

# Old Brooklyn News

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## Memphis School subject of recent articles in two Cleveland newspapers

by Lynette Filips  
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Continuing developments at the former Memphis Elementary School, 4103 Memphis Ave., captured the attention of both the *Brooklyn Sun Journal* and the *Free Times* last month. The classic school, built some time between 1913-1919, is facing the wrecker's ball if someone does not come up with the money to buy it back from the City and refurbish it.

Memphis School was the lead story on the front page of the March 1, 2007 edition of the *Brooklyn Sun Journal*. Written by Ken Prendergast, the relatively short article announced that before the building is demolished, the Cleveland Fire Department (CFD) would be using it to train future fire fighters in search and rescue techniques.

The article in the *Sun Journal* also talked about how the site is ideal for this type of training, given the large open space/parking lot (so that traffic won't be blocked during the practice rescues). And the article recounted some of the doomed school's more recent history.

Presumably the *Sun* article was correct when it stated that the Cleveland Municipal School District closed the school in 1997, and sold it to the City for \$1. But it was incorrect when it stated that the City sold the building to a businessman who opened a charter school there. (A charter school wanted to buy the building, but the deal never went through.) And it might be incorrect when it stated "End nears for Memphis..." in its headline.

The March 14-20, 2007 edition of the *Free Times* contained a two-page article about Memphis School. Written by *Free Times* Senior Editor Michael Gill, it was a highly researched article covering the entire history of the school — its quality construction, years as a neighborhood school, purchase by Cleveland businessman Thomas Hummer circa 1998, sale back to the City of Cleveland in 2005, vacancy and current precarious situation.

Like the article in the *Sun*, the *Free Times* holds the City's bidding process responsible for the fact that the school is still standing. But a big difference in the *Free Times* article is that in addition to Memphis School's being a Cleveland fire fighter's training site while it awaits the demolition ball, Michael Gill also wrote about another possibility — renovation.

Gil Janke, who has already refurbished the former Dawning, Willard and Gilbert School buildings, wants to convert the former Memphis School into a community center... but he needs funding to do it, and time to find that funding.



Photo by George Shuba

**Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Training officers from the Fire Training Academy practice new techniques in fire rescue at the former Memphis School. Both the victim, firefighter Jack Costello, and the rescuer, firefighter Hopkins, pictured here are from fire station #2 on W. 117th St. Lt. Kilbane, Lt. Jenkins, Lt. Merceo and Lt. TrapperBurg are the exercise's training officers. Tower fire station #20 on W. 25th St. is also participating in the rescue training.**

(Although "endangered" school buildings are a favorite project of The Cleveland Restoration Society, unfortunately, they largely enter the picture after the building has been purchased.)

Meanwhile, the CFD's Rapid Intervention Team is making use of the building, and that is buying Gil some of the time that he needs. The fires that have been/will be set inside Memphis School won't pose a problem to the potential developer, thanks to the school's concrete floor construction.

Some members of the community were already aware of that. When the Rhodes High School Class of 1946 wrote the book *South Brooklyn* as their graduation gift to the neighborhood, the entry about Memphis School noted that the three-story building "is of fire-proof brick construction."

There's a slang expression, "It ain't over till it's over." And so it seems that there's still the possibility that "It ain't over" for Memphis School.

## Jay Gardner leaves OBCDC executive director position

by Maribeth Feke & Lynette Filips



Jay Gardner

Whether in the lives of people or in the lives of organizations, change is unavoidable.

Though it may not be apparent to Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre residents, the past year has been a year of intense change in this community in terms of the reality of being encompassed by two separate political wards (15 and 16).

Last year, for the first time in decades, our councilmen and the boards of the community development corporations (CDC's) in those wards — Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services (OBNS) and the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) — decided to work together as one organization.

While being unified rather than divided is a bonus for our neighborhood, some of the details of consolidating two organizations have been difficult. For instance, although most of the people on both staffs could continue doing their jobs, only one executive director and one office manager was now necessary. From which organization should the combined board choose the ones they would retain?

Such was the situation last summer, when Russell Panas, former executive director of OBNS, was let go, and Jay Gardner, executive director of OBCDC, was named the new organization's interim executive director. Then the consolidated OBNS and OBCDC boards began an intense search for a new executive director who could give the consolidated organization a fresh start and which would not favor either one of the contributing CDC's.

As a result, effective March 26, 2007, Jay Gardner was relieved of his interim executive director responsibilities at OBCDC. He had been with the organization since August, 2005, and had brought over 30 years of experience in planning and community development with him when he came to our community.

During his less than two years with OBCDC, Jay brought structure and accountability to the organization. He hired three new staff members and two other employees. He also added significantly to the organization's housing and code enforcement programs.

Jay completed the conversion of OBCDC's accounting system that now yields better information about the daily bookkeeping of the agency. This information has greatly enhanced the ability to review the agency's finances.

Paul Kamiercierczak, treasurer of the OBCDC Board of Trustees, and one of the people who regularly conferred with Jay, stated, "I enjoyed working with him and will miss him."

Jay also infused the organization with real estate knowledge. Economic and real estate projects increased, as the organization took a more active role in the proposed Hinckley Ridge project. His willingness to complete transactions that leveraged other funds helped the organization create value for the neighborhood.

Community involvement activities also increased dramatically under Jay's leadership. For instance, OBCDC issued smoke detectors to the neighborhood and provided assistance to the family after the fatal fire on Fulton Rd. last autumn.

During Jay's brief tenure here, he worked with two different council representatives from Ward 15 and one from Ward 16. He sat through the CDC consolidation process, all the while knowing that his own job could be affected by the move.

Reflecting on Jay's contributions to our neighborhood, Maribeth Feke, president of the OBCDC Board of Trustees, stated, "Jay is a bright, experienced person who built the organization into a more professionally-run agency. We appreciate his financial knowledge and ability to run a community development corporation. Our organization is stronger because of his time here."

## Home delivery of OBN to be extended at least one month

by Lynette Filips  
lynnetef@oldbrooklyn.com

Last month an article on page two of the *Old Brooklyn News* carried a headline which read "Old Brooklyn News to phase out free home delivery". It said in part -

*The Old Brooklyn News has long been the flagship of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC). Its traditions date back over a quarter of a century; ... one of them has been free home*

*delivery of the monthly newspaper.*

*In recent years, maintaining this tradition has become increasingly costly; finding responsible delivery people is also difficult. Every month we receive calls at the office from disappointed residents who did not receive the current issue of the paper. Those calls have continued to rise, especially in the last month when many streets ... were never delivered.*

*As a result, the ... March and April See OBN delivery on page 4*

### Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation 2nd Annual Neighborhood Safety Summit

Saturday April 28, 2007

8:00 am - 1:30 pm

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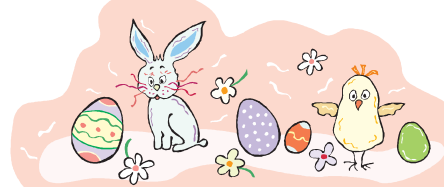
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Endorsed by: Art House, Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ, Cleveland Fire Department, Cleveland Housing Court, Cleveland Police-Second District, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, Deaconess Foundation, The MetroHealth Systems, Old Brooklyn News.



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by Lynette Filips (with Harry Arnold)

The South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association (SCSA) was founded in the spring of 1932 when George Fehlner, Gordon (King Fish) Richerdson and Howard Barclay met at Mel Balkie's Blue Flash Gas Station on Broadview Rd. between Spring Rd. and Tate Ave. Their goal was to promote continuing interest, especially among youth, in the field sports of hunting, fishing, archery, recreational indoor and outdoor range shooting, clay bird shooting and dog training, and to teach the safe handling of firearms.

SCSA was incorporated in January of 1935. Their meetings were held at Frobies Garage on Denison Ave. During subsequent years, SCSA meetings were held at other locations in the Old Brooklyn area - The International Order of Odd Fellows "Glenn Hall" on Pearl Rd. at Broadview Rd. and the "Ampol Club Hall" at 4737 Pearl Rd.

Since October of 2006, SCSA has been meeting at the "Brooklyn-Parma Knights of

Columbus Hall" at 4730 Broadview Rd. "We started in Old Brooklyn," current president Harry Arnold stated. "We wanted to stay here."

Over the years SCSA leased various tracts of land to conduct their activities, the first of which was at Broadview Rd. and Avery Rd. in Broadview Hts. Their second leased property was at Crossview Rd. and Ridgewood Dr. in Seven Hills.

In the 1949, SCSA purchased its first property - 55 acres at 19300 Ridge Rd. in North Royalton. It still owns that land today, but due to need for an additional facility, another property was purchased in 1961. It is located at 5730 Erhart Rd. in Chatham Township, Medina County. It is much larger - 335 acres. Certified member-instructors conduct courses in hunter safety, personal protection, home firearm safety and pistol rifle, shotgun and range safety. Competitive events are held from time to time, too.

The South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. With over 600 active members, it is one of Ohio's largest sportsman organizations, and is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, the League of Ohio Sportsmen, the Civilian Marksmanship Program and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Anyone wishing further information should access its website at [www.scsa/info](http://www.scsa/info).

## It's sign-up time for Benjamin Franklin gardeners and prospective gardeners

by Tom Sargent

The rapidly warming outside temperatures and the approaching opening day for baseball at the Jake are gentle reminders that May 12, the scheduled start of the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden season, is rapidly approaching.

Returning gardeners are reminded to have their applications turned in by April 16, in order to ensure that they can have the same plot(s) as last year. Applications from prospective new gardeners are also being received, and those plot assignments will be made after the established gardeners are given opportunity to make their plot selections.

We anticipate that there will be a sufficient number of garden plots available to satisfy requests from prospective new gardeners who wish to garden with us this year. We also expect, if there is sufficient demand, to convert a few gardens to "organic" gar-

dening. It will take several years for the plots to become organic in the strictest sense, but it is doable over time. More information will be available later.

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 again provide a limited number of plants and seeds free to gardeners.

A general meeting for all gardeners will be held at the offices of The Old Brooklyn Community Development Center on the evening of May 3, 2007. A mailing will be sent to all gardeners from whom we have applications well before that date. 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.

## New Brooklyn fire station opens



Photo by George Shuba

The new Brooklyn Fire Station is located at 8400 Memphis Ave., west and north of the former facility. A use for the old building has not yet been determined.

by Jay Gardner

On February 28th, the City of Brooklyn proudly "cut the ribbon" at the official opening of its new Memphis Rd. firehouse. Built at a cost of 5.6 million dollars, the new station will serve the entire city. It replaces a facility that was built in the 1940s and had been added onto over the years.

According to Brooklyn Fire Chief Paul Duchoslav, "We needed a facility that would satisfy the needs of 21st century fire fighting equipment and techniques. The old station was about 12,000 square feet and various additions had turned it into a confusing maze that created lots of inefficiencies. Our new station is 24,000 square feet and designed to quickly and efficiently mobilize our fire fighters. We've probably cut at least a minute off our response time, and in this business, minutes mean lives."

Planning for the new station began in 2001 under former Fire Chief Dan Smetana when it became clear that operating out of the existing facility was no longer a safe and efficient option. Among the problems faced by fire officials and Brooklyn Mayor Kenneth Patton were door heights and garage depths that couldn't accommodate new equipment.

As Brooklyn Mayor Ken Patton noted, "We hired DLZ Architects to complete a feasibility- study of the old complex. That study revealed that trying to bring it up to date was going to cost more than a new

facility. That, plus we already owned the land for the new station. We're a small suburb, but we've got a large daytime population in our light industrial and office districts. Our daytime population is probably twice the size of our evening population and we must have the fire fighting capacity to serve both populations. Add to that, our Fire Department must also provide service for sections of both I-71 and I-480. These are big responsibilities."

Construction of the new station enjoyed substantial public support in the city of Brooklyn. Funding for the new station was provided by a special bond issue (Ballot Issue 10). Brooklyn voters approved the bond issue by a margin of 55% for/45% against.

Ground was broken for the new station in August of 2005. RCU, Inc., an architectural firm from Independence which specializes in the design of municipal buildings, drew up the plans.

Fire Chief Duchoslav expressed complete satisfaction with the final product. "It's not a fancy building—that's not what we were looking for—but it's extremely efficient. Everything is on one floor: the kitchen, training rooms and dormitories. Our training room can also be used by the general public for special meetings. It's a very versatile facility."

The new Brooklyn station is home to twenty nine full-time firefighters, four part-time firefighters and an administrative secretary.

## Earth Day Coalition to sponsor Earthfest at Metroparks Zoo on Sunday, April 22

On Sunday, April 22 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Earth Day Coalition presents Earthfest 2007 *Climate Change Solutions*. The 18th annual event is Ohio's largest environmental education event and one of the most successful Earth Day events in the country. Earthfest offers information about the many environmental issues facing our community and features live entertainment and activities.

Admission includes entrance to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo - \$7 for adults (ages 12 and up), \$4 for children (ages 2-11) and free admission for children under two. Also, free admission to all registered participants in the Walk or Bike for the Earth.

Ohio's largest Earth Day celebration will feature over 130 exhibitors with environmental education displays. EarthFest will have a

Green Home Improvement Area with displays highlighting environmentally friendly practices, a Children's Area with face painting and other hands-on activities, a Clean Fuels Area with the latest vehicles, a Local and Organic Food Area with local farmers and businesses, and Environmental Science Area and live entertainment featuring local artists.

The event will have giveaways including free trees. Recycle Because You Can! Bring a grocery bag of aluminum cans to build a mountain of support for recycling and enter to win a hybrid aluminum bicycle.

For more information on EarthFest 2007, the Walk or Bike for the Earth or the volunteer opportunities, please call the Earth Day Coalition at (216) 281-6468 or visit [www.earthdaycoalition.org](http://www.earthdaycoalition.org)

### Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

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

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- Robyn Sandys, Executive Director
- Tom Collins, Commercial Program / ReStore Cleveland Manager
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- Sandy Worona, Advertising & Sales Manager /Residential Program Assistant
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#### Old Brooklyn News

- Sandy Worona -- Layout & Ad Manager George Shuba -- Photographer
- Lynette Filips -- Copy Editor Judith Pindell - this month's Assistant Copy Editor
- This month's OBN writers - Maribeth Feke, Lynette Filips, Larry Pompeo, Tom Sargent and OBCDC staff

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

### OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

The Old Brooklyn News will publish its May, 2007 issue on Saturday, May 5th, 2007

[www.oldbrooklyn.com](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com)

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#### Submission Deadlines

- Display Ads . . . . Fri., April 25th
- Classified Ads . . . Fri., April 25th
- News Releases . . . Fri., April 25th
- For Information Call 216-459-0135
- E-mail: [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com)
- FAX NUMBER 216-459-1741

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**Saturday evenings, 6:30 - 10 pm**  
**Saturday, April 7th**  
**Closed for the holiday**  
**Saturday, April 14th**  
 "Zach" Zach returns for an evening of popular & original music.

**Saturday, April 21st**  
 "Me & Willy" Duo performs a variety of music & lively entertainment.

**Saturday, April 28th**  
**Spaghetti Dinner** 5 - 6:30 pm. Call 216-741-2280 for reservations.

**Every Tuesday**  
**Food Stamp Information & Sign Up**  
 Brookside Center in the lobby area, 3784 Pearl Rd. 10 am - 2 pm. Representative from The Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland's Project B.R.E.A.D. will be available to provide info & help eligible people sign up. Call Patricia Gillbery, Project B.R.E.A.D. Outreach Specialist, 216-432-4770, for more info.

**Wednesday & Friday & Saturday in April**  
**Free Tax Services**  
 Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Family Service Center (Cuyahoga Employment & Family Services) 4261 Fulton Parkway (at Memphis) Wed., April 4 & 11, 5:30 - 7:30 pm; Fri., April 13 - 5:30 - 7:30 pm & Sat., April 7th, 9 am - 12 noon. Returns will be prepared electronically in the Career Center on the first flr. For appointment call 216-635-2970. For additional locations & times, visit [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org) or call 2-1-1 or 436-2000 First Call for Help.

**Now thru April 13th**  
**AARP Tax Preparation Assistance**  
 Cleveland Public Library - South Brooklyn Branch, 4303 Pearl Rd. AARP providing tax preparation assistance. Appointments made for Fridays 9:30 am - 12 pm. Bring: current year's tax forms & preparation booklets, copy of last year's income tax returns, W-2 forms from each employer, social security numbers for you & all your dependents & all other necessary forms. Call 216-623-7067 to make appointment.

**Sunday, April 15th**  
**Cleveland Entertainment Coalition**  
**First Annual Spring Fling Brunch & Boogie**  
 K.D. Party Center, 6085 State Rd. at Wellington in Parma, 12 - 6 pm. Brunch served 12 - 3. Sponsored by Mr. Mike's Catering. Diversified entertainment, dancing, raffles, door prizes & fun all day. Everyone welcome. Pre-sale donation, \$15 per person; \$25 per couple. Tickets available by calling Londi, 216-322-8881, or Pam, 216-240-4197.

Limited number of tickets available. Visit website at [WWW.ClevelandEC.org](http://WWW.ClevelandEC.org)

**Monday, April 2nd**  
**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society**  
 Independence Civic Center, White Oak Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Deborah A. Abbott, Ph.D. Cuyahoga Community College professor, will speak about "Talking to your Ancestor's Relatives and Neighbors - Tracing collateral Lines". Discover a "lost" ancestor by learning how to locate non-direct family sources. Call Wally, 440-526-1238, for more info.

**Friday, April 13th**  
**Lead Poisoning & Education**  
**How Lead Poisoning Challenges School Performance.**  
 The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Dr., 7:30 am - 12 pm. Free CEU's available for educators, nurses, social workers, counselors, sanitarians, psychologist. To register visit [www.clevelandhealth.org](http://www.clevelandhealth.org)

**Saturday, April 14th**  
**Fibromyalgia Support Group**  
 MetroHealth cafeteria (use the Towers entrance), 2500 MetroHealth Dr., 10 - 11:30 am. Open to the public. Parking & meetings both free. Call 216-398-4880 for directions or more info. Future meeting dates -- May 12, June 9 & July 12.

**Saturday, April 14th**  
**HIV/AIDS Awareness, Health Fair & Potluck**  
 Trinity United Church of Christ, 3525 W. 25th St., 6 - 8 pm. Sponsored by American Indian Educational Center (AIEC) and Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Bring a dish, eat a great meal, meet with licensed health professionals, win a \$100 gift card to Giant Eagle. Free screenings available. Call 216-351-4488 to contact AIEC staff or visit website at [www.aiecc.net](http://www.aiecc.net)

**Sunday, April 15**  
**Oberlin Wind Ensemble**  
**at Arts Renaissance Tremont Concert**  
 Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th St., 3 pm. Admission by freewill donation.

**Saturday, April 21st**  
**Preventing & Reversing Heart Disease**  
 Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr., M.D., Brooklyn Adventist Church, 4651 State Rd., 11 am. Free. Dr. Esselstyn has been a researcher & clinician at the Cleveland Clinic for more than thirty-five years. Call Edward Marton at 440-506-6051 for more info.

**Saturday, April 21st**  
**Diabetes Info, Health Fair & Potluck**  
 Trinity United Church of Christ, 3525 W. 25th St., 6 - 8 pm. Sponsored by American Indian Educational Center (AIEC) and Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Bring a dish, eat a great meal, meet with licensed health professionals, win a \$100 gift card to Giant Eagle. Free screenings available. (Food cannot be in

your system for at least 2 hours prior to testing.) Call 216-351-4488 to contact AIEC staff or visit website at [www.aiecc.net](http://www.aiecc.net)

**Tuesday, April 24th**  
**"Wedding Gowns of the Century"**  
**Fashion Show and Dinner**  
 Saint Joseph Academy, Academy Center, 3430 Rocky River Dr. Registration, 5:45 pm; dinner, 6:45 pm; fashion show, 8 pm. Dinner by Bucci's; fashions by Goodwill; hosted by SJA Alumnae Assn. Tickets - \$17. Reservations by Apr. 13. Call 216-251-6788 for more info.

**Tuesday, May 8th**  
**Girl Scouts Wanna "Bee" Workshop**  
 Interested in being a Girl Scout? Visit Unit 620 from Corpus Christi Church, 4850 Pearl Rd., 6:30 - 8 pm. Must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Crafts, raffles, activities, fun.

**Friday, May 11th**  
**"Real Men Cook"**  
**19th 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 luncheon feast -- \$14 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. Group rate for 10+ people. Richard Greer from WNWV FM 107.3 the Wave & Carolyn Carr of Beacon House Inn will emcee the event. All proceeds benefit Women's Alliance for Recovery Services. Call 216-575-9120 for tickets or more info.

**Saturday, May 12**  
**Riversweep**  
 Multiple location environmental "done-in-a-day" clean-up -- the Flats, Tremont, Slavic Village, Ohio City, Big Creek, Train Ave., West Creek, Millcreek -- 9 am - noon. Volunteers receive a souvenir t-shirt & lunch at Nautica following the cleanup. To volunteer, call 216-520-1825 or for Big Creek specifically, 216-741-0010. Visit [www.ohiocanal.org](http://www.ohiocanal.org) for more info.

**Attention Pregnant Women & Families with Children under Six Years of Age**  
 Lead paint can poison. Apply for free services -- Free home lead check, free home repairs, free vacuum cleaner to control lead dust. Call 216-263-5323.

**St. Leo Preschool Registration**  
 St. Leo Preschool, 4940 Broadview Rd.; locat-

ed in the Parish Community Center. Registration began Feb. 1 at the preschool. \$50 nonrefundable fee & a copy of the child's birth certificate required at time of registration. The preschool offers programs for skills 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 by Sept., 30 attend classes Tues. & Thurs. Class times are 8:15-10:45 am or 11:55 am - 2:25 pm. Call Jeanne Sabol, 216-661-5330, for more info.

**St. Leo Elementary School Registration**  
 St. Leo the Great School accepting registrations for new students in kindergarten through grade 8. Pick up registration forms in the school office 9 am - 3:30 pm weekdays. For kindergarten registration, children must be 5 years of age on or before September 30th. Bring child's birth & baptismal certificates, immunization records & \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee. For grades 1-8 registration, bring child's birth & baptismal certificates, immunization records, a copy of the most recent report card & \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee. Call the school office, 216-661-2120, with any questions.

**St. Mark Lutheran School Registration**  
 St. Mark Lutheran School, 4464 Pearl Rd. Applications accepted throughout the school year for kindergarten - 8th grade. Participates in the Cleveland Scholarship & tutoring program. On-site before & after school daycare, hot lunch program, sports, music, newly updated computer labs, accelerated reader program, interactive white boards, Girl Scouts & Cub Scouts. For registration info or to schedule a private tour, call the school office, 216-749-3545, or visit [www.orgsites.com/oh/stmarklutheran](http://www.orgsites.com/oh/stmarklutheran)

**Be a Boy Scout**  
 New Cub Scout pack at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. Contact Rev. Gebbie, 216-661-5642, or Matt Baker, BSA District Executive, 216-861-6060.

**Volunteer Drivers & Runners Needed to Deliver Meals On Wheels**  
 Senior Citizen Resources, Inc. Only 1 hour of time between 10:45 am & 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.



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**OBN delivery from front page**

issues of the Old Brooklyn News will be the last placed on the doorstep of every home in Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre free of charge.

Beginning in May, the Old Brooklyn News will go to a "drop" system... Members of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, however, will receive a free subscription to the Old Brooklyn News in the mail as a membership perk. The annual residential membership fee is \$10 for seniors and students, \$15 for individuals, and \$25 for couples and families.

Readers who simply wish to continue home delivery of the Old Brooklyn News after April can also opt to subscribe to the paper at the current annual cost of \$15.

...We will be expanding the number of sites where bulk quantities of the Old Brooklyn News are currently being "dropped" within Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre and Brooklyn... We will also be expanding delivery to Brooklyn Heights and Parma.

After that article was published, we have heard from people in the various sectors of the community. Numerous residents sent in checks to insure that they would receive the paper by mail.

OBCDC invited advertisers to a meeting at the "Windows of the World" room at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Wednesday, March 21. Though sparsely attended, the message received was that some advertisers favor home delivery.

Since OBCDC will be employing delivery people to distribute the 2007-2008

Brooklyn, City of Brooklyn & Brooklyn Centre Business Directory & Service Guide in May, the Board of Directors has decided to extend home delivery of the Old Brooklyn News at least through then. During that time they will be looking at all their options.

After delaying the decision about the distribution method, OBCDC board president Maribeth Feke said "Home delivery is very expensive and our distribution has been questionable over the last year. Publishing a paper that the residents don't receive isn't very useful. We need to fix this problem, while also putting the paper on firmer financial ground. At this time, we are going through the process that involves the residents and advertisers to come up with the best solution. The OBN is a very important asset to the community and the agency. We remain committed to its publication, but we may need to drop home delivery unless it can be done more efficiently and economically."

Meanwhile, in addition to the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, some of the locations at which copies of the Old Brooklyn News are available are — the Fulton, Brooklyn and South Brooklyn branches of the Cleveland Public Library, Estabrook Recreation Center, Brooklyn City Hall, Brooklyn Recreation Center, the Brooklyn branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Riverside Cemetery, Brookside Center and many neighborhood churches and banks.

(Individuals wishing to receive a free subscription to the Old Brooklyn News in the mail as perk for joining OBCDC should fill out the membership form on page 5.)

**IRS changes affect income tax filers, part II**

by: **Larry Pompeo**

Although the tax code was never simple, with each year's changes the tax forms become more and more difficult to fill out. When do you stop filling out your own forms and buy a program or hire a professional? What is right for you?

Every person's situation is different but there are a few questions you can ask yourself to help you decide. How good are you at math? How good are you at reading forms and following instructions. How much time are you willing to invest? Between record keeping, reading the instructions, and filling out the forms, the IRS estimates the average taxpayer will spend 11.1 hours to prepare a 1040EZ or a 1040A, and 30.3 hours to fill out the 1040. If you don't mind spending a little time and are good with forms, then filling out your own return can save you some money. Filling out forms for a simple return such as a single taxpayer with 1 or 2 W-2's may be easy enough but the more complicated returns may require some help.

Tax software has come a long way in recent years. There are several good products available at the stores and online. The use of software products can cut down your preparation time considerably and also provide you with some tax planning to prepare you for future years. Most of the products will work for a majority of the taxpayers but remember the old adage that you get what you pay for. Some products will offer a low up front fee then nickel and dime you for all of the extras. Make sure that you read the product information carefully and understand what you are getting before you sign up or buy anything.

Hiring someone to do your taxes for you may be the fastest and easiest method but it will also be the most expensive. Tax preparers come in all forms and all price ranges so it is important to find one that fits your needs and understand what each can offer. There are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), Enrolled Agents (EAs), and Tax Preparers. CPAs and EAs have received certain levels of certification and are required to maintain yearly levels of continuing education. CPAs and EAs are also allowed to represent taxpayers in all tax

matters including audits, tax court, collections actions, and appeals. Tax preparers can be anyone from the neighbor down the street to a trained preparer in a local office. When you are looking for someone to do your taxes remember that you are hiring them to do a job. You have every right to interview them and find out if they can meet your needs. Taxes can be a very personal issue so make sure that you are comfortable with your preparer because you are offering them some very sensitive information such as names, birthdays, social security numbers, addresses, and income levels. Tax preparers can gain an insight into your life that some of your best friends and family don't even have. Find out what their certification level is and if they are affiliated with any professional organizations. Know exactly who will be preparing your return. Find out their policies on errors or mistakes and how you can contact them if you need something after tax season is over. Find out how long they have been doing returns or how long they have been in business.

In regards to the return itself there are a few things that you will need to be aware of also. The preparer is required to sign the form and fill in the paid preparer areas of the tax return. Never sign a blank return or sign in pencil. Avoid preparers who claim that they can get you a larger refund than other preparers or who charge fees based on a percentage of your refund. And be aware that even though someone else may prepare your return, you are ultimately responsible for that tax return. Make sure that you review all forms and that you understand all of the forms and what the preparer has done. Make sure that you receive copies of all forms and anything that you have signed and make sure that the preparer also keeps copies of these records.

The most important part of any purchase is to be a smart consumer. If you are buying software make sure you read the boxes of website information. If you are hiring a preparer make sure you understand their fees and services. If what you are getting sounds too good to be true then maybe it is.

(Larry Pompeo, an enrolled agent at Priority One Tax Service at Biddulph Plaza, wrote Part I of this article for the February OBN.)

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Spring is officially here and for the first time in Cleveland history, it arrived during Daylight Savings Time. So even if you're employed 8-5, five days a week, when spring fever hits and the weather co-operates, it's now possible to putter outside with a bit of yard work on weeknights. Even pulling weeds will be a welcome change from shoveling snow and too many weeks of below-freezing temperatures.

Also, after a two-month hiatus from its usual style, *The Town Crier* is back to recounting assorted news about our neighbors and neighborhood.

Sometimes it's a combination of what you know and who you know which lands you the job experience of your dreams. Last summer, **Michael Stachowiak** of Ruby Ave., who has an Associate Degree in Fisheries Management from Hocking College, got a seasonal position with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Fish and Wildlife Division at Fairport Harbor, surveying the number of dead fish along Lake Erie. But it sounds like he'll be making his big catch this summer, thanks to a conversation he had with former **Metroparks Rainforest curator Don Kuenzer**.

Don was aware that an Ohio Aquaculture Society Conference in Columbus was coming up, and he urged Michael to attend it. Michael brought his resume with him, and before the day was over, he'd accepted a nine-week position at a kibbutz (a collective farm) in the Jezreel Valley of Northern Israel. Self-support-

ing, five varieties of fish are among the food items the kibbutz raises.

Michael is one of two people from the States participating in the exchange. The Americans and Israelis will share "Fish Farm" information with each other, but the kibbutz will actually provide Michael's room and board, pay his air fare there and then treat him to a week's tour of the Holy Land at the end of his stay.

Speaking of travels, **Fr. Bob Andrew** (retired pastor of the former **St. Phillip the Apostle Episcopal Church** and **St. Agnes Mission for the Deaf** on Denison Ave.) and his wife, **Ellie**, have been recruiting travelers for an "Educational Opportunities" trip to Russia this July. The basic tour includes five days in Moscow, a week's cruise on the Volga River, and four days in St. Petersburg. A three-day extension to Ukraine at the beginning of the trip and a five day extension to Finland and Estonia at the end of the trip are also available.

If they get enough participants, this will be the sixth time over the last twenty years that Fr. Bob and Ellie have been "tour hosts" for small groups of people within larger tour groups. Serving in that capacity has enabled them to visit diverse spots around the globe (the Holy Land; Italy; Greece and Turkey; West and East Germany; and Alaska). Call the Andrews at their W. 33rd St. home - 216-741-7288 — if you'd like to learn more about the journey; there *may* still be space available.

Tourists who prefer sites closer to home might like to know about Neil Zurcher's latest travel book, **Ohio Road Trips**, which **Gray & Company, Publishers** released last year. In it the state is divided into regions, and in the Northeast Ohio section which includes Cleveland, three sites in Old Brooklyn and the city of Brooklyn are specifically mentioned. Not surprisingly, they are: **Honey Hut Ice Cream Shoppe**, **Memphis Kiddie Park** and the **Memphis Drive-In Theater and Flea Market**.

Mention of Honey Hut brings to mind another Old Brooklyn food establishment with wider-than-neighborhood recognition, **The Sausage Shoppe**. Last month they emailed us that celebrity chef/author Anthony Bourdain

had been at their place on January 24 to tape a segment for an upcoming episode of his Travel Channel program, *Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations*.

Bourdain went behind the scenes to view the production of many of The Sausage Shoppe's Old World products, and of course did plenty of sampling, too. An article about the business in the August, 2006 issue of *Gourmet* magazine gave him the idea to visit here.

Among the other eateries Bourdain visited during his week in Cleveland were the West Side Market, Sokolowski's University Inn and Hot Sauce Williams. The episode is expected to air in August.

**Near West Theatre (NWT)** on Bridge Ave. will be holding auditions for *Annie, Jr* from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 4. Children aged nine to thirteen are welcome to try out. The show will be on stage in mid-June.

**Old Brooklyn Community School** students and graduates were well represented in NWT's last production, *The Music Man*, which played from mid-November through early December last year. **Maggie Helm, Hayden Neidhardt, Roxy Reminick, Adele Schuman, Andy Schuman, Ben Schuman** and **Taylor Slivka** were among the River City, Iowa children in the classic musical's cast.

**Katie Cooper**, a cantor from **St. Thomas More Church**, made Cleveland history when she sang the Irish National Anthem at the start of last month's St. Patrick's Day parade -- she was the first woman to have that honor. As is too often the case, it was a cold, snowy morning, but the sun came out for the parade.

Local history buffs and genealogists might be interested in some information which **John Sabol** from **St. Leo the Great Church** sent us in February — Brooklyn Township was one of the first two township histories added to the new Cuyahoga County website. Visit [www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah3/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah3/) to check it out (There is a question about the powder mill explosion in Brooklyn in 1875 on the website.)

We'll try to catch up on some academic news next month. But be it academic or otherwise, help us fill this column with news about our neighborhood by sending your information to: Lynette Filips, *The Town Crier*, c/o the *Old Brooklyn News*, 3344 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

**THEATRE NOTES**

**Cassidy Theatre of Greenbrier Commons**  
6200 Pearl Rd. 440-842-4600

**"Baby"**  
Fri., Apr. 20 - Sun., May 6. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets - (adult) \$20; (Student & senior) \$15.

**Dancing Wheels at The Cleveland**

**Playhouse, Bolton Theatre**

8500 Euclid Ave. 216-432-0306

www.dancingwheels.org

**"Alice in Wonderland"**

Sat., Apr. 28, 7:30 pm. General admission tickets for the Sat. evening performance, \$25, \$15 & \$10 (for groups of 10 or more & seniors); to purchase, call The Cleveland Play House, 216-795-7000 ext. 4.

**Cleveland Public Theatre**

6415 Detroit Ave. 216-631-2727

www.cptonline.org

**"Our Town"**

(by Thornton Wilder)

Thurs., Apr. 19 - Sat., May 12. Thurs., Fri., Sat., 8 pm; Sun. matinees, 3 pm; Gordon Square Theatre. Tickets, \$10 - \$18.

**Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus Theatre**

11000 Pleasant Valley Rd.

**"Peter Pan" (a musical)**

Apr. 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, & 28 at 8 pm. General admission tickets, \$10. Student & senior tickets, \$8. Call the Western Campus Box Office, 216-987-5536, for reservations or more info.

**Great Lakes Theater Festival**

Ohio Theater, 1501 Euclid Ave. 216-241-6000

www.greatlakes theater.org

**"Hay Fever" by Noel Coward and**

**"The Tempest" by William Shakespeare**

Presented in rotating repertory thru Sat., Apr. 21. Evening performances, 7:30 pm; Sat. matinees, 1:30 pm; Sun. matinees, 3 pm. Tickets - (adult) \$22-\$56; (student) - \$13, any performance, any seat.

**Kalliope Stage**

2134 Lee Rd. (Cleve. Hts.) 216-321-0870

www.kalliopestage.com

**"Dear World"**

(based on "The Mad Woman of Chaillot")  
Thurs., Apr. 26 - Sun., Jun 3. Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets - (child) \$14-\$32; (student) \$19-\$32; (adult) \$23-\$32 depending on day of week.

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By Tom Collins  
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

**Where is the Growth?**

Economic development is often an invisible activity until it reveals itself through increased sales or improved cash flow. One of the changes occurring in Old Brooklyn is the growth of the community as an employment center. In a city and county that is losing residential population, Old Brooklyn is growing jobs. These are not necessarily new jobs but jobs that are being transferred here as a result of Cuyahoga County government expanding services. New jobs will be developing as the investment grows.

Metro Health Systems relocated 450 employees from the main campus to the South campus (former Deaconess Hospital) in late 2005. Construction is underway for a regional geriatric center that will become a national model in senior health care. That will bring another 300 jobs in 2008. The county also relocated two social service agencies to the 60,000 square foot building at Fulton Parkway and Memphis Ave. So, silently 750 new employees came to Old Brooklyn and another 300 will be arriving.

The business community needs to respond to this new market. At a recent business community breakfast an idea was hatched that will soon become a reality. Coupons, long

the best yielding advertising technique, are going to be prepared and placed in the Metro Health Systems South Campus.

OBCDC will be soliciting area stores, restaurants and service providers to encourage them to print a coupon directed toward the new consumers. People often run errands on their lunch breaks or to and from work. Coupons that have real value in restaurants, auto repair, dry cleaning, convenience stores, etc. will bring in customers.

This is a low cost way to bring in customers. It is easily measurable and can be renewed as desired by the business. If you operate a small business in Old Brooklyn and/or Brooklyn Centre, watch for a letter asking if you want to participate.

**Where is the Action?**

Approximately 25 years ago, tree boxes were placed on Pearl Rd. and Broadview Roads. At that time they made a visible improvement to a streetscape composed of parking meters, utility poles and wide sidewalks. The railroad ties were new, the trees small and the framed beds kept cleaned and mulched. Businesses maintained and watered the tree boxes closest to their shops. Pride of appearance was a principle of good business.

Many of these tree boxes are now worn, weathered and unsightly. It will be a few years before a full streetscape plan can be funded, but a renewed effort to clean and care for these aging tree boxes is needed. Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is seeking volunteers to help maintain the boxes this year. There are about 60 boxes, some in excellent shape and some deteriorated beyond repair. Many were planted with bulbs and perennials in 2005 and 2006, but all need attention. If you are interested in helping or adopting a tree box, please contact me at the telephone number below.

Thank you to those business owners who do continue to maintain and care for the tree boxes. It reflects well upon your business.

**Where is the Help?**

If you have not visited the Small Business Administration (SBA) web site in a long time, add it to your list of important things to do. Found at [www.sba.gov/](http://www.sba.gov/), it is updated frequently. The site contains useful information for business start-ups, expanding businesses, and even exit strategies if you are moving toward retirement.

Even though the SBA is most often thought of for its commercial loan products, it has a wide range of programs and resources that are useful to all types of businesses. Like a library, it is there to provide information and service.

**ReStore Cleveland**

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

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**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**Brooklyn Centre Community Association** (formerly Archwood Denison Concerned Citizens) meeting, Thurs., Apr. 26th, (& every fourth Thurs.), 7 pm, Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave.

**Brooklyn Genealogy Club** meeting, Sun., Apr. 18, 2 pm, Brooklyn branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 4480 Ridge Rd. Margaret Cheney will speak about vital records (birth, death, probate). Refreshments served; prospective members welcome.

**Friends of Big Creek** Visit [www.friendsofbigcreek.org](http://www.friendsofbigcreek.org) for more info.

**Second District Police Community Relations** meeting, Tues., Apr. 10th, (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

**Southwest Citizens Area Council** meeting Thurs., May 3rd, (& every first Thurs.), 7 pm, Gino's, 1314 Denison Ave.

**Ward 15 Democratic Club Meeting**, Tues., Apr. 24th, (& every fourth Tues.), 6:30 pm, Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd.

**Ward 16 Democratic Club Meeting**, Tues., Apr. 17th, (& every 3rd Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

**FISH FRIES**

**Theo's Old Brooklyn Grille**, 4250 Pearl Rd. Walleye fish dinner, \$7.50; homemade pierogis, fish sandwiches, calamari. Dine-in or carry out. Open daily for lunch, Mon. - Fri., 11:30 am. 216-739-0661; fax, 216-739-0662.

**Cleveland Maennerchor**, 4515 State Rd., Fri. 5:30 - 9 pm. Fish, shrimp, scallops, Schnitzel dinner, bratwurst, pierogis, potato pancakes, German potato salad. All dinners include bread & butter & choice of potato salad or french fries & apple sauce, coleslaw or salad. Call 741-7728 for more info.

**Zeleznik's Tavern**, 4002 Jennings Rd. Fish Fry Wed. & Fri., 10 am - 8 pm. Homemade potato pancakes & pierogis. Fish Fry, \$7.75; pierogis, 95¢ ea.; 3 potato pancakes, \$6.95. Call 741-0010 for more info.

**Live's Museums Guide**

Spring/Summer 2007 comprehensive listings calendar of shows & events. Supplement to *Northern Ohio Live Magazine*. Pick up a free copy at OBCDC, 3344 Broadview Rd.

**Where to Donate Unwanted Goods**

Cuyahoga County businesses & residents can donate unwanted items using a helpful free booklet published by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District called *Pass It On: A Resource-Full Guide to Donating Usable Stuff*. 134 community service & not-for-profit organizations use donated items to support their work. These organizations work on behalf of youth, seniors, homeless & others in Cuyahoga County. Toys, art supplies, clothing, books, school supplies, office equipment, sporting goods tools, furniture & more can be donated. For your free copy call Solid Waste District, 216-698-2265, or visit [www.cuyahogawd.org/residents/passiton.asp](http://www.cuyahogawd.org/residents/passiton.asp)

**OLD BROOKLYN NEWS**  
The Old Brooklyn News is now available on the OBCDC website  
[www.oldbrooklyn.com](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com)

**Catholic parishes to be organized into "clusters"**

by Lynette Filips  
[lynetfef@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:lynetfef@oldbrooklyn.com)

Cooperation is a superior mode of operation in any organization, but rarely is it utilized to its maximum potential. Last month, Richard Lennon, the new Roman Catholic bishop of Cleveland, announced the results of a continuing plan for parishes around the diocese to work together in "clusters". His decision will impact the five parishes serving Roman Catholics in Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre and Brooklyn - Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Barbara, St. Leo the Great and St. Thomas More.

Sixty-nine clusters, ranging in size from two to seven parishes, will be definitively formalized in early May (to give the bishop time to address any concerns the parishes might have). Cluster size/configuration was based on geography, shared missions and their ability to serve sacramental and neighborhood needs.

Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Good

Counsel and St. Leo's, all of which are located in Old Brooklyn, and St. Thomas More, which is located in Brooklyn but is attended by many Catholics who reside in Old Brooklyn, too, will be in a cluster which will also include St. Charles Borromeo in Parma (one of the largest parishes in the diocese).

St. Barbara Church in Brooklyn Centre has been matched with Blessed Sacrament, St. Boniface, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Rocco, all nearby parishes on the west side of Cleveland.

The clustering is part of the second phase of a "Vibrant Parish Life" initiative which the Diocese (under the leadership of Bishop Anthony Pilla) introduced six years ago. Early last autumn, parishes were required to turn in their own suggestions regarding parishes with whom they would like to work; a 30-member committee studied those submissions before making its own recommendations to the bishop. Bishop Lennon further adjusted the initial clusters before making his announcement. Reportedly each parish was paired with at least one of its requests.

Unlike what many people who read the *The Plain Dealer's* account of the bishop's

action surmised, the new plan is not about closing parishes and sharing the collection in the offertory basket. It is, however, very much about sharing some of the parishes' non-financial resources with each other

According to an article in the *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, the Diocese's official newspaper, "The clustering is being fueled by economic, social and demographic changes across the diocese as people move from urban to suburban and rural areas, as well as the declining number of active priests."

The shortage of priests, while of concern today, is expected to become even more alarming within the next ten years. Academic studies at Georgetown University indicate that between 2015 and 2020, there will not be enough active diocesan priests here to even be able to assign one to each of the diocese's 231 parishes.

Working together on programs isn't likely to feel strange for our neighborhood Catholic churches, because it won't be a new experience for them. They've been holding joint Communal Penance Services during Lent and Advent for more than ten years, and working together with clergy and laity from both Protestant and other-rite Catholic churches in the Greater Brooklyn Ministerial Association since the mid-Seventies. St. Leo the Great and Corpus Christi have even shared a pastor for more than a year.

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May 5th - To Be Announced

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## OBCDC receives \$13,995 grant from Community West Foundation

by Jay Gardner

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, OBCDC received word from the Community West Foundation that the agency's grant request of \$13,995 for an Elderly Seclusion Social Indicator's Study had been approved. The purpose of this study is to determine which indicator's like late tax payments or water shutoffs among elderly residents suggest that someone might be living conditions hazardous to their health and safety. Once completed, the information gathered from the study will be correlated with the agency's master housing data base now being assembled by OBCDC staff. Work on this project will also involve collaboration with the Geriatric Departments at both Lutheran and MetroHealth hospitals.

This will allow OBCDC to develop an early warning system for seniors experiencing some kind of distress before their living conditions spin out of control. The agency's decision to seek these funds was based upon the work of OBCDC housing staff who had uncovered a number of socially isolated elderly residents living in their own homes in deplorable conditions. Had these conditions been discov-

ered earlier it would have been possible to intervene and provide corrective action before the problem turned into a crisis.

Although many local seniors enjoy a rich network of support from family and friends, some live in isolation too frail or embarrassed to seek help. These are the residents the study will try to identify. Citywide, this will also be the first attempt to provide this sort of an early warning system utilizing information gathered in a comprehensive data base. Other neighborhood agencies are looking to this study as a model for their future work with the elderly.

Board President Maribeth Feke noted, "As much of our resident population ages we must be vigilant that no one falls out of the system and that everyone who desperately needs help will get it when they need it. We've been working hard on creating our housing data base. This is but one of the many ways this innovative housing data tracking system will be used to serve Old Brooklyn residents."

Work on the Community West Foundation study will begin in April. It is expected to be completed sometime in the fall.

## Home is where the heart is ....correction

In last month's article regarding home repair loans the Income Guidelines chart was misaligned. Please see the corrected chart below for Repair-A-Home (RAH), Afford-A-Home (AAH), City of Cleveland Paint Program (Paint), Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) and the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP). If you qualify for any of these programs and would like assistance in navigating the process, please call Lori Peterson, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's Residential Program Manager at 216-459-1000.

### Maximum Household Income Guidelines

Household Size	RAH, AAH & Paint	SHAP	HWAP
1	\$34,350	\$15,066	\$14,700
2	\$39,300	\$17,169	\$19,800
3	\$44,200	\$19,329	\$24,900
4	\$49,100	\$21,490	\$30,000
5	\$53,050	\$23,184	\$35,100
6	\$56,950	\$24,950	\$40,200
7	\$60,900	\$26,600	\$45,300
8	* \$64,800	\$28,350	\$50,400

\*HWAP - for households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,770 for each additional member.

These loan/grant options are here to help you to make Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre a place to be proud to call home. Call Lori Peterson, Residential Program Manager, at 216-459-1000 to schedule a free consultation and to help navigate you through the process of finding the loan or grant that best fits your needs.

## April is National Volunteer Month

by Lori Peterson  
lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

Across the United States, volunteers share their time and talent to help build stronger communities and it is no different in Old Brooklyn/Brooklyn Centre. There is already a strong volunteer base in block clubs and civic associations and we would like to build on that through the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's Volunteer Program.

If you are feeling frustrated with what is happening in your neighborhood and feel hopeless you can make a difference by volunteering. Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation has developed a volunteer program and would like your input on what actions you feel would better our community. As Mahatma Ghandi so eloquently put it, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." If you would like to be that change call Lori Peterson or Judith Pindell at 216-459-1000.

## Legal Aid Society to offer brief advice and referral clinic in Old Brooklyn on May 12

by Judith Pindell  
judithp@oldbrooklyn.com

Volunteers are a vital component of any nonprofit agency. The same goes for The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland which coordinates the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP). The VLP was organized in 2005 to supplement the work of the Legal Aid staff. Nearly 1,000 lawyers volunteer at Brief Advice and Referral Clinics to provide free high-impact legal advice that day that often help solve the problem. The clinics are held twice a month at various locations around Cleveland.

On Saturday, May 12th a Brief Advice and Referral Clinic will take place at the Deaconess Krafft Center, 3100 Devonshire Road, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, brought to this neighborhood through The Legal Aid Society, the Cleveland Bar Association and City Year. Volunteer lawyers will be on hand to provide free, high quality legal advice and referrals for those unable to afford a private lawyer.

Various civil legal problems are handled through the clinics. The volunteer lawyers can assist with foreclosure and predatory lending issues and help people who have problems with unfair sales practices and home improvement problems. They can also review contracts before being signed.

Volunteer lawyers are available at the clinic to assist with welfare and health benefits such as Disability Assistance, Social Security and SSI payments and appeals, Medicaid and Food Stamps. They will also assist with tax related issues and unemployment benefits.

Legal advice and referrals are also made at the clinics for domestic violence cases and divorce cases that include children. Other cases include special education, student loan, and suspension and expulsion problems; immigration problems; elder law issues; and almost all other important legal matters.

Living wills and medical Power of Attorney documents can be ready for clients at the clinic by calling ahead to the Legal Aid Society at (216) 687-1900. A paralegal can prepare the documents so that they will be available for a signature right there at the clinic on May 12th.

Be sure to bring all related paperwork, documents and letters related to the legal issue. This will ensure that the volunteer lawyers have all of the information in order to give the best advice or referral.

For additional dates and locations of Brief Advice and Referral Clinics or more for information about The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland call (216) 687-1900.

## Don't get "burned" by open burning

by Raymond L. Pianka Judge,  
Cleveland Municipal Housing Court

As the prospect of beautiful spring weather is quickly approaching the City of Cleveland, and as we move more of our social activities outside the home, the Housing Court receives many questions from residents about whether one is allowed to conduct certain activities involving open burning, or use certain types of cooking equipment outdoors. The City has some ordinances governing these activities, to ensure our individual safety, the safety of our neighbors, and of our Fire Department personnel; let's take a moment to review them.

The City's Air Pollution Code, in general, forbids open burning without a permit. However, there is an exception for "noncommercial cooking of foods for human consumption." CCO § 277.09(d)(1). Whoever is found to violate this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than six (6) months, or both.

In addition, the City's Fire Prevention Code requires that no person shall start or

maintain a fire to prepare food, or for any other purpose, in any type of outdoor or portable grill in any dwelling unit, balcony or porch, or within fifteen (15) feet of any residential structure. CCO § 381.101. Violation of this section is a minor misdemeanor (punishable by a fine of up to \$100); you may be given a ticket if you violate this section.

If you have questions about fire safety, or concerning these ordinances, please call the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation at 216-459-1000 or the Cleveland Fire Department at 216-664-6800. Direct your questions about housing issues to a Housing Specialist at 216-664-4295.

### IMPORTANT!

Before you sign any paperwork with a home improvement contractor (even contractors who advertise in the Old Brooklyn News) be sure to check their rating with the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Call the BBB's automated Anytime Line, 216-241-7678, and punch in the business' phone number to receive a speedy report, 24/7.

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# Churches Carpatho-Rusins established in and around Old Brooklyn

by Lynette Filips  
lynetef@oldbrooklyn.com

How can it be that for yet another month we are discussing Carpatho-Rusin churches in this series about ethnic churches? The Rusins are obviously both a spiritual people and a populous people in northeast Ohio! In fact, Cleveland is the city with the second largest number of Rusins in the United States. Only Pittsburgh is home to more of them.

In the last two months' articles, we stated that **St. John the Baptist Greek Catholic Church** at E. 22nd St. and Scovill Ave. was the mother church of all Cleveland Rusin churches. (It is now a cathedral church in Parma at roughly the southwest corner of Broadview Rd. and Snow Rd.)

Thus St. John the Baptist was the mother of **Holy Ghost Greek Catholic Church** in Tremont, from which eventually sprung two other congregations, our own **St. Mary's** on State Rd. and **Holy Spirit** in Parma, and **St. Joseph's**, which is now in Brecksville.



**Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Cleveland (Tremont)**

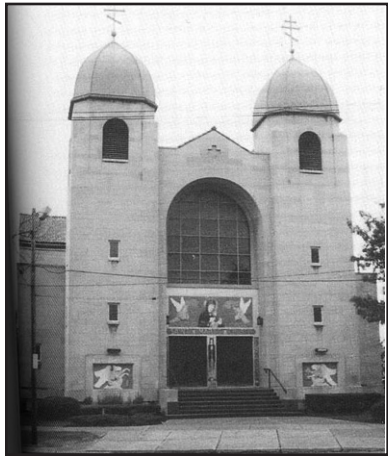
**Holy Ghost** (now called) **Byzantine Catholic Church**, 2420 W. 14th St. at Kenilworth Ave. in Tremont, was organized in 1909. The parishioners first met at Justis Hall on Literary Ave., until their church was built the following year. The congregation also pur-

chased twenty-one acres of land in Parma to use for a cemetery. That cemetery is still on the Holy Spirit Church property at 5500 W. 54th St.)

When a pandemic flu epidemic ravaged the world in 1917-1918, Holy Ghost Church purchased a house at 1437 Kenilworth Ave. to provide for some of the children who were orphaned; it operated that home until 1923.

Holy Ghost later built an elementary school at its "Jennings property" in Tremont which was in operation from the 1957-58 school year through the mid-1960s. (The school building was later sold to provide funds for the construction of a church in Parma.)

Holy Ghost's rectory was eventually demolished so that there would be room for a parking lot, and the convent - which was no longer needed after the school was gone - was converted into a rectory.



**St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Cleveland (Old Brooklyn)**

As the decades passed, many of Holy Ghost's parishioners moved out of Tremont and into Old Brooklyn. They wanted a Greek Catholic church closer to their homes and in 1938 were given permission to form the congregation which today is known as **St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church** at 4600 State Rd.

The original St. Mary's - also in its name was "the Dormition (i.e., the falling asleep as in death) of the Mother of God" - was a rented wooden shop on the corner of W. 35th St. (what State Rd. was then called) and Stickney Ave. The building had once housed The Brooklyn Monumental Works. St. Mary's parishioners purchased it and three additional lots, and then built a rectory. A recreation hall and an auditorium adjoining the wooden church were constructed next.

The current St. Mary's church building was dedicated in 1950, and six years later, the former church and rectory were converted into a school and a convent. A larger school was dedicated in 1960, and St. Mary's Byzantine

Catholic Elementary School (K-8) continues to serve our neighborhood (as does a more recent pre-school and a day-care program).

In 1981, St. Mary's purchased the former Producers Dairy property and renovated part of it into the "Crystal Chalet", a social hall which they began renting out the following year.

St. Mary's opened a "Hospitality House" in another of the Producers buildings in 1989. Parish volunteers served meals to the less fortunate in the Old Brooklyn area there.



**Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, Parma**

The children and grandchildren of the founders of Holy Ghost and St. Mary's continued to move away from the city, and in 1967 another parish, **Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church**, was established. Located in front of the aforementioned Holy Ghost cemetery on W. 54th St. in Parma, the church building was dedicated in 1968. The new parish became the custodian of the cemetery the following year.

Although it does not have an elementary school, like many of the parishes established by Eastern European immigrants, Holy Spirit does have an elegant social hall which it rents for weddings and similar events. Ethnic foods are its caterer's specialty.

A few years ago, the "hunger meal" which had been at St. Mary's moved to Holy Spirit's social hall.



**St. Joseph's Byzantine Catholic Church, Brecksville**

**St. Joseph's Byzantine Catholic Church** at 8111 Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville, is an example of a Rusin congregation which completely relocated. Organized in 1912, it was originally at 9321 Orleans Ave. in Newburg. It was the third Greek Catholic congregation which Rusins established in Cleveland.

Over the years that it was in the Newburg location, St. Joseph's parishioners built two churches - they remodeled the first one into a social hall - and an elementary school. But their next generation parishioners were moving to the suburbs, too, so in 1971 the school closed.

St. Joseph's purchased the Brecksville property in 1977, but it wasn't until 1985 that the parish celebrated its first liturgy in the new church there. They named the social hall under the church "New Orleans Party Center" in honor of the congregation's roots.

There are many other Rusin churches in northeast Ohio, but we will just mention the ones in Greater Cleveland next month, and not in such detail, because they are not as close to our neighborhood as these are. (And there are still so many more ethnic groups and their churches to write about...)

Please continue to call or write us at the *Old Brooklyn News* if you have information to contribute to this series.

(N.B., Rusin may also be spelled Rusyn.)

*(Acknowledgments: Special thanks to Fr. Bruce Riebe, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, for loaning me two history books about Byzantine Catholic churches. Thanks, too, to Old Brooklyn resident (and delegate to the Rusin Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park) John Krenisky for calling to offer his assistance with the details of this article. Finally, belated thanks to Father Michael Hayduk, protopresbyter of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Rite, who helped me with some of the information in last month's Rusin church history article.)*

## Western Reserve Historical Society seeking World War II veterans

In September, 2007, the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) plans to open an exhibit about Cleveland's involvement in World War II. Currently the organization is seeking people who were directly involved in the war effort, whether that experience was on a battlefield overseas or living and working in the Cleveland area to assist with manufacturing, a government office, food distribution, etc. WRHS is seeking personal histories and original materials such as photographs and letters.

WRHS will not be purchasing any materials or, in most cases, taking materials on loan, but will accept some original material by donation. WRHS may ask permission to digitally scan photographs for use in the exhibit and for their archives.

People with memories to share can contact Ed Pershey, director of museum services, at 216-721-5722, ext. 228, or by e-mail at pershey@wrhs.org. WRHS requests that no one send material to the museum unless specifically asked to do so.

## Remember the Tradition...

of yesterday's cemetery with its individual above-ground monuments and magnificent landscaping. The peace and solitude of such a setting was always comforting and reassuring.

**There is still such a place with ample space**

Riverside Cemetery is now in its second century of serving Cleveland area residents of all faiths. Choice selections are available in either our traditional sections where personal landscaping is permitted ... as well as our contemporary memorial park sections.

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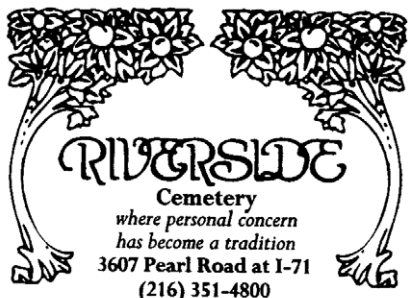
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## As I see it...

by  
**Pastor Jerry**



God's demand was for a lamb. He didn't want a full-grown mountain ram, brimming with fight and fire. Nor did He want a sheep grown old, tough of flesh and set in its ways. He wanted a lamb, soft and gentle, lovable and trusting. The man's children could come out to where the little creature was tied. They would even have a pet name for it. And if it bleated, one of them would run to see if it was safe. They would hug it before going in for the night. That was the lamb to be slain.

The whole family would look on in horror as the father unsheathed his great butcher's knife and headed for the pen.

The process was all intensely personal and emotional. And so it was at Calvary. There, Christ's mother watched from the edge of the crowd, aghast. Up in heaven, God the Father entered into it all - the anguish, the pain, the broken heart. God had called for a lamb, and there He was, the Lamb of God, God's lamb, taking away the sin of the world (John 1:29,36).

May yours be a Blessed Easter Season! *Pastor Jerry*

**Jerry Madasz is the pastor of St. Luke's United Church of Christ 4216 Pearl Rd.**

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# FAMILY FUN!

by Judith Pindell  
judithp@oldbrooklyn.com

If you have information regarding upcoming events/activities that are appropriate for all ages, please submit your listing(s) to Judith Pindell, c/o The Old Brooklyn News, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109; Fax: 216-459-1741; e-mail judithp@oldbrooklyn.com.

### Art House, 3119 Denison Ave.

#### Winter/Spring 2007 Class Schedule

**Family Open Studio** – 3rd Sat. of the month, 1 – 3 pm; \$5 per person; \$18 family of four; children 3 & under, free. Family members & above cost per visit: \$5 per adult, free for 2 children, \$3 for each additional child. No pre-registration required.

Family Open Studio provides a safe & fun environment for families to create art together. Self-guided activities at drawing/painting station, clay hand-building station & craft station. Craft projects vary each month.

#### Saturday children's classes, after school children's programs, evening teen and adult classes

- A complete schedule of classes, including dates, times & fees is available on the website [www.arthouseinc.org](http://www.arthouseinc.org). To register for a class or workshop call 216-398-8556. Art House is open to the public Mon. – Thurs., 10 am – 4 pm, Fri. by appointment only, & Sat., 9 am – 12 pm.

### Cleveland Botanical Garden

11030 East Blvd. 216-721-1600

**Bugged Out**, Sun., Apr. 1 - Sun., Apr. 15. Kids view live bugs & learn about their role in our lives. Admission charged.

**Annual Egg Hunt**, Sat., Apr. 7, 11 am - 12:30 pm. Fun activities, including meeting the Easter Bunny. Admission charged.

### Cleveland Museum of Art

11150 East Blvd. 216-421-7340

**Regular exhibits closed; Circle of Masks Festival**, Sun., Apr. 22, 1-4 pm (kick off of June's "Parade the Circle").

Also, **Parade the Circle Workshops** -- Apr. 27 - Jun. 8. For a fee, artists assist participants in making masks, costumes & giant puppets for the Jun. 9 event.

**"Monet in Normandy"** exhibit thru May 20. Tues. – Sun., 10 am – 5 pm; Wed. & Fri., to 9 pm; Closed Mon. Admission ticket required. Adults - \$15; children, students & seniors - \$10. Call 216-421-7350 for tickets.

Children's Museum of Cleveland  
10730 Euclid Ave. 216-791-5437

<http://www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org>

**Egyptian Sands**- Tues.-Sun., 10 am - 4:45 pm until Apr. 14. Exhibit stations include Egyptian Dress Up -- put on a kilt and weseck (a beaded collar); Sand Sculpture; The Scribe House -- learn about hieroglyphs & communication; Mud Brick Home & Pyramid -- learn about daily Egyptian life & the pyramids; & Nile River -- learn about fishing. Adults & children, \$6; infants (0-1 year), free.  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**, May 5. Parade & Cinco de Mayo-themed crafts. Fee charged.

### Cleveland Museum of Natural History 1 Wade Oval Dr. 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, \$6.50; age 7-adult, \$9.50; seniors & students, \$7.50. Special exhibit on loan from the Fields Museum in Chicago thru April 15 -- "a t.rex named Sue", a full-scale replica cast from bones of the largest tyranosaurus rex ever found, included with regular admission. (The museum also has its own dinosaur, Jane.)

### Cleveland Leadership Summit Celebrating Cleveland's Youth

Sat., Apr. 21st, 10am – 2 pm, Cleveland City Hall Rotunda, 601 Lakeside Ave. Students in 5th thru 8th grades invited to this Celebration of Youth for displays, performances, demonstrations & persuasion by youth oriented groups. This event is a chance for Cleveland youth to provide feedback to groups who provide tutoring, sports and other youth-oriented programming and an opportunity to learn what activities are available in their communities. Light refreshments served. Call Jacquie Gillion 216-812-8700 x4 or visit [www.clevelandleadership.org](http://www.clevelandleadership.org) for more info.

### Cleveland Metroparks Garfield Park Nature Center

off Mill Creek Lane, off the Broadway Ave. entrance of Garfield Park Reservation, Garfield Hts. 216-341-3152  
**An Egg Hunt of a Different Kind** – Apr. 9-15th. Stop by during open hours (9:30 am-5 pm) to search the Wildlife Garden for eggs of a different kind. Self-guided scavenger hunt allows families to seek out replica eggs of some of the native birds soon to be nesting in Cleveland Metroparks.

### Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center

24000 Valley Pkwy., North Olmsted 440-734-6660  
**Frog Dog Walk** – Fri., Apr. 7th, 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Take a naturalist-guided night hike to find out more about frogs, while dogs get a positive social experience. (Dogless walkers welcome. Registration required.)

### Family Amphibian Adventure

– Sat., Apr. 14th, 7:30 – 9 pm. 1.5 mile hike to learn about these interesting creatures, then search for their "love" pools. Registration required.

**"My Favorite Wild Animal" second annual juried art show** –Cleveland Metroparks invites student artists in grades 1 thru 12 to get creative with art & nature. Illustrations in any media type, except photography, accepted Apr. 21 thru May 24 at Rocky River Nature Center. Entries must fit this year's theme: "My Favorite Animal". Winning entries will be exhibited Aug. 16 thru Sept. 11. Entry forms available at the nature center. Call 440-734-6660 for more info.

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

**Spelling Bee, Round I** – Thurs., Apr. 5th, 4:30pm – 6 pm; tests spelling skills for students in grades 3 - 5 and 6 - 8. Advance to the final competition, Sat., Apr. 28th. Visit the branch soon for practice words.

**Teen Book Discussion** – Thurs., Apr. 19th, 4:30pm – 6 pm. Dana Davidson's book, "Played," will be discussed. Calling all teens: speak your mind; develop your mind.

**Play and Learn!** – Every Fri., 10-11 am. Join other caregivers & toddlers. Have fun with a variety of books & learning toys & make new friends.

**Preschool Story Time** – Every Fri., 11–11:30 am. Stories & songs for children ages 3-5. Call for specific program requests or more info.

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

**Teen Job Fair** – Thurs, April 5th, 3 – 6 pm. Meet employers at the Teen Job Fair. Ages 16-19 welcome. Business attire and a typed resume required to participate. Job fair in partnership with Youth Opportunities Unlimited. Call 216-623-7067 for more info.

**Preschool Storytime** - Every Tues., 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Thurs., 10 - 11 am. Interactive stories, rhymes, songs & other activities for children 3-5 years. Call to register.

**Toddler Time** - Every Tues., 10:30 - 11:30 am. Interactive stories, rhymes, songs & other activities for children 1-2 years. Call to register.

**Play and Learn** - Every Fri., 11- 12 pm. Join other caregivers & toddlers. Have fun with a variety of books & learning toys & make new friends. Call to register.

### Cuyahoga-Lorain Youth Rally

Rock of Ages Free Will Baptist Church  
4012 Stickney Ave.

Sat., Apr. 14th, 4-7 pm. Games, prize give-away, refreshments, youth service. 1st grade to 21 years of age. Call 216-351-6650 for more info.

**Estabrook Recreation Center**  
4125 Fulton Rd. 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.

**Kids Church**  
**West Side United Church of Christ,**  
3800 Bridge Ave. 216-631-3423  
First three Sat. of every month, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. For ages 4-12. Games, prizes, worship, snacks & more. Call for more info.  
**Lake View Cemetery, 12316 Euclid Ave.**  
216-421-2665

**Daffodil Sunday**, Apr. 15, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Drive thru the grounds to the hill planted with 100,000 daffodils, expected to be in its prime today.

**Azalea Sunday**, May 4, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. Drive thru the grounds past blooming azaleas, trees & shrubs, expected to be in their prime today

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

History Museum, Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, & Library. Regular hours, Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Hay-McKinney Mansion tours daily, noon - 5 pm. Regular admission - adults, \$8.50; seniors, \$7.50; students, \$5. Parking, \$5.

**Diana, A Celebration** thru Jun. 7. Last U.S. showing of touring exhibition on loan from Spencer family's ancestral estate. 150 objects, including Royal Wedding gown, other clothing, family heirlooms, mementos, paintings, photos, movies. Admission - adults, \$20; (\$15, WRHS members); seniors, \$17; children 6-12, \$10. Audio guide- additional \$5.50; also group rates. Extended museum hours, Mon. - Sun., 9 am - 5 pm; Wed. till 8 pm. Visit [www.wrhs.org](http://www.wrhs.org) for more info.

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Send your responses to:  
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3344 Broadview Rd. Cleve., Ohio 44109  
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