years & over with adult. Fee: $5. Call 216-206-1000 to register or visit clevelandmetroparks.com. Meeting location after registration.

**Saturday, April 26th**

**Annual Women’s Reverse Raffle**

St. Leo the Great Church Lux Hall, 4900 N. Shaker Rd. RSVP by 5:30 pm. Cost: $40 per regular ticket (includes catered dinner, open bar, & chance at grand prize) or $25 per not attending ticket (grand prize drawing ticket only). Call 216-661-1006 for more information.

**Saturday, April 26th**

**Planting Container Herb Gardens**

Garfield Reservation, 11350 Broadway Ave., Garfield Hts. 1:30 - 3 pm. Folks with little to no area to garden learn how to grow fresh, delicious herbs in small containers requiring little space. Participants go home with recycled container to start own gardens. Call 216-341-3125 to register.

**Saturday, April 26th**

**Gardening in Small Spaces**

CanalWay Center, 4524 E. 49th St. 1 - 2:30 pm. Even folks with only a fence line or balcony can grow vegetables in small areas. Call Extension educator will share tips & techniques for small area & container gardening. Call 216-206-1000 to register.

**Thursday, April 24th**

**CPR Spring Into The Air**

St. John Byzantine Upper Hall (accessible by elevator or stairs), 1990 Carbon Rd., 7 - 8 pm. (doors open 2 pm) Music by IPA Tribute Band from Chicago. Donation: $15 & under, free for OYB. Beverages available; snacks welcome. Call Sylvia or Paul, 216-228-1134, for large table reservations or more info. Or visit www.city.clevelandoh.com and check them out on Facebook.

**Monday, April 27th**

**Western Reserve Rose Society Meeting**

North Royalton Public Library, 7057 Wallings Rd., 7 pm. Program “Insect & Mite Pests of Ohio-Grown Roses”. Presenter: Dr. David Shetlar of OSU. Call 216-228-2123, or email her at webmaster@westernreservesociety.org for more info.

**Saturday, May 3rd**

**Kentucky Derby Party**

Great Lakes Brewing Company, Tasting Room 2516 Market Ave. 4 - 8 pm. Valet parking, horses & jockeys. Bring your own lunch money. OBU julep, races, hat contest. Tickets: $65. All proceeds benefit WISEM Food Centers. Call 216-950-3190 or theredrosethoro.com for more info. RSVP by April 25th.

**Sunday, May 4th**

**Western Reserve Rose Society**

Summitview Dr., 6 - 9 pm. Tickets: $30. Includes wine, dinner, d’oevres, Great Lakes beer, wine, one mint julep. Race, raffles, hat contest. Tickets: $65. All proceeds benefit WISEM Food Centers. Call 216-950-3190 or theredrosethoro.com for more info.

**April 14th**

**Help with Winter Heating Bills**

Apply for WHP, HEAP & PIPP with one application form - the Energy Assistance Program. Application which may be obtained by calling OD enlarge at 1-800-282-0880. Applications also accepted at libraries, some banks & local county auditor’s office. Download the form at www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.

City of Cleveland, Division of Police, Citizens On-Line Reporting System

File your own police report on-line for the following types of incidents/crimes – lost property, damage to property, personal damage to property, petty theft/that from a motor vehicle; supplemental reports. These types of reports may be made only if there is no suspect vehicle, or serial number information. Make an on-line report at www.city.clevelandoh.us/police or call 216-664-2510. You must be 18 years old & have an e-mail address.

Volunteer Drivers & Runners needed for Meals on Wheels

Senior Citizen Resources need volunteer once a day a week. Mon. thru Fri. to Old Brooklyn Res. Call 216-547-5636 with any questions.

**April 15th**

**New Thras Stacy**

Have A Heart/Spay/Neuter Program

River Save-A-Pet, in cooperation with more than 100 veterinarians is offering low-cost spay/neuter services. Call 440-223-2877 – Mon., Wed., Thurs or Fri between 11 am & 2 pm. Final cat, cat caretaker call Mon. only.

**April 19th**

**Registration Reopen Now**

City of Cleveland, Division of Police

Cultural Cleveland Tour Series:

**April 20th**

**Neo-Noćal**

Restaurant

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**April 23rd**

**Supportive Services**

Residents can report potholes to 216-664-2510 or visit www.city.clevelandoh.us. Residents can report potholes to 216-664-2510 or visit www.city.clevelandoh.us.

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Benjamin Franklin Community Garden to hold Spring Fling #5 fundraiser

by Kim Repinski

The Benjamin Franklin Community Garden will be sponsoring its Spring Fling #5 on Saturday, April 26th, from 6 to 9 p.m. For the first time the event will be held at Wing Warehouse, 7979 Broadview Rd. in Broadview Heights. The large restaurant, located just north of Wallings Rd., will provide ample space and parking for the size crowd which is expected.

The menu will consist of all-you-can-eat wings, pizza, salad, nachos & chips and desserts. “Well drinks” and soft drinks are also included in the price of admission.

Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is currently searching for a garden coordinator for the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden.

The coordinator is a part-time position which begins in May and ends in October. The applicant must be available to open the garden gates by 9 a.m. and close the gates at 8 p.m. The position averages 24 hours per week.

The job description is as follows:

- Coordinates and performs maintenance on the garden including such chores as grass cutting, pruning, and weed removal.
- Has experience with garden power tools such as riding mowers, front and rear rotor tillers, wood chipper, composting leaf chipper, chain saw, weed whacker.
- Provides assistance and support to the Garden Operating Committee in association with OB CDC.
- Coordinates volunteer groups for various chores including but not limited to the collection and delivery of donated produce to local hunger centers, grounds maintenance and site improvement.

The operating committee has been busy soliciting door prizes and items for the Chinese raffle. A $500 gift card and sideboards will run throughout the night. This year there will also be a “second chance” 50/50 raffle which will allow participants another chance for non-winning tickets to win.

Tickets are $20 in advance or $25 at the door. To purchase tickets contact Greg Noeth at 216-789-2086.

The proceeds from this event will go toward the purchase of necessary supplies and for maintenance of the five-acre neighborhood Garden. Everyone is welcome to attend, even those without a green thumb.

Old Brooklyn salutes leader & friend -- CPD’s Second District Commander

by Barbara Span

As a resident and the Safety Coordinator in Old Brooklyn, I want everyone to know how much Commander Sulzer will be missed. This community was honored to have him as its leader, friend and Commander.

Tears of a Cop

I have been where you fear to be
I have seen what you fear to see
I have done what you fear to do
All those things you ask of me?

Commander Keith Sulzer

As a resident and the Safety Coordinator in Old Brooklyn, I want everyone to know how much Commander Sulzer will be missed. This community was honored to have him as its leader, friend and Commander.

All these people I’ve been for you.

I am the one you lean upon
The one you cast your scorn upon
The one you bring your troubles to
All these people I’ve been for you.

Save

10% OFF any one-time initial service or 10% OFF any retail purchase

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

CEMETARY & MAUSOLEUMS

4700 Broadview Road, Cleveland, OH (216) 351-1476

Pre-Planning discounts are now available in our newest Mausoleum, the Sanctuary of Angels South.

We are currently offering 10% off niches and $1000 off double crypts in our new Mausoleum.

Interest Free Financing is available for 24 months with 20% down on Mausoleum Crypts.

Family Advisor Available for Consultation

Office Hours: M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-2, or by Appt.

www.BrooklynHeightsCemetery.com

SAVE

216-351-2106

4141 Pearl Rd.

1 block north of Broadview Rd.
Mass on Sunday, April 27th, at St. Barbara's
to celebrate canonization of Pope John Paul II

Roman Catholic Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Pope John Paul II a saint on Sunday, April 27th in Rome. St. Barbara Church, 1505 Denison Ave., will take note of the special bilingual Mass at 11 a.m. It will be consecrated by St. Barbara's pastor, Fr. Joseph Hilianski, and the celebrant of St. Barbara’s weekend Masses, Fr. Andrezej Panek. A procession with parishioners dressed in Polish costumes as well as prayers and presentations in both Polish and English will precede the Mass. Immediately after the Mass a choir from Columbus will perform, followed by a reception and refreshments in the Parish Hall. The Mass in honor of the canonization of Pope John Paul will also be promoted through social media as Cleveland's second Mass Mob. The first Cleveland Mass Mob (a take-off on the cash mobs which have been organized to support businesses and events) took place last month at St. Casimir Church. On the east side of Cleveland near Rockefeller Park. The crowd was estimated at almost 800 people.

Good thing that Easter is on the calendar late this year (April 20th). Maybe by then some spring flowers – other than crocus and snowdrops will be blooming; and the little girls won’t be shivering in their pretty, made-of-lightweight-fabrics Easter dresses.

Otherwise, as we get this issue of the newspaper ready for the printer, it seems as though the pendulum is swinging from one extreme to the other in our neighborhood.

On the one hand, there’s new energy in the air as we look forward to welcoming OBCDC’s new executive director, Jeffrey Verespej, on April 7th. Though I didn’t mention it in the article on page one which I wrote about him, it was also exciting for me to learn that his father is a writer.

That excitement/positive energy, however, was soon tempered by another reality – what it seems to be the forced resignation of the Commander of the Cleveland Police Department’s Second District, Keith Sulzer.

Because of her work with Crime Watch and the policemen who patrol our streets, OBCDC’s Outreach Manager Barb Spaan knows Commander Sulzer better than any of the rest of us in the office, and she has written a touching article about him. It appears on page 2 of this issue.

As Easter is first and foremost a religious holiday, I’ve been saving some church news for this month’s Town Crier.

Let’s start with news from the former pastor of St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, since the congregation held its last public worship service on Easter last year.

I have been wondering what “Pastor Jerry” Madasz had been doing this past year, and was able to ask him directly when I saw him at Joe Cannon’s 90th birthday party at Mary Queen of Heaven Church last month. Pastor Jerry agreed to email me a little report, knowing that I wanted to share the information with Old Brooklyn News readers who know him and/or read his column. Here’s what he wrote:

After being involved in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood for over 35 years as Pastor of St. Luke’s United Church of Christ (UCC), I have been approached by a number of people asking what I am doing now. My reply is that I am not retired, just taking it a little easier at this point.

Having been in Christian ministry in various capacities for 27 years, I serve as needed. I am an interim ministry program, available to provide consistent pastoral leadership to a church as it begins the search for a new permanent pastor, a process that can take months to a year or more.

In addition, I respond to calls for pulpits supply, a service offered to pastors who need a Sunday or two off for emergencies or vacation.

On Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. I currently lead a weekly Bible study group of former St. Luke’s members at Pearl Road United Methodist Church (entrance off Memphis at Pearl), a forum open to neighbors interested in increasing our understanding of lessons found in the Bible. I still visit former St. Luke’s parishioners in their homes who are unable to attend church, ministering and sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion as requested. When called by funeral homes, I also officiate at funerals.

As a member of the Elyria Magyar (Hungarian) UCC in Lorain County (in which I was confirmed many years ago), I serve that church as called upon.

Indeed, I miss Old Brooklyn, but try to maintain some contact. Thanks to the many folks who continue to inquire about me and for your positive response to my columns in The Old Brooklyn News over the years. I send my love and blessings to you!

I have Pastor Jerry’s permission to share his cell phone number – 216-408-7573 – and email address – pajar@earthlink.com – with you, in case you would like to contact him.

Easter is as much about Holy Week and the Resurrection (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) as it is about Sunday, and there will be services on those days throughout our neighborhood. I am confident that any congregation would be pleased to welcome guests.

For the third year in a row, Bishop Roger Griswold, OSB, will be the presider at the Holy Thursday Mass and washing of feet at Mary Queen of Peace (formerly Our Lady of Good Counsel) Church. It will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17th, and will probably last about an hour and a half.

Bishop Roger is officially retired now that the Vatican has accepted the letter he was required to submit when he turned 75 two years ago. But I don’t notice any lessening of his presence at events in the Diocese. Last month for instance, he was at St. Leo the Great Church to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on a few dozen young people there, and as has often been the case, he celebrated the St. Patrick’s Day Mass at St. Patrick Church on Bridge Ave.

Other ‘breaking’ news from Mary Queen of Peace is that the principal of the school, Jennifer Berardelli, will be leaving June 30th. It’s a bittersweet move, as she has secured a noteworthy new position as a regional assistant superintendent for Catholic schools with the Diocese of Cleveland’s Office of Catechetical Formation and Education. But because she was involved with events like Pop Up Pearl, OBCDC will miss having her in our neighborhood.

Other church (and student) news must wait till next month. Add yours to the list by emailing Lynnette@oldbrooklyn.com.

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists meeting, Sat., Apr. 12th, 10:30 am til noon, at Brooklyn Branch of Cleveland Public Library, 3706 Pearl Rd., to plan strategies for pragmatists - free zones, education and clean-up efforts.

Brooklyn Genealogy Club, usual meeting day/time (2 pm on third Sunday of month at Brooklyn Fire Station, 8400 Memphis Ave. at Roadside) falls on Easter Sunday. For information about alternate arrangements & group in general email Ann Wojtowicz, wojtowicz6809@roadrunner.com.

Brooklyn Historical Society, Wed., Apr. 30th, 7 pm, museum, 4442 Ridge Rd. Emilie Ilson will give entertaining & educational program about antique buttons. Call Barbara, 216-941-0160, for more info.

Laurel Garden Club of Brooklyn meeting, Tues., Apr. 8th, 7 pm. Brooklyn Fire Station, 8400 Memphis Ave., rear door. Speaker: Michael Bartunic of Rising Harvest Farm. All welcome. Call Barb, 216-671-6777, for more info.

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation board meeting, 6 pm, fourth Tues. of month. OBCDC meeting room, 2359 Brookview 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.

Old Brooklyn Crime Watch meeting - No meeting in April. Call Barb Spaan at 216-459-1000 for more info.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., April 15th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St. Cleveland Public Library, 3706 Pearl Rd. for their next meeting, 4th and 2nd Weds of the month, 7 pm, 1314 Dionis Ave.

Ward 13 Democratic Club meeting, Tues., April 15th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Good New furniture at low warehouse prices!

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Immediate delivery or pickup

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Case Western Reserve graduate, 1977

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APRIL 2014
OLD BROOKLYN NEWS
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Community Meetings
Where Did You Come From?

Heritage is like a shadow. You are not always aware of its presence but you cannot deny it is with you. So where did you come from? I mean were you born in the United States or did you emigrate from your birth land? And why are you in Greater Cleveland? If you are native-born, where did your ancestors come from and how long ago?

With the exception of Native Americans, everyone hales from somewhere else. The journey to Northeast Ohio began with someone (more likely, many someone) born in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific Islands and/or Central and South America. There are many reasons for departing a birth land but chances are there were no options, and that stress forced the move. Slavery, servitude, war, hunger, poverty, persecution and political exile were dominating factors for millions of immigrants who were finding their ways to America and eventually Cleveland.

After their arrival, for most immigrants the stress factors were converted to opportunities to improve their lives and raise families with hope and prosperity. What has changed today is that for highly skilled and educated people, emigration is a choice not a necessity. But for most people the same stress factors forcing people to emigrate exist today.

Immigration is the foundation of the American success story, and it is far from over for Cleveland. Global Cleveland, the non-profit corporation promoting population growth in Northeast Ohio, will soon launch an international campaign to recruit immigrants and transplants. Their stated goal is to attract 60,000 newcomers to Greater Cleveland by 2020.

Newcomers include immigrants, retaining graduates from area colleges, boomers (young people returning from elsewhere to the city of their upbringing), retirees seeking to be near their children, plus skilled and unskilled people who can live well at less cost than they can in larger urban markets. This growing population will attract new investment and new jobs.

The Global Cleveland web site, www.globecleveland.org, is the social media gateway to the Statue of Liberty. It is welcoming and easy to navigate. It posts and links to literally thousands of jobs in Northeast Ohio. It will match resumes to jobs and send employer information and updates to inquirers. It is open to all who live and work in the area as well as those interested in relocating. It provides links for all kinds of quality-of-life services including finding a home, locating places of worship, fraternal ethnic associations, education and training centers, neighborhood profiles and the list goes on.

Perhaps most importantly, the web site is being structured as a multilingual portal which allows the user, at the click of a mouse or swipe of a finger, to translate the entire site into any of forty-eight languages.

Imagine sitting in a village in a remote area of China, an island in the Indian Ocean, a school in Romania or a coffee shop in Argentina and learning about Cleveland in your native language. Imagine doing that with family or friends and then connecting with someone in Cleveland who is from your part of the world.

In the past that has not been part of the emigrants’ preparation for departing for America. Global Cleveland is changing that and that will change Cleveland and Northeast Ohio for the better.
Housing discrimination continues in Northeast Ohio. People often don’t report it because they don’t know that fair housing is a civil right and that there is help available.

**Who is protected?**
- Race/Color
- National Origin/Ancestry
- Sex
- Disability
- Religion
- Familial Status (the presence of children under the age of 18)
- Military Status

**What is prohibited?**

These actions are illegal if they are done because a person belongs to a protected class:

**Rental and sale of housing:**
- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting)
- Refuse to provide information regarding rental or sale

**Possible signs of discrimination**

Comments like these can be signs of housing discrimination:
- “Families with children can only live in the back of the complex.”
- “I will have to charge you a pet deposit for your dog.”
- “You don’t want to live in that neighborhood.”
- “We only rent to people who speak English.”

**Where to go for help:**

If you think you have been a victim of housing discrimination because of your race, national origin, religion, sex, color, familial status, disability, military status, ancestry, or any other reason, please contact the Housing Research & Advocacy Center at 216-361-9240. You can also contact the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 1-888-278-7101 or online at www.crc.ohio.gov, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-927-9275. HUD also offers assistance with reading and completing HUD forms through interpreters, tapes, and Braille materials.

**Free tax return preparation for qualifying taxpayers**


The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make $52,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites:**

Lin Omai Center, 3167 Fulton Rd, Ste 303, Cleveland, 216-961-9073, Spanish & English
Cleveland denies license to renew operations at Bradley Rd. landfill

by Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

In a letter dated March 18, 2014, the City of Cleveland informed attorneys for Landsong Environmental, Inc. that their application for renewal of a license to operate a Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) landfill was denied. Even though the landfill has not been active since 2006, there is a requirement to renew the license annually.

The 2013 renewal application was denied by the Cleveland Environmental Protection Department because the owner had not complied with a 2006 federal court order to correct certain violations at the site. It also ruled that the zoning variance which allowed C&D&D to operate had expired and that the operator could not apply for a new variance. Landsong Environmental, Inc. responded to this denial by not submitting its response to the City at this writing because word of the denial only became known to the Cleveland News on March 26th, just as this issue was going to print.


The Coney Company plans to open soon

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
ejayme@oldbrooklyn.com

Renovations are almost complete at the new The Coney Company, located in the former Arby’s at 3330 Detroit Rd. Bekim Sylaj and his brother, Becky Holmes, are co-owners; their father, Peter Sylaj, is a consultant as well as their inspiration. The Coney Company is based on the Coney Island concept which is big in Detroit, Michigan. The namesake of the business is the hordog (Coney Island, New York), but the Coney Dog itself was born in Detroit. The story is that over 70 years ago two brothers opened a Coney Island restaurant; they had a falling-out and subsequently operated competing restaurants next door to each other.

Since then, over 500 Coney Island restaurateurs have opened throughout Metro Detroit. The restaurants are independently owned and only loosely affiliated. Bekim explained what makes a Coney Island hot dog: “We use a Greek-style savory chili (no beans), hot dog with natural casing, and steamed buns.” A true Coney Dog is topped with chili, yellow mustard and diced white onions.

But don’t let the name fool you. The Coney Company will offer much more than hot dogs. Their menu will also include a large selection of burgers, hand-cut fries, sandwiches and salads (just to name a few), as well as a large assortment of breakfast items. The entire menu (including breakfast) will be available all day. You won’t find any microwave ovens or heat lamps at The Coney Company because all food is made from scratch. They do make food to order. For nights when you need to satisfy that 5 a.m. Polish Boy or Gyro fix, The Coney Company will have prepared breakfast items to be open 24 late hours. Some late nights will be drive-thru only, but the dining room will be open late weekends. Detroit natives, the Sylaj family of six relocated to Cleveland in 1987 when Peter was transferred from the Fisher plant in Detroit to the one in Twinsburg. Peter started the fam- ily on the Coney Company journey by opening a restaurant on the east side of Cleveland when Bekim and Becky were kids. They have been in the food business since they were staying in the restaurant business. Becky worked at the for- mer John Q’s Steakhouse and Bekim worked at the former Sam’s Steakhouse. Their dream was to open their own restaurant; when they found the

Presence of beneficial insects crucial to planet, ecology and humankind

by Gloria Ferris
Brooklyn Centre Naturalists

Anyone interested in the environment has probably heard that bees are being devastated by the use of chemical pesticides on farmland, that one fourth of the fruit and vegetable plants need to be pollinated by bees and insects to bear fruit and vegetables, and that the monarch butterfly population is crashing because milkweed, the only food that their caterpillars eat, is no longer plentiful by our world today.

Mowing, herbicide use, and the growth of phragmites stands (which push out native species by taking the available sunlight, water and soil nutrients) are all reasons that bee and butterfly populations are becoming scarce in suburban and farmland areas.

Fortunately there is good news. It appears that bees and insects can flourish in urban areas. Cleveland has not made any damage done to pollinators by chemicals done in farming areas can be restored by planting native plants on corners of urban lots as well as creating pocket parks in unlikely little places which act as sanctuar- ies for bees and other beneficial insects.

Recently when a group of Case Western Reserve University students were working on the Brooklyn Centre Naturalists “Forest Trail in the City” garden on W. 39th St. they found praying mantis cocoons attached to several branches— a sign of the coming of spring. In other areas, lots create a healthy environment for benefi- cial insects.

Seeding a vacant lot with clover, prairie black-eyed Susans, daisies and other color- ful flowers in a corner of an urban lot will attract and benefit bees and other beneficial insects to residents’ yards or on an unused corner along a road. Always consider adding milkweed to the mix.

Hoverflies will be one of the beneficial insects which may back-yard gardens. These flies and thus make them very beneficial to gardeners.

Humblebees love wildflowers and will pollinate tomatoes, beans, raspberries and blueberries and ensure bumper crops in urban gardens.

Turning the neighborhood into a National Wildlife Community, and therefore, creating a sanctuary for wildlife — a place where wild- flowers, bees, butterflies and birds can all thrive — will help everyone live healthier and add to the beauty of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists (BCN) are still working on getting Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn designated as a Certified National Wildlife Community. They need just 14 more ‘backyard habitats’ to put them over the top for certification by the National Wildlife Federation.

The names of everyone who joins now will be entered in a raffle to win a driveway a sunrise hardcover book by Martin and a copy of the BCN’s A Taste of All Seasons cookbook.

To find out more, visit www.uwf.org or con- tact Brooklyn Centre Naturalists by email at bcuniversalists@gmail.com or by phone at 216- 351-0254.

The former Arby’s is The Coney Company Bradv Rd. location, it was thought it was a good fit.

Bekim is a graduate of Ohio State University. Upon returning home from Columbus, he was surprised at how Cleveland had changed while he was away. “There was a renaissance within Cleveland neighborhoods including Tremont, Ohio City and, of course, Old Brooklyn. It’s great to see suburban folks starting to come back to the City,” he said. Then he added, “People in this neighbor- hood are so friendly and welcoming!” Bekim enjoys bikes and lives in Parma Heights with her husband and two children ages 2 and 5.

Bekim and Becky have been working on renovating the Old Arby’s location for the last few months and the interior has been complete- ly transformed. The wood used for the front counter and menu board is actual reclaimed wood from the original Coney Island Boardwalk. They also have a wall displaying old and new Coney Island postcards, some dat- ing back to the early 1900s. When there’s a break in the weather they will be able to get to work on the exterior of the building, and put in a patio, too.

The Coney Company hopes to be open for business in April or May and encourages everyone to watch for their grand opening specials.

Choosing native plants such as cornflower- ers, black-eyed Susans, daisies and other color- ful flowers in a corner of an urban lot will attract and benefit bees and other beneficial insects to residents’ yards or on an unused corner along a road. Always consider adding milkweed to the mix.

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Children’s Museum of Cleveland 10700 East Blvd. 216-721-2000 www.cmoh.org Glasshouse Explorations - Enjoy beauty & warmth of Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse through more during these daily scheduled activities - Meet & Greet the Animals in the Madagascar Rainforest - Tues., Sat., 11 am & 3 pm. Free with admission; no registration required.

Butterfly Release in the Costa Rica Biome - 2 pm daily based upon availability of hatched metamorphosis. Cost: $10-

Cleveland Botanical Garden 11030 East Blvd. 216-261-7200 www.cbgarden.org Free with admission; no registration required.

Bfiddley’s Woods’ Reservation Cordington Picnic Shelter 440-776-6660 Free with admission; no registration required.

Children’s Village 11030 E Blvd. 216-791-0300 www.childrensvillage.org Free with admission; no registration required.

Cleveland Metroparks Garfield Park Nature Center 3141 Broadway Ave. 216-341-3152 Egg Scavenger Hunt - March of April. Look in the nests of birds that have already been by this month. Look in & around the Center for hidden eggs of all shapes, colors & sizes. Stop in any time between 10 am - 3 pm to find eggs & learn about birds that lay them. After School Movie – Fri. 4th, 5 - 7 pm. Gather around big screen for fun cartoons. Be sure the family can enjoy. Don’t forget your popcorn.

Cleveland Metroparks Mill Stream Run Reservation - Strongsville Park Operations 4845 East Richland Road Valley Playway, west of Pearl Rd./I-42 Breakfast in the Park - Sun. Apr. 15th, 9 - 11 am. Hike along Rocky River to hot breakfast prepared by volunteers. WJ Green Lodge. Terrian moderate, 1 mile. Registration begins Apr. 1st.


Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Stewardship Center WestCreekReservation 2277 W. Ridgeway Dr. 440-887-1906 Spring Frogging – Sat. Apr. 26th, 2021 with group through entire program. Sleep in one of Cleveland's most diverse fields & play some pick-up base- ball using rules from the Park's softball regulations. Explore wetlands around Nature Center to learn about the waterfowl & fish that call them home. Registration begins Apr. 1st.


Overnight - Outback – Fri. Apr. 7th, 7 pm - Sat. Apr. 8th, 7 am. 10 years & over with adult. Feeding & learning sessions. In your own backyard. Fee: $3/person.

Cleveland Metroparks - Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation’s CanalWay/center E 49th St. Gate & Canal Ave Rd. 216-206-1000 or canalways@metroparks.org Hunt of the Month – Tues. Apr. 1st, Recycle Celebration. In celebration of Earth Day on Apr. 22nd there are 20 hidden recycle symbols throughout CanalWay/center. Stop by during the month to see how many you can find & take home. Fee: $3/person.

May 2014 Old Brooklyn News

THEATER EVENTS

Second Stage Theatre

Palace Theatre

Great Lakes Theatre at the Huntington Center

Outdoor Events

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**Senior Citizens Apartment**

**Brooklyn Presbyterian Church**
4308 Pearl Rd. 216-741-8331

Resale Shop - open to the public on 3rd. Sat. of month, 10 am - 2 pm. Used clothing, toys, household items, & limited furniture. Affordable hunch & small food pantry for emergency provisions. To donate items, contact Rev. Sheryl Swain.

**Music Program** for families & adults; guest musicians & choirs throughout the year. Get more info online at www.brooklynpc.org.

**The House of Glory**
237 West Broadview Rd. 216-661-2080


Cleveland Minutemen for Life Prayer Vigil 5 Sat., Apr. 5th, 8:30 am. Cleveland Village Center.

Parish Mission with the Fathers of Mercy - Sun., Apr. 6th - Thurs., Apr. 10th, 7 pm every night. Father Paul W. Hofford provided sermon soup supper, 6 pm; Marian Lounge.

Seniors Monthly Meeting & Luncheon - Wed., Apr. 10th, 11 am; Marian Lounge.

Pinchke Club - Thurs., Apr. 10th, 2 pm. Parish Center.

Sun Sunday Masses - Vigil, Sat., Apr. 12th, 4:30 pm; Sun., Apr. 13th, 8:30 & 11 am.

Men’s Prayer Group - Sat., Apr. 12th & 26th, 8:30 am. Parish Center.

Tuesdayevue - Mon., Apr. 14th, 7 pm; upper church.

School Stations of the Life of the Cross - Wed., Apr. 14th, 1:30 & 6:30 pm; upper church.

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper Thurs., Apr. 17th, 7 pm. upper church. Adoration continues until 11 pm.

Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion - Fri., Apr. 18th, 3 pm; upper church.

Solemn Stations of the Cross - Fri., Apr. 18th, 7 pm; upper church.

Blood of Food - Sat., Apr. 19th, noon; upper church.

**Valley Road Villa**

1 Bedroom $549 - $560
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Phone: 216-398-4430 TTY 800-750-7300 for more information

**Seniors Apartments** 62 & older

**Old Brooklyn News**

BAPTIST
Bethel Free Will Baptist Church 3354 Fulton Rd., 216-631-5199

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church 4600 State Rd. 216-749-7979

CHARISMATIC
Good News Ministry Church 3705 West 36th (W. 36th & Mapledale Ave.) Phone: 216-398-4319. Erin Green. Wednesday. 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., 216-661-8210

Gospel Christians Church 4780 W. 116th, Phone: 216-435-2335
Pastor: Will Rothenbusch
Sunday School: 10 am. Worship Service: 11 am.

**LUTHERAN**
Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church 4430 Edge Rd. Phone: 216-749-5555 Pastor: David W. Bennett. Sunday worship, Traditional service 9 am. Prance service 11 am. Sunday school, 10:30 am. www.lutheranonthehill.com/DMLChurch

Institute Of Divine Metaphysical Research 4200 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-398-6990 www.idmr.net

**Non-Denominational**
Church on the Summit 8870 Brookpark Rd., 216-741-5683
Pastors: Bill & Pam McKee
Sundays 10 am. All invited to know & experience God’s grace & truth in Jesus.

**Parish Mission** with the Fathers of Mercy - Sun., Apr. 6th - Thurs., Apr. 10th, 7 pm every night. Father Paul W. Hofford provided sermon soup supper, 6 pm; Marian Lounge.

**Senior Citizen Resources (SCR)**
Deaconess-Kraft 3100 Devonshire Ave. (Must be 60 & over) 216-749-5427

**SenatorNotes**

**Volunteer Drivers & Runners** - Need on Wheels Senior Citizen Resources need volunteers one day a week. Must be 50 & older from the Brooklyn residents. One hour timeframe between 10:45 & 11:45 am. All routes originate from 3100 Devonshire Ave. Call 216-749-5867, help or for more info.

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**

**SWEDENBORGEN**
Swedensborg Chapel 4815 Broadway Rd. Phone: 216-351-8093 Pastor: Rev. Nadine Cotton Sunday School: 11 am; Class Sun. 10 am. Weddings & Baptisms - 216-351-8093 A place to find love and acceptance.

**UNIFIED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**United Methodist**
Pearl Road Methodist Church 4200 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-661-5642 Pastor: Rev. Bohyun Yu Sunday Worship: 9:45 am. Free hunger meals 1st & 2nd Thurs., 6 pm & last Sun., 2 pm.
LANDSCAPING
BORO’S SPRINGTIME LAND CARE,
Spring clean-ups, weekly cuttings, re-seeding, fertilizing. Senior Discounts. As Old Brooklyn business. 216-642-8501 or 216-798-4364.


HEDGEMAN TRIMMING SERVICES. For all your trimming needs. We provide the following services. Free estimates, hedge trimming, edging, mulching, hedge landscaping, low cost. For spring clean-up call at 216-906-1963.

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HAULING - ALL TYPES. Garage demolition. Call Richard’s, 216-661-7608.

ELECTRICIAN


EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE
JOE OLDJA REPAIRS & REBUILDS - DEMOLITION/HAULING - no hazardous waste or other debris at City of Cleveland Division of Waste Collection Fees for the first 20 words, 25 for each additional word. Display Ads: $47.92 Commercial Rate: $16 for the first 20 words + $14 for each additional word.

KITCHENS
RITEWAY HOME KITCHEN AND BATH Remodeling Serving Old Brooklyn area for over 35 yrs.

Complete Bathrooms for as little as $4,900* (fiberglass tub/sha, toilet, vanity/basin, sink/42in cabinet’s)in addition To $12 per 1/2 x 5 ft. No lathe paint

Reface Your Kitchen in Formica

We are now expanding our tile & countertops to the exterior

Free estimates on: Reface hardware, siding, replacement doors / windows

3522 Henritze Ave. (216)351-5726 Free Estimates

FOR RENT

HELP WANTED
GARDEN COORDINATOR - Position available approx. 20 hrs a wk. at Ben Franklin Garden. Maintain grounds, maintenance of garden center. Send resumes to Old Brooklyn CDC, 2359 Broadway Rd., Cleve. OH 44109.

HELP WANTED
Beauty salon located in the Old Brooklyn comm- nity. Owner has been in operation over 1 year experience in manicuring and styling. Licensed professionals send resume to: attakeryjob@yahoo.com

WANTED
ELECTRICAL TOOLS, MATERIALS & ACCESSORIES WANTED - Any make or age. Cash paid for trains, accessories or parts. Lionel, American Flyer, Ives, Marx, etc. “Also buy Scout Items”; call 216-375-4426.

School registration information

Thursday, March 20th
City Hall
Kindergarten & Preschool Registration
Brooklyn Board of Education Office, 9200 Madison Rd., 10 am - 12 pm & 4 - 6 pm.

St. Leo the Great Preschool Registration
Located at 4940 Broadway Rd. on second floor of St. Leo the Great Community Center. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and operated according to mandated rules & regulations. Part-time & full time spots available with option for 1/2 day care & 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 Mershek, 216-661-5330, to schedule appointment or for more info.

St. Leo the Great Pré-School
Located at 4940 Broadway Rd. on second floor of St. Leo the Great Community Center. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and operated according to mandated rules & regulations. Full-time & part-time spots available with option for 1/2 day care & 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 Mershek, 216-661-5330, to schedule appointment or for more info.

St. Leo Kindergarten
Located at 4940 Broadway Rd. on second floor of St. Leo the Great Community Center. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and operated according to mandated rules & regulations. Full-time & part-time spots available with option for 1/2 day care & 3 & 4 year olds. To be eligible for enrollment, child must be 5 by August 31st or before school starts. All phases of kindergarten - social, emotional, physical, nutritional, sex education and any other special services. Call 216-661-2120 for 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 school services available; also daycare when school’s not in session, (inc. summer). FREE tuition possible for every family. Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program. School program includes technology instruction in new computer lab, enhanced learning through use of interactive Smart Boards, instrumental music & art instruction, CYO athletic options, & much more. Call 216-749-7890 or visit www.smhs.org for more info.

West Side Exememional Ministry (WSEM)
Enrollment for Early Childhood Education. Early Head Start, Head Start & Universal Pre-school 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. Children of several programs options & locations. Contact recruitment hotline, 216-961-2979, for more info.
In the meantime, I’ve been checking out local history books. But perhaps the biggest danger for anyone writing about history (or doing genealogy) is the temptation to use previously published materials as one’s source. What’s to say that the person who wrote the book or article did his/her ‘homework’ in terms of research? If they didn’t, or even if they did, ‘to err is human’. The result is that misinformation is promulgated in subsequent books, and the truth is further and further buried.

Primary materials are the better source for finding historical information, though old newspapers contain errors, too, as journalists often scurry to get their story together for daily publication. And even the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, as filled with facts as it is, had enough mistakes in it to publish an “Eratas” list shortly after the first edition came out in 1987. Nonetheless, when I’m writing an article, I like to refer to the Encyclopedia in my research. I find the maps of such topics as the ancient shorelines of Lake Erie; the annexation of different parts of the townships to the City of Cleveland; civil Subdivisions of Cuyahoga County; City of Cleveland wards in various decades; and a City of Cleveland ethnic settlement map circa 1923 to be especially helpful.

On the ethnic map, this neighborhood, as I already knew, was more German than anything, but it was also interesting to note the Jewish settlement off W. 25th St., just east of the Italian settlement around St. Rocco’s on Fairmount Rd. Given the Jewish cemeteries on Ridge Rd. just south of Denison Ave., that shouldn’t have been surprising.

The annexation map shows the years that the areas we now call Old Brooklyn joined the City of Cleveland. The 1905 date refers to just the ‘downtown’ area of Old Brooklyn (aka, the Village of South Brooklyn). The majority of the land was added in three separate annexations in 1915, 1916 and 1917.

The final annexation of what became Old Brooklyn was in 1927, when the part of Brooklyn Hts. around W. Schaaf Rd. voted to become part of the City of Cleveland.

Something I read in the Brooklyn Beacon published at the time of Brooklyn Centre’s bicentennial two years ago stated that 1867 was the year that they were annexed to the City of Cleveland. But that wasn’t primary material, so the search for truth continues...