

## Share passion for food at local *Fresh Stop Market*

by Johanna Hamm



**City Fresh**  
...GET FRESH!

Do you have a passion for food grown according to organic and/or sustainable agriculture methods? Do you like to prepare meals from the wealth of fresh fruits and vegetables this region has to offer?

When you take part in this neighborhood's *Fresh Stop*, you get what your chef's heart desires, and you connect with a larger community of like-minded individuals, be they neighbors, gardeners farther down the street or farmers from the next county.

*Fresh Stop*, a program of the New Agrarian Center's *City Fresh* program, is a community farmers' market dedicated not only to high-quality food, but also to the overall health of neighborhoods. Participants or "shareholders" pay in advance for their "share" of produce for the next week. On the morning of the designated day, farmers throughout Northeast Ohio then pick that week's offerings and deliver their harvest to *Fresh Stop* locations. Participants pick up the produce and take it home that same evening.

Shares of *Fresh Stop* produce are affordable and accessible to anyone who wants to

invest in supporting local farmers. (WIC and senior vouchers are applicable.)

Last season, over forty residents of Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre enjoyed locally-grown seasonal vegetables and fruits, including summer corn, autumn apples, butternut squash and Chinese eggplant. Each week, these shareholders also took home recipes and cooking tips, as well as bags overflowing with produce. And they enjoyed the company of those who share their passion for food.

Each participant also left knowing that \$.80 of every \$1.00 went back to the farmers providing their food, unlike at a grocery store, where merely \$.20 of every \$1.00 spent is re-invested.

*Fresh Stop* is owned and managed by neighbors and people who care about the health of the community as well as the region. To make this effort a success, *Fresh Stop* depends upon the support of community volunteers who, for their participation, receive a FREE weekly share of food.

Those interested in purchasing a share of fresh local produce, helping to run the market, or simply sharing their passion for food should mark their calendars for the upcoming *Fresh Stop* public meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at the South Brooklyn Branch (4303 Pearl Rd.) of the Cleveland Public Library. Call 216-741-7990 with any questions.

## From the desk of the executive director

by Robyn Sandys  
robysn@oldbrooklyn.com

Happy Spring to all! As you may know, we either reached or will soon the all time snowiest year ever in Northeast Ohio history. We all made it through OK. We had many seniors and disabled folks from the neighborhood come by to get salt we had for free. I hope this program helped just a little for those in need trying to cope with this brutal winter.

April marks my first year anniversary at OBCDC. When I started, we were not sure we would be keeping that name, but it became evident that most members wanted to keep it, at least for the time being.

Other changes in our organizational structure were also being proposed to be made in our Code of Regulations; those too were not approved by members at our annual meeting this past October.

We now have a great group of members working with some board members on revitalizing our Code so it is up to date and better meets the needs of the community. We expect to have those recommendations to you no later than the 2008 annual meeting in October.

As many of you know, the CDC has been a bit at odds with some community folks. All nonprofits try their best to be as transparent as possible based on the needs of both the community and the business operations of a nonprofit.

Here is one of the best web sites that I would recommend you review that specializes in the roles of the board, members, staff and the community when it comes to the operations of a nonprofit: <http://www.board-source.org/>.

The day to day operations of any business or nonprofit are not as transparent as many would like to see, mainly because it would take hours of staff time to inform the public of everything that goes on everyday. We try our best to be as open and communicative as possible about the things we can share publicly.

I have professed many times in this article that if anyone has any questions about anything we are doing to please call or email me so we can work through your questions, or differences.

Sometimes we will not agree on a decision or the way we go about doing our business. Just like you may not agree with your

employer about a decision he or she makes in your jobs.

We believe the end game is for everyone to be respectful and open to sharing differences without being overly judgmental before knowing all there is to know about a particular subject.

I would highly recommend you're contacting me or our board president, Matt Reitz if you want to clarify any comments you hear in the community that make you feel uncomfortable. Chances are pretty high that once you talk with us you will at least understand why we made certain decisions.

We may not agree with one another or we may come up with some creative solutions to manage a problem. But if we don't talk we will never know how great we can be together as a team to better the lives of those living and working in Wards 15 and 16.

So, I will make my usual plea to call me whenever you hear a rumor or if something makes you mad or upset from what you see in a newspaper article or hear at a group meeting. I would really like calls as well if you are pleased with what we are doing or if you have any positive suggestions regarding how we can creatively improve our neighborhoods.

Starting on the bottom left side of this page are accomplishments that I am very proud of, mainly because the CDC has exceptional staff members who work extremely diligently to meet the growing demands of the community.

We can't solve all problems, we are guided by contracts we have with the City of Cleveland, but our staff are good listeners so if we can not help you, we will refer you to someone who can.

I know I sound like a broken record, but if you have not reviewed our web site to learn about all the services we offer, please do so, [www.oldbrooklyn.com](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com). When you are on the site, check out our **new FAQ section**. A preview is on page 8 of the OBN.

## Earth Day Coalition to sponsor EarthFest

From 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday, April 20, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Earth Day Coalition will present the nineteenth EarthFest at the Zoo. The annual "party for the planet" is Ohio's largest environmental education programs and one of the most successful Earth Day events in the country.

Cleveland's Earth Day celebration will feature over 100 environmental exhibits, and introduce "Vern" the Zoo's new frog mascot. (2008 is the Year of the Frog.)

EarthFest will have a "green" home improvement area with displays featuring environmentally-friendly practices; a children's area with face painting and other hands-on activities; an area devoted to clean transportation; a local and/or organic food area with both growers and businesses; an environmental science area; and live entertainment.

Bring a bag of aluminum cans to Earth Fest and help build a mountain of support for recycling, plus enter to win a hybrid aluminum bicycle.



Admission to EarthFest will be free for all registered participants -- registration fee charged -- in Walk or Bike for the Earth and for anyone who rides the RTA Clean-Air bus from Public Square. (The pledge money raised by participants in Walk or Bike for the Earth will be used to help finance the Earth Day Coalition's environmental education programs.)

For more information on EarthFest 2008, the Walk or Bike for the Earth or volunteer opportunities, call the Earth Day Coalition at 216-281-6468 or visit [www.earthdaycoalition.org](http://www.earthdaycoalition.org)

## OBCDC past year accomplishments

### Financial/Organizational

- Stabilized the budget and paid down \$48,000 on the line of credit; Old Brooklyn News now in the black by nearly \$5,000 as of February 2008 (was in the red for several years);
- Increased membership by nearly 40 percent;
- Secured nearly \$600,000 in City of Cleveland Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) for this current fiscal year (2007-2008);
- Secured a new \$147,000 grant to start a lead abatement program;
- Secured \$50,000 additional City funds for an emergency home repair program;
- Secured an additional new grant of \$40,000 from City funds for a special model block program;

See *OBCDC accomplishments*, page 2

## Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation 3rd Annual Neighborhood Safety Summit

FREE EVENT!!

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Grace Church, 2503 Broadview Rd.

9 a.m. -- registration &amp; breakfast with

Commander Keith Sulzer, Councilmen Brian Cummins &amp; Kevin Kelley

### Choose two workshops!

Workshops are 1 hour long

- \*School Safety
- \*Self Defense
- \*Senior Safety
- \*Internet Crimes
- \*Auto Theft Safety

\*Raising a Well-Behaved Child

### Free door prize raffle!

### GUN DROP OFF

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Information for the whole family! Reserve your seat today!  
Call Barb at 216-459-1000

Sponsored by: Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation,  
Cleveland Police-Second District, Councilman Brian Cummins,  
Councilman Kevin Kelley, Old Brooklyn News.

## INSIDE THE OBN

Community Spotlight; Ben Franklin Garden sign-up \_\_\_\_ 2

News & Events; Community Meetings \_\_\_\_ 3

Safety Fair; Cassidy Theatre \_\_\_\_ 4

Town Crier; Theatre \_\_\_\_ 5

Commercial News \_\_\_\_ 6

Community Toolbox \_\_\_\_ 7

New FAQ Section \_\_\_\_ 8

Family Fun; Tax Help \_\_\_\_ 9

Senior & Church Notes \_\_\_\_ 10

Classified & Service Directory \_\_\_\_ 11

Old Brooklyn News Reader Survey, Scenes from March Blizzard \_\_\_\_ 12





by **Donnald Heckelmoser**  
[donnaldh@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:donnaldh@oldbrooklyn.com)

## The Store House has new “home” in Old Brooklyn

If you have been looking for quality new and used home furnishings and décor, The Store House at 4197 Pearl Rd. (between Broadview Rd. and Charter One Bank) may have what you’re seeking. The newest endeavor of Rena Hrivnak, offers both new and used home décor and furnishings at great prices.

Rena describes her store as an “upscale resale shop, with very reasonable prices.” Rena’s husband, Lon, and his family all grew up in Old Brooklyn and Rena was happy and excited when the opportunity to open a shop in the area arose. They opened their doors on March 1st.

Rena started collecting pieces for this business over four years ago. She and her husband Lon, receive new and used donations from an ever growing network of people whom they meet through their church, the Gospel House Church in Walton Hills. (They’ve also done similar work at

the church.)

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of items in The Store House goes to *World Mission*, a charitable foundation that distributes money to *Project Happy Home*, an orphanage in Holambra, Brazil. The Hrivnaks heard of this mission when they became “mission leaders” for their church. They take groups of youths to Brazil for fourteen-day excursions to help local populations with a variety of issues.

Rena’s best friend and Old Brooklyn resident, Kelli Perta operates The Store House during the week, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. while Rena works her regular 9-5 job. Rena tends the store on Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summer hours will be extended Monday through Friday 9 a.m - 5 p.m.

For more information about The Store House, call Rena at 440-390-8788.

## Kinjiru Academy & Supply opens on Pearl Rd.

A lifelong fascination with the martial arts has led Michael E. Kolar, 39, to open Kinjiru Academy & Supply at 4316 Pearl Rd. (at Spokane Ave.) in Old Brooklyn. The studio offers unique martial arts education plus supplies to help one gain more knowledge in this discipline.

Michael grew up in Newburgh Hts. and Slavic Village. He attended St. John Nepomucene Elementary School and Cleveland Central Catholic High School, and is the son of former Newburgh Hts. Mayor Edward L. Kolar.

A Martial Arts Master, Michael combined his interest in these arts with his childhood heroes into an original blend he calls “The Art of Kinjiru”. It’s a mix of Ninjitsu, Aikido and Kali. (Kinjiru teachings are influenced from eight different style points — the three styles mentioned above, plus Wing Chun Kung Fu, Indonesian Pentkak Silat, Hapkido, Kenpo and Shaolin Chin.) He teaches students of all skill levels and ages at Kinjiru Academy.

If this all sounds too complicated, believe Michael when he maintains that the art is very easy to understand. It is a skill that is tailored to an individual and when one is motivated to be self taught, learning it can be very reward-



Photo by Jerry Roberts

**Martial Arts Master Michael Kolar (left) with Tom Olechew (right), 6th<sup>o</sup> Dan Gracie, Juijutsu and black belt Kempo Karate.**

ing and a great way to protect oneself.

If you are interested in attending any classes please call 216-854-3692 or e-mail Michael directly at [masterkolar@yahoo.com](mailto:masterkolar@yahoo.com) or [kinjiruacademy@yahoo.com](mailto:kinjiruacademy@yahoo.com). You can also learn more about the academy at [http://www.myspace.com/kinjiru\\_academy](http://www.myspace.com/kinjiru_academy), or walk in during its hours of operation, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Joey Pepperoni

The phone number listed for Joey Pepperoni’s in last month’s issue of the *Old Brooklyn News* was an old number. The correct phone number now is 216-212-5155. The *Old Brooklyn News* apologizes for any inconvenience this mistake caused.

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

by **Tom Sargent**  
[toms@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:toms@oldbrooklyn.com)

The approaching opening day for baseball and the ever-so-slowly-rising temperatures serve, once again, as gentle reminders that May 10, the scheduled opening of the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden season, is rapidly approaching.

Returning gardeners are reminded to have their applications returned 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 accepted, and those plot assignments will be made after the established gardeners have made their plot selections. We anticipate that there will be sufficient numbers of garden plots available to satisfy requests from new gardeners.

As mentioned in last month’s Old Brooklyn News, there is a \$30.00 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.

Over the past winter, a Garden Operating Committee was formed and organizing meetings were held. Sub-committees were also formed, each with specific areas of interest, and meetings of these extensions of the operating committee have also been held. The mission of this committee is to assist the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) in the operation of the garden and help perpetuate its existence.

A general meeting for all 2008 gardeners will be held at the OBCDC offices at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7. Well before that date, a mailing will be sent to all gardeners from whom we have received applications. Other people who might be interested in gardening at “Benji” are also invited.

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

### accomplishments from front page

- Received new private foundation grants totaling \$15,000;
  - Received \$31,555 contract for a weatherization program for residents.
- #### Residential Program
- Provided technical assistance to over 400 homeowners regarding home repairs, weatherization, and the paint program;
  - Tracked over 300 residential vacant properties;
  - Served over 350 buildings (residential and commercial) through the CDC’s building code enforcement program.

- #### Commercial Program
- Provided economic development assistance to area businesses, plus specifically was involved in securing funding for the following:
    - Krather Bldg State Tax Credits 383,000
    - Federal Historic Tax Credits \$306,000
    - Storefront Renovation Program (current)
    - Nunzio Cabinet Shop \$69,000
    - Michael’s Bakery \$60,000

- #### Outreach and Safety
- Served over 1500 residents on crime and safety issues;

- Serviced over 200 block clubs thereby contributing to Old Brooklyn being the second safest place to live in Cleveland;
- Provided the first Citizen Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training for several neighborhood groups;
- Started the Call Help list;
- Served meals at Second District for the holidays;
- Hosted the Citizen Police Academy;
- Held annual Safety Fairs;
- Involved hundreds of volunteers last year on cleaning and beautifying neighborhood streets, byways, green space and parks;
- Successfully utilized 679 hours of supervised Court Community Service workers who accomplished tasks such as grass cutting, leaf raking, salting, shoveling, trash & debris clean-up and office work throughout Wards 15 and 16.

- #### Community Planning
- Launched three community planning studies, the Wards 15 & 16 Master Plan, Transportation for Livable Communities Study (TLCI), and on-going comprehensive studies of our parks and green space. (All have involved community advisory councils and input from residents.)

### 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.

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### OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

The Old Brooklyn News will publish its May, 2008 issue on Saturday, May 2, 2008

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

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*Circulation 15,000  
Published Monthly*

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#### Submission Deadlines

Display Ads . . . . Wed., April 23rd  
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

The Old Brooklyn News (OBN) is a monthly publication of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) and is available free of charge within the community boundaries of Brooklyn Centre, Old Brooklyn & City of Brooklyn. The views expressed in the OBN are not necessarily those of its publisher, editor, staff, or of the board of trustees, officers, or commercial, residential, institutional or associate members of OBCDC.

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### 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

Matt Reitz, President

Abraham Bruckman, Vice President

Steve Henstridge, Secretary

Christina M. Kowalski, Treasurer

Robyn Sandys, Executive Director

Cynthia Cejka, Office Manager

Tom Collins, Commercial Program Manager

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Lori Peterson, Residential Program /Marketing Manager

Sheila Quealy Walter, Code Enforcement Manager

Barb Spaan, Community Outreach Manager

Sandy Worona, Community Outreach Coordinator/OBNAdvertising & Sales Manager

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board Meetings, are every third Tues. of the month, 6-7:30 pm. OBCDC meeting room (3344 Broadview Rd., upstairs). Meetings open to the public but the board reserves the right to close portions of the meetings. To confirm call 216-459-1000.

#### Old Brooklyn News

Sandy Worona -- Layout & Ad Manager

George Shuba -- Photographer

Lynette Filips -- Copy Editor

Lori Peterson Assistant Copy Editor

This month’s OBN writers - Lynette Filips, Johanna Hamm, Lucille Johnson, Tom Sargent, & 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.*



NEWS & EVENTS

**Saturday, April 5th**  
**O.B.Y.L. Old Brooklyn Youth League Sign Ups**  
Brooklyn Hts. United Church of Christ, corner of W. Schaaf Rd. & Broadview Rd., 9 am - 12 noon. Ages 4 - 9, \$30; ages 10 - 17, \$35; each additional child in household, \$20. Bring proof of birthdate.

**Sunday, April 6th**  
**Cleveland Chapter, Carpatho-Rusyn Society**  
Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, 5500 W. 54th St., 2 pm. “Heirlooms and Remembrances” -- bring an item &/or story about immigration, sponsors, naturalization, church affiliation, customs, traditions, etc. that can be passed on to future generations. Call 440-729-2045.

**Sunday, April 6th -Thursday, April 10th**  
**Friends of Cleveland Public Library Used Book Sale**  
Cleveland Public Library, 525 Superior Ave. Sponsored by Friends of the Cleveland Public Library.-Lower level lobby. For times & more info, call 216-623-2821. All book sales are open to the general public.

**Sunday, April 6th & Sunday, April 13th**  
**Health Information Session**  
Brooklyn Adventist Church, 4651 State Rd., 2 pm. Outstanding educational experience for those who have or wish to avoid heart disease, high blood pressure, adult onset diabetes, high cholesterol, arthritis, obesity. Information session repeated on April 13.

**Monday, April 7th**  
**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society**  
Independence Civic Center, White Oak Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Guest speaker, Jane Gramlich, genealogist specialist from Akron ‘s Summit County Library, will discuss the library’s genealogical holdings. All welcome; coffee & refreshments served. Call president John Stoika, 216-524-3472, for more info.

**Thursday, April 10th**  
**Antique Collectors Club**  
Busch Funeral Home meeting room, 7501 Ridge Rd., 7:30 pm. Dale Jukins will speak

about the history of bobbel head dolls. Guests welcome.

**Sunday, April 13th**  
**Card Party**  
Parma Memorial Hall, 6617 Ridge Rd. Sponsored by Catholic Daughters of America - Cabrini #1430. 1 - 4 pm. \$6 includes lunch. Call 216-741-5888 for more info.

**Tuesday, April 15th**  
**Spring Style Show & Luncheon**  
St. Thomas More Women’s Guild. Utopia Hall, 4170 North Amber Dr. Luncheon, 12 noon. Fashions by Dress Barn. For reservations call Jean, 216-741-5991, or Dorothy, 216-351-6896, by April 12.

**Tuesday, April 15th**  
**Theology on Tap**  
Center for Pastoral Leadership, 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, 6:30 pm. Admission, \$3. “Christology in the Mystics: Coming to Know, Love and Serve Christ through John the Evangelist, Teresa of Avila and Ignatius of Loyola”. Speaker - Fr. Michael Denk, Parochial Vicar, St. Barnabas Church. RSVP to Celeste Cappotto, 216-696-6525, ext. 1049, or ccappotto@dioceseofcleveland.org.

**Saturday, April 19th**  
**City of Cleveland Computer Round Up**  
Division of Waste Collection, 3727 Ridge Rd. & 5600 Carnegie Ave., 9 am - 3 pm. CPU’s, monitors, keyboards, printers, terminals, modems, software, cell phones & accessories & ink printer cartridges accepted. Household computer equipment only. Log onto www.cuyahogaswd.org or call 216-443-3749 for more info.

**Beginning Saturday, April 19th**  
**Free Mulch to Cleveland Residents**  
Rosby’s Resource & Recovery, 5400 E. Schaaf Rd. Cleveland residents receive 1 cubic yard free, while supplies last. Call for directions & hours, 216-661-6102.

**Monday, April 21st - Friday, April 25th**  
**"Coin Round Up"**  
Steel Valley Federal Credit Union, 3840 Pearl Rd. Bring in your loose coins & the credit union will count them. No charge to non-members this

week. Also this week, open a certificate of deposit for as little as \$250.

**Wednesday, April 23rd**  
**St. Peter Chanel to Hold Entrance Exam**  
St. Peter Chanel High School, 480 Avenue of Champions, 6- 9 pm. Cost, \$20; pre-registraion suggested, but not required. Call admissions office, 440-232-5900, ext. 133, or 144.

**Saturday, April 26th**  
**REIKI I Training**  
MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Dr., 8 am - 4 pm. Class size maximum - 12 participants. Bring a pillow & blanket. Cost - \$80, includes "Reiki: The Healing Touch" First & Second Degree Manual. **Reiki II** training to be offered **Sat., June 7**. Contact hours, 6.5 for each session. Contact Rosanne Radziewicz at Radziewicz@metrohealth.org or 216-778-4120 with any questions or to register.

**Monday, April 28th - Saturday, May 3rd**  
**City of Cleveland Household Hazardous Waste Round Up**  
Division of Waste Collection, 3727 Ridge Rd. & 5600 Carnegie Ave., 9 am - 3 pm.

**Saturday, May 10th**  
**Riversweep - SAVE THE DATE**

**Deadline for Calling -- Friday, May 16th**  
**Auditions for Non-Equity Actor/Teachers**  
Great Lakes Theater Festival (GLTF) School Residency Program for the 2008-2009 school year. Actors of all cultural backgrounds encouraged to audition for full-time, seasonal, paid positions, offered from Sept, 2008 - May, 2009. All auditions by appointment only. Requirements: an undergraduate degree in any discipline, previous stage experience or actor training. Teaching experience or prior work with elementary, junior high or high school age students a plus, but not required. Auditions take place on Mon, May 19. Callbacks take place on Tues, May 20 by invitation only. Great Lakes Theater Festival is an equal opportunity employer. Send photo & resume to Lisa Ortenzi, Great Lakes Theater Festival, 1501 Euclid Ave., Suite 300, Cleveland, Oh., 44115. Call 216-241-5490, x306, to schedule an appointment.

**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. Call the Outreach Specialist, 216-432-4770, for more info.

**Ready, Set Grow Preschool**  
Located in Brooklyn Heights United Church of Christ, 2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Ages 3 - 5. Learning & social skills for kindergarten readiness. Certified teachers. Registration fee, \$25. Class times, 9:20 - 11:20 am. Call 216-741-2280 for more info.

**St. Leo the Great School Registration and Full Day Preschool Registration for 2008-09**  
St. Leo the Great Preschool will open a full-day 8 am - 2:30 pm, Mon - Fri preschool program for 3 & 4 year olds in addition to their regular half-day classes! Students must have reached 3 or 4 yrs of age by Sept. 30, 2008 to be eligible for preschool. A \$50 non-refundable fee & a copy of the child's birth certificate are required at the time of registration. Contact Mrs. Jeanne Sabol, 216-661-5330, for more info. Kindergarten & grades 1-8. Registration forms may be picked up in the school office from 9 am - 3:30 pm weekdays. For Kindergarten registration, children must be 5 yrs of age on or before Sept. 30th to be eligible for registration. Bring your child's birth &baptismal certificates along with a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour with the principal, call the school office at 216-661-2120.

**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.

**St. Mary Byzantine School Registration**  
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Elementary School, 4600 State Rd., is now accepting applications. Enrollment is open for students in pre-school - Grade 8. Before/after school services are available, as well as daycare throughout the summer. Local tuition assistance is available to all families, & our school participates in the Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program. The school program includes updated computer lab, interactive Smart Boards in all classroom, instrumental music & art instructor, athletics, & much more. Call us for a visit at 216-749-7980 or www.smbyz.org. Register for kindergarten now.

**Live's Museums Guide**  
Fall 2007/Winter 2008 comprehensive listings calendar of shows & events. Supplement to *Northern Ohio Live Magazine*. Pick up a free copy at OBCDC, 3344 Broadview Rd.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Brooklyn Centre Community Association** meeting, every fourth Thurs., 6:30 pm, Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Ave.

**Brooklyn Genealogy Club** meeting, Sun., April 20, 2 pm, Brooklyn branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 4480 Ridge Rd. “Researching your German Roots” by Lorraine Newsome. Refreshments served; prospective members welcome.

**The Brooklyn Historical Society** meeting, Wed., April 30, 7 pm, at the museum, 4442 Ridge Rd. Phil Austin, vice president of the Cleveland Button Society, will speak about the origin of many types of buttons -- including shoe, civil war, uniform, glass, picture, childrens, red, white & blue patriotic & train buttons, plus some button hooks & buckles. All welcome; bring a friend; refreshments afterwards. Call Barb, 216-941-0160, for more info.

**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation** board meeting every third Tues.

of the month, 6-7:30 pm, OBCDC meeting room (3344 Broadview Rd., upstairs). Meetings open to the public for review & comments, but the board reserves the right to close portions of meetings from the public. Call 216-459-1000 to confirm date.

**Second District Police Community Relations** meeting, Tues., April 8th (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

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

**Ward 15 Democratic Club** meeting, Tues., April 22nd (& every fourth Tues.), 6:30 pm, Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd.

**Ward 16 Democratic Club Meeting**, Tues., April 15th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

**America Reads Tutors**  
South Brooklyn Branch Library, 4303 Pearl Rd. For elementary school students; Mon., 3 - 6 pm; Tues. & Thurs., 3 - 7 pm; Wed., 3:30 - 5:30 pm. Call 623-7067 for more info.

**W.S.E.M. Child Development Centers Free Child Care for Qualified Families**  
Archwood Head Start, 2800 Archwood Ave., free childcare for qualified families. Now enrolling full & part day. Call 216-398-5488.

**West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) Enrolling for Early Childhood Education**  
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## High school student shares thoughts after attending last year's safety fair

by Monika Karthan

My aunt, Barb Spaan, is the coordinator for the Crime Watch program in Wards 15 and 16 in Cleveland. I got interested in this group when I went to their safety fair last April to learn about the internet and using it safely.



Photo by Linda Karthan

Monika Karthan (left), niece of Barb Spaan, OBCDC's Crime Watch Coordinator, and Barb herself (center) pose with McGruff (right) at last year's Safety Fair.

Other topics such as fire safety, auto theft safety, senior safety and kids' safety were also discussed. (A clown was brought in to make balloon animals for the kids.)

The fair took place in a church. It began with coffee and donuts and an introductory meeting. Then the people picked the subject they wanted to listen to and split off into small groups in different rooms. After a short break, they could choose another meeting to go to. Then lunch was served and door prizes were awarded.

In addition to attending last year's spring safety fair, plus another safety fair outside last summer, I looked up some websites my aunt

gave me about safety — McGruff the Crime Dog [www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org); the McGruff House program ([www.mcgruff-house.org](http://www.mcgruff-house.org)); the Neighborhood Watch program ([www.nnwi.org](http://www.nnwi.org)); and International and Homeland Security ([www.ohs.gov](http://www.ohs.gov)).

McGruff the Crime Dog is a cartoon bloodhound created by Sherry Nemmers for the National Crime Prevention Council in 1980. He reaches kids through commercials and booklets from the Council. He talks about drugs, bullying, safety and the importance of staying in school.

A McGruff House is a temporary haven for children who find themselves in frightening situations or emergencies, such as being bullied, followed or hurt while walking through a neighborhood. It provides a sense and source of emergency aid. It is not an escort service or a guarantee of safety, but rather a place for appropriate short-term help by an adult for a child.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the country. It counts on citizens to organize themselves and work with the law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities. Neighborhood Watch works because it reduces the opportunity for crime to occur, but it doesn't rely on altering or changing the criminals' behavior or motivation.

The International and Homeland Security's goal is to help improve the security of the nation, while preserving our values, freedoms and the economy. It was established to promote and support research, study and technology development, addressing national security problems and issues.

By completing this project I realize that when I grow up and have my own home, I'll want to have a street captain and crime watch program in my neighborhood because they help people be more careful and safe. It's always smart to know how to protect yourself.

(Monika Karthan is a senior At Midpark High School in Middleburg Hts.)

## Cassidy Theatre to celebrate Family and Friends

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

When you read Theatre Notes in the *Old Brooklyn News* you will most likely see a listing for a play that is being performed at the Cassidy Theatre in Parma Heights. Just as change is almost certain with most things in life, change is in store for The Paul W. Cassidy Theatre on May 1st.

The theatre has been municipally owned and operated since the opening of its doors in 1975 (to the tune of \$350,000 a year). On May 1st the City of Parma Heights will no longer subsidize the operations of the theatre and Cassidy will become privatized.

The new owners of the theatre will be a non-profit organization, Cassidy Theatre, Inc. The theatre became incorporated in December 2007 and now has a four member board of directors. The non-profit status allows the theatre to become eligible for Issue 18 monies (the cigarette tax) for projects but not yet for operating expenses. An organization must have three years under their belt to receive funds for the latter.

Two neighborhood residents are committed to making a positive change for the Cassidy Theatre because it holds such a very special place in their hearts. Brooklyn Centre resident John Nolan and Old Brooklyn resident Cathie Brenkus met at the Cassidy Theatre more than thirty years ago and have been friends ever since.

John and Cathie's friendship, love of the theater and altruistic nature have inspired them to write and produce a musical called *Family and Friends*. It is a collaboration of three of their closest, oldest and dearest friends (who are like family) — Cindy Smith, Bruce Holloway and Charles Eversole.

Two of the three aforementioned individuals not only have ties with the Cassidy Theatre but with the neighborhood as well. Cindy lived in Brooklyn Centre and her mother owned Brown's Bowling Alley for thirty years. Bruce Holloway has lived on numerous streets in the neighborhood throughout his life.

Concerning how *Family and Friends* came into being John mused, "As we prepared for this show we had the chance to reflect back on our first experiences at the Cassidy Theatre. *Family and Friends* is really a Homecoming/Family Reunion for us. Among the five cast members, we have performed together in over thirty productions, including many at the Cassidy Theatre. More than three decades ago Bruce saw Cathie perform on stage, I saw Bruce perform on Cassidy's stage, and Cathie and I met, literally, for the first time, downstairs in Room B, at the auditions for *West Side Story* back in 1976. Cindy and Chuck performed together in revues at the Cassidy twenty-five years ago. (They were babies at the time!)"

Cathie and John share an enthusiasm that is contagious. The production of *Family and Friends* was an "organic process" and all of the songs are meaningful and touch each



Photo: Courtesy of Eric Schroyer

John Nolan (left) and Cathie Brenkus (right) are the authors and producers of *Family and Friends* at Cassidy Theatre.

cast member's soul. Cathie says, "It's very real to us. It's like a wedding, a funeral and a graduation all wrapped up in one performance and we're your vehicle;" and that is what they want to convey to the audience. Each cast member selected songs that tell a story about his/her life and how it has affected them.

The original *Family and Friends* was first performed in 2001 but like life, it's a fluid performance and is a much different story from what it was seven years ago. The show is very personal and the cast wants people to know them through the songs they have chosen.

Also, as in real-life *Family and Friends* is very interactive in nature. Don't be surprised if you are greeted by a neighbor or someone you know or see your photo on the wall as you enter Cassidy Theatre. The cast takes great pride in making people feel welcome by getting a list of the audience beforehand (it helps that they know most of the audience) and displaying a collage of photos of their family and friends.

As if writing, producing and performing an entire show aren't enough, Cathie and John are donating the entire proceeds back to Cassidy Theatre, Inc. The cast, stage crew, ticket takers, and ushers are donating their services as well. The stage crew is actually the same five people that worked alongside the cast thirty years ago. They very much want to help make the newly opened Cassidy Theatre, Inc. a success, too.

*Family and Friends* is being performed at the "new" Cassidy Theatre, Inc., 6200 Pearl Rd., in Parma Hts. on Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for *Family and Friends*, call Cassidy Theatre, Inc. at (440) 842-4600. Ticket prices are \$20.

John Nolan and Cathie Brenkus are the kind of people who make Cassidy Theatre a special place for so many theater goers and are examples of what makes our neighborhood a unique and interesting place to live.

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How strange that Easter has come and gone, yet not one spring flower – except for the snowdrops – has bloomed yet. The April “Angel of the Month” figurines, with their bunnies and baskets of colored eggs, won’t seem right this year, either.

Because of the manner in which it’s calculated based on the cycles of the sun and moon, March 22 is the earliest date on which Easter can fall. So this year, we’ve almost experienced that, and I haven’t heard of anyone who was happy about it. (To bolster your knowledge of such trivia even further, April 25 is the latest possible date for Easter.)

Some things don’t change in April, though, and income taxes are one of them. Last May and June, our history articles focused on the federal tax. I’d originally hoped to explore the background of the Ohio and City taxes this year, but those plans have changed. Instead, I’ll simply begin this month’s *Town Crier* column with some relevant data about the taxation –

This filing period marks the fortieth anniversary of the income tax assessed by Cleveland (and surrounding communities). It was enacted by ordinance #2393-66 in 1966; 1967 was the first year for which a personal city income tax was collected.

The State of Ohio’s personal income tax dates back to 1972. Ohioans actually voted for the tax. Its supporters were impressed with the State’s campaign promise to use much of the proceeds from the tax for public education. The total reality of the situation is that Ohio needed the money it would garner from a personal income tax to finance State projects and to be able to reduce taxes for businesses, which were leaving Ohio at record levels in the Sixties and early Seventies.

We’re back to the typical *Town Crier* format this month, and lately that has oftentimes included changes in neighborhood church personnel. Early this year, for instance, the number of priests at **St. Leo the Great Church** was again reduced. **Fr. Thomas Woost** had just come to the parish as an associate pastor last June, but he already has another assignment. On January 6, Fr. Woost was installed as pastor at St. Brendan Church in North Olmsted. (Although St. Leo’s is without an “associate”, Fr. James Vesely, pastor emeritus of St. Thomas More, is still in residence there, and he’s still helping.)

There’s also been a change at **Pearl Road United Methodist Church**, but in this situation, it’s not someone leaving, but rather of the

minister taking on an additional responsibility elsewhere.

When **Rev. Paul Wilson** came to Pearl Road last July, the congregation was only able to hire him as a part-time pastor. Because he wasn’t committed to another church, he’s been able to conduct the 10 a.m. worship services on a regular basis.

Now that might change a bit, as on March 1, Rev. Wilson also became the assistant pastor and youth counselor at Ridgewood United Methodist Church on Ridge Rd. in Parma. The time of the service at Pearl Road will remain the same; if necessary on some Sundays, the congregation will simply hire another minister to assist.

Just recently we heard about something at **Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) Church** which actually happened several years ago. It’s about **Fr. Joseph Rodak**, a “son of the parish” who was ordained a priest of the Society of the Most Precious Blood in 1962.

For the past five years Fr. Rodak has been serving as a chaplain for the Veteran’s Administration (VA), and during most of that time, he’s been living in Old Brooklyn, the neighborhood in which he grew up – at the OLGC rectory. Fr. Rodak is one of about six chaplains tending to the spiritual needs of patients at both the Brecksville and Wade Park VA Hospitals. His time there is drawing to a close, though, as he plans to retire in July.

Although he’s not a clergyman, **OLGC parishioner (and former Old Brooklyn Councilman) Joe Cannon** certainly is involved in a lot of “churchy” things. One of the causes nearest and dearest to his heart is promoting the message of Divine Mercy, a rather recently established feast in the Catholic Church which is celebrated the Sunday after Easter (March 30 this year).

Several years ago the *Old Brooklyn News* ran a whole story about Joe’s apostolate with Divine Mercy, and his interest in it hasn’t waned since then. Perhaps you noticed some of the ten billboards which he sponsored on some of our main thoroughfares a few months ago. They pictured Jesus with a red ray and a white ray coming from each of His sides, (the image dictated by Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun who claimed to have received that vision of Him), and the words “Jesus I trust in You!”

Joe became interested in the Divine Mercy message after attending a Marian Conference here in 1992. He began erecting these billboards about six years ago, first across the city, then across the state, and now moving to across the nation — Pennsylvania, New York, Idaho, Connecticut, Minnesota and Indiana. They’ll be moving into Michigan in June. At the time of this writing, Joe’s sponsored a total of 590 billboards.

Eighty-four years old and a life-long Brooklyn Ave. resident, Joe’s dedication to the Divine Mercy cause has been featured in Catholic publications such as Cleveland’s *Universe Bulletin*, as well as in others which serve a national audience. (The *Universe Bulletin* article was actually picked up by

Catholic newspapers in ten states.)

For more information, type Joe Cannon Divine Mercy into a Yahoo search engine, and read some of the 145,000 entries which come up. Or call Joe’s toll-free number – 1-888-3030.

**Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LLM)** regularly mails us copies of its quarterly publication, *Seeds of Change*. While paging through copies of the last few issues for possible story ideas, I was amazed to see a photo of Old Brooklyn resident **Dan** (officially, **Dominic Daniel**) **Plescia** smiling at me on page 5 of the Summer/Fall 2007 edition.

Many of you know Dan as the owner of **Dan’s Broadview Barber Shop**, which has had more than one location in our neighborhood, but which is currently in one of the three storefronts at the corner of Oak Park Ave. and Broadview Rd.

It turns out that Dan — who was also one

of my childhood neighbors in Parma — is a volunteer extraordinaire; the reason for his being featured in LLM’s publication is his work with Adult Guardianship Services (AGS). Dan’s efforts helped effect a meeting between a disabled woman for whom he was guardian and her likewise disabled husband, whose life, too, is under the jurisdiction of AGS (in another Ohio county).\

Dan’s next volunteer venture could be even more impressive. He’s currently waiting for medical clearance to join the “Baby Boomer” circle of Peace Corps volunteers. If everything goes according to his plans, it will definitely merit a separate story in the *OBN*.

As usual, we’re still backed up with submissions for this column, but please continue to send yours to Lynette Filips, the Town Crier, c/o the *Old Brooklyn News*, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109; we’ll work them in within the next two or three months.

## THEATER NOTES



### Cassidy Theatre of Greenbriar Commons

6200 Pearl Rd. 440-842-4600

#### “Enchanted April”

April 11th - 27th, Fri & Sat., 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. Tickets, \$15 adults; \$14 students & seniors. Coming May 9 - 10, “Friends and Family”.

### Cleveland Public Theatre

6415 Detroit Ave. 216-631-2727

#### “Danceworks 08”

Now - Sun., Apr. 20th. Six weekends, CPT campus taken over by local dancers. Performances in the Gordon Square Theatre, James Levin Theatre & Parish Hall. Tickets - adults, \$10 - \$20; students & seniors, \$12 - \$18. Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm.

### Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus Performing Arts Center Dancing Wheels Company & School

4250 Richmond Rd Highland Hills 216-987-2000 |

#### “Double Exposure”

Sat. April 26th, 7:30 pm. Tickets - \$25, adults; \$12, students & seniors. Sun. April 27th, 2 pm. Tickets, \$22 adults; \$12, students & seniors.

### Great Lakes Theatre Festival

1501 Euclid Ave. 216-241-6000

www.greatlakestheater.org

#### “The Crucible”

by William Miller

Now - Sat., Apr. 26th; will ultimately perform in rotating repertory with

#### “All’s Well That Ends Well”

by William Shakespeare

Fri. April 11th - Fri April 25th. Shows on specific Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. eves, 7:30 pm & some Sat. matinees. Tickets, \$10 - \$54.

### The Liminis

2438 Scranton Rd in Tremont 216-687-0074

#### “Mr. Marmalade”

April 4th - May 3rd, 8 pm. General admission, \$15; students & seniors, \$12.

### MetroHealth Medical Center, Scott Auditorium

2500 MetroHealth Drive 216-778- 8600

#### “In the Continuum”

Tues., April 22. 4 pm. Presented by MetroHealth Medical Center & Cleveland Public Theatre. Free; reservations required.

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by Tom Collins  
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

### Prologue

The residents of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn often have to explain to people outside of Cleveland why they enjoy living right here in the city. It is not necessarily an offensive question but it certainly displays an ignorance of how good life can be within Cleveland.

Because this column is not widely read outside the communities where it is delivered, perhaps the first section of this particular column is like "preaching to the choir." So this month I am asking those who read it to use it to start a conversation with family or friends who do not live in Cleveland. The best sales people are those who like and use the products they sell. The best recruiters for living here are those who like their homes and neighborhoods.

### Some pluses of city living

Two divergent realities of daily life are making city living more attractive to some people: mortgage foreclosures and the cost of gasoline.

Mortgage foreclosures are devastating neighborhoods but the phenomenon is also offering reduced prices for quality homes. Much like cleaning up after a severe storm, there is opportunity to re-establish and renew. Owner sweat equity, below appraisal pricing and low interest rates combine to make Cleveland housing stock affordable.

The second factor is the shocking price increase in gasoline. Experts are forecasting continuing gasoline rate increases, so many people are trying to reduce the cost of commuting between home and work. When prices will stabilize and at what level is a question without a firm answer. Even if the price per gallon rolls back, it is questionable if it will ever roll back to 2006 levels.

People are seriously looking at changing

lifestyles because the costs of energy and auto travel are exceeding income growth. No one can change the price at the pump but everyone can reduce the volume of gasoline they consume. Reducing the length of travel between home and work, shopping, school and church can mean saving significant money. Purchasing a less expensive home that is more energy-efficient can mean saving significant money.

Cleveland offers a range of neighborhoods of choice: architecturally appealing homes with distinct styles, sidewalks, neighborhood shopping, neighborhood churches and schools in walking distance. Without driving on an Interstate highway there is often access to shopping plazas, the performing arts, museums, professional sports, college sports and all kinds of restaurants. Some Cleveland residents even opt to totally leave the car in the garage from time to time, and walk along tree-lined residential streets to nearby commercial streets for window shopping, a tavern visit or an ice cream treat.

The bicycle fits into the city very well. Bike racks are plentiful and RTA busses are all equipped with bike carriers. The Ohio Erie Canal Tow Path Trail is within pedaling distance of many neighborhoods, as are the all-purpose trails of the Cleveland Metroparks. Whether it's a quick ride around the block or a journey some miles away, the city is bicycle-friendly.

The outlying suburbs are still building schools, extending water and sewer lines, and constructing or widening streets for yet another housing development with look-alike homes. Property taxes (and possibly the local municipal tax) will periodically increase to accommodate the sprawl. Developers will clear green spaces for another fast food restaurant and national drug store surrounded by the asphalt pond called a parking lot. In addition, all the outlying housing developments have the hidden costs associated with automobile travel.

If it is time to reduce costs, reduce travel time, get a better quality home and live among desirable neighbors, look into the city.

### Major Commercial Opportunity

The RTA facility that originally was home to street cars and trackless trolleys and in more recent years, busses, now has "For sale" signs mounted on the fences along State Rd. and Pearl Rd. Brooklyn Station/the Old Brooklyn Garage, as it's been known over the many years of its existence here, is now considered excess RTA property. Plans to renovate the former "car barns" for storing and

maintaining paratransit vehicles were abandoned when escalating costs exceeded the available funds.

Colliers International has the real estate listing, and the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is working with

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them and RTA to attract a developer. The most expedient use would be to find a buyer who could use the building "as is" or with some interior redesign. However, what is most expedient today may not be the best long-term use.

Not often do five acres become available in the middle of Old Brooklyn, especially five acres with frontage on two main streets. Having developers look at it opens up a range of possibilities. The location will be a focus site for the Wards 15 and 16 Master Plan for new development.

### ReStore Cleveland

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[tomc@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:tomc@oldbrooklyn.com),  
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(above) Old Brooklyn resident Scott Kroehle, left, and Cuyahoga County Planner Meghan Thomas, right, look at an easel at OBCDC's Master Plan meeting on Thursday, March 13th, at Grace Church, 2503 Broadview Rd. (below) Old Brooklyn residents Jim O'Connor and Magnolia Namaskar engage in conversation at the same meeting. The gathering was one of two which OBCDC conducted about the future of Wards 15 and 16. The other meeting was held at the Metroparks Zoo on Wednesday, March 12. An earlier session, originally scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at Corpus Christi Church, was cancelled due to the snow.



Photos by George Shuba

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# Organic Lawn Care Tips

by Lori Peterson  
lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." - Margaret Atwood

Margaret's quote inspires the child within each of us and brings us closer to the earth. That seems like an appropriate thing to do since we celebrate Earth Day on April 21. In conjunction with Earth Day, therefore, and in keeping with "green living", this month's article will address organic lawn care.

According to the *Better Homes and Gardens* website, there are ten simple steps that one can take to ensure a healthy and green lawn:

1. **Choose the right grasses.** Focus on mixtures of grasses adapted to your region. A mix of grasses ensures that a disease problem won't affect every blade of turf in your lawn. And focus on your conditions. Almost all grasses prefer full sun, but a few, including fine fescues, tolerate some shade. Remember that sometimes, the best grass is no grass; using ground covers or planting beds may make the most sense.

2. **Don't cut your lawn too much.** Tall grass is usually healthier grass, because it grows longer roots, which access more water and nutrients. And because it has more blade area, tall grass is also more vigorous than closely mowed grass. The taller blades also shade out weeds. Most grasses grow best when kept at least two inches tall. Hint: No matter to what height you let your grass grow, remove no more than one-third of the grass blade in a single mowing. Removing too much at one time causes stress.

3. **Keep a sharp lawn mower blade.** A dull lawn mower blade tears grass instead of cutting it, resulting in frayed grass that's susceptible to disease. Sharpen mower blades at least once at the beginning of the season. Sharpen again during the season if your grass looks ragged after you mow.

4. **Leave clippings on your lawn.** Clippings left on the lawn decompose and add nitrogen and organic matter to the soil. (Plus, you don't have to rake as often.) Contrary to popular belief, clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup. Note: Use a mulching mower to finely mince blades, so that they'll decompose and benefit your soil more quickly.

5. **Control thatch.** Thatch is an impenetrable mat made of grass blades, roots and rhizomes that forms over the soil. A thick layer of thatch prevents water from reaching roots,

and serves as a welcome mat for disease and insect pests. If thatch isn't severe, aeration may solve the problem. Thick thatch requires a vertical mower or mechanical de-thatchers to break it up.


6. **Aerate regularly.** If your ground is hard, if it has dry spots where grass fails to grow, or if you can't poke a pencil four to six inches into a moist lawn, it needs aeration. Aeration improves drainage, breaks up thatch, stimulates lawn growth, and improves lawn health — all without pesticides or fertilizers. Aerate when the lawn is actively growing (spring or fall for cool-season lawns; summer for warm-season lawns).

7. **Water sensibly.** Water your lawn when grass takes on a dull green or bluish color, when leaf blades begin to fold or roll, or when footprints remain in the grass after you've walked on it. Water deeply and infrequently, because you want roots to grow deep into the soil. Healthy roots extend at least six inches deep. Consider the weekly rainfall before setting out the sprinkler. Water based on the weather rather than by your weekly planner.

8. **Watch for weeds.** The best thing about healthy, organic lawns is that they naturally defeat most weeds without help from you. If your lawn has weeds, it may indicate a different problem. Use organic products, such as corn gluten meal (CGM) when necessary.

9. **Feed your lawn.** Use a balanced, natural fertilizer to feed your lawn. Most natural fertilizers are slow-acting, remain available in the soil over time, and rarely damage the lawn by burning grass. Apply fertilizer once or twice each year. Be careful not to use too much because even natural fertilizers can damage plants when used in extreme. Always follow the instructions on the fertilizer packaging. With fertilizers, less is better!

10. **Top-dress with compost.** Compost works miracles in the soil for gardens and lawns. Spread up to a quarter of an inch of compost over your entire lawn each spring or fall. Now get your gardening clothes on and get down and dirty with your lawn, and you will be well on your way to a yard full of healthy, green grass.



# Seniors on Social Security Eligible for Stimulus Package

"Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, more than 130 million American households will receive economic stimulus payments beginning in May. The only way to get one is to file a federal tax return for 2007. This filing requirement also applies to some people who do not normally file, including many low-income people and recipients of Social Security, certain benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs and certain Railroad Retirement benefits." (Internal Revenue Service website)

Normally, certain Social Security payments are not subject to income tax. However, the economic stimulus law passed in February contains a special provision allowing Social Security recipients to count those benefits toward the qualifying income requirement of \$3,000 and thereby qualify for the stimulus payment. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

● People must have valid Social Security numbers.

● People cannot be claimed as dependents or eligible to be claimed as dependents on another's tax return.

● People must file a 2007 tax form, i.e. Form 1040A and write "Stimulus payment" on the top of the form.

● Individuals or families must have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income, which can be income from or in combination with Social Security benefits, Veterans Affairs benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits and earned income.

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The Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention program can assist you with mortgage payment assistance that could help to prevent foreclosure. Both pre- and post-foreclosure counseling help is available.

Call today for assistance!

Phone: 216-459-1000 Fax: 216-459-1741

E-mail: donnaldh@oldbrooklyn.com or lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

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# “Frequently asked questions” new section of OBCDC web site

As promised in the March issue of the OBN, we are adding a FAQ section to the web site at [www.oldbrooklyn.com](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com). The questions that are on the site now are just the beginning of what will probably be longer list as we get feedback from the community. Here is a sample of some from the list of 23 questions that are on the site. We will also have an FAQ section in the OBN where we will add any new questions that are requested to this column as well.

## What is Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC)?

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation works to unite and empower residents, business leaders and government to develop and revitalize the community through the planning and implementation of programs that promote social, economic and civic improvements for its businesses, residents and social institutions. The CDC serves the neighborhoods of Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre (Wards 15 & 16). There are approximately 43,000 people who live in these two wards.

## How is OBCDC Funded?

The CDC receives several grants from the City of Cleveland from various departments. The major grant comes from the City's Community Development Department. These funds are known as Community Development Block Grant funds which come from the Federal Government through HUD and then filters to the City of Cleveland to us. These operating CDBG dollars for a majority of our programs come in two streams, one from the City's Community Development Department and another from an allocation the two councilmen (Councilman Cummins in Ward 15 and Councilman Kelley in Ward 16) provide the CDC through their ward allocations. However, all of those funds, nearly \$600,000 is managed through one contract and budget through the City's community development department. The CDC also receives funds from other City departments such as Health and Economic Development depending on the program. Our new Lead Abatement program is funded through Health and we also have economic development funding for some of the CDC's commercial projects. There are also funds from private foundations as well as earned income from the CDC's publications like the Old Brooklyn News and the Business Directory. Finally, there is a revenue stream from membership as well. Approximately 70% of OBCDC's funds are from government sources the rest is from private foundation and earned income sources.

## Is the CDC financially audited?

The CDC is required by the City of Cleveland to have a once a year audit and to submit a management letter to the City that shows the organization to be in compliance. The CDC has never received a negative management letter. Most nonprofits are audited once a year. The CDC is required by the Federal government to submit a 990 tax form each year. The most recent years 990's are on the web site.

## What are the CDCs overhead/operations costs?

Our operations for the past fiscal year (July 06-June 07) were 12% of our entire expenses of \$823,000, with publications being 8% and Program Services being 79%.

## How many people in Wards 15 and 16 do you serve in a year?

It depends on the programs. Overall last fiscal year we served nearly 3,000 people through referrals and direct assistance in all of our program areas: Crime and Safety, Residential Services, Commercial/Industrial Services, Code Enforcement, Neighborhood Clean-up campaigns, and Publications.

## How often does your staff go out into the community to meet with people?

Staff is in the community every day meeting with residents and businesses either individually or in a group setting. The main purpose for those meetings are to assess the conditions of people's homes or businesses in relationship to code enforcement issues or to help understand why they may need a home repair grant or loan. There may also be safety concerns, the desire to rent a commercial space, or to make improvements to a storefront. There may also be neighborhood disputes that need to be mediated and so forth.

## I am behind on my mortgage. Is there any financial help to get me back on track?

There is financial help available through the Cuyahoga County Rescue Fund. However, it depends on your situation. Also, there are banks that have worked out agreements with the East Side Organizing Project. The residential staff will help you decide which program would be best for you.

## What can I do about the vacant and abandoned property next door to me?

The community development corporation is tracking vacant and abandoned properties and does research on the property to find the responsible owner which is either a private owner or a mortgage company. Call OBCDC if you have a vacant and abandoned property

on your street. Also, we can take action on HB294 bill passed last year which allows properties that are delinquent on their taxes (only) to be put into foreclosure and turned over to the city land bank for development.

## What is Neighborhood Watch and how do I start a program on my street?

Neighbor's joining together with law enforcement to be responsible for safety of their neighborhoods homes and places of employment. To get started, call Barb Spaan at 216-459-1000. She will ask you for a date, time and place to hold your first meeting and she will review with your neighbors how the program works.

## Where can I learn about safety problems in my neighborhood?

On the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

at Applewood Center a second district crime meeting is held that reviews crime issues in this district. If you have something specific to report or have a concern about, call Barb Spaan at 216-459-1000.

## Is my building eligible for the Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program?

There are certain guidelines that are part of this program, for more information call OBCDC at 216-459-1000 and ask for the commercial manager.

## Will the city collect trash from a dumpster?

Generally No, dumpster service is contracted with private refuse removal services. The City Refuse Department can provide temporary dumpster service for special projects like on a fee basis.

## In Memoriam - Deacon Bob Weniger

Celebrating Mass at St. Barbara Parish on Denison Ave. was more than a slightly moving experience when Deacon Bob Weniger was assisting former pastor Fr. Michael Dyrce on the altar. Fr. Mike was bent over and getting around with a "Rollator" due to his Parkinson's Disease, and Deacon Bob was on crutches, having lost one of his legs in 2004 to diabetes.

Now, neither of them is at St. Barbara's; Fr. Mike was invited to retire on November 1, and Deacon Bob died from complications of diabetes on February 28.

In the prime of his life, Deacon Bob had worked in the Valley View Police Department, ultimately reaching the rank of sergeant. He retired from the force in 1995, but he still had plenty of work ahead of him because in 1990 he'd been ordained a permanent deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Deacon Bob served at St. Michael Church in Independence, formerly his home parish, for sixteen years before he came to St. Barbara's in 2006. Sixty-eight years old at the time of his passing, Deacon Bob was married, the father of two and also the

grandfather of two.

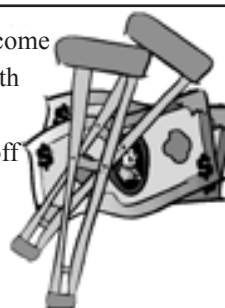
The *Old Brooklyn News* had featured Deacon Bob and another of his ministries in its March, 2007 *Town Crier* column. That month's entries focused on mission trips to Latin-American countries, and Bob had been a frequent participant in and planner of such ventures.

Because of his friendship with a surgeon from Columbia (who now lives and practices medicine here), that country became Deacon Bob's destination of choice. In all he made more than a dozen trips to Medellin and/or Cartagena, Columbia, ministering to the people medically, physically and spiritually. Independence businesses and individual philanthropists, as well as St. Vincent Charity Hospital, were among the major funders of his efforts.

On behalf of the community, the *Old Brooklyn News* extends its sympathies to his family as well as the parishioners at St. Barbara's over the loss of their dear and dedicated deacon. In no way did we anticipate that our interaction with him would only be for so short a time.

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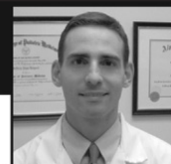
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## On Your Feet

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Thomas J. DePolo,  
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## DIABETES

People with diabetes are prone to many foot problems as a result of diabetic complications such as: nerve damage (neuropathy) and poor blood circulation. Neuropathy causes loss of feeling in the feet taking away ability to feel pain and discomfort, so that an injury or irritation may not be detected. Poor circulation in the feet reduces ability to heal, making it hard for even a tiny cut to resist infection.

When one has diabetes, awareness of how foot problems can arise from disturbances in the skin, nails, nerves, bones, muscles, and blood vessels is necessary.

Furthermore, in diabetes, small problems can turn into serious complications.

A major goal of your podiatrist is to prevent amputation. There are surgical and non surgical techniques available to help save feet and legs, including wound healing technologies. Getting regular foot checkups and seeking immediate help when you notice a problem can keep small conditions from worsening. Your podiatrist works together with other health care providers to prevent and treat complications from diabetes.

### Comprehensive Care For

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



FAMILY FUN!

Submit listing(s) for upcoming events/activities appropriate for all ages to The *Old Brooklyn News*, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109; Fax: 216-459-1741; e-mail [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com).

**Art House,**  
**3119 Denison Ave., 216-398-8556**  
**Family Open Studio** – Third 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 & adult classes** - Complete schedule of classes, dates, times & fees 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 & Sat., 9 am - 12 pm.

**CanalWay Center, E. 49th St  
between Grant Ave & Canal Rd  
216-206-1000**

**Canalway Triple Play - Sat., Apr. 19th,** 10:30 am - 2 pm. Celebrate Patriots Day: 10:30 am, music with Hank, followed by the tale of the “Midnight Ride of Paul Revere”; 11 am, Pepe & Ken lead an exploration of the wetlands; noon, break for lunch & a movie (bring your own lunch); 1:15 pm, sights & sounds of “Revolutionary Thunder”, a demonstration firing of replica firearms in a two-gun salute.

**Natural Expressions, Sat., Apr. 26th,** 10:30 am. Become an artist using the free materials nature creates. Explore the reservation & create a masterpiece. Call to register.

**Children’s Museum of Cleveland  
10730 Euclid Ave. 216-791-5437**  
<http://www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org>  
**Galapagos Sands: Exploring the Centuries!, Now thru Sun., Apr. 13th,** 10 am - 5 pm. Museum admission, \$7, children ages 1 - 12; \$6, adults, ages 13 & up; no charge for children under one year. See web site for complete calendar of events. Families become explorers as they dig for pirate treasure & investigate Earth’s most exotic islands.

**Abracadabra! Everyday Magic - Sat., Apr. 26th** - Wed., Jul. 30th. During their “magical” experience, children of all ages gain an understanding of the many things in daily life which appear to be mystical & magical but can often be explained through math & science.

**Cleveland Metroparks Chalet  
Valley Parkway, Mill Stream Run  
Strongsville 440-572-9990**

**Frog Dog Walk - Fri., Apr. 25th,** 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Bonnie Park Picnic Area. Families. Bring you “best friend” along & listen for the songs of frogs. Find out why & which frogs are singing. dogs also have a positive social experience. Space limited; call to register.

**Cleveland Metropark Garfield Park  
Nature Center 11350 Broadway Ave.  
216-341-3152**

**Waterfall Walk, Sat., Apr. 5th,** 11:30 am - 1 pm. Visits waterfalls within Garfield Park & Bedford Reservations. Each “Walk” will include a short stroll along with bits of natural & cultural history; 2.5 mile journey to Cuyahoga County’s largest waterfall, Mill Creek Falls.

**Cleveland Metroparks Maple Grove Picnic Area; Rocky River Nature Center Rocky River Reservation 24000 Valley Pkwy., North Olmsted 440-734-6660**

**Family Amphibian Adventure: Sat., Apr. 5th,** 7:30 - 9 pm. Adults & families with school age children. Learn about frogs & salamanders. Hike to search for their love pools. Explore the wetlands around the Nature Center & look for the sounds of spring. Registration required.

**Nature a la Carte, Sun., Apr. 6th,** 2 - 4 pm. Families & adults. Birds nests & the different materials birds use to construct them.

**Sunday Funday: Turtle Time, Sun., Apr. 13th,** 2 - 3:15 pm. Ages 3 - 5 with adult. Time to bask in the sun, something turtles do well. A hike & a craft to learn about cool creatures & why they soak up the rays. Call to register.

**Cleveland Metroparks  
West Creek Reservation  
216-341-9225**

*Entrance to the park is on W. Ridgewood Dr, approximately 1/2 mile west of Broadview Rd, between Broadview & State Rds.*

**Bird or Bust - Wed. Apr. 30th,** 8:30 - 10:30 am. Families. Binoculars required. Space limited; call to register.

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
3900 Wildlife Way  
216-661-6500 [clemetzoo.com](http://clemetzoo.com)**

**Australian Adventure now open,** 10 am - 5 pm daily. Get reacquainted with kangaroos, wallabies & wallaroos. Travel aboard the Boomerang Express or climb to the top of the Yagga Tree. See sheep, goats & donkeys in the animal barn. Adults, \$10; children 2 - 11, \$6; (Admission always free for kids under two and Zoo members.)

**Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
1 Wade Oval Dr. 216-231-4600  
[www.cmnh.org](http://www.cmnh.org)**

**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.

Two new dinosaurs on permanent exhibit -- “Jane”, in the main lobby, a life-sized skeletal cast of a juvenile tyrannosaur (or possibly nanotyrannus, a close cousin); and “Triceratops horridus”, in the Kirtland Hall of Prehistoric Life, a 21-foot long, full-sized replica of a dinosaur that lived 68-65 million years ago.

**Cleveland Public Library, Brooklyn  
3706 Pearl Rd. 216-623-6920**  
**Play and Learn!** – Every Fri., 10-11 am. Join

other caregivers & toddlers, have fun with a variety of books & learning toys.

**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**

**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.

**Estabrook Recreation Center  
4125 Fulton Rd. 216-664-4149**

Recreational Activities - Family Swim - Family Gym - Ceramics - Weight Room. Call for schedule; times vary; all free. Call for more info.

**Grand Pacific Junction, 8082 Columbia Rd.  
at Mill St., downtown Olmsted Falls.**

**Annual “Go Fly a Kite” event - Sat, Apr. 19th,** 10 am - 2 pm. Kids learn how to build a kite from materials you have at home. Kite building under the GPJ Gazebo until materials run out; then fly it in the grassy area behind the Doll House on Mill St. \$1 donation to help with cost of materials. Contact Reiner at 440-427-9773 for more info. Also visit [www.grandpacificjunction.comwebsite](http://www.grandpacificjunction.comwebsite) or email [gpjmerchants@yahoo.com](mailto:gpjmerchants@yahoo.com).

**Great Lakes Science Center  
601 Erieside Ave. 216-694-2000  
[www.GreatScience.com](http://www.GreatScience.com)**

**Chocolate: The Exhibition - now thru Sun., May 4th,** 9:30 am - 5:30 pm daily. Included with admission. Explore the plants, products, history & culture of chocolate from botanical, ecological, anthropological, economic, conservation & popular culture viewpoints. Exhibit developed by the Field Museum in Chicago & currently on national tour. Discounted parking in attached 500-car garage. Admission - Adults, \$12.50; children, \$8.50; members free.

**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center  
28728 Wolf Rd. Bay Village 440-871-2900  
[www.lens.org](http://www.lens.org)**

**Luny April - Sat., Apr. 5, 12, 19 & 26.** 2 pm, \$2; also **Sat., Apr. 5 & 19,** 7 pm, \$3. Check out the craters & the view from the other side. On Apr. 19, view actual lunar rock & soil samples. Evening program on the 1st & 3rd Sat. in April includes telescope viewing after the show, weather permitting.

**Stellar Stars - Wed., 11 am & Sat., noon,** \$2. Marvel at the night sky & enjoy the stars, watch lasers moving to music & learn fun facts about the solar system. Take home a planet picture to color & add a sticker to your passport.

**Twinkle Tots - Thurs., 11:45 & Sat., 11 am,** \$1per person, including infants. See what’s new in space, watch lights dance & see magic.

**Backyard Astronomy - Sat., 1 pm.,** \$2 per person. Explore the night sky from your own backyard. View constellations & other celestial objects.

**Western Reserve Historical Society  
10825 East Blvd. 216-721-5722  
[www.wrhs.org](http://www.wrhs.org)**

**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. Current special exhibits: -- Short & Sweet, *Two Centuries of American Childhood*, in the Chisolm Halle Costume Wing. Clothes, toys, art, furniture & photos, 1740-1960, showcase America’s changing attitudes about children. *WII: Up Front and Personal, Northeast Ohioans Remember the War (thru Apr. 15 only)*, WWII artifacts & oral histories. Admission - adults, \$8.50; seniors, \$7.50; students/children, \$5. WWII vets & wives free anytime; other vets & active & reserve service personnel free Apr. 6. Parking, \$5.

**FREE TAX HELP**  
AARP Tax Assistance provides free tax preparation of federal & Ohio forms for low- & medium-income taxpayers. AARP membership is not required.

**Brooklyn Senior Center,** 7727 Memphis Ave., Mon., & Wed., 9 am - noon, thru Apr. 11; 216-635-4222.

**Cassidy Theater Greenbriar Commons,** 6200 Pearl Rd, Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 am - 2 pm, thru Apr. 13. Appointments can be made in person at the theater or at the Parma-South Library, Parma-Ridge Library & Parma Heights Library.

**Parma-Snow Library,** 2121 Snow Rd, Mon., & Thurs., 12:30 - 3 pm, thru Apr. 9; 216-661-4240.

**South Brooklyn Library,** 4303 Pearl Rd, Fri., 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, thru April 13; 216-623-7067.

**Free Tax Filing and Benefits Screening**  
For residents of Wards 15 & 16; sponsored by Steel Valley Federal Credit Union, 3840 Pearl Rd. (W. 25th St. & Denison Ave.) in partnership with ACORN. (ACORN tax preparation services are affiliated with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.) Find out if you qualify for food, baby supplies, health care, child care, energy bills & much more. Tax filing & benefits screening by appointment only. Call 216-431-0573 for appointment.

**Free Tax Services  
Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Family Service Center**  
Cuyahoga Employment & Family Services, 4261 Fulton Parkway (at Memphis) Wed., 3/05, 3/19, 4/02 -- 4 - 7 pm; Sat., 3/01, 3/15, 3/29, 4/12 -- 8:30 - 11:30 am. Returns will be prepared electronically in the Career Center on the first floor. Call 216-635-2970 to arrange for an appointment. For additional locations & times visit [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org) or call 2-1-1 or 436-2000.

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CheckSmart ~ Cinema Lounge ~ Day Care  
Family Dollar ~ H & R Block ~ Jackson Hewitt  
Jo's Barber Shop ~ Kenny's Tavern ~ Key Bank ~ Bi-Rite  
Memphis Laundromat ~ Memphis Spay & Neuter Clinic  
Meszar's Lanes ~ Papa John's Pizza  
MetroHealth Brooklyn Medical Center  
Perfect Image ~ Professional Dental Care  
Senior Citizens Resource Center



A Paran Managed Property [www.paranmgt.com](http://www.paranmgt.com) For Leasing Opportunities ~ (800) 888-5663



SENIOR NOTES

Senior Citizen Resources (SCR)  
216-749-5367

Active Living Every Day - Presented at Estabrook Recreation, Tuesdays 10 am. Call 216-749-5367 to register.

Bocce Ball - Tues., 8:30 am, Estabrook.

Book Club - Call 2196-749-5367 to register.

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

Chair Exercise - Tues., 11:30 am, The Schwab Center. Thurs., 10:30 am, Estabrook Recreation. Fri., 10 am, Deaconess-Krafft.

Chair Volleyball - Wed., 11 am, The Schwab Center.

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

Crochet Klatch - Tues., 9:30 - 11:30 am, The Schwab Center.

Line Dancing - Tues., 1 pm. The Schwab Center. \$15 for a six-week session.

MetroHealth Lite & Easy Exercise - Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9:30 - 10:30 am. Light exercise class with a certified fitness instructor; \$2 per class.

Post Office on Wheels - First Thurs. of every month, 9:30 - 10 am, Deaconess-Krafft. 11 - 11:30 am, The Schwab Center.

“SCR Strollers” - Walking group,Tues., 10:30 am, meet at The Schwab Center.

Fun & Games

Canasta - Mon. & Wed., 12:30 pm, Deaconess Krafft.

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

Pinochle Playing - Tues.& Fri., 12:15 pm, Deaconess-Krafft.

Active Living Every Day - Tues., 10 am, Estabrook Recreation. Call 216-749-5367 to register.

Wednesday, April 30th - Friday, May 9th  
23rd Annual Senior Olympics. Old Brooklyn area. Adults 60 & over welcome. Call 216-749-5367 for more info.

Monday, May 15th

Cleveland Indians vs. Oakland - Call 216-749-5367 for more info.

Friday, May 23rd

Elm Farm trip - America’s Ice Cream & Dairy Museum. Call 216-749-5367 for more info.

Senior Living Guide

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

MetroHealth’s/Macy’s Oasis Program

Spring classes still registering! Macy’s, 8001 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma, 440-886-1157. Weekday classes in many topics -- history, computers, health, art, music & more. Open to individuals 50 years & older. Must be member to take classes; membership is free; most courses have a small fee. Read class schedule & register online at www.oasisnet.org/cleveland; mail & in-person registration, too. Also sponsored by Mature Services.

Cornerstone of Hope

6600 E. Schaaf Rd. 216-524-3787

Adult 8-week support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Afternoon sessions - Fri., Apr. 25th - Jun. 13th, 1 - 3 pm. Evening sessions - Wed., Apr. 23rd - Jun. 11th, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Supportive & informative group provides opportunity for the bereaved to meet & share with those experiencing similar feeling of grief.

CHURCH NOTES

Wednesday, April 2nd

Luncheon Card Party

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church’s Parish Center, 4429 Pearl Rd. Sponsored by St. Ann’s Women’s Guild, noon - 4 pm. Call Julia at 2316-351-9970 for more info.

Tuesday, April 22nd

Widows & Widowers Luncheon

St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., noon. Chopped steak, golden potatoes, broccoli casserole & more. \$3 per person. RSVP to church office, 351-6499. Bring a friend.

Update regarding ethnic church series

For anyone who’s been wondering what happened to our “ethnic groups and the churches they established” series, here’s the explanation: The extensive coverage we gave to the thirty-year history of the Old Brooklyn News in our March issue resulted in there not being enough space that month to continue with part II of the African-American church story.

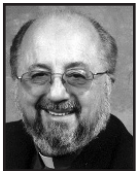
We expected to run that story in this issue, but now other CDC topics which require immediate attention have taken up the space traditionally allotted to our monthly history article. The only remaining space is for this explanation, plus a brief comment, thanks to a reader-response concerning one of the articles we wrote about Italian immigrants.

In our December, 2007 issue, we said that, unlike the other two Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes in the diocese, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Euclid Ave. in Wickliffe was never an Italian congregation.

Although officially that statement is true, because in 1923 when it was established, the Catholic Diocese was no longer opening ethnic parishes, many Italians did worship and socialize there. We have some “down-home” stories to share about that in a future catch-up article.

As I see it...

by  
Pastor Jerry



A man went to a psychiatrist complaining of a sleep disorder. "Doc," he said, "I've been having weird dreams. Last week I dreamed I was a wigwam. Last night I dreamed that I was a teepee." The doctor said, "That's terrible. You're two tents." Get it? Two tents - a wigwam and a teepee. Dumb joke!

The disciples of Jesus that first Easter were not just too tense; they were downright terrified. For three years they had devoted their lives to Jesus. They had left home and family, jobs and security, to find him. The worst of their fears had come true. And now they found themselves caught in a whirlwind of anxiety.

We live in a world that is anxious and afraid. Older people fear their health will fail and their savings will run out. Younger people are afraid they won't have any savings for old age - forget about health issues. Some fear the future while others dread the past.

"Peace be with you," Jesus says. "Peace be with you. I have conquered death and the grave." Is there any bigger obstacle than that? There is hope for all of us in this age of anxiety. There's help when we feel like giving up. There is one who can help us overcome any problem. Peace be with you!

Jerry Madasz is the pastor of  
St. Luke’s United Church of Christ  
4216 Pearl Rd.  
(at the corner of Pearl & Memphis)

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS  
The Old Brooklyn News  
is now available on the  
OBCDC website  
www.oldbrooklyn.com

Our Churches Welcome You

Sponsored by the GREATER BROOKLYN MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION. If your Church would like to be included in this ad or changes in this ad are desired, PLEASE CALL (440)845-5128

BAPTIST

Broadview Baptist Church

4505 Broadview Rd. Over 80 yrs. of worship  
Pastor: Rev. Brent Richards,  
Asst. Pastor: Dr. John Wood  
Phone, 216-351-8414 or 216-431-3515  
Sun. School: 9:45 am. Sun. Worship: 11 am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7 pm  
http://broadview-baptist-church.org  
website: broadview-baptist-church.org

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

3354 Fulton Rd. Phone: 216-631-9199  
Rev. Freddie Ray, 216-355-2137  
Sunday School: 9:30 am Service: 10:30 am  
Sunday evening service: 6 pm  
Thursday evening Bible Study, 7 pm  
Good gospel singing & preaching

Harmony Baptist Church

4020 Ridge Rd., Brooklyn  
Phone, 216-351-3740  
Rev. Ed Allen, Pastor  
Sunday Worship: 11am & 6 pm.  
Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Wednesday Prayer 7 pm

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

4600 State Rd. Phone: 216-741-7979  
Pastor: Very Rev. Steven Koplinka  
Divine Liturgies: Sat. Vigil, 4 pm.; Sunday, 11 am; Holy days, 9 am. Crystal Chalet  
phone: 216-749-4504  
School #: 216-749-7980 Pre-School #: 216-351-8121

CHARISMATIC

Good News Ministires Church

3705 West 36th. (W. 36th & Mapledale Ave.)  
Phone:216-398-4913  
Pastor: Ernie Green.  
Sunday Worship, 11 am  
TV - Tues. 6:30 pm. Ch.21- 9 pm Ch. 26.  
Fri. 6:30 pm, Ch 21 Time Warner Channel.

EVANGELICAL

Grace Church

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. (Cafe Oasis following)  
2503 Broadview Rd. & W. 28th St.  
Phone: 216-661-8210  
Email: Grace.Church@graceoldbrooklyn.org  
Pastor: Jeff Doeringer & Charlie Collier

LUTHERAN

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

5801 Memphis Ave. Phone: 216-741-8230  
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 am.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Scranton & Seymour Ave. Phone: 216-781-9511  
Pastor: Rev. Horst Hoyer & Rev. John Hoyer  
German Worship: Sun. 9 am. English 10:30 am

Parma Evangelical Lutheran Church

5280 Broadview Rd. (North & Tuxedo Ave.)  
Phone: 351-6376 Pastor: Donald E. Frantz II  
Sat., Services: 5:15 pm, Sun. 10:20 am. Sun,  
School: 9 - 10 am. Call for new member classes

St. James Lutheran Church

4771 Broadview Rd. Phone: 216-351-6499  
Pastor: Paul W. Hoffman  
Sunday Worship: 8 & 10:30 am / Sat. Serv: 5 pm.  
Sunday School & Bible Class: 9:15 am  
Sat. Services: 5 pm.  
Website: stjamescleve.com

St. Mark Lutheran Church

4464 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-749-3545  
Pastor: Richard E. Kurth  
Sunday Worship: 10:15 am, Sat. 9 am.  
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study, 9 am  
Elementary School: grades K - 8

Unity Lutheran Church

4542 Pearl Rd. - Phone: 216-741-2085  
Rev. Peeter Pirm - Worship Service: 9:30 am  
Sunday School & Adult Study: 11am  
Preschool/Day Care 3-12 yrs. www.unity-lutheran.org

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Circle of Inner Light Spiritual Community

4615 Broadview Rd. at Swedenborg Chapel  
Rev. Virginia Collins, 216-398-7743 & Renielle  
Brooksieker, 440-897-9505. 6 pm Sun. service.  
Healing & message services. Classes, circles, &  
ceremonies. LTeacherforlife@aol.com

Institute Of Divine Metaphysical Research

4150 Pearl Rd. Free Public Lectures.  
Phone: 216-398-6990 www.idmr.net  
Sun.: 11 am - 1 pm, Mon. & Wed.: 7-9 pm.  
All invited & encouraged to attend!

Palace of Praise

4274 Pearl Rd.  
Phone: 216-741-9322  
Pastor: Rev. Joseph Terry  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am  
Wednesday Service: 7 pm  
Miracle Service: Friday, 7 pm

POLISH NAT'L CATHOLIC

St. Mary’s Church

Corner Broadview & Wexford, Parma  
Pastor: Rev. Roman Misiewicz  
Phone: 216-741-8154  
Sunday Masses: 9 am English, 11 am Polish  
Sunday School: 10:00 am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

4423 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-749-2323  
Pastor: Fr. LeRoy J. Moreeuw, C.P.P.S.  
Masses: Sat. 4:30 pm; Sun., 8:30 & 11am  
Weekday Masses: Mon.-Sat., 8 am  
School Phone: 216-741-3685

Church of St. Leo The Great

4940 Broadview Rd.  
Phone: 216-661-1006  
Pastor: Fr. Russ Lowe  
Masses: Sat., 4 pm. Sun., 8 am, 10 am & 12 noon

Saint Barbara Church

1505 Denison Ave.  
Phone: 216-741-2067  
Administrator: Fr. Lucjan Stokowski  
Masses: Sat., 4:30 pm;  
Sun., 9 am, 11am (Polish)

Corpus Christi Church

5204 Northcliff Ave., Phone: 216-351-8738  
Pastor: Fr. Russell Lowe  
1st Fri. of the month: Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament 5 - 7 pm Communion Service. Weekday  
Mass: Mon. & Wed., 9 am. Weekend Masses: Sat.,  
4:30 pm; Sun., 10 am. Communion services  
Tues. & Thurs. 8 am.

PRESBYTERIAN

Brooklyn Presbyterian Church (USA)

4308 Pearl Rd. at Spokane Ave.  
Phone: 216-741-8331 Rev. Adrienne Lloyd  
Sun. Worship: 10:30 am. Sun. school 10:15 am  
Parking at Busch Funeral Home

SWENDENBORGIAN

Swedenborg Chapel

A New Christianity 4815 Broadview Rd,  
Phone: 216-351-8093  
Pastor: Rev. Junchol Lee  
Sunday Worship: 11am  
Adult Bible (non-fundamental): Sat., 10 am  
Non-Denomination Weddings- 216-351-8093  
A Warm Welcome Awaits You.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Archwood U.C.C.

2800 Archwood Ave. Phone: 216-351-1060  
Rev. Dr. Joan Salmon Campbell, Pastor  
Sunday: 11 am (ASL Interpreted)  
Nursery provided ages 1-5  
Children's Sunday School: 11:15 am  
Multicultural Open & Affirming.  
www.archwooducc.org

Brooklyn Heights U.C.C.

Rev. Dr. Lee Holliday  
2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Phone: 216-741-2280  
Nursery with adult supervision  
Sunday Worship & Church School: 9:30 am

St. Luke’s U.C.C.

4216 Pearl Rd. (corner Memphis Ave.)  
Phone: 216-351-4422  
Pastor: Gerald Madasz  
Sunday Worship: 10:15 am

Trinity U.C.C.

3525 West 25th St. (entrance off Scranton)  
Phone: 216-351-7667  
Pastor: Rev. David T Durkit  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am  
email: trinity-ucc-church@sbcglobal.net  
website: trinityucccleveland.org  
Multicultural, Open & Affirming

United Church of Christ in Brooklyn

8720 Memphis Ave: Phone: 216-661-0227  
Pastor: Rev. Robert Z. Lahr  
Sunday School & Worship: 11am

UNITED METHODIST

Brooklyn Memorial UMC

2607 Archwood Ave. Phone: 216-459-1450  
Pastor: Rev. Pamela Buzalka  
Sun. Worship: 10:45 am. Sun. school 10 am  
Tues., Weekday wonders bible study, 11 am.  
Everyone welcome!

Pearl Rd. United Methodist Church

4200 Pearl Rd. Phone: 216-661-5642  
Pastor: Rev. Paul Wilson  
Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 am  
Adult Study & Coffee Hour: 11 am  
Free hunger meal Thursdays: 6 pm  
http://www.gbgm-umc.org/pearl-road-umc



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**HANDYMAN.** Minor electrical & plumbing, locks changed, concrete repairs, roof repair & gutters, painting, drywall. Call Porter, 216-326-9993, for free estimate.

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**OLD TYME RESTORATION.** Home remodel & rehab. Commercial storefront. Cabinet installation. Painting, masonry, roofing, locks changed, plumbing & electrical. Free chimney inspection. Chimney relining. No Job too small! 216-318-0006.

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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.



**THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE FAIR HOUSING LAWS**

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.

**FOR RENT**  
**ARCHWOOD & W 34th,** 2 bdrm, renovated, new kit/bath, insulated, cat5 wiring, dining rm, bsmnt w/hookups, no smoke/pets, \$575.00 + sec dep, call Mike 216-375-2354.

**NICE HOMES FOR RENT in Old Brooklyn.** 2/3 bdrms., singles, 2 families. Looking for good tenants, fair rents. Security deposit. Call 216-324-6007.

**FOR SALE - CLEAN LOT**  
**4000 BIDDULPH AVE. Cleveland. 50 ft. x 150 ft.** Lot is worth \$18,500, \$3,000 off. New low price \$15,500. Call Gil 1-440-354-2618.

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**ASSEMBLERS.** Immediate position. Assemble items at home. \$500/wk potential. Any hours. Easy work. No experience. For more info, call 1-985-646-1700, Dept. OH-6505.

**BARTENDER/WAITRESS.** Murphy’s Law, 5303 Memphis Ave. Part-time apply within.

**HAIR SALON/ CHAIR RENTAL.** Local salon has one chair opening. Newly remodeled, relaxed, friendly environment. If you are an established hair cutter looking for a new atmosphere call 440-785-3586 for more details.

**DEPENDABLE DRIVERS** for a local passenger transportation company. Business promoters, handyman (carpenter, drywall work) For more info call 216-661-9105.

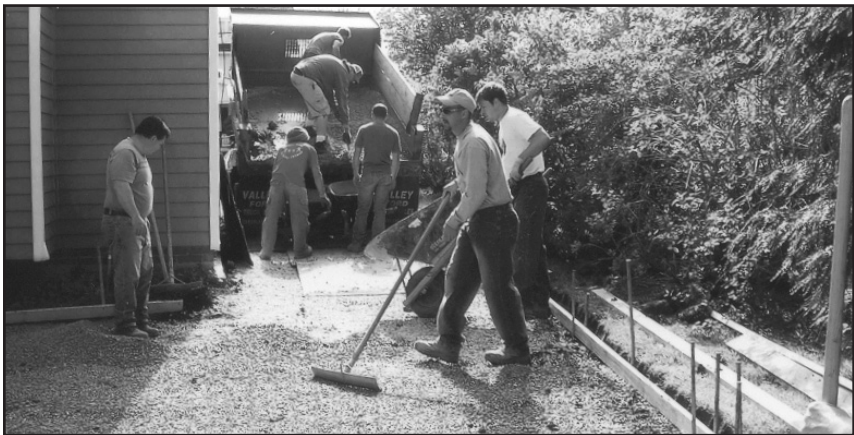
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# Scenes from the March blizzard (Why do we live in Cleveland?)



W. Schaaf Rd.

by Lucille Johnson

Predictably unpredictable weather may be one reason why some of my children ask, "Why do you stay in Cleveland?" "Old Brooklyn" is the answer. This neighborhood is "home" in the best of ways.

It's the neighbors who welcomed us with freshly baked bread and cake when we moved into our house.

It is the environment that let my children grow up close to churches, schools, stores, recreation-the home base which enabled them to meet whatever might come and deal with it (including a bumper crops of Swiss chard grown in the Benjie gardens!)

How comforting to be able to walk in a clean, safe park and to visit one of the best zoos in the country.

Old Brooklyn residents take pride in their homes and delight in improvements

made to neighbors' properties. They rejoice that MetroHealth has revived "their" Deaconess Hospital.

In our neighborhood, diversity is seen in pierogi-laced fish fries, spaghetti dinners, corned beef sandwiches, barbecues and more.

Here are found long-established churches whose members add a spiritual dimension to community activities.

The neighborhood is not without problems -- vacant store fronts, absentee landlords, chuck-holed side streets, aging infrastructure. But you would have to look far for perfection. Our computer screen wallpaper is a picture of an Italian street taken on a recent vacation. It shows quaint buildings in a sun-filled vista, but in the foreground there are orange construction cones, just like at home!

It's good to be here, even in a month when we experienced a record breaking 30.4 inches of snow! (And since the April issue is coming out early, the month isn't even over yet.)



Pearl Rd. & Northcliff Ave.



Brooklyn Ave.



St. Leo the Great Church



Photos by George Shuba

Montclair Ave.

## Reader Survey Questions

1. How often do you read the OBN? (circle one) Monthly or Every so often

2. What do you like most about the OBN? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you like least about the OBN? In particular are there articles or items you don't read? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What types of stories, events or information would you like to see in the OBN? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Any other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Optional:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your responses back by either mail, fax, or email to:

Old Brooklyn News

3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109

Fax: 216-459-1741, sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com

## 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.

Seldom will you find such an oasis of tranquility in the midst of a big city!

Pre-Need Planning is sensible ...  
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By selecting and pre-paying at this time, you will take advantage of our 5% discount.

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