

# Old Brooklyn News

A Publication of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio www.oldbrooklyn.com April 2006, Volume 28 Number 2

## Through the years – Three decades of neighborhood improvements thanks to the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

by Lynette Filips  
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

What changes three decades have wrought! On October 10, 1975, the date that the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) was incorporated, Gerald Ford was the president of the United States, James Rhodes was the governor of Ohio and Ralph Perk was the mayor of Cleveland.

In 1975, the state of affairs in our city was bleak – a steadily declining population, many abandoned and/or deteriorating buildings, and major problems in the public school system. Businesses and industries were moving east, west and south, as far south as the “Sun Belt”. Hardly anyone ventured downtown, either for shopping or entertainment. Cracking Cleveland jokes was a national pastime.

Although Old Brooklyn wasn’t in the inner city, we were feeling the effects of living in an economically depressed area. Our once-grand theater in the center of our once-grand business district was showing pornographic movies. We had vacant storefronts, untidy sidewalks, disinterested landlords and discouraged merchants. We had far too much crime for a neighborhood once considered to be like living in the suburbs.

It’s been said that “when you’re at the bottom, the only way to go is up.” And thirty years ago, there were some signs of upward movement in Cleveland. The concept of historic preservation was catching on downtown, and the recently-formed Playhouse Square Association was staging

rounding Pearl and Broadview Roads, Rev. Elam Wiest, administrator of Deaconess-Krafft Center, and Rev. Robert Airhart II, pastor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, contacted John Young, owner of Speed Exterminating. Then, as now, the long-time family business was located just north of the Pearl-Broadview intersection; they hoped that John would be able to mobilize his business neighbors to work toward improving the community.

Rev. Wiest, Rev. Airhart and John Young spread the word among the other businesses and institutions near Pearl and Broadview that they wanted to see what they could accomplish collectively, and that they’d heard that government funds to finance their efforts were available.



The group began meeting on a regular basis in November, 1974.

Having these three men ally themselves for their common good was not the first time in recent decades that community leaders had banded together. In the 1950s and 1960s, businessmen formed the Old Brooklyn Merchant’s Association. And in the late 1960s, a number of residents joined together as the Southwest Taxpayers.

While many people assume that having the Broadvue Theatre in the center of our community was the impetus for founding the OBCDC, actually the theater wasn’t sold to

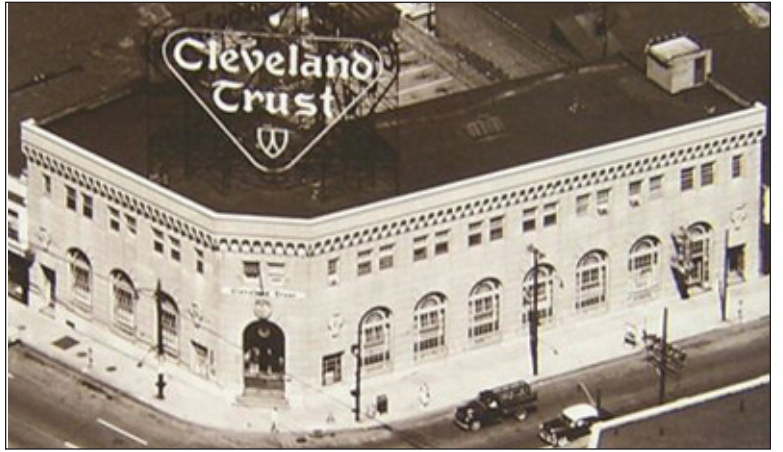
Lombardo, Richard Harmody and Ted Sliwa – encouraged the fledgling OBCDC. The group received special support from Deaconess Hospital (now closed), Cleveland Trust Bank (now USBank), Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, the Cleveland Zoological Garden (now the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo), Glenn Restaurant (now closed), Busch Funeral Home (now Busch Funeral and Crematory Services) and Broadview Savings and Loan Association (now Charter One Bank), many of whom allowed them to use their facilities for meetings. Most of the neighborhood’s churches strongly backed OBCDC’s efforts.

OBCDC’s name was the brainchild of Old Brooklyn resident Michael Loizos, who owned The Glenn Restaurant. Rev. Elam Wiest was the first executive director and John Young was the first president of the board. One of their initial efforts was to secure some of the \$16 million in federal block grant money which the City of Cleveland had available to neighborhoods. OBCDC also received \$5000 from the Greater Cleveland Growth Association (reportedly the only time that the association ever contributed to a local development corporation).



Judging from the earliest records we’ve been able to access, OBCDC was always located in some part of the bank building on the northeast corner of Pearl and Broadview Roads. A 1978 record says 4169 Pearl Road, “Room 200”, but in the 80s and 90s, OBCDC was in “Room 321” (on the third floor). In April, 2001, to be more accessible to the people it serves, OBCDC’s office moved to a vacant first-floor space around the corner at 3344 Broadview Road (the current location).

OBCDC is indebted to Cleveland Trust/Ameritrust/Star Bank/USBank for supplying them with this office space free of charge for all this time. Especially during the years when OBCDC received no funding



from the City of Cleveland, it is doubtful that the organization could have survived, were it not for the rent-free office space which the bank provided.

Two months before the OBCDC was incorporated, its board retained the services of students in Kent State University’s School of Architecture to study the primary business and commercial section of the community (the area around Pearl and Broadview Roads) and to consider the realities of keeping up a neighborhood with older housing.

In 1977, OBCDC hired the architectural firm of Henshaw, Hartt and Van Petten to help them evaluate and implement the recommendations in the Kent State study.

OBCDC, the architectural firm, and the library board also conferred on the design of the South Brooklyn branch of the Cleveland Public Library which opened in 1979. A Standard Oil gas station was on the land at the Pearl-State “Y” in previous times and the library was in a former bank building on Pearl Road at the corner of Henritze Avenue.

Cleaning up and beautifying the commercial strip was one of OBCDC’s early goals, so the new board provided trees, benches, receptacles for trash and planters for flowers in front of the businesses along Pearl and Broadview Roads.

Another of OBCDC’s early projects was sprucing up Foote Memorial Park (on the southwest end of the Brooklyn-Brighton Bridge at Wildlife Way).

Today the Metroparks tends the grounds, and OBCDC was instrumental in getting the land ultimately donated to the Zoo. It had



See Through the years page 4



performances in the old theaters it was hoping to restore. Greater Clevelanders had voted to increase the sales tax so that the Cleveland Transit System could become the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) and be eligible for federal funding. Development corporations had started to form in a few aging Cleveland neighborhoods.

In Old Brooklyn, a core of business and institutional people were working at revitalizing our part of the city, too. Motivated particularly by their concern about the area sur-

rounding Pearl and Broadview Roads, Rev. Elam Wiest, administrator of Deaconess-Krafft Center, and Rev. Robert Airhart II, pastor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, contacted John Young, owner of Speed Exterminating. Then, as now, the long-time family business was located just north of the Pearl-Broadview intersection; they hoped that John would be able to mobilize his business neighbors to work toward improving the community.

The area’s three councilmen – Joseph

## Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Diamond and Pearl 30th Anniversary

April 21, 2006 6:30 pm  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building  
For tickets call OBCDC 216-459-1000

\$50 individual/\$90 couple  
Ticket price includes:  
Food \* 2 Drinks \* Silent Auction  
\* 50/50 Raffle \* Live Music / DJ

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# Fighting dismal foreclosure rates: Buyer beware

by Sheila Long

Foreclosures are fast becoming the most serious problem facing the American homeowner, and Cleveland homeowners in particular. According to a recent study by Loan Performance, a California-based firm that gathers and analyzes data for the mortgage securities industries, Ohio had more housing loans in foreclosure in 2005 than any other state. Nearly 8 percent of all sub-prime loans and .96 percent of prime loans in Ohio were in foreclosure last year.

Sub-prime loans are often those loans given to first-time homebuyers or less creditworthy homebuyers. They carry higher interest rates, fees and additional costs as compared to the more "user-friendly" prime or "A" rated loans.

Cleveland, too, topped the list in this dubious category among major U.S. cities. In 2005, Cleveland's percentage of prime loans in foreclosure was 1.34 percent. In Cuyahoga County in 2005, some 12,000 foreclosures were filed with the Clerk of Courts; compare that to 1995, when 2,582 properties went into foreclosure.

Since the problem is so glaring, over the past three years, a plethora of major initiatives, studies, partnerships and programs have been or are in the process of being developed by government, citizen and housing advocacy organizations, and community development corporations throughout the state in an effort to stem this rising and dangerous tide. This article will be the first in a series concerning the complex issues that surround foreclosures.

Losing one's home is a heart-wrenching situation that many of our neighbors and friends are currently experiencing. Abandoned properties that are left in the wake of foreclosures decrease property values, increase criminal activity, decrease tax revenues for municipalities, and generally affect a neighborhood's sense of security and community. The home purchasing and the foreclosure process is often a mind-numbing and intimidating web of bank, mortgage company and legal "mumbo jumbo" that can cause the eyes of even the brightest homeowner to glaze over. This series will attempt to address many of these issues.

One positive and hopeful step in reversing these alarming statistics is the recent creation of the Foreclosure Prevention Program at the Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office. Created in October of 2005 by County Treasurer Jim Rokakis, the program is headed by Mark Wiseman, an attorney and long-time consumer advocate in Cleveland. On March 30, the Foreclosure Prevention Program officially launched its new campaign.

"There are two major components to the Foreclosure Prevention Program," said Wiseman. "One is to hook homeowners into a matrix of counseling agencies through United Way's 211 First Call for Help line. Wherever the borrower is in the homeowner process, whether they are in the purchase process or the foreclosure process or anywhere in between, they can call 211 and operators will send them to an appropriate agency depending on what their needs are. The other is an aggressive outreach and educational campaign." The 211 Help Line is up and running and ready to take your calls.

The educational and outreach campaign will involve neighborhood-based credit seminars including data systems whereby residents can come and find out their credit scores and receive information as to what their scores mean in the loan market. Unscrupulous lenders, according to Wiseman, are feeding off our ignorance of the process. In order to fight back, consumers in the housing market must become educated.

"Because interest rates are so low and because lenders all of a sudden have these alternative mortgage products, almost anyone can qualify," Wiseman explained. "Many of these lenders don't really care if the person can pay the loan back; they just want to be able to say 'we did a thousand loans this month.' Just because you qualify for a loan doesn't mean it's a good idea."

Wiseman and his hard-working crew of three employees are looking to launch their first neighborhood Credit Seminar in late spring of 2006.

For further inquiries, contact the **Foreclosure Prevention Program** 216-443-7461

# Sign-up time for Benjamin Franklin gardeners and prospective gardeners

by Tom Sargent

The gradually warming outside temperatures and the approaching opening day for baseball at Jacobs Field are gentle reminders that May 13, the scheduled start of the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden season is rapidly approaching.

Past gardeners are reminded to have their applications turned in by April 15, in order to insure that they can have the same plot(s) as last year. Applications from prospective gardeners are also being received, and plot assignments will be made after those above.

As mentioned in last month's Old Brooklyn News, there is a thirty dollar maintenance fee per plot. The Ohio State University Extension, under contract from the City of Cleveland's Summer Sprout program, will be providing a limited number of plants and seed free to gardeners. In addition, the Extension Service, thru Summer Sprout will make the arrangements for the plowing and tilling of the garden.

The plowing and tilling should be accomplished before the first week of May, after which, we will do the laying out of the individual gardens, and do the preparatory work necessary to meet the schedule opening of the garden.

Gardeners will be happy to know that the problems with the drainage have been addressed and that the facilities will once again be open and functional.

A general meeting for all gardeners will be held at the offices of The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation on the evening of May 2, 2006. A mailing will be sent to all gardeners from whom we have applications well before. Other people who might be interested in gardening at "Benji" are also invited.

For further information or to request an application, please call Tom Sargent or Sandy Worona at 216 459-1000.



# Working together "Concerned Citizens" change their name after 28 years.

by Timothy J. Kay

The Executive Committee of the Archwood Denison Concerned Citizens decided that it was time for a facelift, the kind of facelift that people could read. That's why they've unanimously voted to change their name to the Brooklyn Centre Community Association.

Julie Miragliotta, secretary of the association, said that the name change was an effort "to encompass more of the community." She said that under the Archwood Denison title, there were members who felt their neighborhoods and communities were not being included.

Founded in 1978 by longtime resident Gloria Janos, the Association has been committed to promoting historic preservation and neighborhood safety while also developing and highlighting the unique assets and opportunities available in the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood. (The neighborhood is

both a National Register and Cleveland Landmark Historic District.)

"It's neat to see all the people who have an interest in wanting to improve the community and make our neighborhoods better places," Julie said.

Over the years, the community association has been involved with many neighborhood projects and events. Their latest events include the Garden Tour and the Candlelight Christmas House Tour. They are also actively involved in such projects as the Steelyard Commons Project, the Fulton Road Bridge Project, research on the expansion of the inner belt, and the candidate debates for Cleveland City Council.

"It's a chance to bring people closer by working together," Julie explained.

Brooklyn Centre Community Association meets the fourth Thursday of the month at Archwood United Church of Christ. The meetings are free and open to the public.

## Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

MISSION STATEMENT: We are committed to uniting, engaging, and empowering the community to improve the economic vitality and quality of life within the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods.

Maribeth Feke, President  
Sue Randall-Alexander, Vice President  
Lisa Durst, Secretary  
Paul Kazmierczak, Treasurer

Jay Gardner, Executive Director  
Tom Collins, Commercial Program / ReStore Cleveland Manager  
Lori Peterson, Residential Program Manager  
Judith Pindell, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Susan Nieves, Operations Manager / Commercial Program Assistant  
Sandy Worona, Advertising & Sales Manager / Residential Program Assistant  
Debra Zeleny, Housing & Building Code Specialist

### Old Brooklyn News

Susan Nieves - Managing Editor  
Sandy Worona - Layout Editor  
Lynette Filips - This month's Copy Editor  
George Shuba - OBN Photographer

This month's OBN writers - Lynette Filips, Timothy Kay, Sheila Long, Tom Sargent

OBCDC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that serves the communities of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn-For more information regarding services and projects call 216-459-1000.

## OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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(216) 459-0135

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20,000 Copies home delivered!

www.oldbrooklyn.com

info@oldbrooklyn.com



### Submission Deadlines

Display Ads . . . Mon., April 17th  
Classified Ads . . . Wed., April 19th  
News Releases . . . Wed., April 19th  
For Information Call 216-459-0135  
E-mail: [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com)  
FAX NUMBER 216-459-1741

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Easter Hours

Monday  
April 10  
10am-2pm

Tues - Weds - Thurs - Fri  
April 11-12-13-14  
9am-6pm

Saturday  
April 15  
9am-2pm

## Easter Favorites

### \*Cottage Ham

make an easy one pot meal

### \*Fresh Kielbasi with Garlic

great with sauerkraut

### \*Fresh Pork Loin

make a traditional Easter meal

### \*Holiday Shaped Leberwurst Paté

our award-winning appetizer

### \*Sheffler Ham

fully cooked, just heat and serve

### \*Smokies & Jerky

award-winning treats for a snack on the go

Save \$5.00 on a 5# or larger  
**Sheffler Ham**

Coupon must be presented. Valid thru Apr 13, 2006.

Save \$1.00 per pound on  
**Fresh Kielbasi with garlic**

Coupon must be presented. Limit \$5.00 in savings. Valid thru Apr 13, 2006.

**NEWS NOTES**

**Common Grounds Coffee House**  
**Brooklyn Hts. UCC**  
**2005 W. Schaaf Rd. 216-741-2280**  
 Homemade soups & breads, deli sandwiches & salads, homemade desserts, sundaes, espressos, cappuccinos, smoothies & more.  
**Saturday evenings, 6:30 - 10 pm**  
**Saturday, April 8th**  
**"Silent Lion"**  
 Celtic music performed by this talented couple, using a variety of instruments.  
**Saturday, April 15th**  
**Closed for the Easter Holiday**  
**Saturday, April 22nd**  
**"The Harry James Show"**  
 "The Italian Cowboy" returns for an evening of fun entertainment, including a cowboy & cowgirl hat night contest.  
**Saturday, April 29th**  
**Closed this weekend due to a private party.**

**Monday, April 3rd**  
**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society**  
 Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Joseph Hornack, "Researching your Slovak Ancestor: Available Resources". What is available at the Slovak Institute Reference Library & resources available on the Internet. For more info, contact CVGS publicity director Barb Schworm, 440-526-5137, or email bschworm@aol.com.  
**Thursday, April 6th**

**Status of Fire Ladder Company 42**  
**Public Meeting**, Corpus Christi Church Hall, 5204 Northcliff Ave., 6:30 pm. Show your support for the Hook & Ladder Company #42, share your concerns for fire safety in your neighborhood & throughout the City of Cleveland. Meeting will be facilitated by Councilman Kevin Kelley (Ward 16), 216-351-7077; & Councilman Brian Cummins (Ward 15), 216-459-8400, in conjunction with the City of Cleveland Division of Fire & Department of Public Safety. Call the Ward 15 or 16 Council offices or OBCDC (216-459-1000) for further info.  
**April 7th - 9th**

**Lenten Retreat Schedule**  
**April 7 - 9, Men's Lenten Retreat - How I Live My Spirituality** - the retreat will be conducted by Fr. Clem Metzger, S.J., Charlie Clemens & Gary Pritts. Retreat begins with supper 6:15 Fri. & end Sun., morning by 10:30. Cost is \$145. For more info or reservations call, 440-884-9300. Web: jrhcleveland.org. Email: jrhcleveland@att.net

**Sunday, April 9th**  
**Family Fun Day/Open House**  
 Brooklyn Parma Co-op Preschool, 4308 Pearl Rd. Bring your 3-5 yr. olds from 12 - pm for arts, crafts, games & contests. Now enrolling for 2006-07 school year.  
**Sunday, April 9th - Thursday, April 13th**  
**Spring Used Book Sale**  
 Cleveland Public Library, 525 Superior Ave. thousands of books in a wide variety of categories will be offered to the public. Open to the public Sun., 1-5 pm & Mon., - Wed., 9 am - 6 pm. Thurs., a bag of books for \$4 from 9 am - 3 pm.  
**Monday, April 10**  
**Free Information Meeting**  
 Downtown Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Ave., room 218, 5 pm. "Plain Dealer protects its big advertisers, hospitals, by refusing to explain its refusal to publish meeting announcements about Cleveland City Council letting hospitals ban patients for any complaint." Call 216-221-2724 for more info. Sponsored by Ohio Patients Rights.  
**Wednesday, April 12th**  
**Fibromyalgia Support Group**  
 Brookpark Recreation Center, 17400 Holland Rd. Regular meeting, noon - 2 pm, second Wed. of month. For more info call Wendy, 440-572-2232.

**Saturday, April 15th**  
**Free Community Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Grace Church, 2503 Broadview (corner of W.28th & Broadview), 1 pm. Egg hunt, photos with Easter Bunny (bring camera), puppet show, story time, refreshments & fun. Kids ages 10 & under, accompanied by an adult. Call 216-661-8210 to reserve your spot.  
**Friday, May 5th**  
**"Real Men Cook"**  
**18th Annual Fundraiser**  
 Holiday Inn Select, City Centre, 1111 Lakeside Ave., 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Sample delicacies prepared by more than 100 area "chefs". Admission for the all-you can-eat gourmet lunchtime feast -- \$14 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. Group rate available for 10+. Richard Greer from WNWV FM 107.3 the Wave & Carolyn Carr of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens will emcee the event. All proceeds will benefit Women's Alliance for Recovery Services. For tickets or more info call 216-575-9120.  
**Saturday, May 13th**  
**Cleveland Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble**  
 St. Leo the Great Church, 4900 Broadview Rd. 7 pm. Sponsored by St. Leo Band Boosters. \$5 tickets can be purchased at the door or St. Leo rectory. Call 216-661-1006

**Volunteer Drivers & Runners Needed**  
**Deliver Meals On Wheels**  
 Senior Citizen Resources, Inc. Only 1 hour of your time between 10:45 am. & 12 noon, one day a week. Help bring a little sunshine into the lives of a homebound resident in the Old Brooklyn area. Call Rosemary, 216-749-5367.

**Monthly Preschool Classes at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**  
 Adventure Series classes designed for children ages 2 - 5 yrs. old. Classes meet once a week at the Zoo from 9:30 am. - 11:30 am. Three week session in April costs \$40 (\$36 for Zoo members). May four week session costs \$50 (\$45 for members) For more info or to register visit the Zoo's website at clemetzoo.com or call Zoo's Education Department at 216-635-3391.

**Leaf, Yard Trimmings, Disposal & Organic Soil**  
 GCEA-Cuyahoga Leaf Humus. Compost facility located at 16569 St. Clair Ave. GCEA accepts the following clean, source-separated yard trimmings (not mingled with trash) delivered to the compost facility. Leaves, yard trimmings, brush, grass, sod, wood chips, clean dirt, Christmas trees. For more info call 216-687-1266.

**St. Leo Preschool Registration**  
 Registration for St. Leo Preschool began Feb. 2 at the preschool, located in the parish Community Center, 4940 Broadview Rd. \$50 nonrefundable fee & a copy of the child's birth certificate are required at time of registration. The preschool offers programs for skill development & kindergarten readiness for three & four year old children. Children who are four years old by Sept. 30 attend classes Mon., Wed. & Fri. Children who are three years old by Sept. 30 attend classes Tues. & Thur. Class times are 8:15-10:45 am or 11:55 am-2:25 pm. For more info, call Jeanne Sabol, 216-661-5330.

**Live's Museums Guide**  
 Spring/Summer 2006 comprehensive listings calendar of shows & events. Supplement to Northern Ohio Live Magazine. Pick up a free copy at OBCDC, 3344 Broadview Rd.

**Rhodes Class of 76 Plans 30 Year Reunion**  
 Rhodes High School class of 76 is forming a committee to plan a 30 year reunion this fall. Anyone interested in helping to plan for this

event is invited to send an email to the group. Meeting planned for Sun., April 23rd. To volunteer or for more info. email rhodes76reunion@hotmail.com.

**Tremont History Project**  
 Interested in old photos, ethnic costumes, clothes, linens, books, flyers, household furniture, household items, decorations, toys, & any other memorabilia (most important are those prior to 1960) for display in a Tremont neighborhood museum. (Photos can be digitally scanned & then returned if your prefer). Also conducting oral histories. For more info., or to donate, call Eileen at 440-582-1192 or Mollie, 216-398-4559.

**Brooklyn Genealogy Club** meeting, Sun., April 23, 2 pm, Brooklyn branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 4480 Ridge Rd. Olive Gerber. "The Unique 103rd Ohio; Civil War Volunteer Infantry memorial Foundation/Museum". Refreshments served; prospective members welcome.

**Brooklyn Centre Community Association** (formerly Archwood Denison Concerned Citizens) monthly meeting, every fourth Thurs., April 27, 7 pm, Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave. For more info call Julie, 216-287-8195.

**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation** board meeting, Mon., Apr. 10, every Mon. of the month) 6-7:30 pm. OBCDC meeting room (3344 Broadview Rd., upstairs) Board meetings are open to the public for review & comments, but the board does reserve the right to close portions of the meeting from the public. Only board members have voting privileges.

**Second District Community Relations meeting**, every second Tues. of the month, Tues., April 11, 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

**Southwest Citizens Area Council** monthly meeting, 7 pm, Thurs., April 6, (every first Thurs.), YMCA lower level, 3881 Pearl Rd.

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

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**Denison Ave. Water Main Repair (between Pearl Rd. & W. 33rd. St.)**  
**Beginning 1st week of April and expected to be done 1st week of June.**

As part of their ongoing program to rehabilitate your water system, the Cleveland Division of Water routinely replaces deficient water mains throughout the City of Cleveland. Water main replacement is an important part of restoring the distribution system. The replacement of older water mains with newer water mains helps to restore fire protection and to improve water quality to your neighborhood. Full fire protection and water service will be provided throughout the project. Access to your home or building may be necessary a number of times during the project to do the following:

- \*install the temporary hose and/or to disconnect your meter, so water service may continue uninterrupted;
- \*installation of new service connections from the new water main to the curb stop;
- \*make the final removal of the bypass system.
- \*An authorized person carrying proper identification will call on you at these times.

**If a problem should occur, please call our 24-hr. emergency phone number at 664-3060**

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Where Easter Bunnies Go To Shop



**b. a. Sweetie candy company inc.**  
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 7480 Brookpark Road  
 Brooklyn, Ohio 44129-1104



	1-480	
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	X	
	Brookpark Rd.	

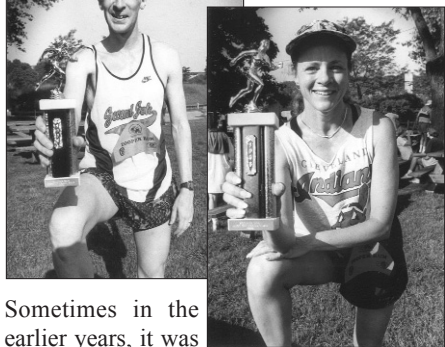
Between Best Buy & Super KMart

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS A WEEK**

Through the years from front page been neglected for a long time before OBCDC took on the property. The park was established in honor of the two Brooklyn teachers, Mabel Foote and Louise Wolf, who were murdered in Parma in the 1920s.

Long-time residents might remember the old Bowlodrome on Broadview Road just west of Pearl Road, where Arby's is located today. It wasn't rebuilt after it burned to the ground on January 19, 1976. Not wanting a vacant lot in the neighborhood, one of the architectural firm's recommendations was that OBCDC seek a redeveloper for the site. The fast food restaurant there now initially opened as a Wendy's.

OBCDC — at some point joined by the Brooklyn Kiwanis Club — began sponsoring the Zooper Run in summer of 1978.



Sometimes in the earlier years, it was held in conjunction with the neighborhood's "Home Days", "Summertime Festival", and "Community Pride" celebrations. Entrants from far beyond Old Brooklyn vied for the first place trophies for the man and the woman who completed the course through the Zoo first. There was also a shorter "Fun Run", probably added in later years. (As reported in the *Old Brooklyn News*, OBCDC's Community Pride Day at the Zoo continued through September, 1999, and the Zooper Run continued through June, 1999.)

In some ways, Senior Citizen Resources, Inc. (SCR) also owes its existence to OBCDC. Before SCR was incorporated, there was a smaller organization for Old Brooklyn seniors called Elder Lot, Inc. It

traces its beginnings to 1971 and the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Association's Crestview Estates.

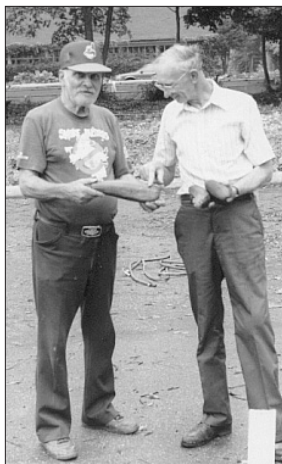
In 1977, Doris Schwab, the executive director of Crestview Center, began talking with the OBCDC board about having more opportunities for seniors here. The following year, the organization's congregate lunch program expanded to what became known as "Brighton Center" in Der Gross Dutchman Hall. Local businessman Jack



Amburgey owned the building, formerly the meeting place of the Odd Fellows, on "short" Broadview Road. There the lunches remained for two years until the Deaconess-Krafft Center opened in 1980.

Nineteen hundred and eighty was a good year in other respects, too. Vice President Walter Mondale spoke at the aforementioned Deaconess-Krafft dedication, Pearl Road was repaved, and in August, OBCDC (with the help of elected officials and the support of the Metroparks) arranged for the Cleveland Orchestra to perform at the Cleveland Zoo. The concert, held in the area which the African Savannah now occupies, was in conjunction with Old Brooklyn's "Home Days" week end.

After the classroom gardens at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School closed in 1980, they reopened as the Benjamin Franklin Community Gardens the following year. OBCDC has been actively involved in the administration of the garden ever since then.



There are approximately 220 plots in the garden, tended by approximately the same number of gardeners. (Some people have more than one plot; some people share a plot.) For approximately the last ten years, the Cuyahoga County Cooperative Extension Agency has maintained a demonstration garden at the Benjamin Franklin site.

Barney Kilian, who spearheaded the effort to convert the fallow school garden to a community garden, was the chief attendant there for approximately twenty years. Tom Sargent replaced Barney Kilian in 2001.

On an annual basis, in addition to what they've grown for their own needs, gardeners at Benjie have donated between two and four tons of fresh vegetables to Cleveland food pantries and kitchens.

Before OBCDC, there was no *Old Brooklyn News* (OBN). Realizing the necessity of keeping people informed and connected, in March, 1978 OBCDC began publishing *Old Brooklyn News Notes* (sometimes not much more than a flyer with ads, by today's OBN standards). For the first two years it wasn't published regularly and it wasn't delivered door-to-door in the beginning. OBCDC members had a copy mailed to them, and other residents had to pick one up at neighborhood drop spots (e.g., churches and some businesses). In 1980, the paper became



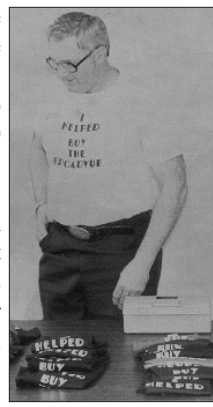
a bimonthly, and in 1981, it became a monthly. Its name was shortened to the *Old Brooklyn News* in May, 1981.

A book about Old Brooklyn was the other publishing effort the OBCDC undertook. They engaged the services of librarian Kathryn Gasior Wilmer to do the research and writing for it. *Old Brooklyn/New, Book 1* was published in 1979. It contained interviews with members of some of the oldest families of the community and also information about housing styles and the challenges related to restoring older homes.

Early on, it became obvious that the OBCDC needed to make ridding the neighborhood of the Broadvue Theatre one of its primary goals. But they didn't own the building so they couldn't evict the tenant, and even if they had owned it, the tenant was paying the rent on time.

Instead of picketing the Broadvue Theatre to harass the pornographic establishment into leaving, OBCDC convinced the community that the community should buy the building so that when the tenant's lease was up, they could choose not to renew it. Negotiating to purchase the Broadvue Theatre began in November, 1980. Deaconess Hospital, several churches and local businesses gave OBCDC the \$10,000 needed for the "option to buy".

Since the purchase price of the Broadvue Theatre was \$220,000, OBCDC had to come up with another \$210,000 to complete the deal. Rev. Hallie Francies, pastor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, and Fr. James Smith, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, (and after Fr. Smith went to the missions of Peru, Fr. William Eylar, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church) co-chaired the "Buy the Broadvue" campaign. See *Through the years* page 6



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Although it's officially spring, we're probably all still wishing for the winter of high gas bills to be behind us. For that matter, many of us are probably wishing for tax day to be behind us, too. But, we shouldn't wish our lives away, which is what that kind of thinking really is.

This month we'll split the information in this column between a nearby caring organization and our usual type of news. This time the organization is **Providence House**, a crisis nursery at 2037 West 32nd Street, just east of Fulton and Lorain Roads. Sister Hope Greener, C.S.J., founded the facility in 1981 to provide a safe haven for infants and children through age five who needed to be promptly removed from their family situations. Twenty-five years later, the organization is much more sophisticated than it was then; a former Old Brooklyn resident, **Natalie Leek-Nelson**, is its CEO.

Providence House is licensed to care for 26 children for up to 60 consecutive days. Eleven of those charges can be infants at the Leo's House facility on the west side of W. 32nd Street, and fifteen can be the older children in the Providence House facility on the east side of the same street. Eighty-six percent of the children are reunited with their parent/guardian within those 60 days.

Referral-based, Providence House works with nearly 40 social service agencies which have placed the children in their care.

Home situations which result in a child coming to Providence House include actual homelessness, poverty in general, addiction, mental and/or physical illness, and domestic violence.

Both a paid staff and trained volunteers care for the children at Providence House. In addition to food, shelter, playtime and cuddling, each child receives five sets of new clothing, pajamas, underwear, socks, shoes, a warm blanket, books, toys and a Teddy bear, all of which they take home with them when they leave. Diapers and formula, too, often go home with babies.

Providence House welcomes donations of a wide variety of infants' and children's items, plus food, household and office supplies, gift certificates and outing passes. Their "wish list" can be found on their website at [www.provhouse.org](http://www.provhouse.org). Details about volunteer opportunities and the requirements are also available at a different section of the same site.

Caring for the earth is another aspect of being a good person, and **Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ** has made it easier for residents of the South Hills area of Old Brooklyn to do that. In addition to the two big yellow and green Abitibi paper retrievers they've already had in their parking lot, they've also received a green and black recycling bin from the City of Cleveland.

The Abitibi bins are for newspaper, magazines and junk mail, and the City bin is for cardboard, glass, plastic with a 1 or 2 recycling code, and aluminum. Like the similar set-up at Estabrook Recreation Center on Fulton Road and at the Ridge Road Transfer Station, it's convenient, one-stop recycling. What makes the new bin from the City especially welcome is that it's located in a different part of our neighborhood than the others are. Access the bins from either the Broadview or the W. Schaaf Road entrances to the church's parking lot.

We received a letter from a former **Benjamin Franklin** student advising us of another opportunity to be a caring person. **Ted Michalakes** lives in Rhode Island now, but he, **Drew Carey** and another fellow named **Brian Riley** were good buddies at Benjie. Drew, as we know, is thriving, but

unfortunately Brian lost his life due to Hodgkin's Disease, and Ted himself has had Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Since his treatment, Ted has been managing to remain cancer free, and in appreciation of that, and in honor of Brian, he's trying to give something back to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thus he will be participating in a 100-mile motorcycle ride in Lake Tahoe on June 6, and he has already promised them that he will raise a set amount of money for the Society. If you would like to contribute or find out more details, check out his website at [www.active.com/donate/tntri/AmazingTed](http://www.active.com/donate/tntri/AmazingTed).

Looking for something fun to do with the kids during Easter break? Consider a trip down to the **Great Lakes Science Center** at 601 Erieside Avenue. Their three-month special exhibit, "**Grossology: The Impolite Science of the Human Body**" will be there until April 30. After that, it will pack up and move to Honolulu. The 10,000 square foot exhibit is so popular that even after four years of being on the road, it's already booked into 2009.

As the younger set knows, the exhibit is based on a book, **Grossology**, by Sylvia Branzei which was published in 2000. Both the exhibit and the book are filled with all kinds of fun facts about how the body works, most of which aren't discussed in polite company. But nothing is taboo at the Grossology exhibit! Kids love it, and adults will walk away with a lot of new knowledge, too.

The Great Lakes Science Center is open from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. seven days a week. Admission to the exhibit is free to members; otherwise, there is an additional \$3 per person charge over and above the regular price of admission.

Moving on to the commercial sector of our community, **The Sausage Shoppe**, 4501 Memphis Avenue, and the **Original Mattress Factory**, 4930 State Road, are two of thirty-one small businesses featured in a book which Greater Cleveland's Council of Small Enterprises (COSE) released last November. Entitled **Bedtime Stories for Entrepreneurs: Inspiring Stories from Clevelanders Who Found Success**, the book is entertaining as well as factual.

Our businessmen are in good company, as others establishments in the book include such well-known Cleveland companies as Catan's Bridal, Great Lakes Brewing Company, Heinen's, Malley's Chocolates and Pierre's Ice Cream. The softcover book was published by Great Lakes Publishing Co. and retails for \$13.95.

And while we're on the topic of **The Sausage Shoppe**, last year they received another award from the American Association of Meat Processors. This time it was for their beef jerky; they were the champion in the jerky-restructured class. Entries were judged on aroma, flavor, eye appeal, color and texture. The Sausage Shoppe was also featured in a very long article in the February 1, 2006 issue of the *Meat and Poultry* magazine.

Four-plus years ago, we missed mentioning in student news that **Roger Bundy**, who then lived on W. 13th Street, received a Juris Doctor degree from CSU's Marshall College of Law (at the end of 2001). After passing the Ohio bar exam the following year, he worked for a downtown litigation firm. Then in 2004, Roger became an independent "general practitioner" of law. Last September, he moved his practice to 4766 Broadview Road, in the renovated complex on the northwest corner of Oakpark Avenue. He and his growing family have also since moved, to South Hills Drive.

We welcome your submissions to this column. Send them to: Lynette Filipps, The Town Crier, c/o The Old Brooklyn News, 3344 Broadview Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

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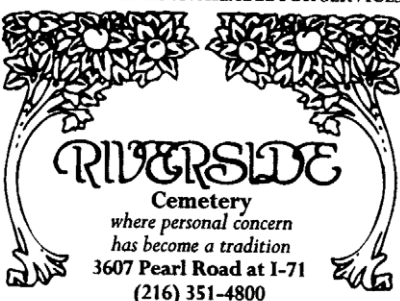
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## Metrohealth Request for Deaconess Artifacts

In its desire to continue the legacy of Deaconess Hospital in Old Brooklyn, Metrohealth Medical Center would like to fill a display cabinet with items relevant to Deaconess Hospital. Metrohealth has contacted the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn for such memorabilia. While the historical society does have a few relevant items, it now turns to the community to make this idea a reality. If you have any such items which you would be willing to donate for this display, please bring them to the:

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Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services  
In the community... for the community

**Through the years from page 4**

Some of the fundraising was conducted directly by OBCDC, but the vast majority of it was done by Old Brooklyn's churches. Group efforts included a pancake breakfast, a fish fry, a chicken dinner, a kielbasa and sauerkraut dinner, a ground sirloin dinner, numerous spaghetti dinners, a St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance, a square dance, a ballroom dance, a skating party, a flea market, a craft fair, a choir concert and bingo. Individuals, foundations, institutions and businesses also contributed cash directly.

Even in the beginning, all did not proceed smoothly, however; the group which operated the porn theater took OBCDC to court. But after OBCDC raised \$73,000, the Deaconess Foundation loaned them the additional \$156,000 they needed to buy the Broadvue complex — theater, bookstore, two taverns, two empty storefronts and a karate school upstairs.

The title for the Broadvue Theatre transferred to OBCDC on May 28, 1981. A victo-



ry party for the community was held the following month, in the parking lot of the Broadview Savings and Loan (now Charter One Bank). That was the joyous part of the event.

The other reality was that OBCDC now had a mortgage payment, plus taxes and utilities, and a rent payment to the family that owned the land on which the Broadvue was built. They would also have to spend an additional \$60,000 to renovate the building to make it rentable. Of course, no one was happy that because the tenants had a lease, the Broadvue remained a porn theater for three years after OBCDC purchased it.

Now aimed at paying off the mortgage, fundraisers for the Broadvue Theatre continued — more church dinners, a reverse raffle, a night at the races and a Mardi Gras dance. People in the community were also thinking



about how the building could be used once the porn movies were gone. Thus the Old Brooklyn Fine Arts Council, chaired by neighborhood volunteer Sally Hudgins, was organized as an adjunct of OBCDC.

An experienced director named Wayne Sisson proposed to OBCDC that a community theater group be organized immediately, and because OBCDC liked the idea, they provided the seed money that got the Old Brooklyn Community Theater (OBCT)

**'OLD BROOKLYN' COMMUNITY THEATRE**



rolling. At the time, it was the only non-professional theater group within the City limits. The pricing was reasonable — \$4 adult admission for a regular show, and \$5 for a musical; \$2.50 at first, then \$3 senior/student admission for a regular show, and \$4 for a musical.

OBCT's first play, *The Murder Room*, was presented in an upstairs room at St. Luke's United Church of Christ in December, 1981. St. Luke's became OBCT's home for the next three years. Other plays Wayne Sisson directed there that season were *The Gin Game* and *I Ought to be in Pictures*.

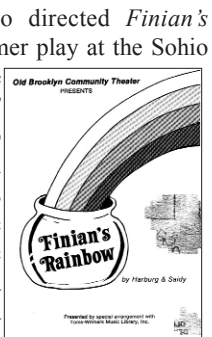
Wayne Sisson also directed *Finian's Rainbow*, OBCT's summer play at the Sohio Amphitheater at the Zoo. It cost OBCT approximately \$6000 to put on *Finian's*, which was part of OBCDC's eight-day Spring Frolic in 1982. (The Frolic also included a Memorial Day parade, a bike-a-thon, an historical walk, the dedication of the Ben Franklin Community Garden, a Miss Old Brooklyn contest, a dance, a cocktail party, a pancake breakfast, a white elephant sale, a raffle for a new car, a Zooper Run and Old Brooklyn Days — with reduced admission — to the Cleveland Zoo.)

Raising the money to produce *Finian's* was a real challenge for the young theater group. Program patrons provided most of the needed funds, with Deaconess Hospital, followed by National City Bank and Continental Federal Savings (now Dollar Bank) heading the area businesses and residents who supported the effort. OBCT also put on a fundraiser dinner called "Luncheon Is Served" at the Ampol Club.

For the 1982-83 season, OBCT had two different directors — Darryl Starnik who did *Man with a Plastic Sandwich* and Art Thomas who did *Done to Death*. Then Darryl did a double bill of two short plays, *Old Lady Shows her Medals* and *O'Flaherty VC*.

Meanwhile, getting back to the Broadvue, new expenses were coming in faster than the fundraising money was. OBCDC didn't always receive its rent payments on time, and the restaurant ultimately declared bankruptcy.

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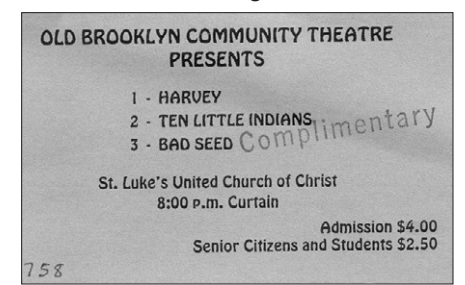
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OBCDC evicted the karate studio, only to discover the damage they'd done to the upstairs room.

To the disappointment of everyone involved, OBCT couldn't afford to stage a summer show at the Zoo in 1983; the cost was prohibitive, and one of the stipulations for using the Sohio Amphitheater was that no admission could be charged.



During OBCT's 1983-84 season, Frank Lucas directed *Harvey*, Laurel Hanks directed *Ten Little Indians* and Ronald Riegler directed *The Bad Seed*.

From March, 1983 through August, 1985, Irene Pavlyshyn, one of OBCT's volunteers, wrote a monthly column about the theater group called "Curtain's Up" in the *Old Brooklyn News*. It was discontinued when that era's OBN editor decided to periodically print feature stories about specific plays rather than run a regular theater column. OBCT also printed (and distributed for a fee) its own newsletter, *The Marquee*.

In summer, 1984, Art Thomas directed the musical *Carnival* at the Zoo. It cost over \$7000, and OBCT estimated that over 3000 people attended the six performances.



OBCDC volunteers (and hired hands) had been working on the second floor community room, and in March, 1984, OBCDC held its annual meeting there. Eventually OBCDC used the community room for the children's parties it sponsored, too.

The lease which the pornographic operation had with the Broadvue Theatre expired March 31, 1984, and they vacated the premises, as they'd promised they would. After they moved out, OBCDC and OBCT discovered that the theater was too filthy and the stage was too unstable to use. So OBCT volunteers fashioned a stage and seating for the audience in the upstairs community room.

Art Thomas directed the first show in the new location, a musical called *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Completing the 1984-85 season were *Born Yesterday* directed by Brian Rabinowitz and *Exit the Body* directed by Ray Fredman.

Volunteers were busy cleaning and haul-

ing trash out of the Broadvue Theatre, too — several 40-ton dumpsters of it. The Broadvue was no showplace when it reopened in June of 1984 with three laser light shows, but the community was happy to have it up and running.

OBCDC reopened the Broadvue as a family theater on September 14, 1984 with an affordable \$2 admission. They chose to show classic movies like *Cleopatra*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Gone with the Wind* and *Singin' in the Rain*. A science fiction film festival followed, but it was "not as successful as hoped". And that would turn out to be the bottom-line statement about virtually every event planned at the Broadvue Theatre.

Unfortunately, attendance at Old Brooklyn Community Theatre performances wasn't as high as they'd hoped, either, plus finances were becoming a major problem for them, too. Only two plays were presented during OBCT's 1985-86 season, neither of which was at the Sohio Amphitheater. The first was *Arsenic and Old Lace*, directed by



Laurel Hanks, and the second was *Blithe Spirit*, directed by Lenne Jacobs Snively.

At the end of 1986 and continuing into 1987, a successful run of "Broadville Nights" was staged at the Broadvue. These were vaudeville-type shows which gave up-and-coming performers a chance to be on stage.

Movies were operating at a loss, however, and in July of 1987, the OBCDC board reluctantly, but unanimously, voted to stop showing films at the Broadvue Theatre. OBCDC was growing more and more frantic as it found itself sinking deeper and deeper into a money pit. The boiler broke; the roof leaked. They began to explore alternative uses for the theater. What a roller-coaster ride it was! Every time an interesting possibility, including one from the Great Lakes Theater Festival, came up (and local architect John Rakauskas drew up the plans), it soon crumbled. Without income from rent, OBCDC was in big financial trouble.

Refusing to admit defeat, OBCDC decided to pursue purchasing the land on which the Broadvue Theatre stood. Board president Jack Amburgey approached Mayor George Voinovich and asked for his assistance. OBCDC received an \$80,000 grant from the George Gund Foundation, on December 30, 1988. For the first time since 1925, the land and the building on it were owned by the same party.

See *Through the years page 7*



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**Through the years from page 6**

As for the OBCT, because the theater in the community room lacked ambience, the climb up the outside stairs difficult for seniors, and the lack of parking difficult for all patrons, and because OBCDC wanted to find a permanent tenant to whom they could rent the community room on a permanent basis, rather than part-time like to OBCT, our neighborhood Thespians moved their productions to the Ampol Club. In spring of 1987, Lenne Jacobs Snively directed the *Odd Couple* at Ampol Club and in autumn Mark Suhajcik directed *Deathtrap*.

OBCT tried another approach to neighborhood theater in March, 1988, when they offered a "Who Done It? Mystery Dinner Theatre Party at Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ. For \$7, theater-goers were treated to a three-course meal and an evening of fun solving a mystery based on the clues presented to them.

In February, 1989, OBCT was back at the Ampol Club, with Lenne Jacobs Snively directing *God's Favorite*. In April and May, 1989, director Mark Suhajcik was scheduled to present *Catch Me if You Can* at Estabrook Recreation Center, but a strike by workers in the City's recreation department resulted in Estabrook being closed at the time the play was to have been presented.

Later that year, OBCT put on another play at Ampol Club. It wasn't the perfect location either, as it was expensive to rent, plus the noise from wedding receptions in adjoining rooms interfered with the plays.

In February, 1990, Judith Martin directed *Bus Stop* at the Ampol Club and in October of

the same year, Wayne Sisson was back, directing a double bill, *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lonestar*, again at Ampol Club. The stage was dark in 1991, and in 1992, OBCT officially disbanded.

During the years that it prospered, OBCT was blessed with a core of volunteers who helped select the plays the group presented, ushered, built sets, sewed costumes, found props, arranged rehearsals, designed programs, publicized plays, operated stage lights, provided refreshments and raised funds. While the following list is not all inclusive, it's important to also credit, in addition to the directors, the people who were most involved with the organization — Mollie Alstott, Steve Armbruster, Debi and Ruth Burens, Greg Cznadel, June Karlock, Diane Kasych, Mary Becky Kittleberger, Ann



Wayne Sisson was back, directing a double bill, *Laundry and Bourbon* and *Lonestar*, again at Ampol Club. The stage was dark in 1991, and in 1992, OBCT officially disbanded.



and Lee Kuczynski, Carol Lade, Norman Meyer, Irene Pavlynshyn, Denise Rooks and Ron Todys.

It's also gratifying to look through old playbills and realize how many people from Old Brooklyn had the opportunity to experience "the roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd" thanks to OBCT. Even Lutheran pastor and OBCDC board president Rev. Otto Herrig appeared on stage!

The situation was bleak for the Broadvue Theatre in the late Eighties, too. More plans/hopes for the Broadvue Theatre were dashed when not a single developer was interested in bidding on a plan to convert it into a mini-mall. Our elected officials, State representative Barbara Pringle and neighborhood councilmen Jim Rokakis and Pat O'Malley, were weary of being tapped for funds to keep the building afloat.

Because OBCDC was also behind in its payments of property taxes, in February, 1990, they received the inevitable letter that foreclosure proceedings had begun. Jack Amburgey, who was still president of OBCDC's board, asked George Saad, M.D., a doctor from Deaconess Hospital, who was also a developer, if he was interested in purchasing the property. Dr. Saad was interested, but only in tearing down the Broadvue and erecting a new building.

OBCDC called a community meeting at which Dr. Saad presented blueprints of his plan for the site; it was held in the meeting room at the Zoo. Shortly thereafter, on December 11, 1990, OBCDC trustees voted to sell the Broadvue Theatre to Dr. Saad for \$5000. He thereby assumed, among other debts, OBCDC's \$25,000 back tax bill and their \$85,000 loan from Ameritrust.

The Broadvue Theatre was demolished in 1992, and after a year went by, the building which now houses Family Dollar was erected. It was originally a Medic Drug store, and looked nothing like the plan on the blueprints Dr. Saad had presented at the community meeting.

In spite of OBCDC's inability to convert the Broadvue Theatre building into a community center, it did achieve its primary objective of buying the building and ridding our neighborhood of both a pornographic movie house and the pornographic bookstore, "Connoisseurs", which had opened in the storefront north of the theater in 1977. No other neighborhood organization in Cleveland can make the same claim.

A club for Old Brooklyn's women was also organized about the same time (early Eighties) that Old Brooklyn Community Theater was.

Although it, too, is no longer in existence, it also endured into the early Nineties and during its life provided pleasure for dozens of ladies.

The aforementioned Rev. Hallie Francies was the dynamic individual who organized the Women's Club. It met at Pearl Road United Methodist Church, where Rev. Francies was pastor. When the community room above the Broadvue Theatre became available, the meetings moved there. After the Broadvue Theatre was torn down, the club's meetings moved to The Glenn Restaurant.



In addition to their monthly (later, bi-monthly) meetings, several times the Women's Club engaged the services of Lollie the Trolley to take them on trips to special places around Cleveland and northeast Ohio.

If anyone can provide us with more information about this organization, we would be happy to hear from them.)

An historical society was organized one year after the community theater was, and it is still in existence today. In November, 1982, both an ad in the Old Brooklyn News and a flyer invited residents to a gathering at The Glenn Restaurant about the possibility of establishing a society. Sophia Loizos, wife of The Glenn's owner, was on the OBCDC board at the time, which is why the meeting was held there. The twenty people present agreed that they would like to form such a group, and decided to call themselves "The Old Brooklyn Area Historical Society". By the end of the meeting, Brian Guder was president of the new organization.

The group's first official meeting was January 13, 1983, in the meeting room of the Ameritrust building (above where OBCDC's office is today), a location other community groups were also using; that evening, eighteen additional members were added to the roster. The group continued to meet there on the second Thursday of the months during the school year, listening to a guest speaker and sharing their own knowledge about the area.

The community parade and festival at William Cullen Bryant School in June, 1983 was the first activity in which the historical society participated. Dressed in old-fashioned looking clothes, they had a booth at which they sold homemade bread.

**OLD BROOKLYN NEW**



**BOOK II**

About the same time, OBCDC asked Kathryn Gasior Wilmer to write a second book about our neighborhood, *Old Brooklyn/New, Book 2*. It focused on other aspects of the communi-

ty's history not included in the first book, particularly the area's churches which had stained glass windows. When it was published, OBCDC also reprinted a 1903 book, *Picturesque South Brooklyn Village*. (Ms. Wilmer, however, was not active with the historical society; she did her research under contract with OBCDC.) In 1984, the historical society moved its meetings to Pearl Road United Methodist Church, where many of the members belonged. The historical society was also required to change its name, because some people thought that "Old Brooklyn Area Historical Society" sounded too much like the neighboring "Brooklyn Historical Society" which had been incorporated in 1970. Old Brooklyn's historical society chose the "Four Corners Guild" as their new name, a reference to the Pearl-Broadview intersection around which Old Brooklyn developed; they were so incorporated in 1986.

The Four Corners Guild's fundraising activities at this time included yard sales, three years of raffling quilts which the ladies in the group quilted, and dances at which the drawings for the quilts were held. Their first dance, held at the American Legion Hall on Memphis Avenue, had a 1940s theme. The second dance, held at Brooklyn Heights Town Hall, had a 1950s theme. The third dance, also at Brooklyn Heights Town Hall, had a vintage in general theme.

Then the group of quilters decided that quilting was a too labor-intense way to raise funds. And the program chairman realized that finding a free or low-priced speaker every month was increasingly difficult. Beginning with September, 1988 year, the group decided to meet every other month. And they changed the meetings to Friday evenings, so as not to be on a work night. Shortly thereafter, they began to go on outings to places of historical interest in and around Cleveland.

In an effort to attract new members to the society, in March, 1990, Lynette Zieminski (the former name of the author of this article) wrote a story about Schaaf Road and its previously thriving greenhouse business in the *Old Brooklyn News*. The article was so well-received that other historical pieces have followed in the OBN every month since then.

To have a name more indicative of its mission, the Four Corners Guild officially became the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) in 1990. During the years that OBCDC sponsored a Community Pride Day at the Zoo, the HSOB set up a table display with old photos, maps and neighborhood memorabilia. They did the same thing when there were holiday open-houses at Richardson's Greenhouse. For a few years they put antiques and historical artifacts in the front window of Jim Rokakis' Ward 15 Council office on Pearl Road (next to today's Slices.) They stopped the latter practice because people were repeatedly coming into the office wanting to buy them!

*See Through the years page 10*

**Attention Area Merchants:**  
**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary on April 21st.**

**We are accepting donations from area merchants for the silent auction that will be held at the event.**

**This is a great way to showcase our neighborhood and your business before a citywide crowd.**

**Your donation will get you recognition in our program and potential new customer base.**

OBCDC is an independent, not for profit with organization with a 501 c (3) status. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information contact Lori Peterson at (216) 459-1000.

**Thank you in advance for making this fund-raiser a success.**

**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation**  
**Diamond and Pearl 30th Anniversary**

**April 21, 2006 6:30 pm**  
**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**  
**Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building**  
**For tickets call OBCDC 216-459-1000**

**\$50 individual/\$90 couple**  
**Ticket price includes:**  
**Food \* 2 Drinks \* Silent Auction**  
**\* 50/50 Raffle \* Live Music / DJ**



By Tom Collins  
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

**Business ambiance —  
Make the customer feel welcome**

Shopping is not my favorite thing to do. With the exception of hardware stores and book stores, I generally put off shopping until it is necessary. Once I find a store that provides what I like, I tend to return, that is, if it was a pleasant experience. I do not start out looking for a pleasant experience; I start out looking for whatever the product is that I want. However, if the pleasant experience does not develop, then I forego the purchase and look again.

The holiday season is a challenge. While many consumers love the malls, with all their decorations, music, entertainment and products unlimited, I find parking-lot-chaos, crowds, noise, food-court-purgatory and kids who just want to escape crabby parents. So, I seek the smaller independent shops.

The current consumer attraction is town centers or life style centers. Suburbs are gushing over developers who will build

the old downtown look in the middle of a multi-acre parking lot while we in the city work to prove we have the real downtowns, neighborhoods and character which can come to life with the same investment that is now used to gobble up green space.

Observing is learning when it comes to watching consumer behavior in these larger shopping palaces. What I observe is that the amenities are what bring the customer through the door. Personal recognition is what makes the customer comfortable. Price and value consummate the purchase. This is a complicated dynamic.

The more successful stores have several things in common. They spend a lot of money to capture customers' attention, but it is built on basics — First, the windows are clean, clean from top to bottom, and well-lighted on the inside. Second, the windows are not cluttered. There is a focus item or items, some smaller complementary items and an open view of the interior of the store. What a customer can see beyond the focus item is people. The subliminal message is that there are people inside doing something, and I should go inside and see what it is.

The wise shop owner knows that this is the critical moment. Acknowledge the customer, say hello, say welcome, put something in the hand. Do something so that the customer looks at you and you have established that they are welcome.

There is a quiet tension at this point while both the customer and shop owner assess their next move. Does the shop owner mention a special product, sale item or offer personal assistance? Does the customer state what he or she is looking for, ask about a specific product or pull back by saying "I'm just looking". This is going to establish the relationship until an interest is expressed in an actual product.

Will the customer stay, will the cus-

tomter leave, has enough been communicated that the customer is comfortable and will stay to browse? All this must take place in less than two minutes unless the store is busy enough that the customer is comfortable being anonymous for the present.

Let us bring this back to the neighborhood shops. In many of our local shops the amenities are lacking. Take a lesson from the new town centers. Open up the view, make your window interesting and the interior visible. Let people see you.

The local shop excels at communication, that is, once the customer enters. Easy conversation flows and the customer knows he or she is welcome, even if a purchase is not made on this visit. Now there is a bonus for both parties. The customer knows the shopkeeper well enough to return and the customer will tell others about this fabulous shop with the nice people.

Life style centers turn over personnel frequently and are dependent upon volume. Even return customers must start this dance all over if the sales staff are not familiar or do not remember the return customer. Neighborhood shops have much less turnover, higher customer recognition and personal service that the shopping centers cannot match. Let us improve on the amenities and grow that welcome spirit.

**ReStore Cleveland**  
*Progress for the Commercial Districts of*  
**Old Brooklyn & Brooklyn Centre**

For more information contact Tom Collins,  
OBCDC Commercial Program Manager,  
216-459-1000, [tomc@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:tomc@oldbrooklyn.com).

Supported by:  
Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition  
Ohio & Erie Canal Association

**Rolling shutters**  
Recently rolling shutters have appeared on three storefronts in Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre. If you are a business owner considering installing rolling shutters please remember several things.  
First, a city of Cleveland building permit must be obtained. Your contractor may neglect to tell you this but you will be cited if you install rolling shutters without the permit. The business owner or building owner is responsible for having the building permit.  
Second, all of the Pearl Road corridor and most of the Broadview Road corridor are designated in either the Cleveland Landmarks Brooklyn Centre Historic District or the Old Brooklyn Business Revitalization District. This designation requires that all exterior changes to a building or parking lot be presented to the appropriate local design and review committee for approval. This includes rolling shutters.  
There are alternatives to rolling shutters that provide the desired security and are not visibly offensive. For more information call Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, 216-459-1000 and ask for the Commercial Manager.

**THEATRE NOTES**

**Near West Theater**  
St. Patrick's Club Building, W. 38th & Bridge Ave., Ohio City 216-961-6391.  
[www.nearwesttheatre.org](http://www.nearwesttheatre.org)

**"Chess."**  
May 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20 & 21; Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 7:30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm. Tickets, \$6.

**Paul W. Cassidy Theatre**  
6200 Pearl Rd. 440-842-4600

**"Anna in the Tropics"**  
April 28 - May 4. Fri. & Sat. 8 pm., Sun. 3 pm. \$14, adults; \$13, seniors & students age 10 and over. Call 440-842-4600 for info & reservations.



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 <p><b>Country in the City Parma \$152,000</b> 1.5 acres. 3 bdrm. 2 full bath Ranch with attached 2 car garage. Newer roof &amp; gutters. Full finished basement with summer kitchen, rec. rm. &amp; full bath. 1st fl. family rm. with Pergo flooring. Sliding glass doors to patio. <b>Laurene Marquez 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>Spectacular Colonial Cleveland \$129,900</b> 3bdrm., 2 full baths, aluminum sided Colonial, remodeled kit w/ceramic tiles, updated electric, newer windows, C/A rebuilt front porch, finished basement w/4th bdrm. &amp; glass block windows. Fenced in yard. 2.5 car garage. #4155 <b>Ralph Lozada 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Beautiful Split Level Parma \$160's</b> Very nice updated home with 4 bdrms., 2 full baths, hardwood &amp; marble flrs. Walk-out basement &amp; large deck. Newer roof &amp; siding. fenced-in-backyard with park-like setting. Close to shopping. Immediate occupancy. <b>Tom Eckert 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>Great House Move In Cleveland \$97,850</b> 3 bdrms, newer windows, newer appliances, newer furnace. Kitchen is newer and very clean. Full basement. 1 car garage. Just move in and do nothing. #4166 <b>Ana-Mari Palali 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Home With Large Lot! Old Brooklyn \$89,000</b> 3 bedroom Colonial with front porch that faces 33 acre Loew Park! Features hardwood flooring, formal dining room with built-in china cabinets &amp; living room with fireplace. Pantry full basement, 2 car garage! Lot next door comes with home. <b>Lorraine Kilcman 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>Move Right In Old Brooklyn \$109,900</b> 3 bedroom Bungalow w/new carpet &amp; interior freshly painted Jan. 2006. Newer vinyl siding, furnace, C/A and H2O. Large finished rec. rm. in bsmt.w/glass block windows. Private fenced yard w/deck. #4100 <b>Melanie Fealkovich 216-635-5400</b></p>
 <p><b>Beautiful Parma Ranch \$155,900 Spacious</b> 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, updated kitchen w/built-in, breakfast bar, 2 car heated attached garage, Country living in the city. #4125 <b>Chapters 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Lots to Offer! Old Brooklyn \$124,900</b> Wooded view from this 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath Ranch with newer siding, windows, &amp; more. Newer 4th bdrm. in basement. Brick front porch, glass block windows, &amp; newer cabinets in kitchen. All appliances &amp; window treatments stay. One owner. <b>Ron Chervenak 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>True Four Bedroom Cleveland \$109,900</b> Spacious 4 bdrm 1.5 bath Colonial. 3 car gar. Formal dining rm. All natural woodwork, many updates 2005 exterior painted h20 2004, most windows replaced 2003, house insulated 2002. #4124 <b>Daniel Wingenfeld 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Adorable Colonial Old Brooklyn \$74,900</b> Lots of updates in this home. Newer kitchen and bath in 2002. Hardwood flrs. Immaculate and neutral colors. Furnace and front porch in 2005! Nice patio and all appliances stay. Perfect condo alternative. Don't delay! Call today! <b>Linda Heipp 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>King Bungalow Old Brooklyn \$105,500</b> Spacious. Decorative fireplace in Liv rm. Leaded glass china cabs in living room &amp; dining room. Garage extra deep and extra area for workshop. Handicap Access. #4116 <b>James Hiles 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>One of a kind! Old Brooklyn \$159,000</b> 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath Victorian home with large rooms. 3 fireplaces, updated kitchen, newer 2 car garage with opener. Very well maintained! One of a kind! This house should be an historical site! Must see to believe! Call today for tour. <b>Dick Crawford 440-572-3100</b></p>
 <p><b>Peace of Mind Old Brooklyn \$99,500</b> You'll have it and more with this solid Bungalow. Updates incl.roof, glass block, bathroom floor. Lots of storage throughout. Huge 2.5 car garage &amp; large fenced yard. <b>Scott Boyer 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Charming Parma \$103,777</b> Nice home with full basement. Hardwood flr. and crown molding in newly redone family room. Newer stamped concrete entry walk, drive and back patio. Private fenced backyard-perfect for entertaining. Priced to sell. Come check this one out. <b>Dawn Dolch 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>Parma Circle Brick Bungalow Parma Bungalow \$142,900</b> Well maintained 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, new furnace &amp; C/A 2 car garage, finished basement w/rec rm, glass block windows, natural woodwork. <b>Ion Sipoteanu 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Three Car Garage Parma \$122,777</b> Spacious! Newer windows throughout, newly decorated, neutral colors, newer carpet. 5 ceiling fans. 4th bedroom off finished basement, large sun porch off master bedroom, &amp; also a front porch. Much more plus the seller is motivated. <b>Patty Boyd 440-572-3100</b></p>	 <p><b>Well maintained and updated Parma Bungalow \$135,900</b> 3 bedroom and 2 full baths. Western Bungalow. Front and back porch, 2 1/2 car garage has heat.hot and cold water, totally insulated and finished.ideal for hobbyest or auto mechanic. #3987 <b>Pat Hennessy 216-635-5400</b></p>	 <p><b>Townhouse Old Brooklyn \$129,900</b> 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath. 1100sf. Attached one care garage. Fireplace in living rm. Great sized bdrms. All appliances stay. Full basement. Right in the heart of it all. Tax abatement through 2008. Video tour <a href="http://www.homevidz.com">www.homevidz.com</a> H-122-47626. <b>Renee Musat 440-572-3100</b></p>



# Community Toolbox



by The Honorable Raymond Pianka  
Cleveland Municipal Housing Court Judge

## NUISANCES

Spring is here, and along with the change in the weather comes a new season of code enforcement challenges. The neighbor who refuses to mow his lawn; the person down the street who always puts the trash out two days before collection day; the family around the corner who has cars parked in the yard or works on cars in their garage. These challenges, left unaddressed, can lead to neighborhood decline.

The "Broken Windows" theory, first proposed by criminologists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling, suggests that small, isolated nuisances, if ignored, can lead to larger neighborhood problems. For example, the theory proposes that if a window is broken and left unrepaired, people will conclude that no one cares and no one is in charge. Subsequently, more windows will be broken, and the sense of disorder will spread, sending a signal to the community that criminals can do as they wish. (Gladwell, Malcolm.

**The Tipping Point.** Bay Back Books, 2002). In urban areas such as Cleveland, relatively minor concerns like high grass and weeds, garbage set out too early, trash cans left out too long, and parking issues are the equivalent of broken windows— invitations to more serious crime. There are a number of Cleveland Codified Ordinances ("CCO") that address these threats to the quality of life,

often called "nuisances". Many of these issues are addressed here, with information about what the law permits and forbids, and what concerned citizens can do to help keep their neighborhoods in compliance with local law, before the broken windows become a broken community.

**High Grass and Weeds.** Yard maintenance in Cleveland is crucial in the spring-time, when grass and weeds can quickly grow out of control, leading to infestation by rodents and other vermin, and a poor appearance in the neighborhood. The CCO states that high grass and noxious weeds are nuisances because they "provide harborage and breeding grounds for pests or are otherwise conducive to the creation of human health problems." CCO § 209.01(a). As a result, they must be removed from any property on which they are found. "High grass" is grass over 8 inches in height. CCO § 209.01(a)(1). Noxious weeds include Russian, Canadian, or common thistle; wild lettuce; wild mustard; wild parsley; ragweed; milk weed; iron weed; and wild plants capable of causing skin reactions or producing or aggravating hay fever, asthma, allergic reactions, or similar conditions. CCO § 209.01(a)(2).

If someone in your neighborhood refuses to cut their lawn, weed and grass cutting may be performed by the Department of

Parks, Recreation, and Properties, with the costs billed to the owner. CCO § 209.05. If there are rodents or vermin, the Commissioner of Environmental Health may arrange for extermination; the City can then recover any costs from the owner in a civil lawsuit. CCO § 211.03. Infractions of these Health Code provisions may be reported to the Cleveland Department of Public Health: 664-2300.

**Garbage.** The timely collection of garbage is especially important in the warmer months in Cleveland, when food spoils quickly, and animals are drawn to garbage containers. City residents are not permitted to "set out any solid waste or any waste container for collection earlier than 12:00 noon on the day preceding a regular collection day." CCO § 551.04(d). If a person sets out a container for collection, he or she must "remove it from the tree lawn or other designated place for waste collection no later than 12:00 noon on the day following the date of collection." CCO § 551.04(e). For example, if your trash day is normally Thursday, you can set out your trash containers no earlier than 12:00 noon on Wednesday. And, still assuming your trash day is Thursday, you must remove your container from the treelawn no later than 12:00 noon on Friday. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a fine of up to \$100. CCO § 551.99(b). If someone in your neighborhood is in violation of these Health Code ordinances, you can contact the Cleveland Department of Public Health at 664-2300.

**Parking and Motor Vehicles.** Parking and motor vehicle issues also become more significant during the warmer months, as people more frequently wash and park their cars in their yards, have parties needing additional parking space (with guests

often parking on soft surfaces in the yard), and work on cars on their property.

Both the Traffic Code and the Zoning Code restrict parking. In Cleveland, parking is forbidden on the treelawn (CCO § 451.23(a)); in vacant lots (CCO § 451.241(b)); and between the sidewalk and setback line, except on a driveway (CCO § 451.22), and on all soft surfaces, which includes yards and vacant lots (CCO § 349.07). These code provisions can be enforced by the Police or the Department of Building and Housing, or both. Car repair also is forbidden in the City's neighborhoods. The Zoning Code states that "the furnishing of repairs or service of any kind for motor vehicles shall not be permitted." (CCO § 337.16). Violations of the Traffic Code can be reported to the Cleveland Police Department, Second District at 623-5200. Violations of the Zoning Code can be reported to the Department of Building and Housing Violation Hotline at 664-2007.

Armed with the knowledge of what the law permits and forbids, and what you can do to help keep your neighborhood in compliance with local law, these nuisances can be abated quickly and efficiently, before leading to worse criminal activity. In addition to reporting the violations of these Code provisions to the appropriate department for criminal prosecution, you may also call the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation at 459-1000 for more information on how to contact your Councilperson or the City of Cleveland Law Department to file a civil action. For a comprehensive list of Cleveland nuisance abatement tools, call the Housing Court at 664-4295 or visit the Housing Court's website at <http://www.clevelandhousingcourt.org>.

## Finding the right contractor

by Lori Peterson  
[lorip@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:lorip@oldbrooklyn.com)

Now that you've secured your low-interest home repair loan it's time to find a contractor. Don't let the daunting task of finding a contractor deter you from repairing your home. Here are some guidelines that Neighborhood Housing Services of Cleveland suggests to follow when selecting a contractor:

**Shop Around** - Get two to four written estimates or proposals for any job. Both approaches are legitimate and should be itemized as much as possible.

**Record Important Information** - Write down the name, address, and phone number of each contractor. Be organized.

**Consider Experience** - Consider the length of time each contractor has been in business. There are a lot of "fly-by-night" operations out there that are willing to do the job for a lot less but will leave the job half finished, use inadequate materials, or do not possess the skills to do quality work.

**Check with BBB** - Check with the Better Business Bureau to make sure no complaints have been filed against the contractor. If complaints have been filed, check to see if they were resolved.

**Verify the Insurance** - The contractor should carry "comprehensive liability" and

"workman's compensation" insurance. With these, the contractor, not you, is financially responsible for any accidents.

**Get Three to Five References** - The contractor should be able to provide you with three to five references from past customers. Contact them for their comments.

**Examine the Warranties** - Examine the warranties on workmanship and materials; they typically last for at least a year. Ask the contractor to describe situations where he/she has honored his/her warranty.

Long-time resident and contractor of 30 years Joe Gigante of Joe Gigante & Sons also recommends that you ask a lot of questions and make sure that you are getting direct answers. When getting three bids, most of the time you should go with the middle price.

Do not accept a price scribbled on the back of an envelope! A good contract should be in writing and include the name of the contractor, the name of the company, its address, a description and the cost of the work to be performed, and a place for you and the contractor to sign and date at the time that the down payment is made. It is reasonable for contractors to ask for 1/4 to 1/3 down; if they ask for more than that, beware.

Call OBCDC for additional information and checklists for selecting contractors.

**KEEP Hook & Ladder OPEN!**  
**You Need To Be SAFE.**  
Call the Mayors Action Line:  
**216.664.2900**  
Photo courtesy of Clear Channel Outdoor  
**Public Meeting - Thursday, April 6th 6:30 pm.**  
Corpus Christi Church Hall, 5204 Northcliff Ave.

**Community E-Notice**  
Sign up to receive bi-monthly e-mails directly to your inbox about neighborhood events, community meetings and information in your neighborhood from Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.  
To sign up, email Judith at [judithp@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:judithp@oldbrooklyn.com)

**Neighborhood Specialist To Back Up Claim**  
\* Will Sell your Home within Sixty Days or you Collect \$1,000 CASH  
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OWNER/BROKER

**RODGER PETERS**  
Brooklyn Homeowner

**JOHN PETERS**  
Old Brooklyn Homeowner

**Neighborhood Safety Summit**  
**Saturday, May 20**  
MetroHealth South Campus (formerly Deaconess Hospital) 4229 Pearl Road

Sponsored by:  
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp  
Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services  
Second District Cleveland Police  
MetroHealth

**Reserve your seat!**  
To register call Judith at 459-1000.

**Summit Schedule**  
8:30 AM - Registration and Breakfast  
9-11:30 AM - Speakers and Workshops  
11:45 AM - Closing Remarks and Lunch  
Complimentary Breakfast and Lunch!  
Free Parking!

**Workshops**

<b>Track I</b>	<b>Track II</b>
* Citizen Involvement	* Auto, Home, Business Security
* Gangs & Drugs	* Senior Safety
* Kid Safety	* Kid Safety
* Vacant and Abandoned Property	* Vacant and Abandoned Property

Through the years from page 7



In October, 1994, the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn staged "Just Reminisce", a vintage fashion show and dinner at Dream's Café on Pearl Road.

Then the HSOB moved to a different venue, something they called "Historical Festivals". They presented them in 1996 (for Cleveland's bicentennial), 1999 and 2003 (for Ohio's bicentennial) at Pearl Road United Methodist Church.

At the 1996 festival, Helenmary Ball and Celeste Earhart from the Women in History troupe portrayed Rebecca Carter and Flora Stone Mather; in 1999, David and Ecky Broad portrayed Ike and Mamie Eisenhower; in 2003, Ecky Broad portrayed three famous (or infamous) Cleveland characters — Cassie Chadwick, Laura Corrigan and the John D. Rockefeller.

Another part of Cleveland's 1996 bicentennial celebration was the commission's official "Caravan" which stopped at each of the City's neighborhoods over the summer months. The Caravan visited Old Brooklyn on August 18. OBCDC timed it to coordinate it with the annual community Pride Day at the Zoo.

In addition to the usual half-price admission, displays, craft vendors, food and entertainment at previous Community Pride Days, there were also Civil War re-enactors the HSOB had invited, plus all the special

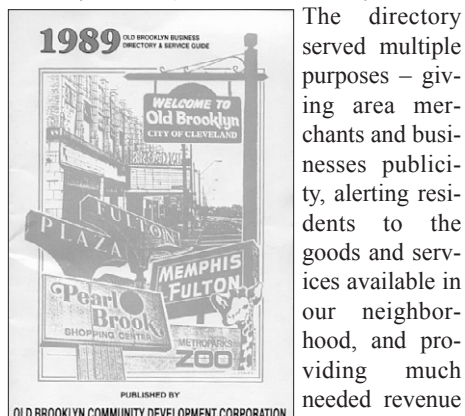
exhibits the bicentennial commission brought. A brochure about the history of that neighborhood was distributed at each visit; Lynette Zieminski wrote the brochure about Old Brooklyn. At the end of the year, the Bicentennial Commission placed a plaque with a short history of our neighborhood on the exterior of the bank building at 4175 Pearl Road in which OBCDC was located.

The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn has been tending the cemetery at the corner of Broadview and Spring Roads since May, 1993. While the City does most of the grass-cutting, members of the society pick up the trash, take care of the perennials and shrubs, plant annuals some years, and water the plants when they need it.



Louise Evans is the current president of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn. Neil Richardson, Lynette Filips Zieminski, Louise Evans (she also served a previous term), Connie Ewazen, Sharon McKanze and the aforementioned Brian Guder have also served as president.

OBCDC started publishing the Old Brooklyn (now the Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre) Business Directory in 1989.



The directory served multiple purposes — giving area merchants and businesses publicity, alerting residents to the goods and services available in our neighborhood, and providing much needed revenue

to OBCDC. During the years that OBCDC was receiving no funding from the City in the way of Ward 15 or Ward 16 block grant money, it depended upon ads in the Old Brooklyn News and the directory to keep it afloat.



OBCDC continued to publish the Old Brooklyn News every month. When, in late 1990, the paper lacked the revenue to pay a professional journalist/editor, OBCDC executive director Jerry Preseren took on the role of editor. Year after year the OBN has brought home many awards in Cleveland's Neighborhood and Community Press Association's annual competition; twice in recent memory — in 1993 and 2003 — the OBN received the most coveted award, the one for the best community newspaper overall.



Old Brooklyn has had a Montessori School in its neighborhood since September, 1998, and the OBCDC was instrumental in getting it established. Gerald Preseren was OBCDC's executive director at the time, and since he had experience in both the public and private school sectors, he often accompanied Old Brooklyn resident Constance Ewazen to Columbus when she was working to get the school organized.



Initially Old Brooklyn Montessori (OBM) School rented classroom space from St. Luke's United Church of Christ, and then it renovated the building (the former Alvin Drug, which had been vacant for years) next



to OBCDC's current office. As OBM added more grades with the passing of each school year, it needed a still bigger space, and thus relocated to the former Dawning School building on State Road in September, 2002.

OBCDC has also sponsored many other activities over the past thirty years, some of which endure to this day and some of which have gone to the wayside. In the later Eighties and Nineties it encouraged residents to "Light Up Old Brooklyn" by sponsoring holiday lighting contests and awarding plaques to the winners. While those contests are no more, the holiday parties OBCDC sponsors for children (with the help of the Brooklyn Kiwanis Club) are still going strong. They're held at Halloween and



Christmas, and although the location has changed over the years, the fun those in attendance experience has not changed.

To raise money, OBCDC raffled a Harley Davidson motorcycle in June, 1998. They



tried to do the same thing with a PT Cruiser a few years later, but due to lower-than-anticipated ticket sales, the three winners received the alternate prize, a sum of cash less than the value of the car.

The OBCDC staff started to increase in size in the mid-1990s when OBCDC again began receiving Ward 15 block grant money and a residential program manager was hired.

See Through the years page 11

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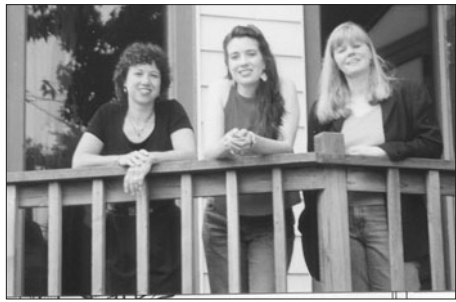
As I see it... by Pastor Jerry. As He uttered, "It is finished," perhaps the disciples uttered similar words. "Yes, Lord, you are gone and so is your message." Their hopes, dreams and ambitions were laid in the tomb with their Lord. The story of the Emmaus Road experience illustrates their disappointment and how they tried to put their lives back together again. They had hoped He was the One to redeem Israel, and as their Good Friday ended, they moved from its somberness, stillness and bleakness with questions. But we, like they, cannot get to Easter without going through Good Friday. We can't get to the glory without going through grief. We can't get to the impact of the shout, "He is risen!" until we have traveled through the despair, reflection and emptiness of Good Friday. The Easter message is one of glory. Glory because through God's promised Christ, there is Resurrection. What was dead has become alive! We don't know how, but we believe, and that's our act of faith. Jerry Madasz is the pastor of St. Luke's United Church of Christ 4216 Pearl Rd. (at the corner of Pearl & Memphis)

**Through the years from page 10**

And because Ward 15 encompasses not only the northern part of Old Brooklyn, but also Brooklyn Centre (the neighborhood north of the Brooklyn-Brighton Bridge), OBCDC extended its services to that area.

In 2001, when their office moved from the Pearl Road to the Broadview Road address, OBCDC began to significantly increase in size. New positions included an operations manager, another residential program manager and a commercial program manager. The staff currently includes;

- Jay Gardner, Executive Director;
- Tom Collins, Commercial Program /ReStore Cleveland Manager;
- Susan Nieves, Operations Manager and Commercial Program Assistant;
- Lori Peterson, Residential Program Manager & Mediation Specialist;
- Judith Pindell, Community Organizer & Mediation Specialist;
- Sandy Worona, Residential Program Assistant, & Advertising, Sales and Layout Manager, Old Brooklyn News;
- Debra Zeleny, Housing and Building Code Specialist.



From July, 2000 until Art House, Inc. (in Brooklyn Centre) received its 501 C 3 status in April, 2001, OBCDC acted as its fiscal agent. After renovating the Quonset hut on their property, Art House opened in November, 2002. Their programs include adult, children's, and family art classes, art camps, open studio and activities for school children. Sheryl Hoffman is the executive director.

From 2001-2004, OBCDC sponsored a



summer event called "Music on Mainstreet". It became more elaborate over the years, including vendors and craft booths in addition to musical entertainment. In spring of 2003 and 2004, OBCDC organized a "Brooklyn Centre Preservation Fair and Home Tour".

Projects which the OBCDC currently has in progress include the revitalization of the commercial district along Pearl Road; the formation of the organization's three-person "housing team" to deal with issues like code enforcement; and, in conjunction with other groups, developing the Treadway Creek Trail, which will connect Old Brooklyn with the Towpath Trail alongside the Ohio and Erie Canal.

In chronological order, the individuals who have been OBCDC executive directors are:

- Rev. Elam Wiest (August, 1976 through October, 1977);
- Paul Barhoover (November, 1977 through October, 1979);
- Laverne Maximuk (February, 1980 through October, 1987);
- Gerald Preseren (November, 1987 through April, 2001);
- Brian Cummins (May, 2001 through April, 2005);
- Tom Collins, (interim, May, 2005 into August, 2005);
- Jay Gardner (August, 2005 to the present).

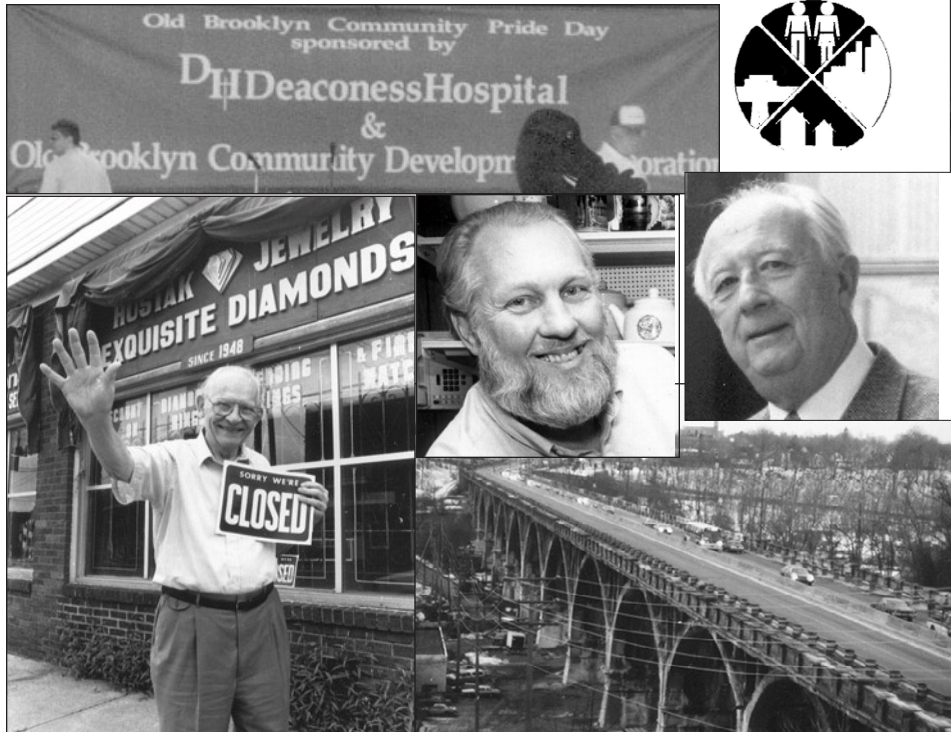
Members of OBCDC's board are chosen from the institutional, business and residential sectors. In chronological order, the individuals who have been president of the OBCDC board and their business or community affiliation are:

- John Young, Speed Exterminating (October, 1975 through March, 1977);
- Dan Avis, Busch Funeral Home (April, 1977 through November, 1978);
- Rev. Elam Wiest, Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ (December, 1978 through circa June, 1981);
- Rev. Otto Herrig, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (circa July, 1981 through March, 1982);
- Stewart McKnight, Broadview Savings and Loan Association (April, 1982 through March, 1984);
- George Schleimer, an attorney in private practice (April, 1984 through September, 1987);

- Jack Amburgey, A & K Investment Corporation and Wholesale Business Furniture (October, 1987 through November, 1990);
- John Young, repeat term (December, 1990 through November, 1992);
- Jack Amburgey, repeat term (December, 1992 through November, 1994);
- Don Kuenzer, Metroparks Zoo (December 1994 through November, 1995);
- Jack Amburgey, repeat term (December, 1995 through November, 1997);
- Don Kuenzer, repeat term (December, 1997 through November, 2000);
- Barbara Bellisario, Charter One Bank (December, 2000 to November, 2001);
- Don Kuenzer, repeat term (December, 2001 through November, 2002);
- Carol Schiro, an Old Brooklyn resident, (December, 2002 through November, 2004);
- Maribeth Feke, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (December, 2004 to the present.)

As reported in last month's OBN, a major change is currently on the horizon for OBCDC as it moves toward consolidation with Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Housing Services. When that is finalized and the staff increases even more, finding a new location will no doubt become a necessity.

Given OBCDC's rich, thirty year history, expect that the next thirty years will be filled with at least as much activity, all aimed at bettering the neighborhood. Ad multos annos, OBCDC! Ad multos annos, Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre!



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# CHURCH NOTES

**Sunday, April 9th**  
**Palm Sunday Services**  
 St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., 8 & 10:30 am. Everyone will receive a Palm Cross.

**April, 14th**  
**Good Friday Services**  
 St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., noon & 7:30 pm. Evening service will include the Tenebrae (the service of darkness).

**Saturday, April 15th**  
**Easter Vigil Service**  
 St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., 5 pm. Easter service will feature a candle-light vigil as a reminder about baptism.

**Sunday, April 16th**  
**Three Services**  
 St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd. Sunrise service at 6:45 am, a family service at 8:45 am & a celebration service at 10:30 am. Also a continental Easter breakfast upstairs in the Gathering Room, 7:45 - 10:15 am. Everyone invited to come.

**Sunday, April 9th**  
**Pancake & Sausage Brunch**  
 St. Mary's Crystal Chalet, corner of State Rd. & Biddulph Ave. 10:30 am. - 1 pm. Donation, adults - \$6; children, \$4. Brunch includes pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, fruit salad, orange juice & beverage. Take-outs available. All proceeds go toward parking lot paving. For more info., call the school office, 216-749-7980.

# SENIOR NOTES

**Senior Citizen Resources**  
**216-749-5367**  
**Line Dancing** - Tues., 1:00 pm. \$15 for six week session.

**MetroHealth Lite & Easy Exercise** - Mon., Wed., & Fri., 9:30 - 10:30 am. Light exercise class with a certified fitness instructor; \$3 per class.

**Chair Bowling** - Mon., 10:30 am, Deaconess Krafft Center; Fri., 10:30 am, The Schwab Center.

**Open Square Dancing** - Mon., 12:15 pm, Deaconess - Krafft Center.

**Craft Classes** - Tues. & Thurs., 9:30 - 11:30 am, Deaconess - Krafft Center.

**Crochet Class** - Fri., 9:30 - 11:30 am, The Schwab Center.

**Fun & Games**  
**Canasta** - Mon., 12:30 pm, Deaconess-Krafft Center.

**Fruit Bingo** - Mon. 11:10 am, The Schwab Center; Wed., 10:30 am, Deaconess-Krafft Center.

**Racing Game** - Fri., 10:45 am, Deaconess Krafft Center.

**Pinochle Playing** - Tues., 12:15 pm, Deaconess Krafft Center.

**Wednesday, April 12th**  
**Trinity Cathedral.** Music from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Depart The Schwab Center at 11:30 am. Call 216-749-5367 for reservations.

**Monday, April 17th**  
**Humphrey Popcorn Trip** \$4.50 per person; 9:30 am.

**21st Annual Senior Olympic**  
 Registrations unerway at the Schwab Center and Deaconess Zane. Call 216-749-5367 for more info.

**Senior Living Guide**  
 Provides professionals & consumers with comprehensive & current information about long term care resources & facilities. Distributed quarterly. For a free copy, call OBCDC, 216-459-1000.



# LENTEN FISH FRIES

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 4427 Pearl Rd., April 7, 4:30 - 7 pm.** in the Parish Hall. Fish, homemade pierogi, shrimp or combo dinners, pizza, macaroni & cheese, chowder. Corned beef & cabbage on St. Patrick's Day. \$4 - \$7 Dinners include choice of cabbage & noodles or fries, cole slaw or apple sauce, roll, beverage & condiments. Eat in or take out.

**St. Leo Church, 4940 Broadview Rd., Fri., April 7, 4:30-7:30 pm.** Two pieces of fish with choice of fries or baked potato, cole slaw, apple sauce, roll & butter. Also pierogis. Other combinations, pizza, macaroni & cheese, cabbage & noodles & clam chowder. available. Also carry-outs. \$7.

**St. Mary Catholic Byzantine School PTU, 4600 State Rd., April 7, 4 - 7 pm.** \$7. take out; \$8, all you can eat. For more info. call the school office, 216-749-7980, 9 am - 2 pm.

**Theo's Old Brooklyn Grille, 4250 Pearl Rd.** Walleye fish dinner, \$6.95; homemade pierogi's, fish sandwiches, calamari. Dine-in or carry out. Open daily for lunch, Mon. - Fri., 11:30 am. 216-739-0661; fax 216-739-0662.

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 Pre-payment for contract time required  
 3 months - \$15.00  
 6 months - \$14.00  
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**Residential Rate:** \$12.00 for the first 20 words, 25 cents for each additional word. Contact the Old Brooklyn News to run your ad and also receive rates for display ads.

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 e-mail: [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com)

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 4505 Broadview Rd.  
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 Pastor: Rev. Brent Richards  
 Assistant Pastor: Dr. John Wood  
 Phone. 351-8414 or 431-3515  
 Sunday School: 9:45 am  
 Sunday Worship: 11:00 am  
 Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7pm

**Fulton Road Community Church**  
 3354 Fulton Rd. Phone. 631-9199  
 Rev. Freddie Ray, 355-2137  
 Sunday School: 9:30 am Service: 10:30 am  
 Sunday evening service: 6:00 pm  
 Thurs., eve. Bible Study, 7pm  
 Good gospel singing & preaching

**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC**  
**St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church**  
 4600 State Rd. Phone:216-741-7979  
 Pastor: Very Rev. Steven Koplinka  
 Divine Liturgies: Sat. Vigil, 4 pm. Sunday, 10 am, Holydays, 9 am.  
 Crystal Chalet phone: 216-749-4504  
 School phone: 216-749-7980  
 Pre-School phone: 216-351-8121

**EVANGELICAL**  
**Grace Church**  
 2503 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-661-8210  
 Pastor: Jeff Doeringer  
 Sunday: 9:30 am Children, Youth & Adult classes  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 Wed. nights, 6:00 pm., Teen night  
 Call for available adult classes.

**LUTHERAN**  
**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.**  
 5801 Memphis Ave.  
 Phone:741-8230  
 Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10 am.  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
 Scranton and Seymour Ave.  
 Phone: 781-9511  
 Pastor: Horst Hoyer  
 German Worship: Sunday 9:00 am  
 English Worship: Sunday 10:30 am

**Parma Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 5280 Broadview Rd. (North & Tuxedo Ave.)  
 Phone: 351-6376 Pastor: Donald E. Frantz II  
 Saturday Services 5:15 pm, Sunday 10:20 am  
 Sunday School & Adult Study 9:00 am  
 Call for new member classes being scheduled

**Unity Lutheran Church**  
 4542 Pearl Rd. Phone: 741-2085  
 Rev. T. Richard Marcis, Sr. (Interim Pastor)  
 Worship Service 9:30 am  
 Sunday School & Adult Study 11:00 am  
 Pre-school/Day Care 3-4 yrs.

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
 4771 Broadview Rd. Phone: 351-6499  
 Pastor: Paul W. Hoffman  
 Sunday Worship 8 & 10:30 am  
 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 am  
 Saturday Services 5:00 pm  
 Pre-school openings

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
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**Palace of Praise**  
 4274 Pearl Rd.  
 Phone: 741-9322  
 Pastor: Rev. Joseph Terry  
 Sunday Worship: 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Service: 7 pm  
 Miracle Service: Friday 7 pm

**PENTECOSTAL**  
**W.58th Street Church of God**  
 3150 W. 58th St. Phone: 216-281-2958  
 Pastor: David Pratt  
 KIDZONE & Sunday School: 9:30 am  
 Sunday Worship: 10:30 am & 6:00 pm  
 Life Development class: Wed. 7:00 pm  
 Youth Development: Wed., 7:00 pm  
 Email: W58COG@yahoo.com

**POLISH NAT'L CATHOLIC**  
**St. Mary's Church**  
 Corner Broadview & Wexford, Parma  
 Pastor: Rev. Roman Misiewicz  
 Phone: 741-8154  
 Sunday Masses: 9:00 am English; 11:00 am Polish  
 Sunday School: 10:00 am

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**Brooklyn Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
 4308 Pearl Rd. at Spokane Ave.  
 Phone: 741-8331 Rev. Adrienne Lloyd  
 Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
 Parking at Busch Funeral Home

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel Church**  
 4423 Pearl Rd., Phone: 749-2323  
 Pastor: Fr. LeRoy J. Moreeuw, C.P.P.S.  
 Masses: Saturday 5 pm  
 Sunday 8:30 am & 11:00 am  
 Weekday Masses: Mon-Sat 8 am  
 School Phone: 741-3685

**Church of St. Leo The Great**  
 4940 Broadview Rd.  
 Phone: 661-1006  
 Pastor: Fr. Russ Lowe  
 Masses: Saturday 4 pm  
 Sunday 8 am, 10 am, & 12 noon

**Saint Barbara's Church**  
 1505 Denison Ave.  
 Phone: 741-2067  
 Administrator: Fr. Michael S. Dyrz  
 Masses: Saturday 5 pm,  
 Sunday 8 am, 10 am (Polish), 11:30 am

**Corpus Christi Church**  
 5204 Northcliff Ave., Phone: 351-8738  
 Pastor: Fr. Russell Lowe  
 1st Friday of the Month: Communion Service 7pm  
 Weekday Mass, 9 am Mon. & Wed. Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm, Sunday 8 am & 10 am

**SWEDENBORGIAN**  
**Swedenborg Chapel**  
 A New Christianity  
 4815 Broadview Rd, Phone: 351-6141  
 Pastor: Rev. Junchol Lee  
 Sunday Worship 11am,  
 Adult Bible (non fundamental) 10 am  
 Meditation & Prayer Wed, Th, Fri: 1-3 pm  
 Non Denomination Weddings 351-8093  
 A Warm Welcome Awaits You.

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Nursery provided ages 1-5  
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[www.archwooducc.org](http://www.archwooducc.org)

**Brooklyn Heights U.C.C.**  
 Rev. Dr. Lee Holliday  
 2005 W. Schaaf Rd., Phone: 741-2280  
 Nursery with adult supervision,  
 Sunday Worship & Church School 9:30 am

**Pilgrim Congregational UCC**  
 2592 West 14th St., Phone: 861-7388  
 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laurinda M. Hafner  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
 Children's Church School 10:45 am  
 Thursday Worship 6:00 pm  
 Multicultural Open & Affirming  
[www.pilgrimalive.org](http://www.pilgrimalive.org)

**St. Luke's U.C.C.**  
 4216 Pearl Rd. corner Memphis Ave.  
 Phone: 351-4422  
 Pastor: Gerald Madasz  
 Sunday Worship 10:15 am

**Trinity U.C.C.**  
 3525 West 25th St. (entrance off Scranton)  
 Phone: 351-7667  
 Pastor: Rev. David T Durkit  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
 Christian Ed 9:15  
 email: [ucctrinitychurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ucctrinitychurch@sbcglobal.net)  
 Multicultural Open & Affirming  
**United Church of Christ in Brooklyn**  
 8720 Memphis Ave. Phone: 661-0227  
 Pastor: Rev. Robert Z. Lahr  
 Sunday School & Worship 11:00 am.

**UNITED METHODIST**  
**Brooklyn Memorial UMC**  
 2607 Archwood Ave., Phone: 216-459-1450  
 Rev. Jennifer Brown Steinfurth, Pastor  
 Sunday morning Service 10:45 am.  
 Coffee hour between services  
 Fiesta of Faith 1-2 pm.  
 Nursery open during services.  
**Pearl Rd. United Methodist Church**  
 4200 Pearl Rd., Phone: 661-5642  
 Pastor: Rev. Robert Ludwig  
 Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10 am  
 Adult Study & Coffee Hour 11 am  
 Free hunger meal Thursdays 6 pm  
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/pearl-road-umc>

# Irish immigrants establish east and west side Cleveland churches

by Lynette Filips  
lynnetef@oldbrooklyn.com

"Two steps forward, one step back" may be the dance we could hum as we continue looking at the churches established by the ethnic peoples who settled in and around Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre. In the last few months we've discussed congregations with New England, German and Polish roots, but chronologically, we skipped the immigrants from Ireland.

The Scots-Irish were Protestant, but most of the Irish who settled in Cleveland were Roman Catholic. The earliest Irish immigrants (1820s) were men who worked digging the Ohio and Erie Canal. Until the first Catholic church was built, they could only attend Mass when a priest was passing through town on horseback, or there was a priest/chaplain on one of the ships docked in Cleveland's harbor.

Irish (as well as German) immigrants were no doubt part of the congregation of the first Catholic church in Cleveland, **Our Lady of the Lake**, established in 1835. That congregation worshipped in numerous locations downtown before building a church on Columbus Avenue at Girard Avenue in 1839. Henceforth it became popularly known as **St. Mary's on the Flats**.

Irish families started coming to Cleveland in force in 1848, during the Great Potato Famine. The men found work unloading ships at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and later at the steel mills which were being built along the Cuyahoga River and in Newburgh Township.

Although they were emigrating to America at the same time and shared the same basic religious beliefs, the Irish and the German Catholics didn't get along with each other. But Louis Amadeus Rappe, the Frenchman who had been named the first bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland in 1847, thought that to hasten their becoming "Americanized", everyone should mingle. His ideas angered the German immigrants, who complained to Rome so vehemently that nationality — as opposed to territorial — parishes (i.e., the German Catholic churches we mentioned in our

December and January articles) were subsequently established here.

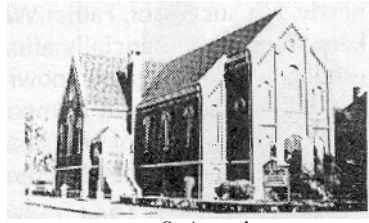
As a result of the ruckus, the Irish, too, (and every ethnic group which followed) were able to establish nationality parishes. Because immigrants typically lived close to their places of employment, the earliest Irish churches — **St. Patrick**, now at 3602 Bridge Avenue, (established in 1853, and thus the "mother church") and **Holy Name**, now at 8328 Broadway, (established in 1854) — were built near Irish settlements where the men unloaded the boats and worked in the aforementioned mills.

When we say that the Irish built St. Patrick Church, we mean it both figuratively and literally. After the congregation outgrew its first church on Whitman Avenue, to help them build a bigger church, a friend of the parish who owned a quarry in Sandusky offered them free blue sandstone, if the men would cut it and haul it back to Cleveland. The men did just that for two years, and thus the walls of the current St. Patrick's were raised.

As was the case with the Germans at Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Polish at St. John Cantius, St. Patrick's eventually built a social hall on the parish grounds. These days it's no longer just for Irish gatherings, though; the second-floor stage, for instance, is utilized for productions by the neighborhood Near West Theatre group.

**Blessed Sacrament**, a parish just northwest of Brooklyn Centre at 3381 Fulton Road, is an offshoot of St. Patrick's. It was established in 1903 for Catholics living in the southern end of St. Pat's territory. (It's interesting to note that Fulton Road was called Rhodes Avenue in those days.)

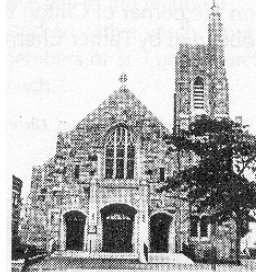
By 1860 the Irish were moving into the Tremont area, and that year the bishop established another parish, **St. Augustine**, for the Irish living there. The original church was located on Jefferson Avenue, but when the congregation outgrew those premises, they moved into their current location at 2486 W. 14th Street (in 1896). That structure had actually been built and used by the Jennings Road Congregational (now Pilgrim Congregational) Church, which had moved to 2592 Jennings Road (now 14th Street), where it, too, remains today.



St. Augustine

In time Tremont would be home to approximately thirty more immigrant groups, but as we shall see in future segments of this series (and have already seen in terms of the Polish at St. John Cantius), they would establish their own churches rather than attend St. Augustine.

**St. Malachi**, 2459 Washington Avenue just north of W. 25th Street at the west end of the old



St. Malachi

Superior Viaduct, was established in 1865, and it, too, has Irish roots. Because of its location near Lake Erie, it was considered to be the "port" church, and the cross on its steeple was illuminated to guide ships into the harbor. (To continue that tradition, the cross on the present church's steeple is also illuminated at night.)

As the Irish moved farther from the city, other churches were established to serve their needs, but since they aren't particularly close

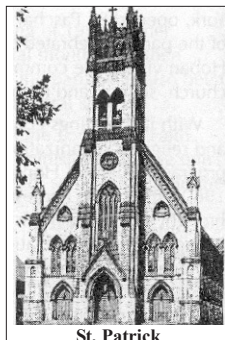
to our neighborhood, we will just mention their names, addresses and the years of their inception (and demise, if so indicated) — **St. Bridget**, Woodland Avenue at Perry Street, established in 1857 and closed in 1961; **St. Columbkille**, Superior Avenue at East 26th Street, established in 1871 and closed in 1957; **St. Colman**, 2027 W. 65th Street, established in 1880; **St. Patrick**, 4427 Rocky River Drive, established in 1848.

While they were still on "the old sod", the Irish had been forced by their British overseers to speak English, so language was not the problem for them that it was for most of the other foreign people who settled in Cleveland. But even though speaking English wasn't a problem for them, the Irish immigrants didn't like Bishop Rappe or the assigned French-speaking priests he assigned to their parishes.

And, to quote an entry about early Catholicism in the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, Cleveland's first bishop also "disciplined a number of (Irish) priests, who, feeling ill-treated, complained to an increasingly exasperated Rome, which forced Rappe to resign as bishop in 1870."

While we can guess about the perhaps valid, perhaps unfair reasons those priests were disciplined, suffice it to say that the Irish have nonetheless put a positive mark on our city in areas which extend far beyond their original church communities.

Where will our ethnic church journey take us next month? Probably back to Tremont and more of the Eastern European immigrants who settled there at the turn of the last century. Please contact us if you have something to contribute to the saga.



St. Patrick

mentioned in our

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## FAMILY FUN!

by Susan Nieves  
susann@oldbrooklyn.com

The *Old Brooklyn News* is requesting submissions that highlight local activities & events appropriate for families & individuals. Submit information regarding upcoming events/activities to "Attention Susan Nieves," c/o The *Old Brooklyn News*, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109; Fax: 216-459-1741; E-Mail: susann@oldbrooklyn.com.

**Art House**  
3119 Denison Ave.  
216-398-8556

**Family Open Art Studio & Art Classes** - 1st Sat. of every month, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, \$5 per person; children under 2, free; family of 4, \$18. All materials included. No registration required. For more info on other classes and activities for age preschool thru adult call or visit [www.arthouseinc.org](http://www.arthouseinc.org).

**Cleveland Metroparks Canal Way Center Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation** - E. 49th St., 216-206-1000  
**Art Display** - thru Apr. 30th, 9 am - 5 pm. Enjoy an exhibit by David Simmerer, graphic artist and illustrator for Cleveland Metroparks. Most of his nature drawings come from the 21,000 acres that make up the Emerald Necklace.

**Amphibians - Ages 3 - 5** - Thurs. Apr. 13th, 10 - 11 am, ages 3-5 with adult. Take a closer look and learn all about these cold, slimy creatures.

**Earth Day Concert** - Sat. Apr. 22nd, noon. Bring the family and lawn chairs to celebrate Earth Day with an outdoor concert of folk and Earth related songs performed by Hank Mallery & Friends. Concert will move indoors if the weather is bad.

**Amphibians - Ages 6 - 12** - Thurs. Apr. 27th, 10 - noon or 1 - 3 pm. Ages 6-12. Look and listen for frogs and toads emerging from hibernation with a naturalist.

**CanalWay CoffeeHouse** - Fri. Apr. 28th, 7:30 pm. Join singer/songwriter Steve Madewell and Hank Mallery for a concert featuring Steve's original music.

**Wildflower Ramble** - Sat. Apr. 29th, 2 - 3:30 pm. Join Naturalist Chris Larson-McKenzie on a leisurely one mile hike (easy terrain) in search of blooming wildflowers. Families welcome.

**Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation** - Maple Grove Picnic Area 440-734-6660  
**Maple Sugaring** - Sat., Mar. 4, 11 am - 4:30 pm. Learn about sap-collecting methods and syrup-making processes. Guided hikes every 20 minutes. Program is all outdoors; dress for the weather.

**Cleveland Public Library Brooklyn Branch**  
3706 Pearl Rd. 216-623-6920

**Games** - Every Tues. until May 30, 4 - 5:30 pm. Play your favorite board game.  
**Movies** - Every Thurs. until May 25, 4 - 5:30 pm. Free movies.  
**Playtime** - Every Fri. until May 31, 10:30 - 11 am. Play with toys with your child/ren and stay for a story.

**International Astronomy Day** - Thurs. Apr. 27, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Use the library computers to explore the stars!

**Cleveland Public Library South Brooklyn Branch**  
4303 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, 216-623-7067

**Preschool Story Time** - Every Wed. 10 - 11 am. Interactive stories, rhymes, songs and more for children ages 3-5 years old.

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Wildlife Way, 216-661-6500**

**Sheep Shearing Day** - Sat. Apr. 22nd, 11 am - 5 pm. Sheep shearing demonstrations, entertainment and a variety of fun activities are free with regular paid Zoo admission.

**EarthFest** - Sun. Apr. 23rd, 10 am - 5 pm. Educational event featuring many eco-exhibits on environmental issues facing our community. Free admission for those registered in the walk or bike for the earth, or those who ride the FREE RTA Clean-Air bus from Public Square.

**Cleveland Museum of Art 11150 East Blvd., University Circle**  
216-421-7340

**Museum** - Tues. - Sun., 10 am - 5 pm; Wed. & Fri., to 9 pm; Closed Mon. Free.

**Estabrook Recreation Center**  
4125 Fulton Road  
216-664-4149

**Recreational Activities** - Family Swim - Family Gym - Ceramics - Weight Room Call for schedule. Times vary. All above activities free. Call for more info.

**International Women's Air & Space Museum Burke Lakefront Airport, 1501 N. Marginal Rd., Room 165**  
216-623-1111

**Museum** - Mon. - Fri., 10 am - 4 pm. Free admission. The museum is a repository of information about women in aviation & space. Visit the website at [www.iwasm.org](http://www.iwasm.org).

**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center**  
28728 Wolf Rd.  
440-871-2900

**Planetarium Family Programs** - Programs, dates, times & fees vary. Call or visit [lensc.org](http://lensc.org) for more info.

**Western Reserve Historical Society Museum**  
10825 East Blvd.  
216-721-5722

**Millionaires' Row, The Legacy of Euclid Avenue** - now thru May 31, 2006. Largest ever exhibit for WRHS; examines life among Cleveland's rich & famous 1880-1930. Sequel to 1991 WRHS *Showplace of America* which chronicled Euclid Avenue 1850-1910. Special lectures, hands-on children's activities, genealogy discussions & entertainment in addition to the nine-month exhibit.  
Wed. - Sat., 11 am - 5 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Admission - ages 3-12, \$7; adults, \$12; seniors 60+, \$10. Call or visit [www.wrhs.org](http://www.wrhs.org) for more info.

## Sleep overnight at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Are you looking for a special activity for your scouting, youth or church group? Check out Night Tracks, an overnight program for groups at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, which offers adventure, Get-Close encounters with animals and a sleepover at the Zoo.

Night Tracks is designed for groups with a minimum of 15 participants and must include one adult for every 10 children. Children must be 6 years & older. The \$35 per person fee covers curriculum, equipment, counselor(s) who stay with each group through the entire program, sleeping

arrangements in Northern Trek or the Administration Building, refreshments in the evening and a light breakfast in the morning. Each Night Tracks participant receives a souvenir Wolf Wilderness patch for completing the Night Tracks program and admission into the Zoo and The RainForest immediately following the program. Night Tracks takes place weekends through May.

For more information, or to reserve a spot visit [www.clemet zoo.com](http://www.clemet zoo.com) or call the Zoo's Education Department, 216-635-3391.



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lowing services. Free estimates, hedgetrimming, weeding, mulching, light landscaping, low cost. For Spring clean-up call Joe at 216-906-1963.

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**1**  
Old Brooklyn \$84,900  
**3-BEDROOM BEAUTY**  
Hardwood flrs. throughout. Vinyl siding. Natural woodwork in living rms. (gas fireplace) & dining rm. (charming leaded glass cabinets). kitchen updated!  
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



**2**  
Old Brooklyn \$139,900  
**SOUTH HILLS**  
3-4 bdms. Waterproofed basement. Hardwood flrs. in liv. & din. rm. Neutral colors. Newer windows, furnace & C/A. New elect. upgrade. Appliances stay.  
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



**3**  
Cleveland \$98,900  
**HURRY!**  
Double Bungalow. Natural woodwork, newer kitchen cabinets & two new baths. Built-in china cabinets. Window treatments & appliances stay. Fenced yard.  
Joe Lacza 440-263-0419



**4**  
Old Brooklyn \$140,000  
**SOUTH HILLS BRICK**  
This beauty features 4 bedrooms and 2-1/2 baths! Full finished basement. Newer windows. C/A. Attached garage. Lovely landscaping.  
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



**5**  
Cleveland \$89,900  
**HUGE MOVE-IN COLONIAL**  
Over 2,000 sq. ft. 4 bdms. Huge living rm, 3-car garage with workshop. Eat-in kitchen. Unfinished addition in rear of house. C/A. One owner 60 years.  
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**6**  
Old Brooklyn \$114,900  
**PRICED RIGHT!**  
Standard 5-2 Double. Large rooms. 2-car garage. Updated electrical boxes. Easy to show!  
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**7**  
Old Brooklyn \$114,500  
**SOUTH HILLS!**  
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**13**  
Parma Hts. \$139,900  
**SPACIOUS ONE FLOOR LIVING**  
One-floor living. 3-bdrm. Ranch, fenced yard. Huge family rm, 1st flr laundry, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, rear patio access. Lots of storage, rear shed. C/A.  
Pete Bonanni 216-749-6007 x203



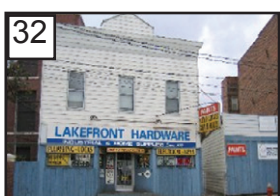
**19**  
Old Brooklyn \$99,900  
**THINK QUICK!**  
Duplex w/2-car garage plus carport. Upstairs unit has 7 rms & can be set up a number of ways. You don't need a fat wallet for this cash flow opportunity!  
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**25**  
Parma \$990  
**FOR LEASE!**  
Up office with approx. 1250 SF (2 separate entrances). 2 baths. Currently 4 offices (huge front office could be divided into 2). Lrg kitchen. Plenty of parking.  
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



**31**  
Cleveland \$78,900  
**CHECK IT OUT!**  
Nice residential or investment property in good condition. Extra land available for very low price. 2-car garage. Home warranty.  
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**32**  
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**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**  
Real estate can be purchased separately. 2 one-bdrm apartments up. Owner will help acclimate new owner. Great location, traffic count and walkup trade.  
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**33**  
Cleveland \$109,900  
**CLASSIC COLONIAL!**  
Rehabbed Colonial with many updates. 4 bdms, 1-1/2 baths. New win., furnace & C/A, elec, copper plumbing, paint & carpet. Remodeled kitchen, bath.  
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**34**  
Parma \$149,900  
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**35**  
Medina \$95,500  
**1st FLOOR BATH!**  
Beautiful Condo with updated kitchen. Tastefully decorated throughout. Sliding glass door leads to patio. Close to downtown Medina. Make Offers!  
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**12**  
Old Brooklyn \$79,900  
**CENTER OF OLD BROOKLYN!**  
Great home! Newer vinyl, roof, and bath. Newer windows and furnace. Updated electric box. Owner very motivated and will look at all offers.  
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**18**  
Cleveland \$87,500  
**CHECK IT OUT!**  
Old World Charm. Investment opportunity with 4 bedrooms and full basement. home warranty.  
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



**24**  
Cleveland \$79,900  
**CLASSIC COLONIAL!**  
Investment opportunity! Double with vinyl siding is ready for you! Fenced yard. Awnings. Owner occupied.  
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



**30**  
South Hills \$109,900  
**A LOT OF OFFER!**  
4 bdms, 1-1/2 baths. New furnace & C/A. Newer windows. Glass block. New water softener system. All appliances. Finished basement/Naturestone flooring.  
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



**36**  
Lafayette Twmsp. \$249,900  
**SPECTACULAR SPLIT!**  
Built in '98. 2 acres. Hardwood flrs. Cathedral ceilings. 2 outbuildings. 3-1/2 baths. 3 bdms., possible 4th. Deck. Above-Ground Pool! Breakfast Nook!  
Eric Ebsch 216-326-1443