Big Creek Connects celebrates ten years of vision and stewardship

by Bob Gardin
Executive Director, Big Creek Connects

Big Creek Connects, formerly Friends of Big Creek, will soon be celebrating its 10-year anniversary. After a comprehensive land use study was developed for the lower Big Creek valley, Friends of Big Creek was organized in 2005 to support recommendations of the study that included the development of a greenway and trail through the valley. The organization also sought to carry vision westward through the City of Brooklyn, and to act as the stewardship organization for the Big Creek watershed.

Big Creek drains approximately 39 square miles from all or part of seven communities, primarily Cleveland, Brooklyn, Parma, Parma Heights and Brook Park. These five communities are also part of the Big Creek Watershed.

Balanced Growth Partnership

The Balanced Growth Plan also identified over 150 sites throughout the watershed where retrofits of large parking lots, storm sewer outfalls and detention basins could be developed. BCC received funding to further assess and prioritize the sites through additional desktop analysis and performed field studies on the twenty highest-ranking sites.

Conceptual plans were developed for several of the most favorable sites including the Fern Hill Storm water Treatment Wetland Project. The project, located in the Fern Hill Picnic Area in the Big Creek Reservation, is designed to intercept a 36” storm water outlet to Big Creek which drains over 50 acres of residential neighborhoods. The storm water will be diverted into a created wetland which will capture, slow and infiltrate its flow and provide water quality treatment.

The City of Parma, in partnership with Big Creek Connects and Cleveland Metroparks, was awarded a $150,000 State grant to construct the wetland. Cleveland and Parma are also developing a number of other types of green infrastructure projects throughout the watershed, these will be reported in future articles.

Part of Big Creek Connects’ vision is to see a 6-1/2 mile greenway/trail system run continuously from the Cuyahoga River and Towpath Trail through the Zoo, Brookside and the City of Brooklyn to Brookpark Rd. and the Big Creek Reservation in Parma. To this end, BCC is taking a leadership role in the implementation of the Lower Big Creek (2008) and Brookpark (2009) greenway plans. However, gaps in both the plans led to the development of BCC’s Big Creek/7-11 Relocation & Restoration Initiative beginning in 2012.

The first phase of study for the initiative looks at a number of environmental, economic and community challenges and opportunities along the land area straddling the cities of Cleveland and Brooklyn. It seeks to address several deficiencies in the transportation infrastructure along a section of I-71 between the Fulton Rd. and Bellaire Rd. interchanges and their impacts both within and beyond the study area.

It looks at how the Creek running along the freeway could be returned to a more natural state. It also seeks to improve existing land uses adjacent to the area; increase their connectivity to the adjacent neighborhoods; and enhance the livability and economic vitality within the surrounding communities.

During I-71’s construction in the 1960s, the “Parma Freeway” was planned to combine with I-71 in a “weave-free, braided-type interchange”. In order to make room for this extensive infrastructure, the land above the natural meander of Big Creek was cut and leveled, the railroad line was moved southward, and Big Creek was placed in a concrete-lined channel parallel to it. A “drop structure” was constructed in Brookside Park to make up for the 26’ elevation difference due to the loss of the stream’s natural meander. The planned freeway alignment north to I-90 was eventually abandoned and left the Denison access ramps which remain to this day.

The study questions the value of this partial interchange. Instead, it proposes removing part of the ramps and opening up land which will allow the stream to be naturalized by re-routing it into much of its historic streambed, mitigating flooding and erosion, and allowing fish passage upstream into the Big Creek Reservation and other areas.

Concept plans were developed which propose the stream re-alignment along with expanded recreational space and a trail system which would connect Brookside Reservation and Big Creek Reservation to each other and to the surrounding communities.

Another concept plan adds a new I-71 interchange at Ridge Rd. to capitalize on its economic potential and ‘potential to divert truck traffic away from residential areas. It proposes that the interchange could help address issues related to urban sprawl and redirect investment into an urban core.

The study is scheduled for completion in late March. Earlier in the month, the City of Brooklyn, in partnership with the City of Cleveland and Big Creek Connects, applied for funding for further study which will solicit public input, assess economic impacts, perform traffic modeling, and develop a preferred plan with recommendations.

To learn more about these other projects in which Big Creek Connects is involved, visit www.bigcreekconnects.org or contact Bob Gardin, Executive Director, at 216-269-6472 or bgardin@bigcreekconnects.org.

Photos courtesy of Big Creek Connects

Images from the “Big Creek/I-71 Relocation & Restoration Initiative” show (left) a current image of Big Creek at its historic streambed, and (right) proposed improvements with a roadway and a paved path for pedestrians and bikers.
Allowed Scott to buy their second tent in exchange for a contract promising that he would repay the debt at some point. The two act as a yin and yang, providing a dynamic and a collective whole.

Soon the business had grown beyond what Scott’s grandmother had hoped, and they began to look for a home in Old Brooklyn. After driving around for a while, they both noted that it was small and uninspiring. Then they walked through the yard to find an enormous three-car garage with double-deep bays. Turning to Scott, Amy expressed her support for the home and their vision for their business in that location. The two moved in and began operating Everything Tented from their new home.

At this same time they grew their business to include rentals of chairs and tables, creating a one-stop shopping opportunity for customers. As such it was just a few months from the closing date before their new home was yet again too small. They made use of the space as best they could and continued to grow as a small business.

Amy recalls the generosity of the neighbors and friends who supported them: “We would host chair-cleaning parties — We ordered trash bags for the business to fill them up with.

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Mortified that he might be upsetting his neighbors, Scott quickly agreed to start hosting chair-cleaning parties — We ordered trash bags for the business to fill them up with.

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Years later the two met again when a mutual acquaintance brought them together for an evening out. The two spent the night together, talking, but did not recall that they had met earlier.

This first date, however, was a milestone in their history for more reasons than one; the next day Scott would be buying his first tent to start his own business. As they considered various suburbs but have slowly grown.

As they considered various suburbs but have slowly grown.

As the temperature rises in April, so does the level of activity and event planning throughout Old Brooklyn. We look forward to seeing you soon throughout the community.

The family sends their children to Old Brooklyn Community Elementary and Scott has just started coaching a team of family friends in the neighborhood. They consider the years they’ve built more than just a business in Old Brooklyn; they’ve built a complete life.

One thing that’s clear from conversations with families across the community is that Old Brooklyn is a place which makes people feel at home. Whenever they consider a larger space they have to think twice about what they’d leave behind: the neighborhood that they’ve lived in longest, the friends they have, the church they attend.

With these events, OBDC will support and grow the community through partnership with these events. This includes those listed above plus other programs including a family focused free and fun entertainment series. Featuring movies in the summer of 2015.

E-mail: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com

$1,090 (upper and lower)

By Jeffrey V. VeresepjJeff_v@oldbrooklyn.com


Events add emotions within each of us. The thought of them immediately generates a collection of images, sounds, and smells. They might recall the best or the worst of times. Whether causing sensory experiences good or bad, events are powerful, emotional, and physical constru...
Tuesday, April 7th

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society
Meeting at the Cleveland Police Museum, 7:30 pm. Speaker: Jerry Brown, retired from Cleveland Police Department. Topic: "Researching Your Family History." For more info, call 216-631-3412 or visit www.cuyahogavalleygenealogy.org.

Sunday, April 12th

Riverside Cemetery Easter Sunrise Service

Wednesday, April 15th

American Red Cross Blood Drive
at St. John's Lutheran Church, 11730 Broadway Ave., 3-7 pm. Music by: Polka Family from Penn. Snow Rd.) (accessible by elevator or stairs), 3 floor. Register @ redcrossblood.org. Free, but free parking. Glass seminars, table displays, free. Free parking. Glass seminars, table displays, free. Free parking. Glass seminars, table displays, free. By Fannie Flagg, "where personal concern has become a tradition." Email: fannieflagg@gmail.com. (Registering optional.)

Monday, April 13th

City Council Meeting
at 4401 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109, 216-661-4800 for more info.

Monday, April 13th

South Brooklyn Library
4303 Pearl 216-623-7067

Saturday, April 11th

FREE Tax Preparation Assistance - Sat., April 11th & 18th. Open to individuals filing all their tax returns for 2013, zero or low income. Call Karen Von Wolfe, 216-258-5560 or email tkweb9677@twc.com for more info.

抬头：CCEEMMEETTEERRYY

芭莎精品屋
地址：3607 Pearl Road @ I-71
邮编：44109
电话：216-661-0400

K&G’s Barber & Styling Salon
4547 Broadway Rd. at Growood

The Cleveland Orchestra
Broadway Slavic Village Neighborhood Residency
Fri., April 10th, 7:30 pm. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 3339 E. 53rd St. Sold Out.

Sun., April 19th; noon - 3 pm, "The Nash" - Slovenian National Hall, 3363 E. 80th St.

Mon., April 20th; 9:30 am, Warner Girls Leadership Academy, 8315 Jefferson Ave.

Sun., April 26th; noon, Elizabeth Baptist Church, 6114 Francis Ave.; Choral Celebration.

Fri., May 1st; 7 pm, Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland (Broadway Club), 6114 Broadway Ave. (Pre-concert activities begin at 6 pm.)

Sun., May 3rd; 11:30 am, Seven Roses Restaurant, 6301 Fleet Ave. Free tickets for the Family Concert available beginning April 17th at Broadway Club of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm; at University Settlement during school hours, & at Broadway Club of Music & the Arts, Sat., April 19th, 3-9 pm. Visit www.clevelandorchestra.org/salvifvgillage for details on how to pick up tickets at these loca-

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www.riversidecemtery.org
Another planting season at the Ben Franklin Community Garden (BFCG) is approaching, and it is gearing up for the annual Garden Fund Raiser on April 18th. It will be held at the Local Tavern, 5513 Pearl Rd. Tickets for this event are available by calling Greg North at 2986 or Sandra Worona at 459-1000, ext. 203.

The BFCG is also getting ready for the Garden Kick-Off Meeting on May 6th, at the Brooklyn Senior Center at 7727 Memphis Ave.

As the Committee prepares for these events, their thoughts also turn toward the hope of a bountiful garden of produce, flowers and friendships.

Ben Franklin has been in existence as a garden for about 90 years, and prior to that it was farmland. Clearly the land has been a source of nourishment to its caretakers for many years. It is important for Ben Franklin Gardeners, as the current stewards of the land, to consider ways to renew and revitalize it.

Exploring ways to renew the soil can lead to a more abundant harvest. Two important ways to improve the soil include an analysis of the soil to determine any nutrients which are lacking and/or deficient, and composting, an easy and accessible way to accomplish soil amendment.

While composting is probably the single most important way to improve the soil, the end, nutrient-poor soil will produce nutrient-poor compost and some of the same deficiencies will still be present. So it’s important to explore a balance of the two approaches for the best outcome in the long run.

When exploring what nutrients are needed to amend the soil, there are a couple of factors to keep in mind. First, there is a benefit to using natural soil amendments to benefit to using natural soil amendments to keep in mind. First, there is a need to add nutrients which are lacking and/or deficient, and second, there are a couple of ways to accomplish soil amendment. The BFCG Garden has explored what amendments might be helpful and will provide a rich and productive medium in which plants can grow.

This year the Ben Franklin Garden will analyze the nutrient content of the soil and explore what amendments might be helpful to the garden as a whole. The BFCG will provide the benefits of each gardener returning his/her own organic material from the plants grown back into his/her own garden plots.

Ben Franklin will not be having a community compost pile in which to place garden weeds or garden plants this year. Instead, each gardener will be encouraged to compost any plant material in his/her own individual plots. This can be done in a number of ways, but the easiest way is to pull young weeds and allow them to dry/wither in the Garden or to find a spot in the garden plot in which to bury weeds or withered plant material. At the end of the garden season it will also be most beneficial to reduce all remaining plant material (cut down to less than two feet) right on one’s own garden plot so it can be tilled into the soil for the next planting season.

Good stewards will ensure that the Garden will be productive for generations to come.

SCR volunteer of the month: David Cisco

Senior Citizen Resources’ (SCR) Volunteer of the Month for April is David Cisco. A three-year affiliate with SCR, David was first introduced to Meals on Wheels by Rev. Paul Hoff, pastor of St. James Lutheran Church. He has delivered Meals on Wheels to Crestview, Valley Road Villas, Villa and Spring Hill Villas, and currently delivers thirty to forty meals every other week.

Originally from Cleveland, David moved to Connecticut a few years ago and has worked as an owner and operator of a trucking company and drove the New England Coast. After being hit, he was divided between three and four different trucking companies, just to make ends meet.

“Around Thanksgiving time, we were very low on food,” David recalled, “and after getting turned down from other resources, we tried asking for help from a local church. We asked for a week’s worth of food, and they gave us two weeks’ worth.” The following week, I got a full-time job. By delivering meals now, I am paying it forward.”

An eleven-year retiree, David enjoys relaxing, attending Bible class and church, remodeling the house, and spending quality time with his wife, Jan. She serves as an inspiration to David, as she and Rev. Hoff welcomed him to come to church for the first time. Jan was involved with Cooking for Christ at St. James, and asked me to join her. “She has put up with me for fifty-one years, and that is not easy to do,” he added.

For a year and a half, David has been involved with the “Youth” at Unity Lutheran Church as a door guard and attendance taker. This job allows local students from 1st grade through high school to enjoy fun-filled events and Bible classes.

Each spring and summer, David and Jan take a “tent trip” each month. “One can get to Columbus, Toledo or Erie, Pennsylvania and back. There is always something new to see,” the frequent traveler said. The couple have been through forty-eight states.

Volunteers are a vital component of Senior Citizen Resources and SCR is thankful for them. SCR is in great need of additional Meals on Wheels volunteers. Anyone interested in making a difference in the community in this way should contact Kim Susk, 216-749-5367, ext. 1119.

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Senior Discount

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Cuyahoga County is
Four formations have
and in addition to its religious association with
Nature renews our seemingly dead landscapes
hang on for just a little longer till Mother
continue to scrape frost from our windshields
be happening in the near future. It's also
uations and our reporting of student news will
address and phone number.
Sandy at the Old Brooklyn Community
have confirmed that they are returning. Call
first-served basis, after the current gardeners
be provided. Ben Franklin also has rakes,
(e.g., beans, cucumbers, carrots, zucchini) will
teachers, cabbage) and some vegetable seeds
ber of free vegetable plants (e.g., tomatoes,
able to construct a church building, hall and
23rd St. and Broadview Rd. The parish was
initially celebrated Mass at Our
Foundation. The façade of St
Cleveland Restoration Society
has been reprinted, with permission, from the
St. Barbara Church gets special illumination
(With very slight alterations, this article has been reprinted, with permission, from the Winter, 2014 edition of Facade, a publication of The Cleveland Restoration Society. It was written by Michael Fluorom.)
In October of this year, The Cleveland Restoration Society completed its twenty first street lighting through the Reinhold Erickson Fund of The Cleveland Foundation. The façade of St Barbara’s Catholic Church is now beautifully illuminated at night. The church is located 1505 Denison Ave. in the Brooklyn Center/Archwood/Denison neigh-
borhood of Cleveland.
St. Barbara’s Parish was founded in 1905 by a small group of Polish Catholics living in Cleveland’s South Brooklyn neighborhood. The congregation initially celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and later at the fire house at W. 23rd St. and Broadway Rd. The parish was able to construct a church building, hall and
recorty. This campus, however was short lived and was forced to cease operations by fire in 1916. They soon built a wood frame church at the present location at W. 15th St. and Denison Ave. As St. Barbara’s congregation grew, this church was converted into a parish hall and the building of today’s church was constructed. The present brick building was completed in 1952.
St. Barbara’s was one of the churches closed by the Diocese of Cleveland during a diocesan process initiated in 2009, only to be reopened two years later by order of the Archbishop Vehr. We are very pleased to help make this lighting possible, to illuminate the pres-
ce of a growing parish working hard to revitalize their building and be a beacon of hope in the neighborhood. This church is especially visible on the Jennings Freeway by Steelyard Commons, highlighted repairers tower and cross, a statue of St. Barbara on the tower, and the front door of the church.

Oil and gas reserves have local history
long before there was Brooklyn Township
by George Mykhovsky
Guest Writer

Greater Clevelanders are aware of the geological beauty bestowed upon the area, such as Lake Erie and the adjoining bluffs on its south shore, the Cuyahoga River and its many tributaries, the ridges and intervening valleys of southern and central Cuyahoga County, northeastern Medina County, and northwestern Summit County, and the cliffs at Nelson’s Ledges and Hinkley. Not as well-known is the fact that geology played, and con-
continues to play, an important role in the econo-
mics of Greater Cleveland.

Nevertheless, it must be recognized that the salt and gyspum extracted from Whiskey Island by Cargill, Inc., the sand and gravel deposits dredged near the southern shore of Lake Erie in Lake and Ashtabula Counties, the Berea Sandstone quarried in Middleburg Heights and in Lorain County, and the thou-
sands of northeast Ohio oil and gas wells which have fueled Cleveland were essential to the area’s growth, so much so that Cleveland was one of the world’s industrial centers in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries.

Keeping this in mind is necessary to maintain a balanced perspective when consid-
ering proposals from the mineral extraction industries in the context of environmental, health, and safety concerns, which are often justified, and which have certainly grabbed their share of headlines. However, learning from the good and the bad of the past, is criti-
cal in plotting a successful economic future for the community. With significant reservoir depletion and considerable urbanization over the past one-hundred years, the role of the Cleveland Gas Field as a future energy source has greatly diminished. Therefore, currently the main focus is on establishing awareness of the potential hazards posed by unprugged or poorly plugged wells that are capable of seep-
ing gas, oil, and brine to the surface. The loca-
tion of many of these wells is imprecisely known, and these factors could lead to threats to the area’s environment and safety of its citi-
zens.

Geology
Structural Geology: Cuyahoga County is located on the northwestern flank of the Appalachian Basin, the dominant structural feature in eastern Ohio. The bedrock units dip (drouned) into the earth at a rate of about thir-
ty-five feet per mile to the southeast. Note that there are no mapped faults (fracture in the bedrock, with rocks offset on opposite sides of this fracture) in Brooklyn Township.

Producing formations: Four formations have produced hydrocarbons economically in Brooklyn Township. (When referred to collect-
crude oil and natural gas are known as “hydrocarbons”, the formations that contain hydrocarbons in economic quantities are known as “reservoirs” or “pay zones.”) With increasing depth, these are the Ohio Shale, the upper portion of the Big Lime Limestone, the (aka “Newburg”) Dolomite, and the Clinton Sandstone.

Wells in the township range from six-hundred feet to three-thousand seventy-
five feet deep, and tap reservoirs from the upper Devonian (three-hundred eighty million years ago) to the lower Silurian (four-hundred forty million years ago). The Trenton Limestone and Trempealeau Dolomite are potential future reservoirs, while they have not been productive in Brooklyn Township to-date, production has been obtained from both of these deeper reservoirs in adjacent counties.

Unconventional Sources: Oil and Gas Shales: For residents who look forward to, or are concerned about, oil and gas produc-
pies for bonanza-level reserves in the Utica and/or Marcellus Shales, put your hopes and concerns quietly to rest. Brooklyn Township is considerably outside of the theatre of drilling operations for both of these uncon-
tventional basins prospective basins. The nearest Utica Shale production is at least thirty miles to the southeast, while the Marcellus Shale produc-
tion is even more distant, being limited to a belt about thirty miles west of the Ohio River along the state’s boundary with southwestern Pennsylvania and the northwestern West Virginia. Furthermore, the geochemical reser-
voir parameters required for economical con-
centrations of oil and gas from shale forma-
tions are lacking in the Cleveland area.

See Oil & Gas page 12

St. Barbara Church gets special illumination

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Prize Pledges of: 216-749-7077
State Road
Ownership of Memphis Bakery seamlessly transfers to Chef Rochelle Courey

by Jason Powers  jasonp@oldbrooklyn.com

If you’ve stepped into Memphis Bakery in the last few weeks you may have noticed that something is different. The ceiling’s a little taller and the people greet you with bold black and red. But it’s what is going on behind those walls that really matters.

New owner Chef Rochelle Courey has taken over the local establishment with respect to its history while putting some exciting new additions into place. During 45 years under the ownership of Tony and Debbie DiDio, Memphis Bakery’s breads, pastries and cassette cakes became local and regional favorite. Rochelle remembers enjoying their baked goods when she was a child.

Growing up in North Royalton, Rochelle was surrounded by food and family. With all four of her great-grandmothers around to instruct, she found herself in the kitchen armed with a rolling pin and appetite as early as the age of two. As part of a family with Hungarian and Lebanese roots, there were plenty of flavor to enjoy and recipes to learn.

Rochelle attended Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, North Carolina where she earned degrees in Culinary and Pastry Arts as well as a bachelor’s in business. Upon graduating she opened her first business called: The Baker’s Joint.

“Growing up my father used to say, “Let’s hit that pizza joint” (or some other “joint”). It came to mean the best place for something to me and so I chose to use it for my first bakery,” Rochelle commented.

After three years Rochelle felt that it was time to return to Cleveland and be with her family. She started working at local bakeries and inquiring about opportunities to take over ownership. Eventually she turned to Memphis Bakery and its owner, whom she lovingly calls “Uncle Tony”.

Uncle Tony was not only a baker but also repaired and sold bakery equipment. And it’s obvious that he took good care of it all. The kitchen at Memphis Bakery has mixers and ovens which are older than the new chef but look brand new.

Tony sold and repaired high quality offerings. Rochelle recalls buying all of her major equipment for The Baker’s Joint from “Uncle Tony” and driving it all the way down to North Carolina.

It’s obvious from her history with the neighborhood and Memphis Bakery that Rochelle respects what has come before. The recipes will all stay the same on local favorites, and you won’t see too many changes in the store. Instead you’ll see seasonal editions, more varieties of breads and cakes and some new offerings of Mediterranean foods – a nod to her Lebanese roots.

“When I was in the South I was surprised that people hadn’t heard of hummus or fatayer [Lebanese savory pies]. I started selling them and they were big hits, Rochelle shared. Other new items include baba ghanoush, tabbouli and various Lebanese pastries.

The store on Memphis Ave. will continue to serve local and regional patrons as Rochelle looks to expand the commercial side of the business. Currently, Memphis Bakery provides clients with breads and pizza dough and is quickly moving into selling desserts commercially as well.

Starting her day before 5 a.m. and “married to the store”, there is only so much time in Rochelle’s day to bake and build the business, but already things are going well. Armed with experience, an oven that can bake 300 loaves at once, and her mother and grandmother in the kitchen, Chef Rochelle is ready to share her talent with Greater Cleveland and beyond.

Memphis Bakery is located at 6100 Memphis Ave. in Old Brooklyn. It’s open from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Applications due April 24th for Old Brooklyn business competition & entrepreneur training

by Rosemary Mudry  rosemarym@oldbrooklyn.com

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBDC) in partnership with Huntington Bank and the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) announced a small business grant competition and entrepreneur training program last month.

All entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply, both start-ups and expanding businesses. Eight to ten applicants will be selected to participate in a four - week entrepreneur training course offered by ECDI, culminating in a pitch competition. Winner(s) of the pitch competition will be awarded small grants and work with OBDC on securing leaseable space in the neighborhood.

Interested applicants should submit their complete application including 500 - word business pitch and business model canvas by April 24th at 5 p.m. Visit oldbrooklyn.com for more information or to download application materials. Questions may be directed to businesscompetition@oldbrooklyn.com.

40% Rebate for pre-approved renovations on eligible buildings.

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Graffiti is a form of vandalism

by Barb Spann  barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

Do you ever wonder what graffiti means and why someone would put it on someone else’s property? Why don’t they get caught or be seen?

These are all good questions about a negative action which occurs in Old Brooklyn almost once a week. Graffiti has become a way for some people to express themselves. It’s a form of art to them, and gang mark territory with it. It’s not nice for the rest of us to look at, and most importantly: it’s against the law.

People feel frightened, angry and/or sad when something is destroyed for no reason. Schools, businesses and communities spend millions of dollars each year to clean up graffiti, rebuild buildings and replace vandalized equipment.

If you see any graffiti or know who is doing it, please contact Barb at 216-459-1000. The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBDC) will document the graffiti with pictures and notify our graffiti volunteers of the location. He cleans or repairs jobs big and small. OBDC is looking for additional volunteers to help clean up a growing problem on our streets. If you would be interested in volunteering, contact Barb at the same phone number about that, too. Only together can we keep Old Brooklyn clear of graffiti.

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216-749-2121

Adam Cook

Photo by Jason Powers

OBDC executive director Jeff Veroepij and OBDC board president John Young remove new graffiti.

Photo by Jason Powers

When customers visit Memphis Bakery, they can be sure that Lisa Courcy (left) and Rochelle Courcy (right) will have shelves full of tantalizing bread and bakery ready for them to take home.

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By Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymes@oldbrooklyn.com

Successful setting up and maintaining a back yard garden

Types of Soil

There are three basic types of soil: sand, clay and loam. Sandy soil has lower levels of nutrients and doesn’t hold water. Clay soils can hold too much water and provide poor aeration for plants. Loam is the best type of soil for plants and is comprised of organic materials like compost, leaf mulch, etc. Clay is the most common type of soil in the Cleveland area. Amending clay soil can include adding some sand and organic materials.

Improving Soil

The recommended organic materials to improve soil include peat moss, compost, leaf mulch and aged manure. Manure should be aged or cured for at least a year before applying it to the garden; raw manure can contain too much nitrogen and “burn” or kill plants. The rule of thumb for applying organic materials is 25% per amount of soil. For example, a bucket of soil, one quarter of a bucket of organic materials should be added. Materials should be mixed well in a pitch fork or rake. Organic materials like compost or leaf humus should be added every few years to the garden.

Organic and Inorganic Fertilizers

Organic fertilizers are comprised of plant and animal waste. Inorganic fertilizers are comprised of chemicals. Common inorganic fertilizers include Miracle Grow and Osmocote. Inorganic fertilizers can be very effective, but a downside is that the chemicals can drain into local waterways.

Preparing the Garden

Wait until the ground is dry enough and warm enough to dig; often conditions are suitable to dig starting in mid-April, depending on rain. If the garden is covered with grass, remove the grass leaving one inch of soil on the roots. Try not to take more than an inch of grass, however. After the grass is removed, turn the soil approximately one foot deep using a shovel or tiller. Then dig in the needed nutrients and fertilizers and rake the area smooth for easier planting. In the Cleveland area, there is a risk of frost until May 15th, and frost will kill many plants. In addition, the soil needs to have warmed to 65-70 degrees for most seeds to germinate. A regular thermometer can be used and garden centers also sell special thermometers to test the soil temperature.

To cut down on weeding, consider putting down a weed blocking material before planting. The weed blocker can be held down with mulch or special staples. Cut holes or slots and plant the seeds or plants according to direction.

Planting the Garden

Plants and seeds packs have directions regarding spacing on their packaging. The spacing is important so that the sun reaches the plants, weeding and picking of the vegetables. Tomatoes generally need to be planted two feet apart.

Watering

A garden will need one inch of water per week, and the best time to water is in the early morning.

Words of Wisdom

At the end of the interview, John stated, “Mother Nature is pretty forgiving. If you don’t do it perfectly, it will be OK. Just follow the basics and don’t be intimidated. Gardener each have their own take on gardening. It’s OK to make individual choices.”

Raised Bed and Container Gardening

Like back yard or plot gardening, good soil is essential for raised bed and container gardening. Container soil probably needs to be enhanced annually with fertilizer, especially a nitrogen-rich fertilizer. Raised beds should be a minimum of twelve inches deep but can be deeper.

Tomatoes do well in containers which are at least three feet in diameter; they should be planted three feet apart in raised beds. Sweet and hot peppers need containers at least two feet in diameter. Vining and bush cucumbers do well in containers. Tom Sargent prefers picking varieties because they are not as big and heavy. However, pretty much any cucumber can be successfully grown in containers and raised beds.

For container gardening, the bottoms of containers should be perforated for drainage. Before watering container gardens, make sure it is necessary and water one to one half inches. Be careful to not over water containers, as over watering will damage the root system.

Due to the space these plants need to grow, few beans, tomatoes and corn do not do well in containers. Using containers which provide the minimum space needed allows plants to grow properly and prevents roots from becoming pot-bound.

Plot Gardening

Tom agreed that great soil is key to successful gardening and that weeding is important; many plants do not compete well with weeds. There are plants which can tolerate cooler soil including peas, cabbages, radishes, lettuce and onions. These can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked.
Brooklyn Township young men’s (and other ancestors’) lives impacted by Civil War, Part III

The 150th anniversary of the signing of the Confederates’ surrender at Appomattox Court House in Virginia which officially ended the American Civil War will take place on April 9th, and major Civil War observances in Cleveland will take place this month, too. They are detailed in the Lincoln at Cleveland 2015 box accompanying this article.

But speaking of “The New York Times” newspaper, a saga/souvenir commemoration of the Civil War only began in February, we’re still far from visiting the end of the War, and I believe in order to understand the effects which the Civil War had on our Cleveland ancestors, we’re following the path of one of Cleveland’s first—and most illustrious—regiments, the Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry (7th OVI). And up to this point, they’ve still been drilling, and haven’t reached a single battlefield yet.

A major reason that we’re able to closely follow the activities of this regiment is what was recorded about it early on. The first book, published in 1865 by James Miller in New York, is called The Seventh Regiment. A record. It was written by George L. Wood (1837-1867), a member of the 7th OVI’s Company D from Warren, Ohio. (Eventually he achieved the ranks of Captain and Major.)

Like other soldiers, Wood obviously kept a diary of the regiment’s activities which helped put together the 394 page account. Among the items which an online search of his name reveals is a letter from February 16th to July 14th, 1862.

The Seventh Regiment: A record is available as a reference book at Cuyahoga County Public Library’s Fairview Park location. It was published in 2008. I’d also elected John S. Casement from Painesville and William R. Creighton from Cleveland as the 7th OVI’s Colonel, Albert C. Burgess was elected as their Major. Lawrence Wilson was a member of the 7th OVI. Wilson’s regimental history is available as a reference book at Cuyahoga County Public Library’s Fairview Park location. It was written by Lawrence Wilson, another member of the 7th OVI. Published in 1907, it is called the Itinerary of the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Lawrence Wilson was also a member of Company D; eventually he became a First Sergeant.

As their second in command, Orrin Crane had actually owned an older hardcover copy of histories referenced in this month’s article. The aforementioned Orrin Crane had actually owned an older hardcover copy of histories referenced in this month’s article. The aforementioned Orrin Crane had actually owned an older hardcover copy of histories referenced in this month’s article.

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The boys in the Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry were on their way to rebel territory now. Their first experience of war will be in next month’s article.

(Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Michael Russo, Ph.D., one of my distant cousins—who, like me, is of the majority of them had done so; on June 16th the Regiment was reorganized. Many of the men/boys returned home on leave (furloughs) before being transported to the heart of the battle. Less than a month after arriving at Camp Dennison, three or four of them were already dead — one from drowning in the river and the others from inflammation of the lungs.

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Art House
3119 Denison Ave., 216-398-5556
www.arthouseinc.org

All Ages Family Fun Day - 3rd Sat. of every month; 1 - 3 pm. Class fee: Free. Each month has a different theme; make individual pieces or follow a project. Pre-registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration required. Visit website for other programs or more info.


"Terrorfic Tuesday" - Second Tues. eve. of month, 5 - 7:30 pm. Through April, 2015. Explore interactive hand-on exhibits as observed by normal museum hours for free or online.

5th Annual Royal Ball - Sat., Apr. 18th, 6 - 8 pm. Dress as favorite prince or princess for this regal party. Free play in museum & opportunities to make fancy tiaras, bejeweled scepters & more. For photos during “Meet & Greet” with FROZEN Princesses Elsa & Anna. Snow White, Princess Tiana, Rapunzel, Cinderella & Prince Charming. Light snacks & beverages provided. Pre-registration required. Tickets: $25; members, $25, non-members.

Jazz in the Park - Thurs., Apr. 23rd, 6 - 9 pm. Evening of music by solo jazz guitarist Victor Savage and his band.*$ Cool off in inclement weather; program will be held in Garfield Park Center.

Fun with Food - Sun., Apr. 26th, 2 - 3:30 pm. Every younger dancer’s dream is “Prep Chix” for an easy portion of simple meal. Learn about the food that comes from earth. Fee: $3. Call or go online to register.

Cleveland Metroparks Garfield Park Nature Center 11350 Broadway Ave. www.cmpl.org/explore/a-z-sites/11350

Meet & Greet Animals in Madagascar - Sun., Apr. 12th; 1 - 2 p.m. Must be at least 6 years old. Pre-registration required. Fee: $2 per 2 members. Register by phone or online.

Family Movie Night - "Charlotte’s Web" - Fri., Apr. 17th, 7 - 8:30 pm. Watch spider who can spell words in her webs. Snacks available for purchase or bring own. Call to register.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo 3900 West Midway Rd., 216-635-3801

Overnight - Outback after dark - Penguins & Pajamas - Sat., Apr. 18th, 10 pm - 6 am. Includes self-guided tour of Zoo’s animal habitats, viewing of performing penguins & a night-time animal encounter. Fee: $44 per person; $34 per child. Pre-registration required. Tickets: $20; members, $15; non-members.

Glasshouse Explorations - 3 & Botanical Garden members. Member child (3 - 12). Free for children under 3.

Critter Corner; beetle babies at mealworm feeding. For families with children ages 2 - 4.

Imaginative tea party in enchantment. Rain or shine.

Mon. - Cleveland’s supersized, superscience & - Tues. - Sat., 11 am & 2:30 pm; Sun., 11 am. Explore the warmth of Eleanor Armstrong Smith's legacy. Tickets for adults/seniors. Learn about eggs & hatched chrysalids; become space rockets. This full dome "movie" exists beyond Earth. This full dome movie is Rusty Rocket's Last Blast - Travel through Solar System with Rusty and his friends; they learn everything they need to know to become space rocks. This full dome "movie" plays hourly. Recommended for children ages 4 - 12.


Home Depot homedepotcrewhub.com/ksworkshops Learn to build bookcase - Fri., Apr. 7th, 9 am - noon. Workshops offered 1st Sat. of every month. Hands-on workshops designed for kids ages 5 - 12 at all Home Depot stores. Children must be present at store to participate at a table.


Lake Erie Nature & Science Center 28728 Wolf Rd. 440-871-2900 www.lensc.org

Open daily. 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: $10 - $29. Full Dome Children’s Feature Show: "Rusty Rocket's Last Blast" - Travel through Solar System with Rusty and his friends; they learn everything they need to know to become space rocks. This full dome "movie" plays hourly. Recommended for children ages 4 - 12.

Full Dome Feature Show: Space aliens - Join "aliens" "experts" Hopeful & Skeptical as they try to convince each other whether or not life exists beyond earth. This full dome movie is 30 minutes long. Recommended for pre-teen through adults. Fee: $5.

The Yo-ou-verse - For families with children ages Mon. - Fri., Sat. & Sun., 11 am - 5 pm. For inquisitive minds of preschool age. Recommended for ages 3 - 7.


Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage 22929 Richmond Rd. 216-933-2155

SUNDAY SERVICES

St. James Lutheran Church
4771 Broadway Rd. 216-351-6499
Sundays in April – Sunday School, 9 am; downstairs Stoops Hall. Children’s classes thru 8th grade invited to the Center about Jesus. Begin with breakfast & then go to classes. Call to enroll or for more info.

Two Good Friday Services
- Fri., 3rd; noon & 7:30 pm. Choir will sing at evening service. Also Temple service where we recount time Jesus was on the cross.

Easter Services - Sat., Apr. 4th; 6 pm & Sun., Apr. 5th; 8 & 10:30 am. Continental breakfast 9 - 10 am. Everyone will receive special memento of day. Everyone invited.

SENIOR NOTES

Senior Citizen Resources (SCR)
Deasness-Krafft 3108 Devonshire Ave.
(Must be 60 and over) 216-747-5367
(Free transportation, lunch & variety of activities)

Mondays: Ex-Eercise - 9 am; Chair Bowling - 10 am; WA-11 am; Canasta - 12:30 am.

Tuesdays: Crafts - 9:30 am; Crochet Group - 9:30 am; Chair Bowling - 10:30 am; Arm Chair Exercises - 10:30 pm; Ping Pong - 12:15 pm, Line Dancing - 1 pm.

Wednesdays: Ex-Eercise - 9 am; Trivia - 10 am; Chair Volleyball - 10:15 am; Fruit Bugs - 10:30 am; Canasta - 12:30 pm.

Thursdays: Crafts - 9:30 am; Chair Volleyball - 10 am; Horse Racing - 10:30 am. Fridays: Ex-Eercise - 9 am; Current Events - 10 am; Cost: 9 am - 10:30 am; WA - 11 am; Pinoche - 12:30 pm.

Free Groceries & Deliveries for Low Income Seniors - Low income seniors over 60 & individuals with mobility challenges living in Old Brooklyn or Brooklykn Centre may qualify for monthly delivery of free groceries from All Faiths Pantry. Call 216-496-4329 for more info.

Volunteer Drivers & Runners needed for Meals on Wheels
Senior Citizen Resources. We deliver Mon. - Fri. to Old Brooklyn residents. Call Kim Susak, 216-747-5367, with any questions.

Single Seniors Meetings
Zabor’s Community Center, 566 Pearl Rd.; 7 pm, 2nd & 4th Sun. of every month. Southwest widowed, divorced or separated Christian group. Make new friends. Call 440-888-3516 for more info.

Senior Living Guide
Provides professionals & consumers with comprehensive & current information about long term care resources & facilities. Distributed quarterly. To get a free copy, come to OBCOC office at 2339 Broadway Rd.

LITE and EZ exercise classes
Metro Health Senior Prime 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 doctor's 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.

LUTHERAN

St. James Lutheran Church
4771 Broadway Rd. 216-351-6499
Free Easter Sunday Meal (a meal seat of St. Augustine Hunger Center) - Sun., Apr. 5th, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, Parish Center cafeteria.
Mary Queen of Peace Seniors - Wed., Apr. 8th; lunch at noon with meeting & social to follow; lower chapel.
Meal’s Prayer Group - Sun., 11th & 25th, 8:30 pm; Parish Center.
Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Roxanne Bajus-Fitten - Sat., Apr. 11th, 5 - 8 pm; Parish Center cafeteria.
Divine Mercy Holy Hour & Reception Sun., Apr. 12th, 3 pm; upper church.
“Five Steps To Winning the War Within” presented by John Wood - Tues., Apr. 14th, 6:30 pm; upper church.

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HAULING - ALL TYPES. See ad on page 3. Alphabet, Concrete & Masonry Specializing in all types of concrete work. Fresh estimates free. See ad on page 9.

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HALDI’S LANDSCAPING - Experienced dependable, reasonable, quality lawn maintenance - Going on 30 yrs of servicing the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. Call 216-749-1623.

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

ISH’S LAWN CARE - Grass cutting, edging, weed trimming, Prices starting at $2.00. We also offer spring clean-up, senior & veteran discounts. Call Chris 440-667-5799.


PLUMBING AI AFFORDABLE PLUMBING. All plumbing problems. Water heaters, gas lines, sewers and drains. 216-688-1288.

SOUTH HILLS HARDWARE. Complete plumbing services. Hot water tanks installed. Rains cleaned. 216-749-2121.


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APPLIANCE REPAIR METRO APPLIANCE REPAIR. Low service charge, senior & military discounts. Washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators & dishwashers etc. All work guaranteed. Call 216-741-4334.
Blizzard brings out the best at SCR
by Jason Powers
jasonp@oldbrooklyn.com

Nearly one in six American seniors — or 8.8 million — are homebound due to health or mobility issues, according to the nonprofit group Senior Citizens Resources, Inc. (SCR) which works with seniors to ensure they have meals on some days — rain, snow, or shine.

In mid-February Cleveland experienced an overnight blizzard which brought more than ten inches of snow to the area; the massive precipitation coupled with limited plowing capacity made traveling nearly impossible. On a day when most businesses were closed and most people stayed home, SCR continued its program services and Meals on Wheels program.

As the morning went on, several of the volunteers called in reporting that they were unable to get out of their driveways. Two even described getting stuck on their way over. No matter their resolve, all but one of the volunteers who spend time delivering meals were unable to show up.

But it’s what they found as they made their deliveries that made this so special. The staff dropped their work and headed out to the streets of Old Brooklyn to make their deliveries. Encountering some of the worst conditions in years, one team’s van was immediately stuck in the mud. While the staff made every effort to deliver the meals, the driver spent his time digging out the van. Over the course of the next hour, the workers made it to the organization’s staff and explained that their deliveries that made this so special. The staff were humbled by the experience of reaching each of the seniors, that bit of conversation, interaction with blue ribbons everywhere in the neighborhood. We would love for your family to join us! South Brooklyn Branch of Cleveland Public Library, 4903 Pearl Rd. email: families@oldbrooklyn.com for more information

The Old Brooklyn Family Group is a group for families who live in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of Cleveland who want to improve the neighborhood and connect with other families. We meet monthly at various locations in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood to discuss and plan events and activities.

We welcome at various locations in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood to discuss and plan events and activities.

Old & Gas from page 5

Consequently, the multi-stage, high intensity fracking (highly controversial) involved in creating shale wells in order to produce hydro- carbons will not likely soon affect residents of our neighborhood.

Northeast Ohio: One of the Earliest Centuries of the Oil and Gas Industry in the Markets

It is common knowledge that Cleveland’s John D. Rockefeller, perhaps the wealthiest man who ever lived, with a net worth at its peak of $1 billion in today’s value, played among the most important roles in the growth of America’s oil and gas industry. However, Rockefeller’s focus was on oil refining, which was ushered in by the need for an alternative to whale oil, which had become too expensive to serve as a lighting fuel for the masses. Since the wells in Greater Cleveland are overwhelmingly gas-bearing, they provided only insignificant quantities of crude oil for Cleveland’s refineries. For the purposes of this article, the oil and gas industry is limited to drilling and production operations, and does not address refining, distribution, storage, or marketing.

“Pre-Record” Drilling of the Industry

Due to the lack of early drilling records and absence of regulation, much of the earliest drilling is unknown. The 1917 publication by G. Sherburne Rogers, cited in the References at page 6, describes the early days to the start of the industry with the discovery of the Cleveland Gas Field in 1912. (This publication is the primary historical reference for the Cleveland Gas Field). This field was dominated by wells drilled to the Clinton Sandstone and Lockport Dolomite. However, the abundance of wells with depths ranging from six-hundred feet to one-thousand one-hundred eighty feet indicates that there was a prominent episode, albeit unrecorded, of very shallow drilling to units within the Ohio Shale.

With increasing urbanization, the need to properly plug these drilled wells became apparent, primarily to ensure that seeping natural gas would not lead to explosions, and secondarily to eliminate contaminant pathways into the groundwater. Therefore, plugging of these “pre-record” wells started with the first recorded plugging of a verified Ohio Shale well in 1954. Shale wells were probably plugged much earlier, but the manner typically involved merely pouring wellfire cuttings and mud into the hole, with tree-branches (“brush plugs”) to top it off. Now the plugging of old Ohio Shale wells is an ongoing process, with the latest plugging of a “pre-record” well having taken place in 2007.

On a regional basis, shale wells along the south shore of Lake Erie were drilled from Lorain County eastward through the rest of Ohio, into northeastern Pennsylvania, and northeastern New York in the late 1800’s. Most of these wells supplied natural gas to farms, greenhouses, small factories, and sometimes to public and/or private institutions such as schools, churches, and hospitals. Virtually none, however, were capable of providing natural gas to larger industrial complexes, much less to transmission lines for large-scale residential supply. Despite the fact that many of the shale wells were long-lived, exceeding forty years of production, they were incapable of providing adequate volume of gas at a sufficiently high pressure.

To be continued...

About the Author: Consulting geologist George Mychalyshyn is a former resident of Old Brooklyn and graduate of James Ford Rhodes High School (class of 1973). He received his BS and MS degrees in Geology from Kent State in 1979 and 1981 respectively. In 34 years of experience in Ohio’s oil & gas and coal mining industries, and would like to come to the bicentennial of Old Brooklyn and the centennial of the discovery of the Cleveland Gas Field with this article.

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Once again Old Brooklyn will show our support to our Cleveland Police by displaying blue ribbons everywhere in the Police’s honor.

If you don’t have one, you can purchase a ribbon at Flowerama at 5401 Memphis Ave.

Please help us show our support to our Cleveland Police by displaying blue ribbons everywhere in the Police’s honor.

Explore Cleveland’s Old Brooklyn neighborhood by bicycle and experience some of the best of its local businesses and other points of interest.

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Pedal for Prizes is a grassroots event organized by an small group of neighborhood residents and merchants.