

Old Brooklyn News

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OBCDC celebrates 30 years of service to the community

by Sheila Long

If you've never tried dancing the "Electric Slide" with a 400-pound gorilla looking on, you really haven't lived. This was one of the more unusual activities that took place at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's otherwise elegant "Diamond and Pearl 30th Anniversary Celebration" at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Friday, April 21.

Set in the Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, OBCDC supporters celebrated and mingled amid glass-enclosed exhibits featuring gorillas, chimpanzees, snow leopards, lemurs and a wide array of exotic fish.

The gala event featured the music of the Strings Sensationale Trio during cocktail hour and local disc jockey, Pat Daley, spinning tunes during the later hours of the evening. The celebration included a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Local dignitaries in attendance included Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich and his wife, Elizabeth, Housing Court Judge Raymond L. Pianka and Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins.

OBCDC Board President Maribeth Feke, who served as the Master of Ceremonies of the event, was delighted with the evening. "It was a wonderful event, one of the best events we've ever had, and it was great to see the community come out and



Photo by George Shuba

(L-R) Jack and Irene Amburgey, Congressman Dennis and Elizabeth Kucinich, Judge Raymond Pianka, John Young and Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins are all smiles at OBCDC's 30th anniversary party on April 21 at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

support the organization. It was frosting on the cake to have the Congressman (Kucinich) there, as well as the presentation of a proclamation from Senator Voinovich," Feke said.

"It was a great way to celebrate the past 30 years. We have a great future ahead of us with the two new council members and the consolidation of the two CDCs (Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation and Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services) and some great

projects in the pipeline. And we still have our best assets, the paper and the community."

An impressive line-up of past and present friends of OBCDC whimsically recounted the organization's accomplishments over the past three decades. John Young, a founder of OBCDC and its first board president, gave, perhaps, the most heartfelt and moving speech of the evening.

"Being asked (to speak) by Connie Ewazen on behalf of the Board is truly an

honor," John began. "Plus, it's always fun to haul out a fossil founder, if possible, just to make official the reason you're having a party."

"In the late 60s and early 70s, the area we now call Old Brooklyn was on the brink of community collapse. In fact, in 1972 visitors to Deaconess Hospital could be entertained by a big pink elephant in the window across the street on Pearl Road. I think the sign read "The Big Ones". A flier in our mail boxes announced the Broadvue Theatre presenting Cleveland's finest exotic dancing. Girls, girls, girls. Escorted ladies free.

"Across from my shop (Speed Exterminating Company), the Silver Spur tavern was open also. The dancers even parked in our parking lot and pranced across Pearl Road clutching their little ditty bags."

"It was with this backdrop that one day, that year of 1972, two clergymen, Elam Wiest, Administrator of Deaconess-Kraft Center and Robert Airhart, pastor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, came to call on me at my Speed Exterminating Company offices. They showed their concern over the current quality of life of the area and asked if we could combine our efforts to turn it around. Thus was born the seed which sprouted two years later into the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. Who would have thought! But,

See *OBCDC celebrates page 9*

Residents impact policy:

Hook and Ladder to return in the fall

by Sheila Long

After months of public meetings and political runarounds, Old Brooklyn residents received word on April 19 that the hook and ladder fire truck and its crews will be retained at Fire Station 42 during the two-year construction of the Fulton Road bridge. However, a temporary "brown-out" is in place at the station until the construction begins.



Photo by George Shuba

On April 10, approximately 200 Old Brooklyn residents protested on the steps of City Hall (before the Cleveland City Council meeting) about the proposed closing of Hook & Ladder #42.

The crew that had been manning the specialized hook and ladder vehicle was redeployed to Fire Station 11 in the Broadway neighborhood as of April 18. The firefighters (or an equivalent crew) will return to Old Brooklyn in the fall of 2006 and will remain at the Pearl Road station until the construction on the bridge is completed in 2008.

"I am very disappointed that there is any brown-out at all," said Ward 16 Councilman Kevin Kelley. "However, looking at where we were in December and January as compared to where we are right now, it is a great improvement. In December, we were in a situation in which we were facing a total brown-out of Hook

and Ladder 42 with no relief for that action anywhere. Now, at least we are in a situation where the brown-out is temporary and hopefully short-lived."

Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins expressed concern that any brown-out may be too great of a compromise.

"I'm not happy with it. I'm disappointed in the sense that I don't feel we were able to avert a reduction of service," Cummins said. "I hoped that we could have worked

with Council and the Mayor's office to find enough funds to keep it (Hook and Ladder 42) open permanently. We are submitting requests for information regarding response times to determine what the impact of the temporary brown-out

is going to be.

According to Interim Safety Director Martin Flask, browning out a ladder company means that the company will be staffed only on those days where staffing is available. The equipment remains in place and is staffed approximately one in five 24-hour shifts. Station 42 houses both a ladder company and an engine company and is located at the corner of Pearl Road and Stickney Avenue. The engine company at the station remains in full service throughout the temporary brown-out. The Old Brooklyn neighborhood also will be serviced by the hook and ladder and engine companies at Station 20, two miles up the road from Station 42 at See *Hook and Ladder page 8*

Living in Old Brooklyn these past thirty years — a personal reflection on the difference OBCDC has made

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Those were the questions I learned to ask when I started writing for my high school's newspaper, and those were the questions I was still asking last month when I attempted to write the thirty-year history of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC).

Six thousand, five hundred and twenty-two words later, I know that I answered those six questions many times in that April article, but did the facts I presented really portray what this organization has done for our community? Yes and no.

I have lived in Old Brooklyn for almost thirty-five years, virtually all of my adult life. I have written for the *Old Brooklyn News (OBN)* for more than sixteen years, and have been at least marginally involved with OBCDC and its adjunct, the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn, almost since their inception. That's more than enough time to have witnessed extraordinary dedication in some of the people who are (or have been) affiliated with OBCDC. And so this month, rather than recount information in my usual, factual style, I'm taking an "editorial"

approach, and relating my perceptions of some of our community's unsung heroes.

No sooner did we have last month's edition of the *OBN* off to the printer than I regretted that I had not listed in the thirtieth anniversary article the names of all the Cleveland City Council people who have funded our organization with their block grant money. In recent times, they were Ward 15 Council representatives Jim Rokakis, Merle Gordon, Emily Lipovan Holan and (currently) Brian Cummins; after July 1, the recent list will also include Ward 16 Councilman Kevin Kelley.

As we mentioned last month, in its earliest years, OBCDC also had the financial backing of our political representatives — Joseph Lombardo, Ward 2; Richard Harmody, Ward 9; and Ted Sliwa, Ward 6. (Cleveland's wards were configured differently then, as there were three wards.)

Then Joe Cannon replaced Richard Lombardo, Barbara Pringle replaced Richard Harmody and Jim Rokakis replaced Ted Sliwa. All three of the new elected officials supported OBCDC's efforts to buy the Broadvue Theatre. After the ward boundaries were changed, Joe Cannon became the Ward 16 council representative and Jim Rokakis became the Ward 15 council representative. See *past 30 years page 8*

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Behind on the bills? You may be eligible for an expedited tax refund

by Sheila Long

A relatively unknown independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service can expedite refunds, solve complex extenuating circumstances and assist taxpayers who have fallen through the cracks of the complexities of tax filing – all at no cost to the taxpayer.

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) was established by Congress to assist taxpayers when life difficulties necessitate immediate tax refund relief or when the normal IRS channels have failed to properly interpret returns. TAS also assists taxpayers who have been victimized by complex issues such as spousal debt, identity theft on tax returns, or the often fiery dispute as to who may claim dependent children.

According to Jacquelyn M. Crossley, a Senior Associate Advocate for the Cleveland TAS office, a wide array of economic hardships may qualify a taxpayer for an expedited federal tax return.

“Economic hardship would be an immediate threat of adverse action such as an eviction notice, past due rent or bills, pending foreclosure, or an inability to meet prescription needs,” Crossley said. “We can help (these taxpayers) by expediting the refund process.”

Economic hardship must be verifiable. For instance, an eviction or foreclosure notice must be presented to a TAS advocate in order to qualify for an expedited refund

“There is also systemic hardship, meaning the normal IRS process has failed,” said Crossley. “For instance, the taxpayer has not received a response within the date promised or a system has failed to operate as intended or it has been beyond 30 days of the normal processing time.” In these instances, TAS can

quickly diagnose the problem and move the refund through the process in the most efficient manner.

One of the most prevalent problems, according to Crossley, is with joint tax returns in which one party has an outstanding debt with another government agency, such as child support or a student loan debt. The non-delinquent spouse, who has no outstanding debt, is punished by having his or her portion of the refund held up along with the refund of the delinquent spouse. In this case, TAS can assist the spouse who is being financially punished, by filing an “injured spouse claim.” An injured spouse claim likely will result in a refund for the debt-free spouse. If an injured spouse claim is not filed by the debt-free spouse, the entire refund will go to pay off the other spouse’s arrearage.

“Normally, injured spouse claims can take eight weeks beyond the normal return processing time. But if they come to us, we can work them right away,” said Crossley.

Another of the most common complications that hold up refunds is the claiming of the same dependents by two or more taxpayers on separately filed individual tax returns. TAS will sort out the true from the false on these returns and will expedite the refund to the true caretaker of the dependent(s).

The local TAS office is located in room 423 of the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building at 1240 E. 9th Street. Walk-ins are welcome or an application may be taken over the phone by calling TAS’ toll free number at 1-877-777-4778.

In cases of economic hardship, TAS will contact the taxpayer within three days of receipt of the application or phone call. In cases of systemic hardship, TAS will contact the taxpayer within seven business days.

Near West Theatre named first "Champion in Action"

by Lisa Casini

Charter One Bank and WJW Fox 8 News have teamed up to create the "Champion in Action" award which recognizes and provides support to non-profit agencies that serve as the "unsung heroes" within the Cleveland community, focused on providing services and opportunities for the citizens of all ages.

Cleveland's Near West Theatre is the first recipient in the 'after-school' category. They were chosen for their "exemplary work in providing opportunities year round for youth to perform, develop peer and mentoring relationships and explore and develop life skills."

The annual award includes a \$25,000 grant and public relations and volunteer support for the chosen organization.

More than 1,200 children and adolescents from throughout the Cleveland area participate in the theater's after school programs and summer productions, including many residents of Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre.

The Shumann family of Old Brooklyn has been actively involved in the Near West Theatre for the past few years. Mom, Judy Schumann, is a music teacher at the Old Brooklyn Montessori School. Her passion for music seems to run in the family, as her three children, Adele, Ben and Andy, all sing and dance in musical productions.

Adele, a ninth grader at St. Martin De Porres High School, has performed in seven productions (all musicals) and three benefit shows. Her favorite theatrical experience thus far includes a lead performance in the musical, *Hercules vs. Goliath*, where she played the role of *Thelma*, an awkward girl who triumphs in the end.

"The best part of being involved in the theater is the people. They're all really good people--the other kids and the adults too," Adele said.

Adele's brothers, Ben and Andy, both agreed. A sixth grader at Old Brooklyn

Montessori School, Ben has appeared in five musicals at the theater. He expressed his appreciation for "all the great friends" he's made and explained that in the theater, "people like you for who you are, and it doesn't matter if someone is different."

The underlying sentiment of encouragement, teamwork and celebrating differences was expressed time and again by the young actors, as well as the concept of working together toward a common goal.

Youngest brother Andy, a third grader at Old Brooklyn Montessori, said his favorite production thus far has been his work in *Godspell*.

"We got to move, dance and sing--it was so much fun and it's a team effort, everyone works together," Andy said.

Sisters Terri and Taylor Slivka, also live in Old Brooklyn, attend the Old Brooklyn Montessori School and are active members of the Near West Theatre.

Terri, an eighth grader and Taylor, a sixth grader, have performed together in three musicals, *Snoopy, Honk Jr.* and *The Hobbit*.

"It's really a great experience. The people (at the Theatre) are so nice and everyone is very accepting of everyone else. And I love to act. I want to continue doing theater all my life," said Terri.

Twelve-year-old Taylor concurred. "Every play is so much fun. I've met so many new people, I've made a lot of new friends and I have the chance to be part of these great plays."

Laura Kalynchuk lives with her family in Old Brooklyn and is currently in the sixth grade. She said she loves being part of the Near West Theatre because "everyone is different and I've made a whole bunch of new friends."

Laura has performed in the Near West Theatre's musical productions of *Honk Jr.*, and *Aladdin*, and is looking forward to summer auditions.

The Near West Theatre also teaches theater arts and job readiness and examines social issues through music and theatrical performances that touch on themes relevant to the lives of the children who participate.

Aside from learning about the art of live theater, involvement in the theater enriches and inspires the children who participate by building confidence and self-esteem. And taking it a step even further, the Near West Theatre brings children and adults of varying backgrounds together--celebrating diversity and fostering a real sense of community and social outreach.

For more information on the Near West Theatre, please call (216) 961-9750.

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Old Brooklyn News

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Sandy Worona - Layout Editor Susan Nieves - Managing Editor

This month's OBN writers - Lisa Casini, 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.

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Saturday, May 6th

"Wayward Street Player"

Last time to catch this entertaining duo, featuring the lip service of Doug Everton & the washboard bass of Ruby. Doug & his wife are moving out of State shortly.

Saturday, May 13th

"Spaghetti Dinner"

5-6:30 pm. Call 216-741-2280 for reservations.

Saturday, May 20th

"Dave Millen"

This saxophonist plays everything from Christian contemporary to jazz. he is accompanied by background CD's.

Saturday, May 27th

Closed for the Memorial Day Weekend

Monday, May 1st

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society

Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm, "Cemeteries - A Nice Place to Visit." Video on the history of cemeteries. CVGS members Mary Boehnlein & John & Sandy Stoika will talk accessing genealogical information from cemetery records & tombstones. For more info, call president Wally Huskonen, 440-526-1238.

Thursday, May 4

Clean-up planning meeting

YMCA, 3881 Pearl Road, 7 pm. Southwest Citizens Area Council (SWCAC) final planning meeting for Brooklyn Centre's first neighborhood clean-up. All welcome.

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 benefit Women's Alliance for Recovery Services. For tickets or more info call 216-575-9120.

Saturday, May 6

Neighborhood clean-up

9 am to noon. Southwest Citizens Area Council (SWCAC) hosting its first neighborhood clean-up; all Old Brooklyn & Brooklyn Centre residents invited to participate. Clean-up starts at Gino's Tavern, 1314 Denison Ave., & heads west on Denison to Pearl Rd.

Saturday, May 6th

Moms In Touch

Independence Public Library, 6361 Selig Blvd. 1 - 2:30 pm. A coffee informational meeting. Learn how spending one hour a week can make a difference in the lives of children & the schools they attend through prayer. Call Patti Gabb at 216-392-8712 or Beth Gajdos at 216-459-1277. Check out the website at www.momintouch.org/

Wednesday, May 10th

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, 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

Saturday, May 13

Bowling for Rhinos

Cloverleaf Lanes, 5619 Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville. 6:30 pm to midnight. Cleveland Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) hosting "Bowling for Rhinos," annual fundraiser to save the nearly extinct rhino. For further info call 216-661-6500.

Saturday, May 13th

Plant Conservation Day

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. 10 am - 5 pm. Admire the gardens & take home gorgeous plants. Presentation about invasive plants in Ohio, an opportunity to talk informally with the Zoo's Horticulture staff & a plant sale.

Sunday, May 14th

Mother's Day

Free admission for mothers to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. 10 am - 5 pm. Also a plant sale.

Monday, May 15th

Fire Safety for your Home & Business

Gloria Dei Church, 5801 Memphis Ave. 7 pm. With the reduction of service for our area, Cleveland Fire Dept. will discuss waht action to take now to prevent a tragedy later. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, May 16th

Ward 16 Democratic Club Meeting

Gloria Dei Church, 5801 Memphis Ave. every third Tues., 7 pm. (guest speaker on Social Security)

Saturday, May 20th

Book and Author Tea

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 8235 Memphis Ave., 1 pm. Featuring Pat Leimbach, author of *Old Farm Wives Tales*; catering by Rosemary on Thyme. Sponsored by Friends of the Brooklyn Library. Admission, \$20. Purchase tickets at Brooklyn Library, 4480 Ridge Rd., by May 13.

Sunday, May 21st

Spaghetti Dinner

Corpus Christi Church, 5201 Northcliff Ave. 11 am. - 2 pm. \$7, adults; \$5, seniors & children; under 5, free. Advanced tickets, \$1 discount. Takeouts available. For more info call 216-351-6115 or 216-671-6777.

Beginning May 27th - September 4th

Photo safari contest

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, May 27-Sept. 4. Zoom in to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo & focus on this year's annual Photo Safari Contest. Amateur shutterbugs of all ages encouraged to enter their best Zoo photos throughout the summer.

Saturday, June 3

Adopt-a-pet at the Zoo

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Ticket Plaza, 10 am-5 pm. One of the largest animal adoption events in Ohio, featuring over 100 dogs & cats available for immediate adoption. Free.

Sunday, June 4th

Laurel Garden Club Card Party

Brooklyn Senior Community Center, 7727 Memphis Ave., 1-4:30 pm. \$5 admission;

advance sales only. Call Barb Stanton, 216-398-5306, for tickets or more info.

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.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Genealogy Club,

Sun., May 21, 2 pm, Brooklyn branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 4480 Ridge Rd. Tom Neal, a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and also an affiliate of the Ohio Genealogical Society in Mansfield, will speak about the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Refreshments served; prospective members welcome.

Brooklyn Centre Community Association

(formerly Archwood Denison Concerned Citizens) monthly meeting, every fourth Thurs., May 25, 7 pm, Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave. For more info call Julie, 216-287-8195.

Brooklyn Laurel Garden Club, Tues., May 9,

7:30 pm, Brooklyn Senior Community Center, 7727 Memphis Ave. Barb Okleson, a floral designer & judge with the Garden Club of Ohio, will demonstrate flower arranging and talk about what judges look for in competition entries.

The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn, Fri.,

May 12, 7:30 pm, Pearl Road United Methodist Church, 4200 Pearl Rd. (Use rear entrance off parking lot.) Dorothy Lungmus will show slides & speak about the history of notable churches around Greater Cleveland. Call president Louise Evans, 216-661-4103, for more info.

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

board meeting, Mon., May 8, every second 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., May 9, 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

Southwest Citizens Area Council monthly

meeting, 7 pm, Thurs., May 4, (every first Thurs.), YMCA lower level, 3881 Pearl Rd.

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Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn-Cleveland and Art House

Community Open House

The Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn-Cleveland and Art House invite you to join us for a free Community Open House and exhibition of local elementary school students' drawings.

Saturday, May 13, 2006
1:00PM - 3:00PM

Art House will feature art works submitted by students for the Kiwanis Club's Annual Drawing Contest from 2003 - 2005. The Community Open House includes entertainment, light refreshments, and hands-on art making activities. All are welcome to attend this free event.

For information, call Art House at 216-398-8556 or www.arthouseinc.org

Art House is located at 3119 Denison Avenue, 1.5 blocks west of the Pearl Road and Denison Avenue intersection.





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Joe Gigante: Laying foundations for a better community

by Timothy J. Kay

It was a warm spring morning at Steve's Restaurant on Broadview Road. The local diner was filled with quiet customers sipping coffee and orange juice with friends and family. In the back room, Joe Gigante, a soft-spoken, well-muscled Italian with a contagious smile, sat drinking black coffee and enjoying a gyro omelet. Joe, dressed in a plain tee-shirt and faded jeans, is the founder of Joe Gigante & Sons, a family-run cement, brickwork and home renovation contracting firm that has been in business in Old Brooklyn for 30 years.

A graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary School and Rhodes High School, Joe is proud of the neighborhood that has raised Gigante's for over 70 years.

"My favorite thing about the community (of Old Brooklyn) is the diversity of ethnic and religious backgrounds," Joe said. "It's more of a wholesome, family neighborhood."

Joe's interest in cement work was sparked in 1967, when, at the age of 12, he began working with his dad and his cousins. At age 14, Joe began working with Bill Heiman, a swimming pool builder. At 19, he joined forces with his father and Joe Gigante & Sons was born. His five brothers have all worked for the firm over the past three decades. Married for 27 years, Joe is the proud father of three children and the grandfather of two.

"My dad (Joe Gigante, Sr.) was really the driving force behind our success. The respect for quality and integrity that he ingrained into his workmanship was also passed onto his sons," said Joe.

Joe believes strongly in family and faith as the cornerstones of both his business and a healthy community.

"I was raised as a Christian; I run my business accordingly. I don't see a difference between my business, and my [duty] as a

father, husband and a Christian. I believe the greatest downfall of our community, our heritage, is fathers. Fathers are not being fathers, and they're not being husbands, either. Fathers need to be more responsible."

As an active father, church member and citizen, Joe expressed concern and hope for the city. "In the Cleveland area, I feel there is a revival happening ... through the church and through the political environment and economy. But the revival starts with us. We can't depend on our pastors, government, or sports teams to start it. It has to start at home.

"I have a real strong hope for Old Brooklyn and the Cleveland area. I know things are tough. I know things are not always nice and easy. But we need to stop, roll up our sleeves and get smart with our own lives."

Joe leaned back and chuckled, "And that is wisdom from a concrete guy."

Looking to the future, Joe said he wants to start an Italian restaurant called *Spaghetti Joe's*. Smiling broadly, Joe retorted: "Not to be prideful at all, but I am a pretty good cook."

Beyond brick work and cooking, Joe has been active in helping and encouraging his neighbors in whatever way he can. Last year, he aired the first episode of a series titled, *Making Ends Meet*. The inspirational half-hour television broadcast aired at 2 a.m. and was designed to bolster the spirits of those struggling with difficult life problems. The show aired on Channel 8 and garnered an audience of 15,000.

"The show is based on encouraging and bringing hope to Cleveland," Joe said. "My phone was ringing off the hook (after the show aired). It was almost embarrassing how much attention I got."

Joe is looking to produce the second installment of the series in the near future.

Benjamin Franklin Community Garden notes

by Tom Sargent

Garden spots are still available at the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden for the 2006 gardening season. There almost certainly will be corn plots available, though we will not be able to make assignments on these until after the garden is opened. If you wish to apply for a regular plot or be considered for a corn plot, call Tom Sargent or Sandy Worona at 216-459-1000.

The general meeting for gardeners has

been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m.; a mailing has been sent to all listed gardeners. Seeds have been made available through Summer Sprout and the Ohio State University Extension Center. They can be picked up at the meeting or at the garden after the opening. Plants from the same sources will be delivered to the garden in early June.

Weather cooperating, no problems are anticipated in meeting the scheduled opening of the garden on Saturday, May 13.

Estabrook hosts City Council meeting

by Lynette Filips and Sheila Long

Cleveland City Council conducted its regular Monday meeting amid the basketball hoops and bleachers at Estabrook Recreation Center's gymnasium on April 24. Estabrook was the group's final destination in a three-hour bus tour that took Council members through Wards 14, 15 and 16, the neighborhoods of Clark-Metro, Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn.

According to Council Public Relations Liaison Katherine Bulava, the neighborhood Council meetings are the brainchild of President Martin Sweeney. The meeting at Estabrook was the first in this series to be held in a location other than City Hall.

"The Council President is hoping to build community within Council so that all of Council understands each member's challenges... If Council members respect and understand each other better, they will work with each other better," Bulava said.

Brian Cummins and Kevin Kelley alternately served as tour guides during the portion of the bus trip that traversed their wards. Councilman Cummins focused on the development projects currently underway in Ward 15, including the historic restorations of the Masonic and the Krather Buildings and the

potential development areas along the lower Big Creek, including the Henninger landfill. The erosion problem at the Bradley Road land-

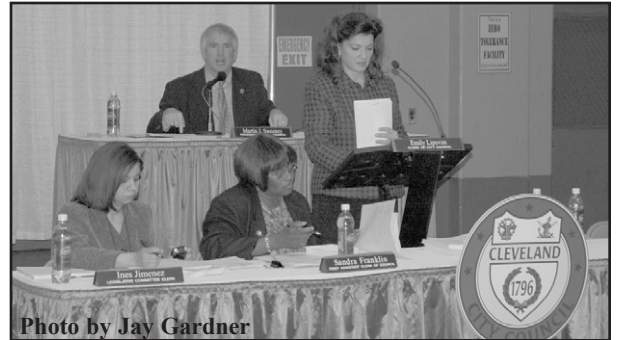


Photo by Jay Gardner

Cleveland City Council conducts its first neighborhood Council meeting at Estabrook Recreation Center.

fill was also discussed. The Charter One Bank Operations building which Cuyahoga County recently leased and MetroHealth's South Campus were lauded as positive developments in Ward 15.

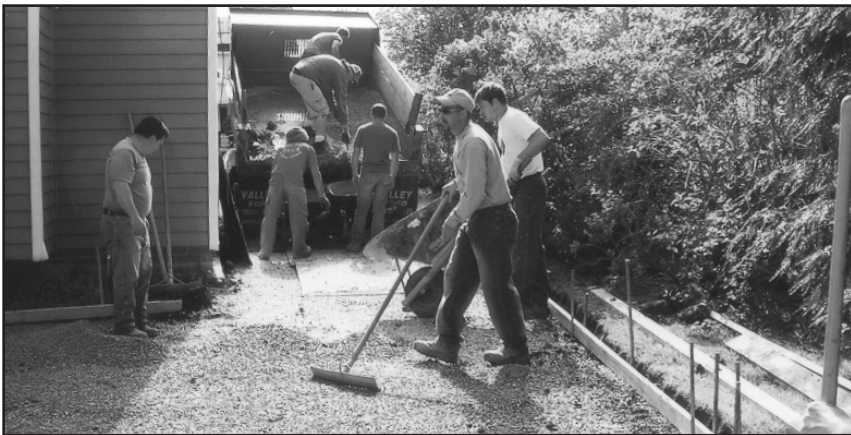
Councilman Kelley highlighted the high quality of the housing stock in Ward 16, RTA's Brooklyn Station and the unique history of the Brooklyn Acres development. In terms of areas in Ward 16 in most need, he focused on the ward's edges, especially Denison Avenue from Fulton Road to Ridge Road (part of Stockyards) and the old Memphis School.

Approximately 200 residents attended the Estabrook Council meeting.

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What a busy week (and weekend) we've had at the Old Brooklyn office! Friday night was our gala 30th anniversary celebration in the Cat, Primate and Aquatics building at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo; Sunday, a couple of OBCDC people were back at the Zoo to staff our table at Earth Day; and now it's time to get the May *Old Brooklyn News* and the 2006 *Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre Business Directory* off to their respective printers.

Did you notice the big yellow daffodils (and the less obvious red tulips) in the planters in Old Brooklyn's "downtown" business district (mostly on Pearl Road and Broadview Road near Pearl Road) last month? Teams of people from the OBCDC office and board and volunteers from both Ward 15 and Ward 16 planted the bulbs last autumn. The timing of Easter this year was just right for them to be in bloom on the holiday weekend.

Of course, we're not the only people around town who've been busy. Things have really been hopping a bit farther down Broadview Road, too. For only the second time in its 100-plus year existence, the building at 2310/2314 Broadview has been sold. When it was built in 1895 (or 1898, depending on the source), that structure was the **Village of South Brooklyn's Town Hall and Fire Station**. It became one of the City of Cleveland's fire stations in 1905 when that section of our neighborhood was annexed to Cleveland.

Hose Company #4/Engine Company #7 served our community until June 8, 1949, when the men and machinery relocated to a new fire station, #42, on Pearl Road at Stickey Avenue (the one which is currently in the news because of its hook and ladder truck being moved).

In 1997, I wrote a series of articles about our former town hall and fire station, but what happened to the building from the time that it ceased to be used for fire-fighting until 1980 when Old Brooklyn resident Nick Dobrinich bought it is too much to recount in a Town Crier column. For twenty-five-plus years, Nick used the building to warehouse

supplies for his former electrical contracting business. Now retired, he decided that it was time to sell it to a younger person.

And so, on January 31, 2006, the title to South Brooklyn's former town hall and fire station transferred to Joseph Danczak of Parma Heights. Judging from the pickup trucks we've seen parked there, we surmise that he is seriously working on the inside of the building. (That translates to 2,065 square feet on each of three levels — basement, first floor and second floor.) We hope that we will be able to write a whole article about his restoration work there before the year is over.

Not far away, **MetroHealth Medical Center** continues to make progress at another Old Brooklyn landmark, the old Deaconess Hospital on Pearl Road, now MetroHealth's "South Campus". In the winter 2006 newsletter which was mailed to seniors in its "Advantage" program, MetroHealth talked about its plans for the next phase of the building. Although still raising funds to make these plans a reality, Metro is anticipating having things in place by the end of 2007.

In addition to moving its entire Geriatrics Department to Old Brooklyn, MetroHealth has joined with the Benjamin Rose Institute, Concordia Health Care, the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice and Palliative Care Partners of Ohio to add a whole range of new services — a long-term skilled nursing care facility on the second floor, adult day care, a mall to house offices for community service agencies, an indoor walking area, a beauty shop, a barber shop, a gift shop and a cafeteria.

The offices of primary care doctors will be just one part of Metro's Geriatrics Department move; specialists with whom seniors often need to consult will be located in the former Deaconess complex, too, as will a pharmacy, a lab and an x-ray department.

Given the number of seniors in our community, the closer location and the ease of parking will make the relocation a real bonus for those who use MetroHealth for their medical needs.

Two Old Brooklyn musicians will be participating in the Symphony West Orchestra's "Viva Espana!" program at

Baldwin-Wallace College on Saturday, May 13. **Victoria Marra** conducts the orchestra; her daughter, **Laura Simna**, is a violinist with the group. Laura will be doing a violin solo featuring the *Carmen Fantasy* and selections from *Evita*.

The B-W concert will be held in Gamble Auditorium of the Kulas Musical Arts Building, 96 Front Street, in Berea. It begins at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for high school and college students. There is no admission charge for children of lesser ages.

With another school year drawing to a close, we expect that there will soon be many local essay contest winners to write about. But before it's time to report about them, we still have one competition from 2005 which never made it into this column. That was the contest which the **Brooklyn-Parma Knights of Columbus (K of C) #2803** sponsored at this time last year.

The topic about which the K of C asked the students to write was "The Responsibility of a Catholic Citizen in a Free Society". **Carl Buchwald of Our Lady of Good Counsel School** wrote the winning essay; he was presented with the \$200 prize money at the

school's eighth-grade graduation ceremony.

Jason Merser was the winning writer from **St. Leo the Great School**, and he, too, was recognized by the Knights of Columbus. (It so happens that St. Leo's associate pastor, **Fr. Thomas Stock**, is a K of C chaplain.)

Moving on to recent times, **David Rudd**, a Boy Scout from **Saint Thomas More Church**, was among the Scouts who received the Ad Altare Dei Award at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Sunday, April 23. To earn this special recognition (which means "to the altar of God"), Catholic Boy Scouts must complete a series of requirements/activities related to the values Scouting and their religion espouse.

Ohio State University has informed us that six students from our neighborhood were on its honor roll (3.5 or above) winter quarter. They are **Jonathan Hollik, Volodymyr Karpa, Kristen Krajewski, Stephanie Sabater** and **Heath Williams** of Cleveland and **Jessica Safran** of Brooklyn.

To have your news included in a future Town Crier column, send it to: Lynette Filips, 3344 Broadview Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109 Till then, don't forget to take some time to smell the flowers.



Photo by George Anuba

Volunteer **Jessica Litz** paints a smiley face on the cast of **Isaiah Payton** at the **Brooklyn Family YMCA** during **Healthy Kids Day**. The event featured face painting, games, giveaways, a soccer clinic and a tumbling demo.

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By Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

Business Signs

Is there anything that identifies a neighborhood business more than the sign? People who may or may not be interested in whatever the business is will make a snap judgment about the business based upon the sign. Is it well maintained with crisp color? Does it fit the building or overwhelm the building? Are the colors compatible? Can it be read from across the street or from a hundred feet away in either direction? Does it have internal lighting or light reflecting upon it? Does it meet the Cleveland building code requirements?

A clever sign can register in people's minds long before they find the need to shop at the store or even call the business. A sign that people remember can either invite or dissuade a future customer. An excellent example is the large tooth brush and tooth on the Miller Building on Broadview Road. The Miller Building is home to John A. Hudec, D.D.S. and Associates. The sign is a landmark for directing people to the building. It clearly identifies a dental services practice. What is more is that it overcomes the fact that if you are not a client you may not remember the name of the business. However, you will remember dental care is available there. Now that is clever, tasteful and smart marketing, especially when there are three other dental practices within a few hundred feet

There are also signs that send a negative message. Signs that are fading, rusting, peeling and sagging inform potential customers

that this is not a good business. A business that does not care about its sign by maintaining its appearance may not provide good service or products. There are examples along Pearl, State and Broadview Roads. Poorly designed or maintained signs make a statement about the area beyond the specific building. Merchants and businesses who are impacted by a neighbor's poor sign should speak directly to the offender in the spirit of trying to improve the community's image.

There are Cleveland ordinances regulating the size, placement, fabrication, lighting and installation of commercial signs. A building permit is required for a new sign. The regulations are necessary and practical to insure safe installation and not block the view of pedestrians and drivers along the public right of way. Businesses that are located in a Business Revitalization District or Cleveland Landmarks District (most of Pearl Rd and Broadview Rd) have the additional requirement of presenting the sign to the local Design and Review Committee. This is a protection for commercial property owners that prevent

bad signage from spoiling a neighborhood. In the near future the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation code enforcement officer will be checking for signs that do not meet building code requirements.

Signs are an important component of the Cleveland Storefront Renovation program. For almost 20 years this program has provided for new signs that are informative, clever, whimsical and appropriately sized for the building. If you are in a Cleveland Storefront Renovation target area you may be eligible for storefront and/or new signage. Please call me for details.

Green Building

An emerging niche in the construction industry is "green building". The term is young enough that an agreed upon definition is evolving. Generally, it refers to using materials and systems that reduce energy consumption, reduce toxins, promote recycling and are not harmful to the environment. As the effort grows more architects, engineers and construction contractors are utilizing materials and techniques. As demand for these products grow costs decrease

and long term operational savings increases.

Locally the Cleveland Green Building Coalition is a clearing house of information, programs and products for "green building" construction. They offer information across the spectrum from home remodeling through industrial construction. Their building at 3500 Lorain is itself a demonstration of practical "green building" construction from replaceable carpet squares made from recycled material to geo thermal heating pulled from a deep well below the parking area. Visit their web site at www.clevelandgbc.org.

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.

Supported by:

Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition
Ohio & Erie Canal Association



"A good time was had by all" at the OBCDC's 30th Anniversary celebration on Friday, April 21, in the Primate, Cat and Aquatics Building at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

L-R (top) George Shuba Lynette Filipis, Heather Thomas Lazar, Johanna & Darren Hamm, Brian & Gayle Cummins and Jay Gardner;

(middle) Heather & Sue Alexander, Sandy Worona & JJ Welsh and Judith Pindell;

(bottom) Lori Peterson, Susan Nieves, Debbie Zeleny and Pauline & Tom Sargent.



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Ron Chervenak 440-572-3100



**Move Right In
Old Brooklyn Bungalow \$109,900**

3 bedroom Bungalow w/new carpet & interior freshly painted. Newer vinyl siding, furnace, C/A & H2O. Large finished rec. room. in bsmt.w/glass block windows. Private fenced yard w/deck. #4100.

Melanie Fealkovich 216-635-5400



**Nice Double!
Old Brooklyn \$129,500**

This home has large rooms, updated kitchens & baths in each unit. Newer carpeting in both up & down & 2 bedrooms in each. Basement, 2car garage, fenced yard, deck & more. Live in one or rent both.

Julie Chetlan 440-572-3100



**True Four Bedroom
Cleveland \$109,900**

Spacious 4 br 1.5 bath Colonial. three Car gar. Beautiful formal dining rm. All natural woodwork, many updates 2005 exterior painted h20 2004, most windows replace 2003 house insulated 2002. #4124

Daniel Wingenfeld 216-635-5400



**Affordable!
Old Brooklyn \$92,900**

3 bdrm. Colonial with updated kitchen cabinets, newer roof & glass block windows in waterproofed basement with transferable warranty. Updated electric box, enclosed 3 season patio, garage & more. Good condition.

Lourene Marquez 440-572-3100



**Spectacular Colonial
Cleveland \$129,900**

3 bedroom, 2 full baths, Aluminum sided Colonial, Nice remodeled kit w/ceramic tiles, updated electric, newer windows, C/A rebuilt front porch, finished basement w/4th bdrm. & glass block windows. Fenced in yard.2.5 car garage.#4115

Ralph Lozada 216-635-5400



**Parma Circle Brick Bungalow
\$143,900**

Well maintained four bedrooms, 2 full baths, new furnace & C/A 2 car garage, finished basement w/rec rm, glass block windows,natural wood-work. #4028

Ion Sipoteanu 216-635-5400



**Could This Be The One!
Parma \$154,900**

Brick vinyl Ranch 3bdrm., 1.5 bath. Finished basement with extra rm. for office/bedroom. some hardwood floors. Newer driveway, 2 car garage, fenced yard. Close to schools and shopping.

Angela Giarikos 440-572-3100



**Well maintained and updated
Parma Bungalow \$135,900**

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 hobbyist or auto mechanic.#3987

Pat Hennessy 216-635-5400



**Marvelous Ranch
Parma \$153,319**

This home has 3 bedrooms, a formal dining room & eat-in kitchen. there is an enclosed sun room off the dining room to enjoy. The lower level is completely finished & includes a wet bare, built-in cabinets & shelving.

Linda Parrish 440-572-3100



**Spacious Rooms
Cleveland Aluminum Bungalow
\$84,900**

This three bedroom Bungalow is freshly painted inside and out, newer carpeting, formal dining room,full basement w/sump pump & half bath, shed, 2 car garage, #4148

Ralph Lozada 216-635-5400



**One Floor Living
Parma \$199,900**

3 years young 1558 sq. ft. Cluster Ranch! 2 full baths, 1st floor laundry & attached 2 car garage. Living room with vaulted ceilings & peninsula gas fireplace. All appliances stay. 12x10 patio with remote awning & sprinkler system.

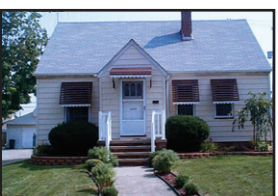
Giarikos/Maniscalco 440-572-3100



**Ageless Beauty
Cleveland Colonial \$79,900**

Quality from the past Beautiful woodwork, built in cabinets in Living room and dining room, newer complete tear off roof, ceiling fans, open front porch, affordable dream home. #4179

Chapters 216-635-5400



**Best Buy For The Money!
Old Brooklyn \$103,000**

Well maintained Bungalow on nice street. Newer windows, driveway, roof, & carpet. Updated sun room. Fenced yard with pool to enjoy. Partially finished basement & all appliances stay. Very affordable home.

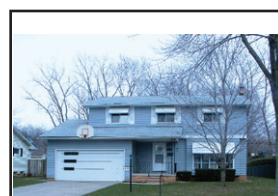
Nancy Farmer 440-572-3100



**Great Starter Home!
Cleveland Ranch \$131,000**

Clean three bedroom Alum sided Ranch, 1.5 baths, 2 car garage, appliances stay, central air, full basement, home warranty. #4154

Jeff Hartel 216-635-5400



**Spacious Colonial
Parma Hts. \$182,900**

4 bdrm., 2.5 home on private wooded lot. Newer furnace, central air, & roof. Finished rec room with fireplace. Large living & family rooms. Eat-in kitchen with lots of cabinets. Covered patio off family room. Close to Parmatown.

Kathy Montgomery 440-572-3100



**King Bungalow
Old Brooklyn \$105,500**

Spacious, decorative fireplace in liv rm. Leaded glass china cabs in living room&dining room.Garage extra deep and extra area for workshop.Handicap Access.#4116

James Hiles 216-635-5400



**Spacious Ranch
Parma Hts. \$129,900**

Many updates in this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. they include: kitchen, baths, windows & carpeting through out. One car attached garage, private back yard and shed. Owners will look at all offers! come see today what this home can offer.

Dick Crawford 440-572-3100

Community Toolbox



by The Honorable Raymond L. Pianka
Cleveland Municipal Housing Court Judge

Bankruptcy - not always a fresh start

As Cleveland's Housing Court Judge, I see defendants every day who struggle to bear the financial burden of property ownership. Many of them turn to bankruptcy to help them in this struggle.

Bankruptcy is a valuable tool and may provide some people with a financial "second chance." Many people who file bankruptcy, however, receive inaccurate information about the effect of bankruptcy on real property they own. Everyday, defendants in Housing Court tell me that they have filed bankruptcy, and therefore have no further responsibility for the property. Some of them even say that they received this information from their bankruptcy attorneys!

This is not the case. An owner of real property in the City of Cleveland remains responsible for keeping the property free of code violations even after filing for bankruptcy. This is because simply filing a bankruptcy petition does not transfer title to real property.

A bankruptcy filing leaves the property owner with the legal obligation to maintain that property in compliance with the City's ordinances. The owner must still correct violations of building, housing, health and fire codes. The law imposes this continuing responsibility on property owners because a bankruptcy filing does not transfer the responsibility to anyone else. The bankruptcy trustee does not become responsible for

the property, and neither does a lienholder. Cleveland's Housing Code (Cleveland Codified Ordinance §363.12) requires a lienholder who has taken sufficient possession or control of real property to correct code violations, but does not relieve a titled owner of their responsibility. The owner's responsibility to maintain their property in compliance with City code continues until title to the property has transferred.

In Cleveland, a conviction for failing to comply with an order to make repairs under the Housing Code or Building Code is a first degree misdemeanor. The Court can sentence the owner to pay a fine of **\$1,000.00** and to serve **180 days in jail** for each day of an owner's failure to comply with such an order. A fine is unlikely to serve as a punishment when a defendant has filed for bankruptcy because, even though it is not a debt that is dischargeable in bankruptcy, the defendant may not be able to pay it. So, a court may have little choice but to impose a jail sentence upon the defendant as punishment.

This is similar to the situation faced by owners whose properties are in foreclosure. The owner of the property remains responsible for maintaining it in compliance with City code even after the foreclosure has been filed. The owner is responsible for maintaining the property during the time the foreclosure is pending, and may be subject to a

fine or jail time if he or she fails to do so. Only the final transfer of title after sheriff's sale ends the owner's responsibility. While a bank or other lender that has filed foreclosure may tell a defendant to leave the property, until the sheriff's sale has been confirmed the owner does so at his or her own risk. In some of the cases that have come before me, an owner has retained title to (and, so, responsibility for) property many years after filing for bankruptcy, because a pending foreclosure case has not resulted in sale and transfer of title.

When sentencing defendants in Housing Court, as Judge I take into account a defendant's circumstances, including the defendant's financial position. I also consider a defendant's ongoing efforts to care for the property. These efforts can include caring for the exterior of property (cutting grass and weeds, removing trash and debris, tow-

ing away junk or unlicensed cars, painting over graffiti) and making an effort to facilitate the transfer of the property, by negotiation with the lien holder, cooperation with the foreclosure court or by seeking a buyer - often with the help of a local community development corporation. Many of these actions cost little or nothing, and so are available even to property owners who have filed bankruptcy. These actions may serve to reduce the punishment faced by defendants who have filed bankruptcy and are being sentenced in Housing Court, but do not eliminate the responsibility of defendants to maintain their property.

Each year, many property owners choose the financial fresh start that bankruptcy may provide. But that fresh start, for owners of real property with code violations, only begins when title to the property transfers.

Neighborhood Safety Summit

<p>Saturday, May 20 MetroHealth South Campus (formerly Deaconess Hospital) 4229 Pearl Road</p>		<p>Reserve your seat! To register call Judith at 459-1000.</p>		
<p>Sponsored by: Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services Second District Cleveland Police MetroHealth</p>		<p>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!</p>		
<p>Workshops</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p><u>Track I</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Citizen Involvement * Gangs & Drugs * Kid Safety * Vacant and Abandoned Property </td> <td> <p><u>Track II</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Auto, Home, Business Security * Senior Safety * Kid Safety * Vacant and Abandoned Property </td> </tr> </table>			<p><u>Track I</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Citizen Involvement * Gangs & Drugs * Kid Safety * Vacant and Abandoned Property 	<p><u>Track II</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Auto, Home, Business Security * Senior Safety * Kid Safety * Vacant and Abandoned Property
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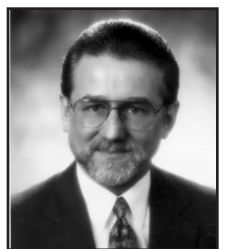
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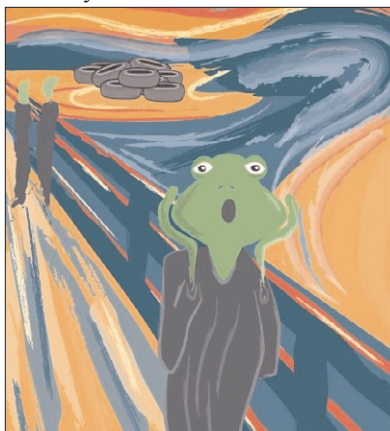
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Hook and Ladder from front page

3765 Pearl Road.

Flask credited Old Brooklyn residents and Councilmen Cummins and Kelley for bringing to the City's attention the potential difficulties with response time during the Fulton Road bridge construction as turning the tide in developing a compromise.

"The residents were heard. They spoke loud and clear about their desire to maintain the ladder company in their neighborhood. The Chief (City of Cleveland Fire Chief Paul Stubbs) and I were very pleased with the community's support for the division of fire. The discussions about the Fulton Road Bridge and the resultant increased traffic on Pearl Road made it evident to the Chief that it was an issue that should be considered," Flask said.

Flask also indicated that a plan is in discussion phases that, if implemented, would return Station 42 permanently to a fully-staffed engine and ladder company after the Fulton Road bridge construction.

"We are hopeful that we will have 35 firefighters currently assigned to the fire dispatch center redeployed back into the neighborhoods to fight fires," Flask said. "Our intent is that Ladder 42 would be the first company to be staffed from this redeployment."

Despite the potential for increased firefighters on the streets that would result from this redeployment, Councilman Cummins noted that this is a union contract issue that is barely in discussion phases.

According to Flask, the dispatch center, under the proposed plan, would be staffed by civilians. "The police civilianized their communication center 30 years ago. EMS did the same thing in 1994. Fire dispatching remains an operation that is fully staffed by uniformed firefighters.

Over the past five months, hundreds of Old Brooklyn residents have turned the table on an old axiom - "You can't fight City Hall." Three rallies and two public meetings brought Old Brooklyn residents out of their comfortable homes and into a series of public protests that haven't been seen in Cleveland for quite some time. On April 10, the public outcry culminated with some 200 people protesting on the steps of City Hall followed by a presentation of petitions to Mayor Jackson.

Councilman Brian Cummins, who paid for the busses that transported residents to City Hall for the protest, expressed pride in his constituents.

"I think it was the combination of efforts from both wards...the grass roots civic associations as well as the firefighters and their families. Time and time again, whatever the issue, the closing of schools or the closing of the Fulton Road Bridge, there has been very strong community involvement. It is just exemplary for both communities," he said.

Judith Pindell, OBCDC's Community Organizer and primary coordinator of the protests, indicated the scrutiny will continue. "This gives us two years to get City Council to get their budget in order," Judith said. "The fight isn't over. We need to make sure that City Council remains vigilant and makes public safety the number one (budget) priority for the entire city of Cleveland."

Gloria and Tim Ferris, who live on Denison Avenue in Brooklyn Centre, participated in most of the public forums and protests. "I think they failed to address all of the residents concerns regarding safety," Gloria said. "Unfortunately, the administration chose a stop-gap measure that does nothing to address the overall safety needs of the City of Cleveland. Whatever the outcome, we have seen an outpouring of community activism and cohesiveness surrounding this issue. I hope it lays a foundation for even bigger things to come."

Though the temporary brown-out is in place until the fall, Old Brooklyn residents can claim a partial victory in forcing a compromise and achieving, at the least, a two-year stay of another brown-out.

Past 30 years from front page

sentative. (Jim Rokakis served in that position until he was elected Cuyahoga County Treasurer.)

Even after he was defeated by Patrick O'Malley for Cleveland City Council, Joe Cannon remained one of Old Brooklyn and OBCDC's staunchest supporters. A lifelong resident of the community (and member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church), Joe has approximately eight decades with Old Brooklyn under his belt.

It would take more than this short article to write about the other neighborhood organizations, both in Old Brooklyn and in Brooklyn Centre, which our Cleveland City Council representatives also funded with block grant money during the years that OBCDC has been in existence. All but one of these organizations are now defunct, an all-too-frequent reason for which was a lack of financial integrity on the part of their executive directors.

The multiplicity of services resulting from multiple neighborhood organizations has been confusing to residents, who do not necessarily understand that some parts of Old Brooklyn are in Ward 16 and some parts

(along with Brooklyn Centre) are in Ward 15. That is why Councilman Kelley and Councilman Cummins have been working with community leaders to consolidate the two neighborhood organizations currently in existence (OBCDC and Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services). This change is due to take effect July 1.

As I mentioned last month, our neighborhood's churches have also been a unifying force in the community, and happily, relations between our Protestants and Catholics are a far cry from what they were in earlier decades here. Now, instead of distrusting each other, they've come to realize that they are working toward common goals.

The founding of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, the subsequent founding of the Greater Brooklyn Ministerial Association, and the churches' combined efforts to purchase the Broadvue Theatre to rid our neighborhood of pornography contributed to this change in attitude; it has been a joy to experience.

One example of the harmony which now exists between our neighborhood churches was the funeral service of the Rev. Elam Wiest. As you may recall from last month's article, he had been OBCDC's first executive director, a president of the OBCDC board, an administrator of Deaconess-Krafft Center, the executive director of the Western Reserve Association of the United Church of Christ, and, at different times, the pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ and Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ (BHUCC).

Because of their similar names (not the same spelling), Rev. Elam Wiest had a particular fondness for Fr. Ned Weist, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church, and Fr. Weist felt the same way about Rev. Wiest. And so it was that when Rev. Wiest died and his funeral was held at BHUCC, a Catholic priest, Fr. Ned Weist, not a United Church of Christ minister, was who he'd chosen to preside at the service. It was a beautiful testimony to the ecumenism that the Catholic Vatican II Council of the 1960s had espoused, and part of the reason for its happening was the community spirit OBCDC had been helping to foster.

I have long been impressed with the willingness of individuals to serve on the OBCDC board of directors, and I have been even more impressed with those who have served as

board president, especially those who came back for multiple terms. Those in the latter category include John Young, president of Speed Exterminating; Jack Amburgey, president of A & K Investment Corporation and Wholesale Business Furniture; and Don Kuenzer, senior curator of the RainForest at the Metroparks Zoo.

Of course, it wasn't just the community leaders who revitalized our neighborhood. Residents rallied around their leaders, especially during the "Buy the Broadvue" campaign. I talked about church fundraisers, and donations from businesses, institutions and individuals in last month's article, but I didn't paint a complete picture of how those donations from residents were secured. Teams of volunteers canvassed the neighborhood week after week, and door by door, they secured the funds which helped to buy the theater.

OBCDC volunteers weren't just working toward the purchase of the Broadvue Theatre, however. In the Eighties, when the Home and Flower Show was still taking place downtown, I remember helping to staff OBCDC's booth in the neighborhood streets area on the lower level of the Convention Center. Representatives from other Cleveland neighborhood organizations were also present, including Brooklyn Centre. (In those days, it was referred to as "Archwood-Denison" and "Crossroads" was the name of its development corporation.)

The *Old Brooklyn News* has also had a unifying effect on the community, and OBCDC is proud that it is the only community development corporation in the city which has such a publication.

In the early years, the newspaper had an editor and at times, also an ad sales manager, who took care of publishing the paper so that getting it to print was not a major part of OBCDC's executive director's job. That situation changed at the end of 1990, when financial difficulties combined with the challenge of finding a good editor caused executive director Gerald Preseren to add the task of putting out the *Old Brooklyn News* to all his other responsibilities.

That was the same year that I had started writing for the *OBN* and word processing was a pretty new thing. How well I remember Jerry hauling the computer home on the weekends so that he could work on the paper there, too.

Later, when the *OBN* office got online, Jerry was able to send the "copy" over the wires to the *News Herald*, our publisher at the time. But he and Sandy Worona (the ad sales and layout person whom a previous *OBN* ad manager had recruited from her job at Rosby Brothers Greenhouse in 1992, and who is still with us) had to drive out to Willoughby to lay out the paper. In those days they used the time-honored method of cutting and pasting galley sheets.

After he left the *Old Brooklyn News* in January of 1990, former editor Mike Zenczak remained in contact with Jerry Preseren.

Years later he told Jerry that he could not believe that OBCDC continued to publish the *OBN* every month in the absence of an editor with a degree in journalism.

Brian Cummins, OBCDC's next executive director, shared Jerry's enthusiasm for the *Old Brooklyn News*. (In fact, when he left the job to run for the Ward 15 Council position and I asked him what his favorite parts of the past four years were, editing the paper was one of the things he mentioned.)

It was during Brian's tenure that the method of laying out the *Old Brooklyn News* changed to a computer program done right in the OBCDC office. Sandy and Brian both learned how to use it, and every month, they devoted many hours to that task.

To be free of other office distractions, Brian often pulled "all-nighters", so intense was his desire to make the *OBN* as perfect as possible. Since he's been gone, Sandy has assumed the major responsibility of laying out the paper, and, until recently, had to drive the disc to the printer in Streetsboro.

Neighborhood photographer George Shuba began taking pictures for the *Old Brooklyn News* circa 1991, the same year that he photographed the cover for the third *Old Brooklyn Business Directory*. Because finances at the paper were really tight in those years, instead of any financial compensation for his work, for a while George had to be satisfied with a free ad in the *OBN* for his rock and roll photographs.

Beginning with the 1990 directory, local artist Jim Ptacek, too, worked on the cover design of the business directory for a free ad (for his annual Christmas card and/or his posters) instead of payment, and that mode of operation continues to this day.

In addition to the work done on the *Old Brooklyn News* directly, *OBN* editors and staff have also served as volunteer presidents of the Neighborhood and Community Press Association, which was organized out of Cleveland State University's Department of Communication Arts. Sandra Watkins was its first president, Mike Zenczak and Lynette Zieminski (now Lynette Filips) were subsequent presidents, and Brian Cummins is the current — and outgoing — president.

The last individual whose extraordinary service I would like to note is Don Workman, owner of Ameriflag, Inc. He is "always there" for this community — his ads have helped support the *OBN* and our business directory since the beginning, his flags have graced our flagpoles, and his selling candy for the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn in his store helped the organization pay for the banner which he sold them at virtually no profit for himself.

In the three decades of its existence, OBCDC has been so blessed with dedicated people in and around it! If there are other people or events which I have forgotten, please contact me so that next month I can add them to the final segment of this chronicle.

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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.

Brooklyn Animal Shelter
10218 Micka Drive 216-741-8194

Kids Fest - Sun. May 7, 11 am - 4 pm. Celebrate the start of National Be Kind to Animals Week at the Brooklyn Senior Center, 7727 Memphis Ave. Activities include games, crafts, story times, & a puppet show. Animal rescue groups on hand to answer animal questions. Admission \$1 per adult; children free.

Cleveland Metroparks Canal Way Center
Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation -
E. 49th St., 216-206-1000

Art Display - thru Jun. 30, 9 am - 5 pm. Photo exhibit by Al Fuchs of Cleveland architecture, workers & landmarks.

CanalWay Kids - Hooray for Trees - Ages 3 - 5 with an adult. Thurs., May 11, 10 - 11:15 am. Celebrate trees through a story, craft & short hike.

Hidden Valley Homeschoolers - Thurs., May 18, 10 am - noon. Learn about animal shelters & assist in building one.

Poison Ivy - Sat., May 20, 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Families & adults welcome to learn about poison ivy & what to do if you come in contact with it.

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.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle
216-231-4600

Museum - Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Wed. to 10 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Age 2 & under, free; age 3-6, \$4; age 7-adult, \$7; seniors & students, \$5.

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

Games - Every Tues. in May, 4 - 5:30 pm. Play your favorite board game.

Movies - Every Thurs. in May, 4 - 5:30 pm. Enjoy a free movie.

Play & Learn & Storytime - Every Fri. in May, 10:30 - 11:30 am. After you & your children play with educational toys, stay for a story.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Wildlife Way, 216-661-6500

Mother's Day - Sun., May 14, 10 am - 5 pm. All moms receive free admission to Zoo & Rain Forest.

Butterfly Magic - Fri., May 19 thru Labor Day. In the Zoo's Public Greenhouse. Free with paid Zoo admission.

New Exhibit - TOUCH - Amazing Rays & Sharks - Thurs., May 25 thru Labor Day, 10 am - 5 pm, at Savanna Ridge. Visitors can touch stingrays & feed small sharks. Learn about marine life around the world. Admission \$1 per person. Free for Zoo members.

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). Four week session in May 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.

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.

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

Planetarium Family Programs - Programs, dates, times & fees vary. Call or visit lensc.org for more info.

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

Millionaires' Row, The Legacy of Euclid Avenue - 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 for more info.

Safari Camp begins Thurs., June 1, 7 pm - 11 am, Thurs. through Sun. throughout the summer. Take an African safari & learn about Africa's wildlife. Rising Waters Safari Camp held in the Zoo's African Savanna offers overnight camping experiences - nighttime zoo hikes, global positioning system (GPS) tracking devices, campfire snacks, music & drum circles. Minimum of 15 participants per overnight; must include one adult for every 10 children. Fee, \$35 per person. For further info. call 216-661-6500.

OBCDC celebrates from front page then if any idea is a good one—it invariably has a chance to succeed. For the next ten years I, along with hundreds of dedicated volunteers, worked to make the Corporation a success."

John gave special recognition to the early mentors of OBCDC: Judge Raymond L. Pianka who was, at that time, executive director of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Corporation; Patrick Henry, Cleveland's first director of community development and his successor, Dr. Ruth Miller; and, last but not least, Mike Loizos, owner of the former (and beloved) Glenn Restaurant, who, among other things, coined the name of the organization.

Six executive directors and one interim executive director have stewarded OBCDC over the years: Rev. Elam Weist, Paul Bar Hoover, Laverne Maximuk, Gerald Preseren, Brian Cummins, Tom Collins (an interim) and -- presently -- Jay Gardner.

Of the organization's first executive directors, John noted two standouts: "Laverne (Maximuk) was to me our inspiration. Jerry (Preseren) had a knack for understanding the problem and somehow got it done. He served during the hardest times."

Finally, John and other speakers, including Councilman Brian Cummins, gave glowing accolades to the work of Old Brooklyn News editor, historian and writer, Lynette Filips, who has served the paper and the neighborhood for

the past 16 years.

"As I thought about what could be said on this occasion, I was struck by the article in the Old Brooklyn News by Lynette Filips, which gave a marvelous summary of the history of our founding to the present. Truly, Lynette's writing over the years has been one of the solid threads (that) bind this community together, and I commend her article to you," John said.

Councilman and former OBCDC Executive Director Brian Cummins recounted the phenomenal growth of the organization that occurred during his tenure. Key developments included the involvement of the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood into the fold of OBCDC and the spawning of additional high-impact non-profits that grew their wings out of the offices of OBCDC. These include Art House and the Friends of Big Creek.

Current OBCDC Executive Director Jay Gardner, in his remarks at the event, honored the past and looked toward the future. "One of the reasons I took this position was the organization's great history. And I hope to continue to build on that solid foundation. The (upcoming) consolidation of our organization with Ward 16's community development corporation will give this organization still greater credibility. It will set new standards in community development and in CDC management and will allow this organization to take a greater lead in solving the problems facing the city as a whole."

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 Federal and state laws state that no person shall be discriminated against while seeking to buy, lease or rent housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. This newspaper will not accept any advertising for real estate which expresses a preference, limitation or discrimination. CLEVELAND TENANTS ORGANIZATION is a fair housing agency available to persons who believe they have been discriminated against. Cleveland Tenants Organization is located at 2530 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 and may be reached at 363-5270 (discrimination complaint hotline) or 621-1571 (tenant/landlord helpline). All advertisements for the sale or rental of a dwelling published in The Old Brooklyn News are subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to express a preference, limitation or discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. Readers and advertisers are hereby informed that all housing opportunities advertising this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Green Team Landscaping

Spring Cleanups

<p style="margin: 0;">Weekly Lawn Maintenance Programs</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Shrub Removal/Installation</p> <p style="margin: 0;">New Lawn Installation</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Lawn Repairs/Restoration</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Custom Machined Bed Edges</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Edging, Mulch and Flowers</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Senior Citizens Specials</p>
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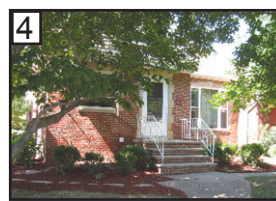
1
Old Brooklyn \$84,900
3-BEDROOM BEAUTY
Hardwood flrs. throughout. Vinyl siding. Natural woodwork in living rms. (gas fireplace) & dining rm. (charming leaded glass cabinets). kitchen updated!
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



2
Cleveland \$99,900
QUALITY FROM THE PAST
3 bed Bungalow. Eat in kit.2 fireplaces living rm & rec-rm. Updated bath, wood flrs & glass block. Newer roof & furnace/air, 200 amp service included.
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



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 bdrm. Huge living rm, 3-car garage with workshop. Eat-in kitchen. Unfinished addition in rear of house. C/A. One owner 60 years.
Darin Buchner 216-396-6007



6
Old Brooklyn \$114,900
PRICED RIGHT!
Standard 5-2 Double. Large rooms. 2-car garage. Updated electrical boxes. Easy to show!
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



7
Old Brooklyn \$114,500
SOUTH HILLS!
3-Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath Bungalow w/newer windows & updated eat-in kitchen. Real knotty pine paneling up & down. Rec rm. w/fireplace. Wonderful starter
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



Homebuyer's Seminar

- *\$0 Down Payment Loans!
- *No Closing Costs!

- *Do Not Need Excellent Credit!
- *Own Cheaper Than Rent!

...Only 45 minute Seminars!

May 10th and May 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Knowledgeable Professionals Answer Your Questions!



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!
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



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.
Joe Lacza 440-263-0419



32
Cleveland \$229,900
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.
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



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.
Eric Ebsch 216-376-3067



34
Parma \$149,900
UNLIMITED POTENTIAL!
Redone double. Kitchen/4 baths all new. 1 family home with an efficiency unit in the rear/totally private from main house. Huge garage. Large clean basement.
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



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!
Eric Ebsch 216-326-1443



36
Cleveland \$104,900
DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
Seven yr. tax abatement left. Needs TLC., but all important issues have been addressed in last 4 yrs. Updated electric, plumbing, HVAC, wind.
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



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.
Mitch Weil 216-322-6007



18
Cleveland \$83,900
CHECK IT OUT!
Old World Charm. Investment opportunity with 4 bedrooms and full basement. home warranty.
Jeff Burke 216-780-6007



24
Cleveland \$85,900
POSITIVE CASH FLOW!
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 OT 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

Jeffrey Burke
President
C-town Realty
216-780-6007

Leo Oblak
President
C-Town Title
440-716-2530

Dennis Butcher
Sr. Loan Office
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Greg Simon
President
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Reservations Required - Seating is Limited - RSVP @ 216-749-6007